

# Medical Lake School District 326

## March Newsletter

### A Message from the Superintendent:

By Dr. Pam Veltri, Superintendent

As we move into the second half of the school year, we have exciting things going on in each of our buildings and the district. The holidays have passed one more time and you will hear teachers say that this is the time when instruction is the most concentrated. You will probably hear students echoing the same message!

The District is continually working at keeping our facilities in the condition that makes for a safe, orderly, nurturing environment for our students. In 1994, students in grades 4 through 6 moved into a new building, Hallett Elementary. The Medical Lake High School was completely modernized in 1998. A wing of classrooms was added and another practice gymnasium. In 2002, students moved into a new state of the art building at Fairchild Air Force Base, Michael Anderson Elementary. The school was built with a grant from the Department of Defense and matching funds from the State of Washington. There was no local bond for this school. For the past six years, we have continued to modernize Medical Lake Middle School, which was constructed in the early 1970's. We have replaced all of the carpet, painted walls and lockers, refaced all cabinets, and replaced the roof and the heating and ventilation systems. The school continues to need more classroom space so that students can move out of portable classrooms that have long outlived their intended use. The gymnasium is not full size and we continue to struggle with enough room for physical education classes. Our oldest building is Medical Lake Elementary School. It was built in the late 1950's and added to in the early 1960's. This building is a challenge for teachers and students. The wiring is not adequate for today's technological needs in a school. It is difficult to make changes to the building because of the asbestos in older building materials. The Board of Directors for the Medical Lake School District continues to provide forward thinking and planning for our facilities. They are currently trying to determine what our community would support in order to take care of the needs at Medical Lake Elementary and Medical Lake Middle School. The Board will be making a decision in the near future whether to run a bond for new construction or modernization of Medical Lake Elementary School, and whether to run a bond to take care of the needed classrooms and gym space for Medical Lake Middle School.

*Board of Directors*  
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(Vice President)  
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In the teaching and learning arena, the principals, administrators and some teachers have been involved in a program that investigates the research on high quality effective teaching practices and a process for coaching each other in refining our teaching practices so that we can help ALL students reach the standards set forth by the State of Washington. Our teachers are dedicated to meeting the needs of all students and this is just one more way that they are demonstrating this dedication to children.

A project of major importance that we will complete this school year is the revision of our strategic plan. We are scheduled for meetings on March 26, April 30, May 7, and May 21, 2007. All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. The committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors for changes to the vision and core principles of the District. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call the district office at 565-3100.

The staff of the Medical Lake School District thanks you for the opportunity to serve the youth of our community. We appreciate the support our community continues to extend to our schools.

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**Spring Break**  
\*  
**April 2-6**  
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# Pandemic Flu Preparations

Health Officials are concerned with the possibility of an outbreak of the Avian Flu (H5N2) over the next year. The potential for it affecting millions of Americans has given it the appropriate label of "Pandemic Flu." Medical Lake School District has been working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District, Washington State Department of Health, and national authorities to make preparations for possible Pandemic Flu outbreak in our region.

Our plan to combat Pandemic Flu adopts the National Incident Management System (NIMS) plan that includes the major components of Mitigation and Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. While we are planning for a worst case scenario, we hope our plans reduce the potential of a pandemic flu.

Our school district web site ([www.mlzd.org](http://www.mlzd.org)) has a link to the page of information we've prepared. It includes some good Q & A facts, and more links for you to browse and become more educated about pandemic flu. From all the meetings we've attended, several important pieces of information keep coming out on how to help from spreading seasonal and/or Avian Flu. First, avoid contact with sickly migratory ducks and geese, and their droppings, and report sightings of sick migratory fowl to your local Fish & Wildlife Office. Second, wash your hands regularly. If using soap and water, wash for at least 20 seconds. If using a hand sanitizer, use one with at least 60% ethyl alcohol. The hand sanitizer is not a replacement for washing with soap, but can be used if there is a delay getting to a sink. Third, if you have to sneeze, use your sleeve to keep the spray contained. Even if you have the flu, it will die on your sleeve inside of two minutes. If airborne, it can last up to 20 minutes.

If your child is sick with the flu, your best choice is to keep them home for rest and plenty of liquids. If there is a large outbreak of the flu in your community, consider taking them to the doctor or hospital for an examination. It takes a doctor's examination to tell if the flu is of the annual variety, or the Avian flu.

Pandemic Flus usually strike on an average of every 30 years. It has been 39 years since the last pandemic flu struck the greater Spokane area. While medical procedures and general citizen cleanliness have greatly improved over the years, our population has also increased and that has authorities very concerned. Thus, these preparations have been enacted to help insure that if pandemic flu does strike, the effect will be minimal.



## Transportation News

The Medical Lake S.D. has been fortunate in receiving a grant from the School Bus Retrofit Program promoting clean air in Washington, for the installation of a fueling station for the school buses. This grant was awarded by the State of Washington through the Spokane County Air Pollution Authority. This above ground tank will be located in the bus compound where the old underground tanks were located 10 years ago. The system will be a two-part tank with mixing dispensers to allow us to experiment with bio-diesel blends for a cleaner burning fuel. Having the capability of fuel on site will save money for the district through greater discounts from the supplier. We expect to have the system in place for the start up of the 2007-08 school year.



### Kindergarten Registration

Medical Lake Elementary: March 8 and 9, and May 21

Michael Anderson: March 26-30, and May 21



## High School Future Farmers of America

Medical Lake FFA members were busy celebrating the holiday season by holding their annual Christmas tree and poinsettia sale at the high school Ag facility. On November 28, 22 students and adult helpers, Jerry Wandler, Angie Turner, Aaron Carr, Dennis Snyder and advisor Randy Williams braved the 15 degree weather and 16 inches of snow to cut, bale, and load 280 trees from the Sandpoint Tree Farm in north Idaho. The next day, students unloaded, sorted and tagged trees in preparation for the 38<sup>th</sup> annual sale.

FFA members would sincerely like to thank the citizens of Medical Lake and the West Plains Community for supporting this year's tree sale.



On December 7, FFA members from the Ag Communications class participated in the "Agricultural Issues Forum" and "Job Interview" Career Development Events. During Job Interview Competition, students tested their written and oral communication skills by preparing a cover letter and resume. In addition, they composed a thank you letter, completed a job application and experienced a job interview. In the Ag Issues Forum Competition, students researched and presented an agricultural issue that is significant in their community. Students chose to present the "Water Contamination" issue that has plagued the Deep Creek West Plains area. Kolette Lowe, Jordan Lynch, Kayla Bellamy, Tyler Marcotte, Brandon McElroy, and Meagan Biesecker presented this issue. Congratulations to all participants for representing Medical Lake High School in this event.

## Dollars for Scholars Important News

Medical Lake Dollars for Scholars Foundation is a locally governed and managed not-for-profit corporation created in December 2000, to help meet the needs of students and parents in our community. It is part of a national program in more than 1,200 communities that serve to raise funds for scholarships to give every deserving student a chance to be successful. The Scholarships will be administered locally by a Board made up of volunteers from our community. Scholarship Forms are available in the High School Counseling Office. Dollars for Scholars met at the High School auditorium on March 1, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss scholarships with the senior class and parents. We encourage ALL seniors to start applying for scholarships.



Many thanks for the wonderful support of our "Silent Auction." It was a great success with \$3,000 collected in purchases and donations. The annual Dollars for Scholars Yard Sale will be held on May 11 and 12 in the parking lot of Monark Mini-Warehouse. Please call Dan Dorshorst for pick up of large donations (please new or gently used items only) at 299-5478.

The future of our community and nation is dependent, to a large extent, upon the education of our youth. We can make a difference. Please make a contribution to our future.



## GET CONNECTED CAREER DAY

High School counselors Lora Jackson and Ted Koch recently took a group of 26 students of color to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Get Connected Career Day" held at Gonzaga University.

Dr. Raphael Guillory gave an inspirational message about loving and respecting each other. Students then attended break-out sessions with community leaders. All students agreed that it was a valuable experience that will help them make educated career choices.

Pictured from left to right are Michelle Ayos, Michelle Ostermann, Shalika Skeete, Ashley Sorensen, Cortnee Hunt, and Tiffany Balon.

Through an agreement with Microsoft Corporation, we are now able to offer several Microsoft products at substantial discounts to all students, teachers and staff in our district. Some of the products that are available are:

	YOUR COST
Microsoft Windows Vista	\$ 89.98
MS Office Professional 2007 & 2003 **	\$ 84.98
MS Office Standard 2007 & 2003 **	\$ 74.98
MS Office Standard Mac 2004	\$ 69.98



\*\* This product currently contains the current version of the software (CD) and a 2007 license (i.e. Microsoft Office 2007 license and 2003 software CD). The 2007 license is not yet available from Microsoft. Microsoft expects to have the media available by April, 2007. Once available, you will also have the ability to obtain the 2007 software CD for your 2007 license. After the 2007 software is available, new customer orders will only contain the 2007 software. A complete FAQ can be found online in the product descriptions.

This offer is made available via the Microsoft Student Select Program. Journey Education Marketing is handling the fulfillment of these products for our students, teachers and staff. Products can be ordered online at [www.JourneyEd.com/Select](http://www.JourneyEd.com/Select) or by calling 800.874.9001.

## Identification (Childfind)

The purpose of Childfind is to locate, evaluate and identify children, ages birth through 21, who have a disability and are not currently receiving special education and related services and are eligible for those services. All severities and conditions of disability are included. Activities are to reach:

- ~Children who reside within the school district boundaries, regardless of whether they are enrolled in public schools.
- ~Highly mobile child (such as homeless and migrant children).
- ~Children who have a disability and may need special education services even though they are advancing from grade to grade.
- ~Children both within the school district system and at home, home schooled, or enrolled in private schools and pre-schools, including religious schools.

Medical Lake School District, through its Educational Support Services department conducts early childhood screenings for ages birth to five. These occur as parents/guardians call with concerns about their child's development. When parents or others inquire about screenings, the caller will be referred to the Medical Lake School District Educational Support Services office. If you have concerns about your child's development, please call 565-3408.

# Aluminum Eagle Statue Soars Over Michael Anderson Elementary

by Joe B. Wiles  
92nd ARW Public Affairs

11/20/2006 - **FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** -- An artist from Pullman, Wash., and a crane operator from Spokane placed a 200 pound eagle on top of a stainless steel three-legged base at Anderson Elementary School on Oct. 28, 2006.

The kinetic sculpture, made of aluminum and strengthened with steel cables, is the culmination of a three-year project.

Miles Pepper, the artist, based the sculpture on the story, "Eagle and the Thrush," an Indian tale about how music came to the world. Above the eagle is a smaller sculpture of a thrush. The two pieces pivot independently and point into the wind.

The tips of the eagle's 16-foot wings will fold when a strong wind blows and spread as the wind dies. "All new Washington State buildings



receive funds from the Washington State Art Commission for artwork," said Dale Lamphere, the Principal at Michael Anderson. Three years ago, a committee at the school selected Mr. Pepper's art proposal from among several submissions.

Mr. Pepper returned the next year with a model of the eagle and thrush that the committee approved. Early this past summer, he again returned to the school to dig holes for the

sculpture's three legs, supervised the concrete pouring and erected the legs. October 28, the eagle was placed on the legs.

"The kids absolutely loved it Monday morning," said Mr. Lamphere. The sculpture represents many things, said Mr. Pepper, including the relationship of the large tanker aircraft at Fairchild and the smaller aircraft they refuel.



## Jump Rope for Heart at Michael Anderson

The 5th and 6th graders at Michael Anderson Elementary School wrapped up their Jump Rope for Heart program with a great deal to celebrate. They began the festivities with a video of the participants followed by an amazing performance of advanced short and long rope jumping activities, which included a surprise performance by the teachers and staff. Jerome Morales was the top fundraiser this year bringing in a whopping \$500. The "Spirit Award" went to Sabrina Earle who decided to forgo a traditional birthday party and asked guests to donate to Jump Rope for Heart instead of bringing gifts.



A huge thank you to the parents and teachers who helped make this year's Jump Rope for Heart Program a great success. The 5th and 6th graders at Michael Anderson School were able to present the American Heart Association with a check for a stunning \$2,607.95. We are extremely proud of our students and all the hard work and sacrifices they have made to help fight the #1 killer in the United States, heart disease and stroke.

## ***Annual Notifications***

State or Federal Law requires these annual notifications. Please read through this information carefully and if you have questions, please call our Educational Support Services office at 565-3408. We always strive to provide accurate and timely communication.

## ***Policies and Procedures***

Parents and other members of the public have the right to request policies and procedures and any required evaluations, plans, and reports relating to the Special Education Part B Program. Requests may be sent in writing to Director, Educational Support Services, Medical Lake School District, PO Box 128, Medical Lake, WA 99022.

## ***Special Education Public Participation Information***

Those interested in attending a meeting and/or reviewing the IDEA application and related surveys and reports may call the Educational Support Services office at 565-3408 for specific information.

## ***Homeless Assistance***

Students who become homeless may receive assistance to remain at their school as well as receive other assistance. Please contact the school counselor or the Educational Support Services Director - Homeless Liaison at 565-3408.

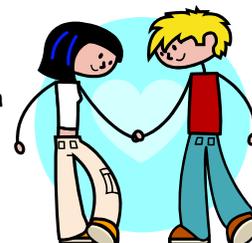
## ***Notification of Rights Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Acts (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Institutions.***

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.\* Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal and clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

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Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

\*State Law Qualification: Although FERPA allows 45 days to honor a request, the state policy records law requires an appropriate response to a "public records" request within five business days. RCW 42.17.320.

For further information regarding FERPA or for other questions for special needs students, please call the Educational Support Services office at 565-3408.



**Good News from Food Service**

Parents with children in more than one school:

It is finally here! You can now send just **one** check for all your children's lunch accounts. Please specify each child's first and last name and amount you wish for that child on the check. You can then send it to any of our schools. That is all that is needed. The system will tell us the school and teacher name. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Cook at 565-3427.

## ***Guidelines for Children with Life-threatening Conditions***

Prior to attendance at school, each child with a life-threatening health condition shall present a medication or treatment order addressing the condition. A life threatening health condition means a condition that will put the child in danger of death during the school day. If a medication or treatment order providing authority to a registered nurse and nursing plan are not in place, your child could be at risk. Following submission of the medication or treatment order, a nursing plan shall be developed.

Students who have a life-threatening health condition and no medication or treatment order presented to the school shall be excluded from school, to the extent that the district can do so consistent with federal requirements for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Please contact the Educational Support Services office at 565-3408 if you have any questions or would like further clarification.

## **Middle School Book Drive for Sacajawea**



On October 26, two 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls from Medical Lake Middle School completed a service project to donate books to the recently destroyed Sacajawea Middle School library in Spokane.

After hearing about the destruction of the library in September, Katrina Hofer decided to take action. She and her friend, Andria Rainbolt, orchestrated a book drive at Medical Lake Middle School to request fellow students to help Sacajawea in a time of need. The two girls independently made posters, kept track of, and organized books brought in by fellow students.

With the help of Katrina and Andria, the Middle School donated almost 400 new or gently used books to the library to a very appreciative Sacajawea Middle School. Paula Ronhaar, the principal of Sacajawea, was very grateful and also very impressed by our two students.

We are very proud of our two young ladies who have not only donated their time and effort, but who have also proven themselves to be caring, empathetic young people who can and do make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for representing our school, Katrina and Andria!

## Middle School All



## State Choir



Congratulations to Nikki King, Marjorie Loosmore, Alexandra Pankratz, Adriana Romero, and Riley Shines for being selected for the 2nd annual All State 8th Grade Choir for Eastern Washington. These 5 students submitted audition tapes, and upon being selected, rehearsed and performed in the choir at Lewis and Clark High School on October 21. They learned several songs in foreign languages and sang magnificently.

Medical Lake School District

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"Soaring into the future to  
create a better tomorrow."

## Helping Those Less Fortunate

The Student Council of Michael Anderson Elementary this year chose to "Help the Less Fortunate" by bringing in literally tons of clothing, coats, shoes, boots, blankets, toys, and food to share with children in shelters in Spokane. The response of the Fairchild Community was overwhelming as they generously gave and gave and gave.

This project was initiated and carried out by the representatives in each class who encouraged their classmates to clean out their closets and give to those in need. One student donated \$20 of his own money for supplies for Anna Ogden Hall which caters to women and children in need.

All of the food collected will be distributed in Medical Lake and FAFB. ASB Students toured Crosswalk, Anna Ogden Hall, as well as the Union Gospel Mission to get a better idea of those who will benefit from their donations.

**"When we went to the homeless shelters I realized that they have so little and we have so much. I love what we did for them.....they are regular people like us. When we helped them we gave them hope."**

(quote from Hailey Cheevers, a student at Michael Anderson)

