SAME COMPETITORS

The McMillan engineering teams are getting set to take part in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) competitions. McMillan has two teams competing this year. The teams are solving real world problems using the design process. They must research, and write a twenty page technical document, create physical and virtual models, design a storyboard and finally, present an oral presentation of their projects. The presentation will be held at PKI building on University of Nebraska-Omaha campus on April 3.

The team projects are: The STEAMers and Restful Sleep. The STEAMers are designing the library at McMillan to include Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math lab areas. They are creating a dynamic, multi faceted area that will allow students to do hands on projects in the library. Restful Sleep are redesigning a downtown building to create a homeless shelter that will provide services to people in need. The building will be green, energy efficient, self sustaining, and technologically advanced. This will cut operational costs, which will allow for added services to individuals and families in need of assistance. Go Monarch students and Coach Mayberger! What wonderfully creative and innovative students!

1ST PLACE REGIONAL ACADEMIC PENTATHLON

Congratulations to the Academic Pentathlon team and Coach Reinhart who won the regional contest on February 25th. The team advances to the state contest on April 8th and the Super Quiz at UNO on April 9th. Good luck! Academic Pentathlon students are:

Hannah Davis, Mitch Kellogg, Max Adams, Evie Kay, Adriana Townsell, Sam Ramos, Journey Green-Gunter, Blake Terry, and Jenna Reynard.

1ST PLACE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the African American History Challenge team and Coach Niemiec who competed at the March 1st contest at Burke High School, where they WON the CHAMPIONSHIP!

Team members Jeffrey Froiland, Cassie Jorgenson, and Shayla Jorgenson will be enjoying an all expenses paid trip to Florida for the National competition June 12-15.
Principal’s Message

How time flies when you are working hard. The staff and students at McMillan have worked very hard this year and will continue to work hard to pursue goals that have been set. An upcoming, very important goal is to have every student achieve at a higher level than their previous year on NeSA Tests. Tests will be held the week of April 7-April 11, 2014. As you discuss the importance of test taking with your student, please help them understand that their effort on all tests help ensure teachers are providing the best instruction possible. Formative assessments are given by teachers throughout the teaching of standards to ensure teachers know when to re-teach concepts students did not understand or move forward when they do. There will be many formative assessments during the course of a semester which count 35% of a grade. When the end of learning a standard, concept, project, or unit comes, the teacher then gives the final summative assessment. There are not as many summative assessments and they count 65% of the grade. In all cases, assessments/tests, check what student’s know. Without the student providing effort to do their best on the test, the test does not reflect what the student actually knows. Your student and our school is important in every way. We want to make sure your student has the best opportunities during their next school year and in life. Please encourage your child to put forth their best effort each day they come to school with their academic progress as well as their social, emotional, and behavioral progress. It takes all of us working together so please let us know if there are ways we can help motivate your student. Please let your student know that effort will help them be whoever they want to be. Here is to a great end of the year!

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all who participated in this year’s Spelling Bee and especially our winners Kathryn Burbach, India Grayson-Pattar, Chavon Hawthorne, Katryn Keesee, Brittany Livingston, Mario Olvera-Mays, Zoe Runge, Anna Kay Sitzman, and Jaime Sutula. A special shout out goes to Sam Ramos who was crowned the 2013-2014 Monarch Spelling Champion. Way to go, Monarchs!

Quiz Bowl

The Quiz Bowl teams have had an exciting winter competition season. At the Brownell Talbot Brain Twister Tournament, McMillan’s Blue team of Evie Kay, Max Adams, Sullivan Stavneak, and Parker Schmeits went 1-4 in matches against the metro’s Quiz Bowl powerhouse teams. In afternoon play, the Blue team handily beat St. Mary’s 175-70 but fell in the next round to a tough Anderson Middle team.

The gold team of Isaac Regier, Micah Sessions, Mitch Kellogg, Trevor Davis and Jenna Reynard went 3 and 1 in the morning rounds. In the afternoon, the Gold team had resounding victories over both Concordia and Omaha Christian Academy and advanced to the quarterfinals. In a nail-biting match, the gold team fell 120-110 to Anderson Middle in the final seconds of the match.

Please wish the Monarch teams luck as they prepare for the city finals on April 30th as they try to win our fourth consecutive City Championship!

Geography Bee

Congratulations to Max Adams, who has qualified for the State Geography Bee to be held at UNO on April 4, 2014. Over 11,000 Nebraska students participated in this year’s Geography Bee and we are very proud of Max, who is one of the top 100 students in Nebraska.

Did you know that in the last decade, McMillan is the only OPS school to have a state Geography Bee qualifier every year? We have had a qualifier every year except 2005.

Historically, our Monarch geographers have done well at the state contest. Nathan Kellogg was runner up in 2008, Nick Tuma made the top ten in 2011, and Sam Messbarger finished 3rd in 2013.

Many thanks to our Social Studies teachers for supporting this event!

Poetry Slam

Congratulations to Jenna Reynard and Alex Bateman who were selected to compete in the Spring Poetry Slam. The poets attended the OPS Slam on Wednesday, February 27th at the PS Collective.
Anna Kay Sitzman placed 3rd overall at the Metro Science and Engineering Fair and qualified for the state science and engineering fair. Anna Kay Sitzman and Maddie Kane both took 1st place in their divisions and Nick Hurt and Nate Rider placed 2nd in their division. Other participants were Jamie Sutula, Noah Crawford, Sullivan Stavneak, Evie Kay, and Julia Dahlke.

### Scholars

Both 7th and 8th grade Scholars took the ACT in February and have met to go over their scores and talk about college planning.

The 7th grade Scholars are looking forward to a college campus visit on April 24th. Seventh grade Scholars are Burdette Becks, Arnett Bonner, Tahner Carrizales, Makenzi Dexter, India Grayson-Pattar, Lewis Kirke, Tiffany Nitzel, Nadia Spurlock, Zander Townsend-Longcrier, and Tylecia Williams.

The eighth grade Scholars attended an Etiquette 101 workshop at Benson High on April 18th where they learned and practiced skills used in dining, interviewing, conversation, and other social situations. The workshop was followed by a fine dining lunch prepared by Benson High Culinary Arts students. Eighth grade scholars will also visit Metro Community College in May and learn about the Bridge to Success program. Eighth grade Scholars are Tyra Blue, Johanna Bustamante-Salgado, Dejaun Elliott, Jeffrey Froiland, Michael Goodman, Elisabeth Lacy, Tayla Michalski, Isaac Regier, Zoe Runge, and Loren Watson.

### Music Adjudication

Ms. Simpson and Mrs. Rydberg thank the students who performed in the 65th Annual O.P.S. All-City Music Festival, Saturday, February 8, at the Civic Auditorium. McMillan was well represented in the chorus, band and orchestra.

Band and Orchestra students did an outstanding job performing for Instrumental Adjudication on Thursday, March 20. The students received many positive comments and critiques that will help them become more accomplished performers and musicians.

Selected chorus students will perform at TAC, Friday morning, April 4, 2014 in the Middle School Chorus Adjudication. Good luck Monarchs!

### McMillan’s Math Counts

McMillan placed 9th in the chapter competition in February. Competing for the Monarchs this year were:

Mitch Kellogg, Micah Sessions, Andrea Sorenson, Matthew Blake, Noah Crawford, Julia Dahlke, Sam Ramos, and Colin Vickery. Top scorers were Mitch Kellogg who placed 37th individually and Micah Sessions who placed 39th.

### Math News

There is never a reason to fall behind in Math at McMillan. Math Tutoring Lab is available every Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 2:40-3:30. Students can get help on math homework, work on your Carnegie, or play one of our many available math games. See you there!

### Busy This Summer?

If you would like more information on any of McMillan’s gifted and talented programs and summer camps, please contact Mrs. Figueroa at 557-4500, ext. 1173 or elizabeth.figueroa@ops.org. You can find additional information at the OPS Office of Gifted and Talented Education website (under Central Offices/Curriculum and Learning at www.ops.org) or McMillan’s Gifted webpage (under Special Programs/Gifted at www.ops.org/middle/mcmillan).
Holocaust Survivor Speaks to 8th Graders

Holocaust survivor Magda Brown visited McMillan 8th grade students to share her experiences while imprisoned at Auschwitz. She discussed with students her ability to forgive and to “think before you hate.”

McMillan 8th grade students had read the book “The Diary of Anne Frank” prior to the visit. Students were able to make connections with the book and Magda’s experience. It was truly breathtaking.

Rotary Luncheon

This year, McMillan had fourteen students selected to participate in the Omaha Rotary Honor Roll. Students are selected by teachers and administrators based on the Rotary Honor Roll criteria of leadership, character, scholarship, and presence. Students chosen as an 8th grade Rotary Honor Roll student are eligible for future opportunities such as scholarships and organization participation. All 8th grade Rotary Honor Roll students and their families are invited to participate in the Omaha Rotary Luncheon. The 2013-2014 Rotary Luncheon will be held at the Century Link Center on Wednesday May 7th, 2014. Participants include: Lydia Borelli, Johanna Bustamente-Salgado, Trevor Davis, Jeffrey Froiland, Jenna Hutchinson, Madeline Kane, Nicholas Koehler-Hurt, Jordan McLucas, Isaac Regier, Jenna Reynard, Micah Sessions, Anna Kay Sitzman, Hallie Uhlig, and Nickthaniel Wells.

Magnet Moments

We have been busy providing great opportunities to support our magnet. On Monday, March 3, a group of 20 seventh graders had the opportunity to attend “A Day of Engineering” at the Peter Kiewit Institute on UNO’s campus through the Durham College of UNL. These students worked with UNL engineering professors, ambassadors and each other to design a given building type. Students had to work collaboratively on a design process, choose engineering jobs for each other, and present their final project to the group. Students learned about lighting, acoustics, structures, heating, air conditioning, ventilation and aesthetics of a building before constructing their own building out of a variety of supplies including K-Nex, paper, felt, and string. The students did an amazing job and had a lot of fun with a wonderful hands-on approach to learning!

Our VEX robotics team competed in the Benson VEX tournament in January. Out of twenty-eight middle school teams, McMillan’s team placed 8th going into the qualifying rounds. They lost after a round with one robot and two rounds with another robot, but did a great job representing our school. The team consisted of Nate Rider, Nick Koehler, Trevor Davis and Isaac Regier. Way to go Monarchs!

We continue to strengthen our community partnerships and love the willingness of our local companies to want to be involved in the lives of our youth! We look forward to working again this Spring with PKI and Kiewit Engineering. We also look forward to working with HDR on architecture, engineering and interior design. These companies have not only come into our building to work with our students, but they also are so willing to have our students come into their work place to see firsthand what goes in the workplace.

McMillan is also very excited about two new Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course offerings for next year! This summer, Mr. Huber will be trained in a course called Medical Detectives, which will be offered as an elective in both the 7th and 8th grade. In this course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

Also, this summer, Mr. Mayberger will be trained in a course called Green Architecture. This course will be offered to 7th and 8th graders but has a prerequisite of Intro to Architecture, which must be taken and passed with a C or higher in order to enroll. This day and age, there is a huge emphasis on a “green” world. Today’s students have grown up in an age of “green” choices. In this course, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk’s® 3D architectural design software.
Yearbooks and Journalism News

Yearbooks are on sale for only $20. They will arrive in May. An autograph section, photo pockets, and a clear plastic cover are also available for an additional cost. Personalized name-stamps and decorative icons are also available until January 17 for an additional cost. Order forms are available from Ms. Balentine, adviser in room 266 or any Language Arts teacher. Yearbooks can also be ordered online by going to the McMillan website and clicking on the Yearbook icon.

The newspaper staff members have completed two issues of *The Prowler*, the McMillan student online newspaper. *The Prowler* articles along with photos can be accessed by going to the McMillan website and clicking on *The Prowler* icon. Articles are submitted periodically; be sure to check often.

Lion’s Pride Update

"Knowledge comes by eyes always open and working hands; and there is no knowledge that is not power."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The fourth session of Lions’ Pride brought new opportunities and new experiences for program participants. Three new clubs started this session: Building Dreams, Just Boogie, & Zumba. The students in these programs are working on projects for the end of the year and learning many new skills. Building Dreams has been especially popular. In this club students are working with tools to build objects of their own design.

**Family Night—02/28/14:**
Students and Family participated in a movie night here at McMillan. Family and students were able to watch a THOR 2: The Dark World free of charge. Snacks were provided, making it a real theater experience.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lions’ Pride students who signed up are taking a trip to the University of Nebraska Spring game on 04/12/14.
- Don’t forget to register for the Summer Session of Lions’ Pride. In the summer will be pack with fun and field trips. We look forward to seeing you there!!!!

For more information contact Site Director DeJuan Reddick: P:(402.557.4526) E: dreddick@metroymca.org
Honor’s Night

Honor’s Night will be Monday, May 5, 2014, at 6:00 pm. McMillan recognizes the hard work and achievements by our many students. This year, we will have a guest speaker and refreshments. Please put the date on your calendar to ensure you have the opportunity to attend this special event. More information will come closer to the date. Go Monarch Academics!

Last Mailed Newsletter

As we go to more web-based information and attempt to save money, this will be the last postage paid newsletter. We will put all future newsletters on the webpage for you to view anytime you would like. A couple of advantages include color photos and print, in addition to a savings of more than $300 for each mailing. With the cost savings, we will be able to provide more necessary supplies and technology to support your student’s instruction.

Visit our webpage and click on the newsletter tab to see previous newsletters.

Spring Athletics

Physicals for Spring Sports are a must and we do not want your student not to have an opportunity to be a part of a sport. School Physicals can be provided at the School Based Health Centers in some of our own OPS schools. Please contact Mr. Jones, Athletic Director, at 402-557-4506, if you are interested in information.

Track and Soccer will be in full swing shortly. Coaches have begun conditioning and have had student meetings about their sport. It is never too late to get involved and it is very important to get involved. Research shows that students who engage in clubs, activities, or sports, have a greater chance of doing better in school.

School Nurse Notes

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL
A reminder about the OPS medication policy….medication cannot be given at school without:

- Signed Physician’s orders with the name, time and dose of the medication to be given. AND
- Signed parent permission AND
- The pharmacy labeled container matching the physician’s written order.

Ask pharmacy for a dedicated medication bottle for school.

*This also includes any over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, cough drops, topical creams/lotions and cold medicine.

Students cannot carry medication on their person. If medication is needed during the school day a parent/guardian is welcome to administer the dosage to the student at school.

McMillan PTO

The PTO met February 24 in the McMillan Library. The featured speaker was School Resource Officer Douglas Valentine. Officer Valentine spoke about social media safety for your students. One of the main points he made: pay attention to your student’s social media use, whether it is Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, E-mail. It is important to know and set limits for use.

The next PTO meeting will be Monday, March 31, 6:30 pm in the McMillan Library. We will continue to discuss the need to raise funds for students and teachers in order to support technology, staff appreciation, and instruction. With the need to raise funds, there is also the need for parents to join and be a part of the discussions. As the school moves towards increasing Project Lead the Way opportunities for all students, we will implement cross curricular connections with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. We will ask for support in the form of parent input, community connections, and activity support. Please attend on March 31!!

School Improvement

McMillan staff and students continue to work hard on the goals to improve Reading, Writing, Math, and Science. April 7 will begin the testing process for NeSA in Reading and Math for 7th grade students, and Reading, Math, and Science for 8th grade students. The schedule is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 7-8</th>
<th>April 9-11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th grade Reading &amp; Math</td>
<td>8th grade Reading, Math, &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests taken in extended Pride</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Tests taken in extended Pride</td>
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</tbody>
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Please support the importance of your student getting a good night’s sleep, a good breakfast, and giving their best effort on the test. Although we all know that one assessment is not the only indicator of the success of your student, it is a part and we want to do our best. Your student’s results help us determine what is working and what needs to be adjusted to help learn individually and as a school.
McMillan Monarch Swimming

Liam Murray exploded off the blocks and was a tremendous leader for the boy’s 2014 McMillan Swim Team. Liam received 3 medals in the city swim meet at Burke High School. Liam placed 1st in the 100 yard freestyle, 2nd in the 100 yard individual medley, and 5th in the IM Relay race with teammates Tim Gibbons, Niko Hofsheier, and Demetrius Johnson. DaeVante Dyer and Tim Williams helped the 7th grade swimmers with a great competitive swimming season.

Eighth graders Enzo Simonini, Isaac Regier, and Blake Terry showed great fortitude with Isaac receiving 5th in the 50 yard freestyle and Enzo 6th in the 200 yard freestyle. Blake Terry’s 50 yard Butterfly got him an 8th place position. Way to go Monarchs and keep swimming!

McMillan Monarch Basketball

Congratulations to McMillan’s Girls Basketball on the completion of a fast and furious season!

The girls worked and played hard this season, winning half of their games. They played a great game against Marrs Magnet, coming back from behind to win their last home games of the season.

Christine Smith, A team coach, was impressed with her teams’ determination and spirit; “The girls worked hard, played hard, and had a good season. They showed improvement and learned how to work together as a team.”

Coach Smith would like to wish all of the players moving on good luck with their future endeavors and she looks forward to working with the returning players next season.

McMillan Monarch Wrestling

McMillan had SEVEN (7) champs at Friday's City Tournament:

88 pounds - Jacob Pope - City Champion - season record (8 wins-1 loss)
103 - Johnny Chatman - City Champion - (11-0) - undefeated 7th and 8th grade seasons
112 - Ronniel Wells - City Champion - (7-0) - undefeated 7th and 8th grade seasons
125 - James Burks - City Champion - (11-0) - undefeated season - fastest pin on team: 08
152 - Dillyn Miller - City Champion - (11-0) - undefeated season
215 - Alex Williford - City Champion - (13-0) - undefeated 7th and 8th grade seasons
HWT - Arlin Williford - City Champion - (10-0) - undefeated season - 1st HWT to win city as McMillan HWT

Other medal winners:
98 - Theron Sorenson - Runner-up - (9-1)
93 - Marquise Johnson - 3rd place - (11-1)
171 - Shamall Flemming - 3rd place - (6-6)
119 - Jayson Welch - 4th place - (12-2)
145 - Deontay Young - 4th place - (9-6)
189 - Maxwell Adams - 4th place - (7-3)

Other wrestlers competing in the tournament:
83 - Burdette Becks
130 - Nate Figures

McMillan finished the season with a 5-0 duel record. The Monarchs have won the City Tournament in 9 of the last 11 years. Congratulations to the student athletes and their Coaching Staff, Coach Stolz and Coach Staller, for your hard work!
Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, citizenship status, or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to address inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2001).

Las Escuelas Públicas de Omaha no discriminan basados en la raza, color, origen nacional, religión, sexo, estado civil, orientación sexual, discapacidad, edad, información genética, estado de ciudadanía, o estado económico, en sus programas, actividades y empleo, y provee acceso equitativo a los “Boy Scouts” y a otros grupos juveniles designados. La siguiente persona ha sido designada para atender estas inquietudes referentes a las pólizas de no discriminación: El Superintendente de las Escuelas, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2001).