



## Fifth Graders Complete DARE Graduation

MCA fifth grade students completed their Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program just before the winter break. Mount Airy Police officers Ray Arnder and Gerald Daniel met with the students for one hour per week for ten weeks and culminated the process of teaching the students with a DARE graduation. Three students were selected to read essays about what they'd learned on topics ranging from bullying to alcohol and drug abuse, and WXII TV news anchor Wanda Starke was the guest speaker. She challenged the students to remain drug and alcohol free as they matured into adults and told relative anecdotal stories from her youth. Congratulations to our fifth graders for completing this important step in their education. Below, fifth graders pose with their DARE certificates, along with Officers Arnder and Daniel, and Wanda Starke.



## SLC to CCC

The MCA Student Leadership Council recently traveled to the Central Continuing Care nursing facility to sing carols to the residents there. Residents enjoyed hearing some of their Christmas favorites, but the big difference SLC made for the residents was brought about simply by seeing the smiling faces and cheerful voices of the children. Additionally, SLC collected several hundred pounds of food for the local food bank so that local families could have more food to eat during the holiday season. Thanks to SLC for being so community minded and illustrating so well the ideals and expectations of MCA to others.

Front: **Bryce Kicklighter, Christian Tetterton, Walker York, Kaylee Wagoner, Jansen Huff, Ella Grace Bradley, Syncere Caesar, Ava Hiatt**  
 Back: **Preston Brinkley, Cohen Jennings, Grace Phillips, Avery Hubbard, Addison Key, Jackson Bradley, Christian Watson, Lydia Horton, Ellie Hooker.** Not pictured are Natalie Cockerham and Addison Hall.



## Science Fair and Research Paper Winners

MCA has an excellent science curriculum, and one of the places where that fact shines the brightest is with our annual science fair in which students in grades four through ten compete. 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. Winners from the school fair go on to compete at the regional level of the NC Science and Engineering Fair at Appalachian State University. Additionally, several students in grades six through eight recently competed in the regional level of the NC Student Academy of Science research paper competition. As in past years, our students did very well at the regional level, showcasing our strong science program. The regional competition includes schools from a thirteen county area of Northwest North Carolina. Top winners from the regional competition of both the science fair and the research paper competition will continue on to state competitions in Raleigh on April 1 and 2.

### School Science Fair Winners Grades Six Through Eight

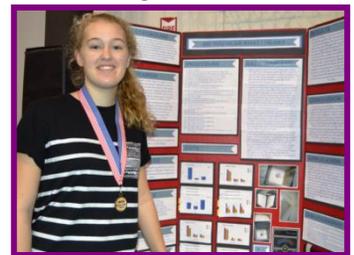
Back row: **Leah Shaw**, honorable mention; **Anna Gibbons**, honorable mention; **Colin Branch**, honorable mention; **Alayna Smith**, winner, Technology division; **William Marshall**, Director's Choice; **Anna Banas**, winner, Biological Science B division; **Grant Routh**, winner, Physics and Mathematics division; **Jack Bevard**, honorable mention; **Jane Ferry**, honorable mention; **Cameron Shaw**, honorable mention; Middle Row: **Russell Sapp**, winner, Earth / Environmental Science division; **Nate Sapp**, winner, Chemistry division; Front Row: **Brooksie Lawson**, Headmaster's Choice; **Olivia Edwards**, honorable mention; **Sarah Calloway**, winner, Biological Science A division. Several of these students competed at the regional fair at ASU. **Cameron Shaw** received a



first place award, and **Alayna Smith** received a second place award. They will be continuing on to the state level of competition. **William Marshall**, **Nate Sapp**, and **Grant Routh** received honorable mentions at the regional level. At the regional level for the research paper competition, **Cameron Shaw**, **Jack Bevard**, and **Trisaia Legere** won first place awards. **Anna Banas** and **Alayna Smith** won second place awards, and **Sara Windsor** and **William Marshall** won third place awards. First and second place winners will continue to the state level of the paper competition.

### Elementary Science Fair Winners

Left to right: **Isaac Shipley**, Director's Choice; **Eric Sorrell**, winner; **Cheyenne Rogers**, honorable mention; **Jacob Smith**, winner; **Brody Krakenberg**, honorable mention; **Chandler Pharr**, Headmaster's Choice



**High School**  
**Sarah Shepherd** (above) won first place in the high school Engineering division of the school fair, and first place in the Engineering division of the regional fair. She additionally received a second place award in the research paper competition