

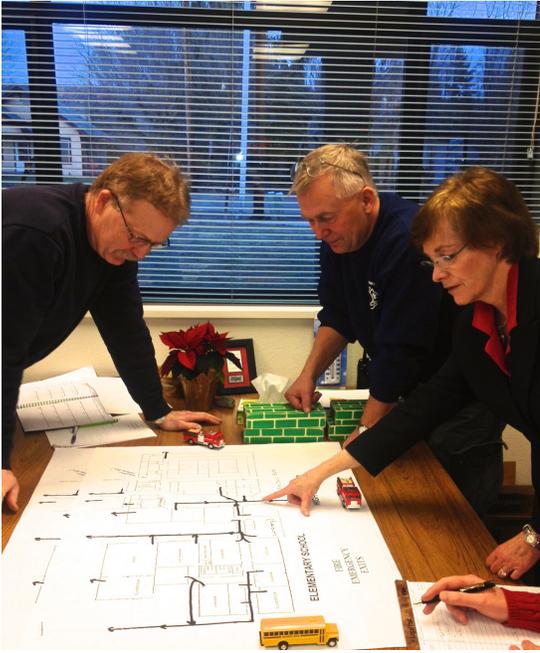


# Thorp School Newsletter

*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*

Edition 2  
Jan 2014

## *Keeping Students Safe*



At Thorp School, the safety of our students and staff are top priorities. A Safety Committee meets regularly to review current practices and makes sure that safety plans are in place for any situation that may arise. Monthly drills help to ensure that both students and staff are prepared for any emergency. Several secondary students participate as junior firefighters during our drills.

Pictured to the left is a recent “table top” exercise led by fire chief D.J. Evans. During this scenario, Safety Committee members discussed possible responses to an active shooter incident. For more information please contact Linda Martin at [martinl@thorpschools.org](mailto:martinl@thorpschools.org) or call 509-964-2107.

## **Important Events**

**Jan 15**  
Taproot Theatre-  
Anti bullying Assembly,  
Gym

**Jan 17**  
MLK Assembly, 1:00pm  
Gym

**Jan 20**  
No School, MLK Day

**Jan 23**  
Celebration of Learning

**Jan 27**  
No School/In-service Day

**Jan 28**  
End of Semester

**Jan 31**  
R.O.A.R Assembly

See our complete calendar on our new website.  
[www.thorpschools.org](http://www.thorpschools.org)

## *Applied Learning with Robotics*

Thorp’s robotics team is preparing for their next competition. This year they have combined with Kittitas students in order to expand the opportunities to learn principles of mathematics, science, and engineering to more students in the Kittitas Valley.

Funded by several grants, the FIRST Robotics competition is a game of the mind. Each year teams are given a kit of parts and a challenge to create a robot that will perform a particular task. This year’s task is to pick up a small exercise ball and pass it, catch it, and make it into one of three goals. Every team has only six weeks to build the robot that will be entered in the competition. The task is designed to give students experience in a real-world engineering environment where they must challenge themselves with limited time, money and parts. Learning to work together as a team is another key component of the FIRST Robotics program. The guiding principle is gracious professionalism. Last year Thorp’s robotic team placed as the number one rookie team in an event that drew over 50 teams from all over the state. This year the team will compete in Cheney at EWU March 6 – 8 and in Ellensburg at CWU March 27 – 29. For more information, please visit our website.



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Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



# THORP SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014 Replacement M&O Levy Election

## When is Thorp's M&O levy election?

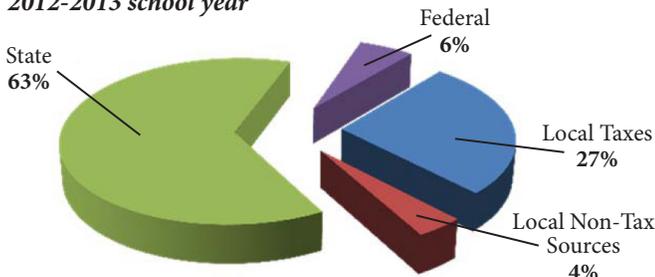
The election date is **Tuesday, February 11, 2014**.  
Ballots will be mailed to school district voters around January 24.

## What is a replacement M&O levy?

A Maintenance and Operations (M&O) levy is a local property tax that is authorized by a simple majority of area voters. The tax revenue generated by a levy supports a school district's general operations.

The February 11 levy would replace the school district's current levy, which is expiring. Voter-approved levies are like magazine subscriptions and need to be renewed in order to continue this portion of school operations. Since state and federal dollars fund only a portion of the necessary budget for public schools, M&O levies help make up the difference in the actual costs of running local schools.

*Thorp School District's Revenue Sources:  
2012-2013 school year*



## What do levy funds provide?

Many of a school district's basic needs such as utilities, textbooks, special education, athletics, child nutrition, facility maintenance, and numerous other areas are partially supported by the local tax dollars that are raised by levies.

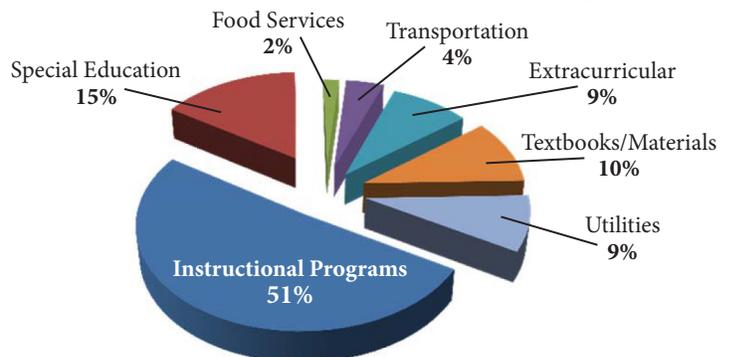
## What is the amount of Thorp's 2014 replacement M&O levy?

The February 11 ballot issue is for a 4-year annual levy of \$665,000. This is a reduction in what was authorized by voters in 2011. The 4-year levy provides the school district with more stability in budgeting and planning for school operations.

Levy year	Rate per \$1,000 assessed valuation	Estimated monthly cost based on \$200,000 home
2015	\$2.89	\$48.17
2016	\$2.80	\$46.67
2017	\$2.72	\$45.33
2018	\$2.64	\$44.00

## How would these levy funds be spent?

This chart shows how levy funds that were most recently approved by Thorp voters have been used to support more than one-fourth of the school district's current operations:



## Our Students

- **Our enrollment:** 118 students

- In the **Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) testing**, 76.9% of our 3rd graders met Washington's standards for reading – ***better than the statewide average!***



- 72.7% of Thorp's students from **all grades** met Washington's standards in the **End-of-Course Biology** testing – ***better than the statewide average!***

- Students enrolled in special education: 16.4%

### ***Did you know?***

*Our school's students were the **top-placing rookie team** at last March's **FIRST Robotics Competition's Central Washington Regional Championships!***

## Our Staff

- Students benefit from the guidance of **15 teachers** and **22 full- and part-time staff members**

- Two-thirds of our teachers at Thorp have at least a master's degree – ***slightly better than the statewide average!***

- Average years of teaching experience among our faculty: 14.6 years – an average of ***more than two years above the statewide average!***

**Remember to vote on**

**February 11**

**Thorp School District M&O ballot.**



## Available to Our Students

- Full-day kindergarten and reasonably priced preschool
- Elementary school offerings include: P.E., music, and technology classes

- Self-contained, team-taught middle school with classes that include: Family and consumer science, art, music, P.E., and technology



- 6th-12th grade band

- High school classes include: Introduction to business, family and consumer science, biology, chemistry, music, contemporary world problems, English literature, geometry, algebra, pre-calculus, and online classes

- Opportunities for students to extend their learning include: Robotics Club, ASB, Future Business Leaders of America, and History Club

- Thorp is Kittitas County's first school district to offer iPads to each of its students from preschool through high school – a huge advantage in learning for our small school district's students!

## Advantages of a Small-School Environment

- Thorp's classrooms combine a strong, learner-centered curriculum with easy access to obtain one-on-one help from teachers and staff. Our average class size: 10.4 students.



- Students benefit from leadership opportunities and more participation in school athletics.

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## Focusing on Core Skills



## Performance Teaches Respect

Washington is one of many states across the nation that have voluntarily adopted the new Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The goal is to provide clear, consistent and rigorous standards for all students, regardless of where they live. The Common Core Standards are a clear set of expectations and goals for what students need to learn. However, these standards do not dictate how teachers should teach or what curriculum should be used. One of the big differences that people will notice about the standards is their focus on real-world application. The standards require students to understand fewer concepts at a deeper level, include more reading of non-fiction texts, and put an emphasis on using mathematics to solve problems and analyze information. Thorp staff is working diligently to learn about the new standards and to begin to infuse them into current lessons, in preparation for full implementation next year. Feel free to ask your child's teacher about standards, or you can see them at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

This month Thorp has the honor of having the Taproot Theatre come and perform two of their anti-bullying plays. The elementary grades will be viewing "*Wild Wes*," which has educational goals of bully prevention, recognizing, refusing and reporting bullying and how to help those who are being bullied. One educator said that "all of the students were pulled into the play, and I feel I gained a deeper understanding of the importance of friendship!"

The secondary grades will be viewing "*Friend Me*," which also has an anti-bullying message. This play will focus more on cyberbullying. It will help these students understand the importance of personal and social responsibility online and in real life. An educator from another school said, "Once again Taproot Theatre has created a timely play to address the issue of cyberbullying. A great presentation packed full of relevant information."

Thorp staff and students are thrilled to have these incredible performers come and entertain us while teaching us important life lessons.

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