

# McMillan Monarch Pride!!

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of McMillan Magnet Center,

It is already the end of the 1st Quarter of school and so much has happened to ensure your seventh or eighth grade student is getting a wonderful education. Teachers have been working extremely hard developing quality lesson plans with criteria to support math, reading, and writing in all content areas. It is amazing the collaboration that has occurred among staff and students. Our school environment supports improvement through hard work and effort everyday.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in any of our events. The Back to School Barbecue prior to the start of school and Open House were successfully attended events. We look forward to continuing our communication with everyone in order to support our school community as well as the needs of all students. It does make a difference when parents take an active role in the educational process. If you are able to visit during the school day, please remember to sign in the office and receive your visitor's badge.

Thank you to our newly appointed Parent Teacher Organization Board Members. The dedication they have provided to McMillan has been truly appreciated and has shown their dedication to improving student and staff opportunity. Your board members are: Presidents: **Charles and Laurie Kay**; Vice President: **Ann Kane**; Secretary: **Terri Rider**; and Treasurer: **Crystal Vacura**.

Every student at McMillan has a Pride Time. Pride Time is an opportunity for students to engage in organizational, instructional, and behavioral activities that help your child's academic efforts. Recent activities for math improvement have been the Math Olympics. In addition, students work on reading and writing. In some cases the reading and writing has been about Olympians. We take great pride in making activities meaningful for students as they build relationships with their teacher and other students in the class. We have also voted on designated Pride Time Principal Advisory Representatives who will be working on activities to improve the school climate. These representatives have been chosen as leaders and will present information back to their Pride Time peers. Students are currently participating in a "self-evaluation" activity to help improve their grade in the class and it will be compared to the teacher's evaluation. Teachers have a rubric so students know where they have done well and where they need to improve.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be run a little differently this year. We will hold conferences on **Tuesday, October 29, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in teacher classrooms and Thursday, October 31, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Students will only attend school a 1/2 day and will be dismissed Thursday, October 31, at 11:00 a.m. During the morning, students will have a variety of activities in their Pride Time. Friday, November 1, will be a teacher work day and students will not attend school.** Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you every have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you during one of the Parent Teacher Conferences.

Volume 1, Issue 2

Dr. Jeaneen Talbott,  
Principal  
October 21, 2013

**Upcoming dates:**

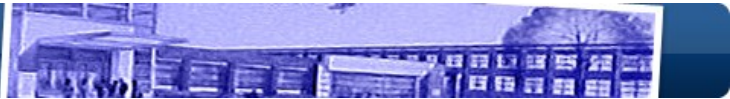
- PTO Meeting  
*Monday, October 28, 6:30-8 pm*
- Parent Teacher Conferences,  
*Tuesday, October 29, 3:30-7:30  
or Thursday, October 31, 12:30-3:30.*
- Early dismissal  
*Thursday, October 31, 11:00 am*
- No School  
*Friday, November 1*
- McMillan Burger King Night,  
*Thursday, November 7, 5:00-8pm*
- PTO Meeting  
*Monday, November 18, 6:30-8pm*
- No School –Thanksgiving Recess  
*November 27-29*



McMillan is collecting HyVee receipts through December 20. **PLEASE** bring your family's receipts or your friend's receipts to the main office. This is another way to support McMillan in our efforts to increase funding.



McMillan received a \$394 check from Target to help support staff and students. Thank you to all staff, students, parents, and friends for your support.



# SAME Competition & VEX Club

The McMillan 8<sup>th</sup> grade engineering classes are taking part in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) competition. The students will produce a twenty page technical paper, a fifteen minute oral presentation, create virtual and physical models of their presentation. The B4 class has decided to renovate a vacant downtown building to accommodate the overflow population at the homeless shelters. They would like to incorporate medical, mental, dental, job training and sleeping quarters at one facility. The B6 class is looking into renovating the library to allow for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) projects to be completed in the library. They would like to redesign the tables and the space to allow for project based learning. The presentations and projects will be presented at PKI building at UNO on April 3, 2014.

The McMillan Vex Robotics club meets every Monday and Tuesday after school. The club is making two competition robots that will be competing in the Toss Up game. The game requires the students to built autonomous robots that can pick up bucky balls and put them into 18" goals. They will be competing against teams across Nebraska for the right to go to Nationals and World tournaments.

# 22nd Century Future Building

The McMillan 8<sup>th</sup> grade engineering classes are taking part in the UNL sponsored 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Future Building competition. With an expected global population of 15-20 billion and environmental issues in the 22nd century, extensive planning will be needed to predict and design the megacities of the future. The student will use their imagination and creativity to design a building that will be sustainable, green, and will accommodate the growing urban population. The students will make a Building Integrated Modeling (BIM), a poster or powerpoint and write a paragraph describing their design. The presentation will be on display October 14- 16 at the "Building the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century" conference.

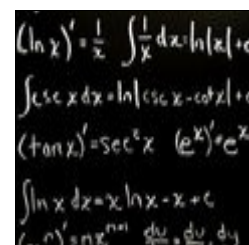
# Math Club

Welcome to the new school year; what an exciting year we have ahead in Math Club! We are busy preparing for our first competition of the school year at North High on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have been studying old contest questions to learn as much as possible in the short amount of time we have before the contest. We are also working with the American Mathematics Competition materials to practice for the AMC contest on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Central High Math Olympiad is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> this year so we will begin preparing for this contest soon.

In addition to preparing to compete in area

math competitions, we are also hard at work writing questions for the sixth grade contest we will host on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Last year we had over 200 of the strongest math students in the Learning Community compete in our very own student-created, student-led contest! This year we hope to have even more eager young mathematicians join us for this amazing event.

As you can see, Math Club is very busy...check out future newsletters for the results of our 2013-2014 competitions!



## PTO News and Updates

The **McMillan PTO will be launching McMillan Direct**, our new fundraiser, at conferences on **October 29th**. One hundred percent (100%) of your money will go directly to fund our PTO needs of technology, teacher grants, and new magnet courses under Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The PTO's goal is 100% participation. EVERY dollar will count! NO amount is too small. We will accept payment online through Paypal and also by check. Be on the lookout for information at conferences. Information will be passed out on both conference dates and sent in the mail to those unable to attend conferences. This will be our main fundraiser for the year. The online link will make it easy for family, friends, and businesses to support McMillan School. If you have any questions, email [laurieandcharles@me.com](mailto:laurieandcharles@me.com).

**The PTO will need host a staff dinner on the evening of October 29th during conferences.** If you like to cook please sign up to bring a salad for 8-10 or a dessert for 8-10. We also need volunteers to set up and clean up. If you have questions, please email: [Patricia.Sudduth@ops.org](mailto:Patricia.Sudduth@ops.org)

Our **next PTO meeting is on Monday, October 28th at 6:30pm** in the library. We hope to see you there. At the meeting, Mrs. Temple will be presenting on the staff experience at the recent tour of the Peter Kiewit Institute and Scott Data Center. There is exciting news on the horizon for McMillan students and staff. Our new partnerships will have long-lasting influences on the already wonderful education McMillan provides our students.

The PTO is in **immediate** need of someone to assist with our webpage updates. If you have interest in this, please contact us.

## Lion's Pride Update

As part of National Above the Influence (ATI) Day, Lions' Pride students talked about things they are above the influence of, and why it was important to stay above the influence. Students listed everything from smoking and drugs, to violence, sexting, bullying, and texting while driving. These students will take photos with the hashtag #abovetheinfluence which will appear on the ATI website. It is great to see that McMillan students strive to be Above the Influence!

If you want your student to be apart of Lions' Pride, it's not too late. Ask your Pride Time teacher for an application or call/email Mr. Reddick 402-557-4526/ [dreddick@metroymca.org](mailto:dreddick@metroymca.org)

## Quiz Bowl Students Take 2nd!

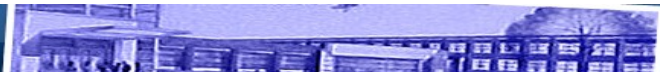
Our McMillan A team who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the MindMaster QuizBowl Saturday, October 12, are: Anna Kay Sitzman, Jenna Reynard, Max Adams, Mitch Kellogg, and Isaac Regier. They were undefeated during the morning rounds and entered the afternoon as top seed. In a back and forth championship match, we succumbed to the all girl team from Lux Middle (Lincoln) in a 165-135 match. The rigorous

day of academic competition had over 150 students from a dozen metro, Nebraska, and Iowa schools participate. Former students, current staff, and PTO members helped make the event a success.

The next Quiz Bowl event will be a Quad at Girls Inc. on Wednesday, October 23 from 8:00-11:30. McMillan will be taking thirteen, 7th and 8th grade students on the trip.

We will continue to participate in activities to showcase the talent of the many students involved in extra-curricular activities such as the Quiz Bowl. You won't find more opportunities for students than those found at McMillan!





# Library News

Great News! We have a lot of readers this year at McMillan. Our library check out is up over 6% from last year in just the first quarter. The library is a very busy place with a lot of activities that students want to participate.

You can help us support students' love of books, library after school activities, and reading contests in the library in a few simple ways:

- Purchase a Savings Side Kick coupon book for \$20.00. There are great coupons for the family and proceeds go to the library. Mrs. Arbuckle, McMillan's librarian, is selling them in the library and at Parent/ Teacher conferences.

- Go to WOWT Classroom at <http://www.wowt.com/classroom> then select Mrs. Arbuckle's Classroom. This is a list of all of the books and other items students have asked for.

- Come to the McMillan Scholastic Bookfair during Parent/ Teacher conference October 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to your visit and please help us by encouraging your student to read. Reading is the number one way students can achieve. Without the ability to read and comprehend, students will struggle in all other classes. Reading is the foundation for learning and a key to later success in life.



## OCMS and McMillan Orchestra

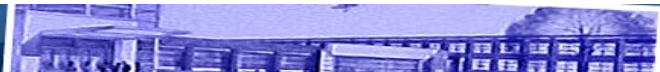
This fall, McMillan Magnet Center and the Omaha Chamber Music Society are celebrating their fifth year of partnership, offering a unique chamber music coaching program to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade string students. Started in the 2009/10 school year, the program brings a quartet of professional musicians to McMillan, where they perform, instruct and coach student ensembles. For many students, this is the first chance to meet professional musicians and to hear live classical music. For Rose Rydberg, strings teacher at McMillan, it is an opportunity to reinforce the lessons she teaches everyday in her classroom and to build students' motivation and appreciation of music.

The members of the visiting quartet this year are Anne Nagosky, violin; Judy Divis, viola; Tim Strang, cello; and Danielle Meier, string bass. All four musicians perform with the Omaha Symphony and each has a deep dedication to music education. The musicians will meet with McMillan students six times during the fall semester, culminating in a session during which 8<sup>th</sup> grade string students will visit North High School to get a preview of the orchestra program and to meet Jeremy Haupt, strings teacher at North. This visit will be particularly meaningful because some of the seniors in the North High School orchestra are students who were part of the very first season of the McMillan/Omaha Chamber Music Society partnership.

Each year, the partnership has expanded, adding more visits and schools. In addition to its program at McMillan Magnet Center, the quartet will make two visits to North High School. All told, the program will reach 84 students during the 2013/14 school year.

The motivational power of connecting students and professionals from the community is clear. After the final visit of the 2012/13 school year, one of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students wrote "when the chamber group came they played really well. They made me think and know that I should practice more so I can probably play that well one day... [They] showed us what a good performance and bad performance looks like. I will practice more so I can be that good one day."

The mission is to bring outstanding chamber music to the greater Omaha community through performance, outreach and education. In addition to its educational partnership with Omaha Public Schools, Omaha Chamber Music Society presents a Summer Concert Series and other performances throughout the year, as well as offering outreach programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Hospice House – The Josie Harper Residence.



# Math Department News

The Carnegie Cognitive Tutor is up and running for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra Plus students as well as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Algebra students. Again this year, students can complete their Carnegie work from anywhere they have access to the internet! This means that students may complete the computer portion of their math class from home if they fall behind or if they simply want more practice. The Carnegie Learning Cognitive Tutorial program is the closest thing to artificial intelligence on the market today. The software adapts to individual student needs as students work through the Pre-Algebra and Algebra curriculum. This software is the perfect companion to classroom instruction to ensure students gain the most thorough understanding of content possible.

In addition to the Cognitive Tutor curriculum, all math classrooms at McMillan are equipped with the Texas Instruments (TI) Navigator system. The TI-Navigator allows teachers to send data and questions to students' calculators from their computer. Students then send their responses back to the teacher's computer where they are instantaneously dropped into a power point for discussion. McMillan is the only middle school in the state equipped with this technology.

New to the math department this year is our classroom set of I-Pads. Teachers are currently sharing the set on a rotation basis. Students are finding the new tool to be helpful for practicing math skills as well as sharing their work for classroom discussions. McMillan is very blessed to have phenomenal supporters such as Mr. and Mrs. Tierney who made it possible for each of the math teachers to have their own I-Pad to experiment with as they begin to learn how to make the best use of this new technology.

Also, please don't forget: math tutoring is available every Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 2:40-3:40 in room 251. Students can get help on math homework or work on the Carnegie program while having teacher support. There is never a reason to fall behind in Math at McMillan!

## McMillan Varsity Volleyball



A tremendous congratulations to the Monarch A team! This fabulous group of volleyball players ended their season with a 7-2 record. Their only loss during regular season was a close match against Morton. The team rallied and made it to the City Finals. The girls were unable to defeat the Buffet Bobcats, and took home the City Runner-Up. The girls and coaches are very excited to have the successful year posted on the banner! This success will be a first in 10 years of Monarch Volleyball.

The coaches are very proud of all the accomplishments of McMillan student athletes. All of the volleyball players are just as serious about their education as they are about playing in their sport. The coaching staff was honored to be working with such a dedicated group of young ladies.

A special thank you to all of our McMillan volleyball parents who supported the team this season. The support and encouragement certainly played a role in the team's success.

The coaching staff looks forward to seeing all of the girls in their upcoming sports and academic competitions and wishes all student athletes the best of luck! As McMillan eighth graders move on to high school, we are confident they will be successful in all their future endeavors.

## McMillan JV Volleyball

Congratulations to McMillan's B team volleyball players on a winning season!

The girls enjoyed a 7-1 season with their only regular season loss delivered by Lewis and Clark. During the B team quad, on September 26, 2013, the girls were able to overcome injury and stiff competition from Beveridge and Davis to walk away undefeated.

B team Coach, Christine Smith was impressed with her teams' determination and spirit; "The girls worked hard, played hard, and had a great season. I couldn't have asked for anything else."

Coach Smith would like to wish all of the players moving on good luck with their future endeavors.



# Magnet Community Connections

In an effort to get our name out into the community more and for our community to be more involved with our school, we are so excited about quite a few different opportunities and community sponsors who we have developed relationships with so far this year! Our administration, magnet team and teaching staff have been working extremely hard to get the interest in Engineering and the important ties and connections that it has to Math into the minds of our students.

The president of Schnackel Engineering, Mr. Greg Schnackel, is very excited to enhance the knowledge of our students by allowing a small group of students to be welcomed into his engineering firm in order to experience a true shadowing opportunity. The students will shadow engineers during their actual work day. Our hope is that the students gain a better idea of what engineers do on a regular basis and get them excited for a future career possibility.

On Thursday, October 10, a variety of teachers and administrators had the wonderful privilege of touring the Peter Kiewit Institute on UNO's campus and the Scott Data Center with Mr. Ken Moreano. We will be able to bring over groups of students for a similar tour later in the semester, which will be a great opportunity for them to get on to a college campus, as well as, open their eyes to a multitude of different engineering labs and areas of study. The teachers who went on the original tour are currently developing a curriculum which will actively engage our students while they are touring and when they get back to school. We are hoping to tie together a wonderful interdisciplinary unit with what they have learned.

Not only do we want our students out into the community, we also want our community to come to us! Mr. Gary Pietrok and Mr. Joe Mellon of Kiewit Engineering have offered to bring their people in to work with each and every one of our students during their regular Math class. They have exciting, hands-on projects for our students to participate in that will link seamlessly into our current Math curriculum. We are hoping for this exciting event to take place the week before Fall break!

# School Improvement Plan

Our school improvement plan is called our EXCELS Plan. Within the plan, are components to increase achievement through a variety of instructional strategies. The four Goal Areas and Focus Skills attached to the plan include:

**Goal Area:** Reading

**Focus Skill(s):** Vocabulary or comprehension

**Goal Area:** Mathematics

**Focus Skill(s):** Number sense (Number System), Geometry/Measurement (Tools for Measurement), Algebra (Model in Context-Word Problems), and Data Analysis/Probability (Probability and Display), Inequalities

**Goal Area:** Writing

**Focus Skill(s):** Summarizing and Writing complete sentences

**Goal Area:** Culture and Climate (indicated by Climate Survey data and referral/suspension data)

**Focus:** Social skills, staff and student respect for self, others, and school culture

We are working very hard as a with a school-wide plan to increase achievement. We encourage you to speak to your students about the importance of improving, everyday, in every class. This focus of improvement should ensure our success when we take District and State assessments. Recently, our 8th grade students were tested on writing skills and those assessments will be graded to help students improve before the final test in January. Other current assessments include Acuity, which are given in Math and Language Arts classes. These assessments help teachers adjust instruction to individual and class needs. The Acuity assessment helps students and teachers prepare for the NeSA tests in math and reading.

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# McMillan Monarch JV Football

McMillan's 2013 Junior Varsity Football team completed another season full of challenges and success.

After winning the season opener over rival Monroe 26 to 6, they lost the next five games. Every game was extremely close. The first loss was in the last seconds to Lewis and Clark, 18-12. This was a game in which the Monarchs overcame a 12-0 deficit, only to lose on a long touchdown pass in the closing seconds. Next up was Buffet, who broke up a tie game with two touchdowns late in the fourth quarter.

Against Beveridge, the Monarchs held the lead through most of the game, but lost when Beveridge scored a late touchdown, then scored in overtime to steal the win. In two other tough defensive battles, Morton and Hale earned 8-0 victories over McMillan.

While offering stiff competition throughout the year in each game, the JV also served as the scout team for the city champion Varsity monarchs. During the season, several JV players moved up to the varsity and made significant contributions.

Junior Varsity, Head Coach, Martin O'Donnell was impressed with his teams competitive spirit, "The kids never gave up, they showed a lot of heart and did the best they could every game." Assistant Head Coach Staller, who coached the defense, said the Monarchs "deserve to be praised for never giving up, fighting hard, and overcoming many challenges throughout the season."

# McMillan Monarch Cross Country

The 2013 Cross Country season has come to an end. The season went by quickly, but all students who represented McMillan had a great time. The McMillan Cross Country Team spent late nights after school practicing hard to prepare for every race. The coaches were extremely proud of the entire team. They all worked hard at practice and gave 100% effort at every race. A special shout out goes to new assistant coach, Ms. Brandt, who has been a great addition! Girls participants were: Michelle Larsen, Traci Barna, Jenna Reynard, Jenna Hutchinson, Kathryn Burbach, and Kaleigh Burns. Boys participants were: Jeremiah Minturn, David Gatlin, Brent Broohm, Noah Crawford, Tahner Carrizales, Ethan Newman, Blake Terry, Jeff Froiland, Nick Koehler-Hurt, Sullivan Stavneak, Tim Romer, and Colin Vickery. Team Managers were: Casey Wells and BreAnn Throckmorton.

## City Final Results

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Leader – 72 total runners**  
20<sup>th</sup> – Tim Romer

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Leader – 99 total runners**  
9<sup>th</sup> – Ethan Newman

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Leader – 90 total runners**  
46<sup>th</sup> Kathryn Burbach

**7<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Leader– 87 total runners**  
59<sup>th</sup> Kaleigh Burns



# McMillan Fall Athletics

Currently, there are a number of athletes participating in Fall sports. Girl's Swimming and Boy's Basketball have begun and will continue through December 12. The swimming openers are: McMillan vs. Buffet at McMillan, Wednesday, October 23, at 3:10 and Wednesday, October 30, McMillan vs. Monroe at McMillan starting at 3:10. The basketball openers are: JV Boys vs. Davis at Davis, Tuesday, October 29, with a tip off at 3:10 and Varsity Boys vs. Buffet at Buffet, Tuesday, November 5, with a tip off at 3:10. We look forward to more success from our Monarch Athletes!

The next season will include Boy's Swimming, Girl's Basketball, and Wrestling. We encourage all students to be a part of athletics or activities during their education at McMillan. If wanting to participate in athletics, it is extremely important that students have a current physical for the school year 2013-14 and they have information regarding their current insurance policy. Please help encourage participation by having your student ready when the season begins.

McMillan and the Omaha Public Schools has expectations for spectators and participants at our athletic contests. Our philosophy is to encourage the learning and growing process of students and expect academics come first. We expect good sportsmanship at all of our events, home or away, with our students, staff, and parents. We thank you in advance for all of your support in the learning process through encouragement and good sportsmanship through your modeling.



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## McMillan Monarch Varsity Football



The season was challenging with many ups and some downs. The boys fought through adversity to come together as a team to keep the City Championship with McMillan. The team started with wins against Norris and Monroe only to drop a game to Nathan Hale. McMillan needed to beat Beveridge to make it to the top bracket and indeed they did. The semi-final game was played against King (4-0), and the Monarchs came out with a victorious 22-6 win.

Back to back City Champs! McMillan Monarchs defended their championship by beating Lewis and Clark 22-20. The Monarchs spotted Lewis and Clark 20 points in the first quarter. Heart, determination, and resilience helped the football team work their way back from the deficit to take the lead with minutes left in the fourth quarter. Cjai Payne sparked the comeback with a 65 yard interception return to the 5 yard line with 30 seconds left in the first half. Vernon Johnson finished the comeback through the air with Alex Williford, Ronniel Wells, Troy Houghton, Elisha Burts, and Nick Wells receptions. It was a great competition!

The football program pushes for students to excel academically and athletically. We would like to thank the support we received from parents, administration, teachers and the student body. Without all of these people, the football program could not be where it is today. The coaching staff would like to thank our players for their hard work.

Coach Kammandel and Coach McKenzie would also like to wish the best to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade players as they begin their high school careers next year. Our Varsity team was comprised of players who will be attending Omaha North, Omaha Central, Omaha Northwest, and Omaha Burke. Players, set your goals high and strive to meet them every day. We hope to see you playing under the lights in the near future.