Note from the McMillan Gifted Department: Greetings! The year has really progressed so quickly that it is difficult to believe fourth quarter is underway. This is an exciting time of the year, as this is when the fruits of your student’s effort and hard work come to fruition. Students who have shown their Monarch spirit are ready to compete in year-end activities such as Academic Pentathlon, Quiz Bowl, SAME, and Science Olympiad. The spring NeSA tests are approaching and a truly remarkable group of 8th graders is ready to progress on their journey to high schools all over the city. Even though it has only been a couple of months since I donned the responsibilities as the Gifted Coordinator, my heart has swelled with pride in each and every one of these young people. They have impressed me in a manifold of ways with their thirst for higher knowledge and deeper understanding of the world around them! I look forward to working with returning 7th graders next year and wish nothing but the best for the outgoing 8th graders. An amazing year and a true pleasure to have been able to work with your students!

Important Upcoming Dates:
March 31 State National Geographic Bee
April 4 All City Quiz Bowl Tournament
April 8 McMillan Mind Master Quiz Bowl Tournament
April 13 Academic Pentathlon Super Quiz
April 14 No School
April 18 Book Blaster Competition
April 22 State Science Olympiad
April 26 PBL Showcase Night
May 2 Scholars Tour of Omaha
May 10 Honors Night
May 11 Spring Poetry Slam
May 26 Last Day of School

Competition Updates: 8th grade student Jonah Adams and 7th graders Alex Kass and Christopher Love placed fifth at the African American History Challenge on February 4th. Isabel Kolb was the runner up February 9th at the district Spelling Bee. Virginia Holtzclaw, a 7th grader, won the McMillan National Geographic Bee and went on to qualify for the State Bee. She is busy preparing to compete Friday, March 31st at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. We wish Virginia all the best!

Author’s Visit: April Henry, Nationally accredited young adult author visited McMillan on March 22nd. She met with students from Mr. Costanzo’s Honors Special Projects class who have been reading two of her novels, “Girl Stolen” and “The Girl who was Supposed to Die.” Ms. Henry told a riveting story about as she puts it, “How I quit my job and became a murderer and a thief.” She was very inspirational and spoke a good deal about how to become a writer through perseverance.
**Scholars:** ACT scores have arrived, review these results with your student as this gives valuable information about your child’s strengths and weaknesses. The 7th grade Scholars Tour of Omaha is set for May 2nd. This opportunity gives student insight into the rich history of our heritage of our great city. Permission slips will be sent home in April.

**National Junior Honor Society:** The “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser benefitting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society was February 21st-March 9th. McMillan students generously donated $732 to help fund research a cure. Congratulations to Mr. Miner’s Pride class, who raised the most money. They will be enjoying a catered lunch from the Olive Garden in April. The selection process of 7th graders to be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society for next school year is currently underway. All currently enrolled students with a grade point of 3.5 are eligible. The Induction ceremony will the last week of April.

**Poetry SLAM:** Mr. Green and Mr. Miner, the coaches for McMillan’s Poetry Club, are excited to announce that Jaelyn Bentzinger and Elena Conyers-Gaines will be representing McMillan and our community at the Spring OPS Middle School Poetry Slam! They will be reading original works based on the theme of “friendship.” Due to the closing of Pizza Shoppe in Benson, the location for this event has not been decided as of yet. Stay tuned for more information.

**Quiz Bowl:** It has been an awesome Quiz Bowl season and we have saved the best for last! On April 4th, Jack Hinsley, Trevor Gibbons, Dimitri Dorsey, Jaylen Epting, Kiya Miller, Isabel Kolb, Elena Conyers-Gaines, Micah Gilbert, Bowen Stephan and Teresa Gibbons will represent McMillan in the All City Quiz Bowl Tournament. We will wrap the season up the following Saturday, April 8th with the McMillan Mind Masters Tournament. Permission slips for both events have been sent home, please check with your student if you have not seen one. Quiz Bowl meets afterschool on Tuesdays in room 173. All are welcome!

**Science Fair & Olympiad:** Congratulations to the students who placed individually at the 2017 Science Fair: Trevor Gibbons-1st place Biochemistry, August Nelson-1st place Materials Science, Roman Bolouvi-1st place Microbiology, Micah Gilbert and Quinton Shievelbein-1st place Physics: Aerodynamics and Hydrodynamics, Isabel Kolb-2nd place Biomedical and Health Sciences, Zhenntifer Wheeler-3rd place Behavioral and Social Sciences, Elena Conyers Gaines 3rd place Biomedical and Health Sciences, Jack Long and Jack Hinsley-3rd place Embedded Systems, Bowen Steffen-3rd place Physics: Mechanics and Anne Rodgers-4th place Plant Sciences. The Overall 6 place winner was August Nelson for his project A Quick and Painless Lab. The Science Olympiad state competition is April 22nd in Lincoln. Good Luck!