



# The Lion's Roar

Millennium Charter Academy Events Worth Roaring About

February 2012



## MCA Fourth Grader Ashton Rierson Wins Two Regional Spelling Bees !

MCA hosted the Piedmont Regional Charter School Spelling Bee on February 9, with three charter schools participating. In addition to MCA, American Renaissance School from Statesville, and the Arts Based Elementary School from Winston-Salem, participated. The regional bee is contested in an elementary bee and a middle school bee. MCA had three students in each division. **Ashton Rierson, Emma Kriek, and Abigail Williams** were in the elementary bee, and **Ashleigh Gilbert, Nick Blackburn, and Abigail Shepherd** were in the middle school bee.

MCA 4<sup>th</sup> grader **Ashton Rierson** won the elementary bee, which automatically qualified him to enter the middle school bee. In the middle school bee MCA 8<sup>th</sup> grader **Abigail Shepherd** won 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and **Ashton Rierson** (again!) was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the middle school bee! Ashton's winning word was cellophane. He will now attend the Winston-Salem Journal Regional Spelling Bee on March 18 at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts in Winston-Salem. If he is the winner of this spelling bee, Ashton will proceed to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, beginning May 27.



Winners of the Piedmont Regional Charter School Spelling Bee are (left to right) **Abigail Shepherd**, MCA 8<sup>th</sup> grader, 3<sup>rd</sup> place; **Hannah Beaver**, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, from American Renaissance, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and MCA 4<sup>th</sup> grader **Ashton Rierson** in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

## MCA Students Excel at Regional Science Fair

Young scientists from thirteen counties including Surry, competed in North Wilkesboro at the Northwest Regional Science Fair. **Emma Ferry**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, won third place for her science fair project, and **Elizabeth Campbell**, also in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, won a first place award and will continue on to the state fair at Meredith College in Raleigh on March 25. In a related competition, the following students also placed for our region and will represent MCA at the NC Student Academy of Science Research Competition on March 24 at the NC School of Science and Math. This competition reviews the science research paper produced by each student to support his or her science project. Regional winners of the research paper competition are from 8<sup>th</sup> grade: **Dana Erickson, Griffin Spencer, and Abigail Shepherd**; from 7<sup>th</sup> grade: **Emma Ferry, Laura Browne and Elizabeth Campbell**; and from 6<sup>th</sup> grade: **Cooper Nester and Sarah Shepherd**.



Back row: **Griffin Spencer, Cooper Nester, Laura Browne, Sarah Shepherd, Dana Erickson, Emma Ferry**. Front row: **Abigail Shepherd, Elizabeth Campbell**



### NCSAS

North Carolina Student Academy of Science



*The Lion's Roar* IS A PUBLICATION OF

THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT - MILLENNIUM CHARTER ACADEMY

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## **"Boomwhackalacka!" Officially Published**

A beloved MCA favorite, "Boomwhackalacka," a composition for boom whackers has been published by Dutch Music Partners and is now available to music students worldwide through online services. When asked about his composition going public, Mr. Money, MCA music teacher, said: "During my time teaching and composing at Millennium Charter Academy, I composed a composition entitled 'Boomwhackalacka!' When I wrote it in 2007, I viewed the composition as a gift to my students to teach them the minimalist style of modern composers such as Glass, Reich, and Adams. In 2010, I reworked the composition into 'Boomwhackalacka Extreme!' which to my knowledge is the first serious composition that uses the entire series of tubes. 'Boomwhackalacka!' and 'Boomwhackalacka Extreme!' over the years have now been performed all over the world including: across the United States, Canada, Europe, and even parts of Asia. Last February, 'Boomwhackalacka Extreme!' was featured at the Texas Music Educators Convention in San Antonio, Texas."



**Mr. Rodney Money**

After a performance in Holland, the publishing company, Dutch Music Partners, contacted Mr. Money about publishing the work since they were receiving many requests from their customers for sheet music for boom whackers. They informed Mr. Money that they have several composers in their catalog from all over the world and they were really excited about this calibration.

This is Mr. Money's third publishing company with whom he has worked including, C. Alan Publications and Alfred Reed Publishing, one of the largest music publishing companies in the world. This is Mr. Money's first international company. He says he has been inspired by MCA and the colorful tubes the students whack on the floor.

"I'm always a little sad when I let one of my works get published, because I feel as though I am letting one of my children go, but this time I am doing it for the love of my school, and so its voice can be heard all over the world."



**Mathcounts team members are back row (left to right): Dana Erickson, John Brooke, Nick Blackburn; middle row: Coach Christie Speer, Alayna Speer, Cooper Nester, Andrew Burciu; front: Ashleigh Gilbert, Laura Browne, Monica Burciu; not pictured: Gentry Williamson**

## **MCA Mathcounts Team Does Well at Competition**

The MCA Mathcounts team competed at the chapter competition on February 11th at Philo Middle School in Winston-Salem. Competition was fierce, as our students competed against large schools such as Hanes Magnet and Ellis Middle. The MCA team placed 7th out of eighteen schools, a new record for MCA, in the open-ended response competition. Four members of the school team, **Alayna Speer, Cooper Nester, Andrew Burciu, and John Brooke**, who respectively held first, second, and a tie for third in the MCA school qualifying round, were also part of a ciphering competition between the top ten schools at the competition. In this round, teams go head to head, racing to be the first team to buzz in with the correct answer.

Another school record was created when 8th grader, **Alayna Speer**, placed 5th overall. Over 180 students competed individually at the regional competition, answering tough math problem-solving questions. One such problem was: The three sides of a right triangle form a geometric progression. What is the ratio of the length of the shortest side to the length of the hypotenuse? Alayna was also part of a ciphering competition between the top 10 individuals. Other team members who participated as individuals at the competition are: **Laura Browne, Nick Blackburn, Gentry Williamson, Ashleigh Gilbert, Dana Erickson, and Monica Burciu.**

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