

WINTER UPDATE

December 2011

MEDICAL LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 326



A Message from Dr. Pam Veltri, Superintendent:

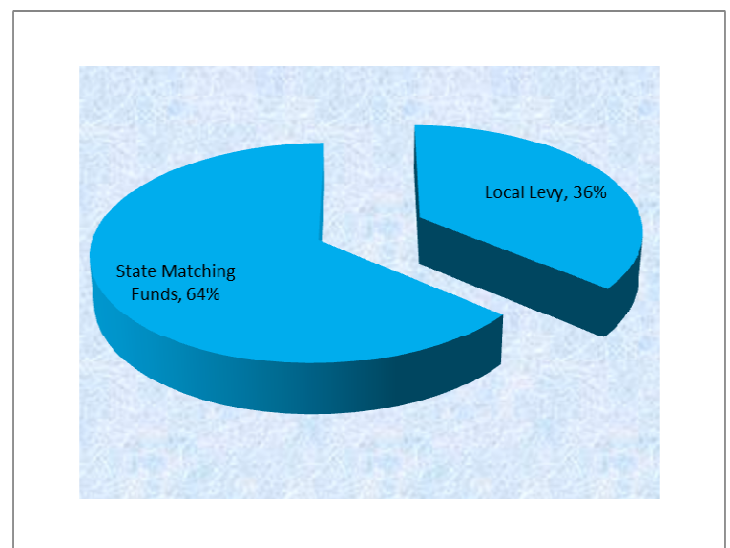
Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy

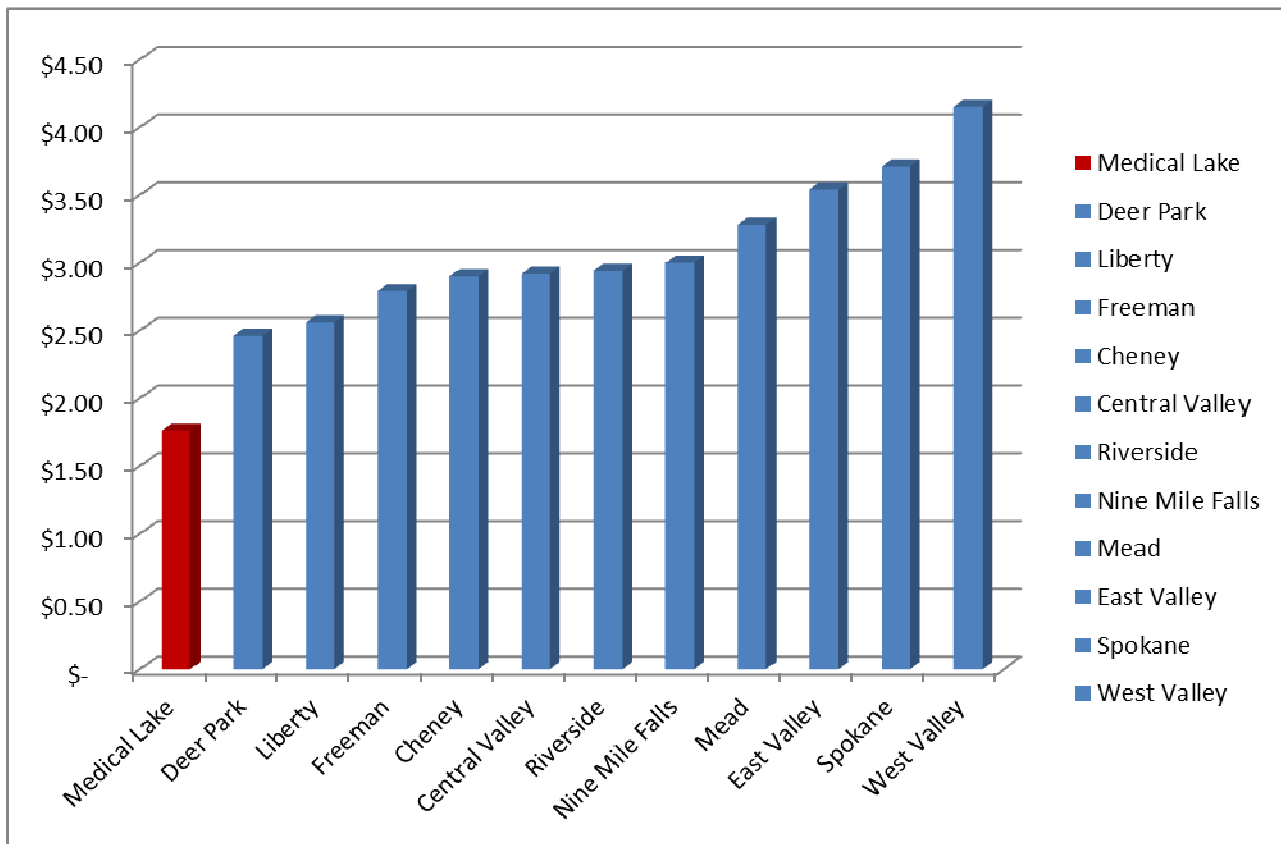
On February 14, 2012, citizens of Medical Lake School District will vote on a very critical issue that affects our children's education: A three year Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy. The levy is set again, at three years and will **REPLACE** the current M & O levy that is about to expire. The rate of \$1.99 per thousand will generate approximately \$1,097,622 in 2013; \$1,130,551 in 2014; and \$1,164,467 in 2015.

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 set our levy amount at 4.8% 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 14 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 which is 8.5% of our operating budget.*
- ✓ *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% majority yes vote in order to pass.*
- ✓ *This election will be 100% mail-in ballot. Voters will begin receiving their ballots around January 23 and must be returned by February 14.*





The chart above compares Medical Lake School District with other school districts in Spokane County. Medical Lake School District continues to tax at a lower rate than the other districts. When local voters pass our levy, the state provides matching funds of \$1.5 million dollars.

Olivia Hagel Awarded YWCA's 2011 Young Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Olivia Hagel for winning the Women of Achievement Award. For twenty-nine years, women in the Greater Spokane area have been honored with this prestigious award by the YWCA. There are six categories named outstanding each year: Arts and Culture, Community Service, Professional, Health Care, Racial Justice and Young Women. Olivia has been selected as Young Woman of the Year.

Olivia was honored at a YWCA benefit luncheon on November 2. Keynote speaker was Erin Gruwell of "Freedom Writers" and founder of Freedom Writers International.





Congratulations, Natasha

Cadet Airman Natasha Monroe received the second highest JROTC medal for her support of a fellow student. This award was approved by the HQ Air Force JROTC. Alongside Natasha are her parents and MLHS principal, John McSmith who presented her with the medal.

As a member of the Medical Lake JROTC, Natasha regularly demonstrates her commitment to others. While caring for others is its own reward, it is good to see it recognized.

WINTER BUSING

Winter is here and snow is on its way. School will run as usual during a snow event, unless there is a significant amount of snow and it is deemed unsafe to travel on most district roads. If this occurs, there will be three options: School will be cancelled, there will be a two (2) hour late start or buses will only travel on **snow routes**, also with a two hour late start.

Snow routes will be used if it is determined that we can get the majority of students to school. Buses will run in the city of Medical Lake, on FAFB, and on major roads. Please go our web site (www.mlsd.org) to determine your child's bus stop and times. The information is located on the top right hand side of the page under "Announcements." It is also available on the transportation site. Students who cannot make it to school on snow route days will be excused and allowed to make-up lessons.



Please remember to have your child **DRESS WARMLY** – in the event of a breakdown, the bus may be without heat until help arrives!!



Visit from State Representatives

Hallett Elementary's Vocalaires had a wonderful opportunity to sing for some of our State Representatives right before Veteran's Day. They sang a mix of patriotic songs, including, "America", "America, the Beautiful" and "God Bless the USA". The Vocalaires singing group is an all-volunteer choir comprised of seventy students from the fourth and fifth grades.

Math is Cool at the Middle School

Medical Lake Middle School sent fifteen students to Mount Spokane High School to compete in a regional math competition. Our four teams competed against sixty-nine other division two teams and made the district proud. Both the 8th grade and 7th grade teams took home impressive 5th place overall trophies and earned an opportunity for eight students to compete at the state level Masters Competition.

Board of Directors:

Rod Von Lehe – President
Julie Albright – Vice President
Peggy Schweikhardt
Ron Cooper
Kelly Fouts

The Masters Competition was held in Moses Lake and our students did an outstanding job representing our district. The 8th grade team finished 4th place bringing home a masters level trophy. The 7th grade team finished 8th place in their division. The success at both regionals and masters can be attributed to the hard work of each individual and the cumulative work of all their current and past teachers. As a building and a district we are very proud of all our students and staff!

7th Grade Regional Competitors: Gabe Mangione, Mikal Dieatrick, Ellie Davis, Caleb Heggemeier, Hailey Hostetter, Shay McIntyre, Terrell Strain, Alex Steinmetz

8th Grade Regional Competitors: Emma Ransom, Jeremy Ryan, Rayann McIntyre, Haley Brown, Dara Abounorinejad, Stephanie Basilan, Taylor Benroth,

7th Grade Masters Team: Ellie Davis, Gabe Mangione, Shay McIntyre, Alex Steinmetz

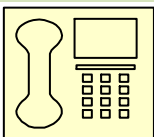
8th Grade Masters Team: Dara Abounorinejad, Taylor Benroth, Haley Brown, Jeremy Ryan

The Record was Broken

It was crazy as Hallett Elementary students participated in what Guinness World Records terms the “World’s Largest Sport Stacking Event”. During the course of the day, sport stackers from all over the world were up stacking and down stacking various pyramids in specific patterns at lightning speeds for at least thirty minutes, combined with a variety of fitness activities. Sports’ stacking is an activity enjoyed by all ages and cultures. It promotes hand-eye coordination, fitness, teamwork, speed and lots of fun! Four hundred and eight students joined in on the fun this year. Over 350,000 stackers participated to break the previous year’s STACK UP record of 316,736.



Automatic Calling System



We will again be using our automatic calling system to inform you of important news such as late starts or school closures. We will call the primary number we have in Skyward for your child. If you have not updated your primary phone, please call your child’s school to update it.

National Event Participants - Agricultural Issues Forum

Members of the Medical Lake F.F.A. Chapter in Washington were one of thirty-six teams participating in the National F.F.A. Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event (CDE). The event was held in conjunction with the 84th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Samantha Dickey, Riley Shines, Kayleen Oliver, Connlee Liebhardt, Chad Schluter, Rachel Crofoot, and Laura

Robinson competed with 207 other members from across the country. The team, led by advisor Randy Williams, was awarded a silver emblem.



High School Band News

The band had fun performing "There's no Place Like Home" for homecoming. The band has enjoyed recent performances for Honor Flight, football games and Veterans Day. The high school jazz band had a great time at the Whitworth Jazz Festival in November. Seniors Mark Rupert (percussion) and Peter Loeffler (trumpet), were recently accepted into the All State Bands. Hope you can make it to our performances this year!



Nondiscrimination Rules in Effect

The Medical Lake School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities and district employment opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school districts Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer and or Section 504/ADA Coordinator: Pam Veltri, Medical Lake School District, PO Box 128, Medical Lake WA 99022, Phone: (509) 565-3100.

Reminder for Students and Parents
Medical Lake School District has a
SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE.

Help Keep Our Schools Safe. Your
name is never asked. If you have
any concerns call

1-800-418-6423 or go to
www.safeschoolhelpline.com

MEDICAL LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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