ACT Testing: Eighty 7th and 8th grade took the ACT test at McMillan on February 6, 2016. This is an important first step toward post high school education. Test results will be mailed to the student’s home address around mid March.

Geography Bee: Congratulations to Nya Kuet, who is this year’s Monarch Geography Bee champion! Over fifty students competed in this year’s Monarch Bee. Sarah Overbeck was the runner up.

Spelling Bee: Congratulations to Sofia Rodas, who represented McMillan well at the Omaha Public Schools Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 4th. Over fifty students participated in this year’s McMillan Bee. The top five spellers were Lyndsey Bateman, Angel McCullough, George Garcia-Magana, Jack Long, and Isabel Kolb. Congratulations to all!

National Junior Honor Society: NJHS members recently held a blanket drive for the Nebraska Humane Society. Led by event chairperson Eleanor Dunning and co-chair Nathan Daberkow, students collected over 300 fleece blankets, assorted pet toys, and training aids. NJHS members will hold our annual “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser benefitting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Donations will be accepted from February 22-March 4th in Pride homeroom. The homeroom with the highest donation amount per student will win an Olive Garden lunch!
**African American History Challenge:** The AAHC has been hard at work preparing for this year’s contest which will be held at North High on Saturday, February 27th from 4:00-7:30 p.m. Good luck, Monarchs!

**Bookblasters:** Team members are working hard to prepare for the April 22nd contest when they test their knowledge of the twelve selected books. Good luck to the Bookblaster team!

**Academic Pentathlon:** The Monarchs are three time city and state champions in the Academic Pentathlon competition and have competed in the national competition each year. The Monarchs competed in a regional scrimmage on January 21st and are anxiously awaiting scores. The regional essay contest is on February 4th and the regional contest follows on February 25th. Good luck, Pentathletes!

**Spring Poetry SLAM:** Calling all poets! Poetry comes alive as students perform original writings in a forum of collaboration and celebration at the Poetry SLAM. Students gather at Benson’s P.S. Collective to take the stage and share their creations. Seasoned metro area poets will perform and model slam protocol. The spring SLAM will be held May 10th. Poets should prepare one poem about the theme “space” and one poem about a topic of their choice. Talk with your Language Arts teacher or Mrs. Figueroa for more information.

**Quiz Bowl:** The Monarchs have had a busy quiz bowl season! We have competed in tournaments at Bryan High, Grace University, and Nathan Hale. Upcoming contests include Beveridge on February 20th, Brownell Talbot on March 5th, Norris on March 19th and our OPS championships on March 24th. Quiz Bowl meets afterschool on Fridays in room 173. All are welcome.

**The Scholars:** The 7th Grade Scholars attended a Strengthfinders Workshop at Gallup University on January 26th. Both 7th and 8th grade Scholars took the February 2016 ACT test.

**Bridge Club:** Bridge Club is back! McMillan has a long history of outstanding bridge players—over 500 students have learned how to play this mentally challenging card game. We are pleased to offer beginning bridge instruction in a second semester Friday club. Interested students should talk with Mrs. Figueroa in room 173.