



The Lion's Roar

Millennium Charter Academy Events Worth Roaring About

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MCA Excels in Science Competitions! Students Participate in Science Olympiad and The NCSAS Research Paper Competition

North Carolina Science Olympiad



Hanging on to their giant trophy are, back row, left to right: Drew Morrow, Sarah Shepherd, Tristan Jester, John Brooke, Cooper Nester, Nick Blackburn; Middle row, left to right: Malcolm Malone, Teacher Mandy Haymore, Monica Burciu, Andrew Burciu; Front row, left to right, Dana Erickson, Wesley Frye, Laura Browne (Photo courtesy of Keith Strange, Mt. Airy News)

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from the middle school Science Olympiad elective class participated in the regional level of the NC Science Olympiad competition held at Atkins Academic and Technology High School in Winston-Salem on March 10. From their website (www.ncsciencenc.com), "North Carolina Science Olympiad (NCSO) is a nonprofit organization with the mission to attract and retain the pool of K-12 students entering science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees and careers in North Carolina. Every year NCSO hosts tournaments on university, community college, and public school campuses across the state. These tournaments are rigorous academic interscholastic competitions that consist of a series of different hands-on, interactive, challenging and inquiry-based events that are well balanced between the various disciplines of biology, earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, engineering and technology." MCA students competed in tasks where they had to solve mock crimes using their knowledge of chemistry, build towers that weighed less than an ounce but could support forty pounds, launch water powered bottle rockets using their knowledge of aerodynamics, build catapults that accurately hit their targets, take tests about geography, food science, forestry science, meteorology, and many more fun science related activities.

Every MCA student qualified for a medal, winning first, second, or third place in their assigned categories, which ultimately led to the MCA team being selected as the overall first place winner of the whole middle school division out of the eight county region! In addition to being the overall winner, the MCA team was also awarded the NCSO Spirit Award for their willingness to help each other and other teams, as well as for their outstanding team spirit. The team has been invited to participate at the NCSO State Tournament at NC State University on April 27-28.

Letters About Literature

Letters About Literature is a national reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Students write letters to their favorite author to let him or her know how the book has impacted their lives. This year, MCA eighth grader **Dana Erickson**, received one of only four honorable mentions at the state level, for her letter to Suzanne Collins, author of *The Hunger Games*. Dana said that she explained to Ms. Collins how the story in *The Hunger Games* has caused her to think differently about many things. Dana received a \$50 gift from the Letters About Literature program.



MCA 8th grader, Dana Erickson, received an honorable mention at the state level of the Letters About Literature essay writing contest.

The Lion's Roar IS A PUBLICATION OF

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North Carolina Student Academy of Science Research Paper Competition

Several Millennium Charter Academy students participated in the North Carolina Student Academy of Science (NCSAS) state-level research paper competition on Saturday, March 23. Overall, MCA students did extremely well, bringing home first place awards in three of the nine middle school categories. Forty schools from across North Carolina were represented at the competition, which took place at the NC School of Science and Math in Durham. The objectives of the NC Student Academy of Science are 1) promoting the study of science, technology, and mathematics, 2) assisting students to pursue careers in science and technology, and 3) encouraging students to use their talents for the improvement of themselves, their schools, and their communities. In order to attend the state-level competition, students had to prepare a research paper related to their annual science projects, and then present it to a panel of judges at the school and regional levels, where, if they passed those levels, they could continue to the state competition in Raleigh. Research papers had to follow strict guidelines, and they were judged on experimental design of the project itself, organization and presentation of data in the paper, verbal presentation of the paper by the student to a panel of judges, and completeness of the papers and projects entered. Judges consisted of panels from NC State University and businesses and research firms within the Research Triangle Park.



NCSAS Research Paper Competition Winners: Back row, left to right: Dana Erickson, Elizabeth Campbell; Front row, left to right: Cooper Nester, Abby Shepherd, Laura Browne.

Winning at the state level are:

Abby Shepherd, 8th grade, 1st place in Middle School Environmental Science, project "Fired Up: A Comparative Analysis of Fire Resistant Materials;"

Laura Browne, 7th grade, 1st place in Middle School Physical Science, project "Rev up the Wind: Testing the Effectiveness of a Wind Powered Car;"

Elizabeth Campbell, 7th grade, 1st place in Middle School Behavioral Science, project "Highlighting Success;"

Dana Erickson, 8th grade, 2nd place in Middle School Environmental Science, project "Don't Salt Me Out: The Effects of Differing Salinity Levels on the Germination of Grass Seed;"

Cooper Nester, 6th grade, 2nd place in Middle School Physical Science, project "Having a Ball: How Does the Weather Affect the Distance a Ball Travels When Thrown or Hit?"

Abby Shepherd also received a US Naval Award.

MCA Middle School Science teacher **Bethany Shepherd** was recognized by the NC Student Academy of Science as the "Middle School Teacher of the Year" for her work in promoting science in middle schools.



*6th Grade Science teacher **Bethany Shepherd** was recognized by the NCSAS as "Middle School Science Teacher of the Year."*

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