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UPDATE

FROM MEDICAL LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 326

February 2009



Maintenance and Operations Levy set for March 10, 2009

On December 16, the Board of Directors approved a resolution and set the date of March 10, 2009, for a **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. For the past 18 years, since 1991, the M & O levy rate has remained at \$1.75 per thousand of assessed value. The School Board will keep the levy at the same rate to avoid an increase to the taxpayer. The rate of \$1.75 per thousand will generate approximately \$913,572 in 2010; \$940,979 in 2011; and \$969,208 in 2012.

In the State of Washington, school districts are authorized to run local M & O levies for up to 24% 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 set our levy amount at 4% of our operating budget. The District uses Federal Impact Aid funds to assist us in making up the difference which helps ease the burden on local taxpayers.

Additional Facts about the March 10th M & O Levy

- *With voter approval of the levy, the Medical Lake School District will be eligible to receive additional STATE levy equalization matching funds of approximately \$1.48 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 is not intended to fund new programs or buildings. It is to maintain current programs which are not funded by the State or Federal Government.*
- *It is a replacement levy and NOT A TAX INCREASE.*
- *Approval of the levy requires a 50% majority yes vote in order to pass.*
- *This election will be 100% mail-in ballot. Voters will begin receiving their ballots around February 17 and must be returned by March 10.*

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a maintenance and operations levy?

A. An educational maintenance and operations replacement levy is a local property tax that supports educational programs for students. It pays for programs and people.

Q. Is this a new tax?

A. NO, this is not a new tax. It is an approval to continue to levy at the same rate that you have been paying. The Medical Lake School District is required to obtain voter approval every three years to continue the same Maintenance & Operations levy.

Q. How will the money collected from the Maintenance and Operations levy be used?

A. Because the State of Washington does not fully fund education for students, school districts across the state run levies to pay for everything the state doesn't pay for – things like textbooks and instructional materials, science equipment, smaller class size, special classes and additional course offerings, extra-curricular and athletic activities, transportation for after school activities and maintenance of buildings and play fields.

Q. How much will I have to pay for the Maintenance and operations levy?

A. The Medical Lake School District has kept the same rate for 18 years, since 1991. This rate is one dollar and seventy-five cents per thousand of assessed value of your home/property. It comes to approximately \$175.00 for the owner of a home appraised at \$100,000.

Q. If the levy is approved, how much money will the Medical Lake School District receive?

A. Medical Lake School District will receive \$913,572 in 2010; \$940,979 in 2011; and \$969,208 in 2012. In addition, if voters approve the M & O levy, the Medical Lake School District is scheduled to receive another **\$1.4 million dollars in levy equalization state matching funds every year for three years.**

Q. Will the rate of \$1.75 per thousand of assessed value be the same if more homes are built in Medical Lake?

A. The rate of one dollar and seventy five cents per thousand of assessed value is spread out over all property owners. If more homes are built the cost will be spread even further and reduce your tax rate even more. Since 1991, Medical Lake School District has advertised this rate but has always collected below this rate. The last M & O was approved in 2006 at this rate of \$1.75 cents per thousand. The actual rate that tax payers will be assessed in 2009 is one dollar and eighteen cents (\$1.18 cents).

Q. I am a senior citizen and live on a fixed income. Is there any help on my taxes for me?

A. If you are a senior citizen or a disabled person, you may qualify for some tax exemptions from special school levies. For more information about tax exemptions, you can contact the Spokane County Assessor's Office at 477-5754.

Anderson and Hallett Elementary Students Attend Camp Reed Yearly

Every Spring, Michael Anderson and Hallett Elementary Schools' 4th graders have the opportunity to participate in two days at Camp Reed. The counselors and students spend two days learning about birds, gold mining, bees, water, team building and many more great things. This experience is like no other for our students. Camp Reed is something they look forward to from the time they are little. The relationships that are built during Camp Reed are the kinds that are never broken. The learning that takes place while being in the wilderness is unmatched. Allowing students to learn from and about their environment is wonderful. This program was provided by levy fund dollars.



MLES Second Grade Performance



Second grade students at Medical Lake Elementary School performed their holiday music program, *The Littlest Christmas Tree* for parents and families. Students from Mrs. Blasingame's, Mrs. Cote's, Mrs. Paulson's, and Ms. Devine's 2nd grade classrooms performed two programs under the direction of our elementary music specialist, Mr. Clif Davis.

Students wore tree-shaped costumes and elf hats to help illustrate through their music and stories an accepting, loving and caring attitude for others regardless of their differences. Many students had speaking parts and the entire second grade sang. This program is supported by levy dollars.

Medical Lake Alternative High School's students will have learned about the exciting Presidential Inauguration while celebrating it too. The day was made festive by decorating the classroom in red, white and blue streamers, and watching the inauguration on television. The students all had inauguration magazines which contained worksheets and projects, and inaugural pencils with which to complete them. To finish off the celebration, the teachers provided lunch. Our inauguration materials were provided for by levy dollars.



Medical Lake High School



provides a variety of athletic programs that help connect our students to our schools. Our athletic programs prepare students to become productive, contributing citizens in our community and society. Over half of our students choose to participate in some type of extra-curricular activity during the school year. Values such as responsibility, commitment, and attitude continue to enable our student athletes to make maximum use of their education. Thank you for continuing to support Medical Lake School District athletics. Levy funds help provide these programs.

Clayton Schneider, a very brave 6th grade student from Hallett Elementary School who is currently battling cancer, was granted his wish to have a basketball court in his back lot. The Make a Wish Foundation, and many fantastic companies and organizations pulled it all together in just a matter of a few weeks. His party was catered by area Panda Express Restaurants. He was also surprised by the Gonzaga Bulldogs and alumni, Erroll Knight.

His chemotherapy treatments are due to be done in February. His mom said he LOVES hearing from people because he is unable to get out. He can be contacted at:

www.caringbridge.org/visit/claytonschneider



“Make a Wish” for Clayton

NEW...NEW...NEW for Middle & High School

Parents/Guardians can choose to receive e-mailed progress reports daily, weekly or monthly.

Logon to your Family Access account and select E-Mail Notifications, click on Change My Notifications - there you can select to receive Grading and/or Progress Report notifications.

Weekly Grading Notifications - every Saturday at 4:00 a.m. the system will check to see if a notification e-mail needs to be sent. Events that trigger notification:

- Missing Assignments for the current Term
- Assignment score of 69.49 (D+) or below in the last week
- Current Progress Report grade is 69.49% (D+) or below in a class
- A grade mark has been changed for a past Term

Parents/Guardians can select a different grade percent as the trigger if they choose.

Progress Reports - every day at 4:00 a.m. the system will check to see if a notification needs to be sent. Parents/Guardians can choose to receive e-mailed progress reports daily, weekly or monthly. If either of these processes fails to run, they are set to re-try the following day.

While logged into Family Access, use the account info button at the top right of the page to keep your e-mail address current. You can then use the e-mail notifications tab to select which notifications you would like to receive. Please check this tab from time to time as new notifications will be added with future releases. ***Please Keep Your E-mail Address Up To Date.***

Debra DuPey, Family Access Administrator
Phone: 565-3147 or ddupey@mlsd.org

Preschool Screening

Medical Lake School District provides an ongoing preschool screening for those who live in the Medical Lake School District. The screening will be offered at no cost to all children, birth through five years of age, in order to prepare for their future educational needs.



If parents would like more information about the screening, please contact Educational Support Services office at 565-3408

News from the FFA Department Medical Lake High School December 2008

Medical Lake FFA members continued their busy ways as the holiday season got underway. Ashley Holznagel, Kayla Tisdall, Sammi Williams, Jeana Lloyd, Zac Seals, Heather Lent, and Amber Six finished second in the Agricultural Issues Forum Competition held in Davenport. Students identify, investigate, analyze, and present both sides of an agricultural issue. Brett Moriarty and Ashley Holznagel placed 1st and 3rd respectively in the “Job Interview” career development event. Students presented their job skills by composing a cover letter, resume, and thank you letter as well as completing a job application. They also demonstrated and were scored on an actual job interview. Both teams qualified for district competition on January 28.



To promote the spirit of giving over the holidays, FFA members also conducted our annual food drive. Students encouraged class competition by collecting food and showcasing it in the lobby of the high school. The goal this season was to collect 2,000 pounds of canned and packaged items. All food gathered was donated to the Medical Lake Food Bank.



On December 2, twenty students traveled to the Sandpoint Tree Farm to select, cut, bail, load, and transport 200 Fraser and Grand Fir Christmas trees for the annual community Christmas tree and poinsettia sale. Trees and poinsettias were marketed from the tree lot and greenhouse. The annual event ran through the first two weekends in December. FFA members use the proceeds from this annual event to help fund their way to both the state and national FFA Conventions.

Substitutes Needed

*The Medical Lake School District is very much in need of custodial, paraeducator, transportation and food service substitutes. If you are interested, please stop by the District Office at 116 W. Third St. for an application. **WSP and FBI background checks are a requirement in order to be placed on the substitute list.*



Hallett Elementary has some very exciting Science happening in the 4th grade. Our Science unit is called “The Structures of Life.” In this unit, the students get to learn about seeds, their growth process, investigate crayfish and land snails and their habitats. The students are enjoying working with their “hands on” inquiry-based science projects. The most exciting part (besides holding the animals) is that the investigations directly show the students how WASL investigations should be correctly carried out. The students have science notebooks, which assist them in keeping records, word banks, and observations. It is very exciting for the teachers to see the students’ enthusiasm about Science!



Speed Stacking at Medical Lake Elementary School

Students at Medical Lake Elementary School took part in the 3rd Annual World Sport Stacking Association Stack Up on Thursday, November 13. During the course of the day, each sport stacker stacked various pyramids in prescribed patterns for at least 30 minutes. This was the third year in a row Guinness World Records billed it as the “World’s Largest Sport Stacking Event.” Once again, thousands of stackers contributed their sport stacking skills from across the United States and around the world in countries such as Germany, Japan, Australia, Singapore and the UK. Medical Lake Elementary School had 241 participants this year.



Congratulations, National Board Certified Teachers

Medical Lake School District is proud to congratulate two new National Board Certified teachers: Linda Sexton (left), Middle School science teacher and Courtney Strozyk (right), Middle School history teacher. National Board Certification is met after successfully completing a year-long, introspective process that requires a teacher to submit a four-part portfolio and an assessment of knowledge in their field of study. The teachers had to meet rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. According to the NBPTS website, “In a congressionally-mandated study, National Board Certification was recently recognized by the National Research Council as having a positive impact on student achievement, teacher retention, and professional development.” Several teachers in Medical Lake are pursuing certification for 2009.



MEDICAL LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANT AWARDED

Medical Lake Middle School has received a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program to support our school’s math and science programs. Four Lakes Grocery/Exxon has worked with school officials to secure the grant, which is one of 4,000 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or Mobil stations. The grants were made possible by funding from the Exxon Mobil Corporation.

“Medical Lake Middle School works hard to make learning interesting and fun,” said Joe Wyles, manager. “As an Exxon retailer, I am proud to help young people in the Medical Lake and Four Lakes communities.

The ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools. ExxonMobil believes that, as members of the community, local retailers are best qualified to work with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of support.

Mr. Joe Wyles met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant, including having a commitment to provide a superior buying experience for customers. For more information, please contact the Medical Lake Middle School at 565-3303.



The staff of Medical Lake School District lost a long-time employee and friend on December 1, 2008, with the passing of retired school secretary, Nancy Rice. Nancy was a well-respected and loved secretary at Blair Elementary School and Michael Anderson Elementary School, retiring in 2005 after 40 years of service. She is remembered by staff who worked with her as the person who could answer any question, as well as a good person to talk to if things weren't going so well. One teacher said, "She would remind us of things we never knew we needed to know!"

For many staff members, she was the first person they met when they came into the school district, instantly putting them at ease before an interview. And for parents, she was the first person they met when they enrolled their child in school. Her friendly, courteous manner put many people at ease in new or difficult situations.

Nancy was a native to the Medical Lake community, having been born and raised in Deep Creek, and attended Medical Lake High School. Nancy's family includes her husband of 56 years, Ralph, and daughters Janeen VanSlyke, Cheryl Ring (Ken), Claudine Muelken (Lance), and Teresa Rae (Dennis), as well as her much loved grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be missed.

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