



SCHOOL UPDATE

December 2014



MEDICAL LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 326

From the Desk of Superintendent Ames

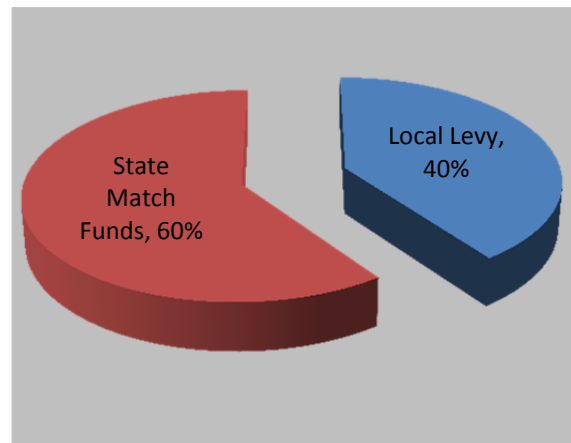
RENEWAL LEVY INFORMATION

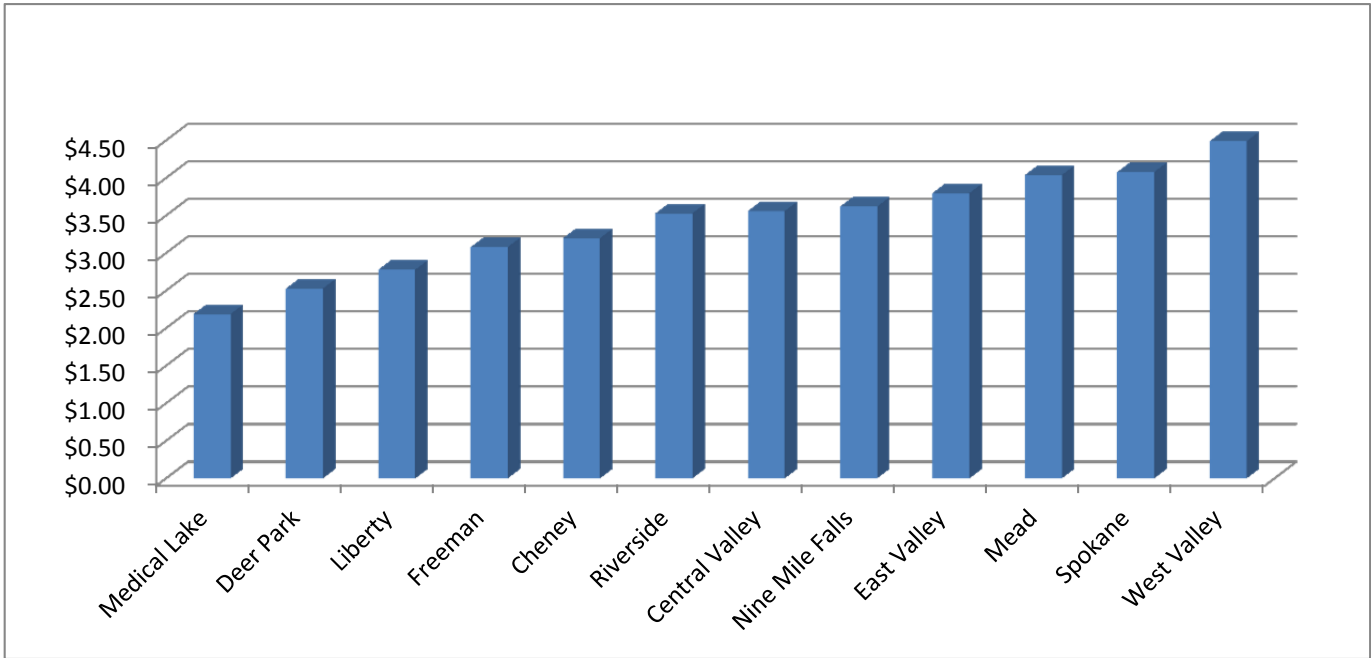
On February 10, 2015, citizens of Medical Lake School District will vote on a very critical issue that affects our children's education: A three year Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy. The levy is set again, at three years and will **REPLACE** the current M & O levy that is about to expire. The rate of \$2.20 per thousand will generate approximately \$1.2 million dollars per year.

In the State of Washington, school districts are authorized to run local M & O levies for up to 28% of the district's operating budget. Medical Lake School District's assessed value is considerably less than other districts due to the large amount of state and federal land that is exempt from taxation. The Board is aware of this and continues to keep our levy amount at approximately 6% of our operating budget. The Board wants to continue to provide a quality education to our students at the best possible rate to our taxpayers. We use federal impact aid funds to assist us in making up the difference which helps ease the burden on local taxpayers.

Additional Facts about the February 10 M & O Levy

- ✓ *The levy is not intended to fund new programs or buildings. It is to maintain essential educational programs which are not funded by the state or federal government and provide for general maintenance of grounds and facilities.*
- ✓ *With voter approval, Medical Lake School District will be eligible to receive additional STATE levy equalization matching funds of approximately \$1.5 million dollars per year. Of those school districts in Spokane County receiving local levy dollars, Medical Lake School District continues to have one of the lowest tax rates.*
- ✓ *The levy helps keep class sizes low; it provides for classroom instructional materials and technology; it provides for all extra-curricular activities.*
- ✓ *It is a replacement levy, NOT A NEW TAX.*
- ✓ *Approval of the levy requires a 50% + one majority yes vote in order to pass.*
- ✓ *This election will be 100% mail-in ballot. Voters will begin receiving their ballots around January 22 and must be returned by February 10.*





MAKING A SPLASH

Sakaiya McCoy, Medical Lake High School junior and member of Spokane

Area Swimming club, won the 1,500-meter women’s freestyle in Clovis, California in August. Her time of 17 minutes, 12.02 seconds set a record and qualified her for the Winter Junior National Championships in Federal Way, Washington in December.

Congratulations Sakaiya!

State Champions!!

Congratulations to the Medical Lake School District Boys Cross Country Team on a second year State Title. **GO CARDS!**



THANK YOU

A **BIG** thank you to all who participated in the Our Place Community Ministries Shoe Drive. Thanks in part to your generosity and in partnership with R&R Heating and Air Conditioning and FOX 28, we helped collect over 1,000 pair of shoes for children in need this winter. We could not have done it without you.



Sparky Pays a Visit

Earlier this year, Sparky the Fire Dog paid a visit to the students of Michael Anderson Elementary to teach fire safety tips.



Madison,
Taylor and
Sparky



Our District and The AP Honor Roll

Medical Lake School District made the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll. This is a huge honor. Medical Lake earned this title by maintaining or increasing the amount of students taking AP classes in high school and by having more students achieving a score of 3 or higher on AP Tests.

Hats off to all the students, parents and teachers of Medical Lake for earning such a distinguished spot on the AP Honor Roll.

Winter Busing

Winter is here, snow and incimate weather are on the way. School will run as usual during a snow event, unless there is a significant amount of snow or ice and it is deemed unsafe to travel on most district roads. Should this occur, there will be three options: School will be cancelled, there will be a two (2) hour late start or there will be a two (2) hour late start where buses will travel on snow routes only.

Snow routes will be used if it is determined that we can get the majority of students to school. Please see the web site (www.mlsd.org) to see the list of buses, stops and times. The information can be found in the left hand column under "Busing - Snow Routes", and also on transportation's web page.



Winter School Safety Zone Articles

Provided by AAA of Washington

Parents – Be cautious when driving around school zones and parking lots. Children will be using their hoods and umbrellas more frequently and can not see you as well as you can see them.

Students – Wear warm clothes that do not impede your vision. If you see a weather related hazard report it immediately.

Walkers and Bike Riders – It takes much longer for a vehicle to stop when the pavement is wet. Be sure to dismount your bicycle before crossing the street.

Fact – It takes 47-61 feet for a driver to stop their vehicle on dry pavement traveling 20 m.p.h. The distance is approximately 100 feet on icy roads when traveling at 20 m.p.h. Please help your student visualize the difference between stopping distances and the time they need to safely cross the street.

Pace Characteristic for December

CARING

"Displaying kindness and concern for others."



What's the BUZZ



It has been two fast years of STEM education for the Medical Lake School District. Year one highlighted integrated curriculum which featured STEM. Teachers found out they could teach STEM in any content area using the components of rigor and relevance as a foundation for any great teaching and learning. Year two moved us on to differentiation of curriculum and assessment. The highlight for the year focused on how to build powerful performance tasks/assessments used in STEM teaching. These same skills are also used with our new state standards. As we combine these two years of teaching skills we now have one more layer to add to the mix, technology! This year will focus on the use of technology and how we can teach the students the technology skills needed for the 21st Century. At the end of this year we will have two amazing technology labs for our math and science departments at the Middle School and High School. Both elementary schools have received I Pads for students and teachers use. We brought in Apple for some dynamic science and math curriculum ideas and the International Center for Leadership Excellence has provided STEM training. Looking back, seems like yesterday but when you see the results and progress in the district you know many hours of hard work has taken place by the dedicated teachers and staff. We are now solidly, a K-12 STEM district, with each grade providing strong STEM instruction. Ask any student in the district if they know what STEM means and you will get an answer of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Also ask the students if they enjoy learning STEM and you will get a resounding YES! Hands on education is the BEST!

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