



## Academic Competitions at MCA

The impact of a Millennium Charter Academy education extends far beyond the walls of the school as our students participate and win in academic competitions at the regional, state, and national level. Several competitions have been held during the month of December, and you can meet our academic winners in this edition.

### MCA Holds Annual Spelling Bee

MCA recently hosted its annual spelling bee, which is conducted in two parts. Students from grades three through five participate in classroom spelling bees to determine classroom winners, who then participate in the lower school bee. The same process is used for students in the upper school in grades six through eight. MCA recognizes Scripps National Spelling Bee as the authority of classroom, school, regional, state and national spelling bees. All words selected for the bee come from *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, copyright 2002.

Lower School Division Winners are 1<sup>st</sup> place, **Benjamin Hiatt** (3rd Grade), with the championship word noctambulist, a noun, meaning one who walks at night especially in his or her sleep; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, **Martina Banas** (4th Grade); and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, **Chandler Pharr** (3rd Grade). Participants in the lower school division spelled over one hundred forty words in thirteen rounds before the first place winner was determined. In the upper school division, winners were 1<sup>st</sup> place, **Ashton Rierson** (7th Grade), with a championship word of sisyphian, an adjective meaning requiring continual and often ineffective effort; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, **Jimmie Blick** (7th Grade); and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, **Ryan Hawks** (6th Grade). Participants in the upper school division spelled twenty-four words before the first place winner was determined in the third round.

There was a final round of the spelling bee made of up winners from the lower and upper school divisions to determine the overall school winner, who will proceed to the Piedmont Regional Charter School spelling bee in early 2015. For this final round, spellers had to spell words from the Scripps "additional word" list, which none of the participants had seen prior to the bee. **Ashton Rierson** was the MCA spelling bee champion when he correctly spelled delicious.



noctambulist  
sisyphian

From left to right, MCA spelling bee winners are **Benjamin Hiatt**, 3rd grade, winning first place in the lower school division, **Martina Banas**, 4th grade, winning second place in the lower school division, and **Chandler Pharr**, 3rd grade, winning third place in the lower school division. Next is **Ashton Rierson**, 7th grade, winning first place in the upper school division and overall school champion, **Jimmie Blick**, 7th grade, winning second place in the upper school division, and **Ryan Hawks**, 6th grade, winning third place in the upper school division.



## School Science Fair Winners

MCA has an excellent science curriculum, and one of the places where that fact shines the brightest is with our annual science fair. Students are taught inquiry based science, where they are encouraged to ask questions and learn basic scientific methodology. Teachers strive to help students complete projects that are true research based projects and not merely demonstrations.



Left: At the high school level of the upper school fair, winners are **Madison Meadows**, with her project entitled "Crossed Up," and **Sarah Shepherd** with her second year project entitled "To Be or Not to Be 2," a project about the effects of monosodium glutamate on blood sugar levels.



Above, right: In the lower school division, students with winning projects are (left to right) **Cooper Motsinger**, with his project entitled "How Do Your Cups Stack Up?" **Martina Banas**, with her project about "Best Batteries for Your Money," **Lauren Hackett**, winning the Headmaster's Choice award with her project "Frozen," **Mary Jones**, with her project about "Do Different Types of Music Affect Your Heart Rate?" and **Eric Sorrell** with his project about "Which Food Wrapping is Most Effective?"



For grades six through eight of the upper school division, several students had outstanding projects. Back row, left to right, are **Alayna Smith** with "Taking Green to New Heights," **Grant Routh** with a project about geothermal energy entitled "What's Cooling You?" **William Marshall**, with his psychology project entitled "Follow the Crowd," **Jane Ferry** with a project about gluten free flour called "Flour Power," and **Braiden Hunter**, with the Headmaster's Choice award for his project called "Corn for Fuel, or Not for Fuel." On the front row are **Jack Bevard**, with his project which explored best options for protecting wood in water called "Sink or Swim," **Russell Sapp**, with "Hotwire", a project about the movement of heat, **Drew Tilley**, with "The Big E," a project about the efficiencies of using ethanol, and **Cameron Shaw**, with her project about surface tension called "Walking on Water."

Several of these students continued to the regional science fair held at Appalachian State University. Upper school students also participated in competition with research papers written about their projects. Results from the regional fair will be reported in the January edition of *The Lion's Roar*.