



The Lion's Roar

February 2016

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Millennium Charter Academy Events Worth Roaring About



MCA 6th grader **Zeke Harrison** stands with Ryan Hawks (left), Commander of the Pilot Mountain VFW Post, and Margie Nichols, VFW Auxiliary President.



MCA Student Receives Award from Local VFW

Pilot Mountain Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9436 recently announced the winner of their annual Patriot's Pen essay, and this year's winner is MCA 6th grade student **Zeke Harrison**. Zeke's essay was titled, "What Freedom Means to Me," and he was awarded two certificates of appreciation, a monetary award, and a backpack of school supplies.

School Spelling Bee Winners

MCA is pleased to announce the winners of our annual school wide spelling bee. In lower school, after seventeen grueling rounds, our winners are **Chandler Pharr**, first place, **Silas Cooper**, second place, and **Kaylee Wagoner**, third place. **Chandler Pharr** won the lower school spelling bee by correctly spelling "populist." In upper school, after thirteen rounds, our winners are **Jared Brinkley**, first place, **Jordan Rierson**, second place, and **Cameron Shaw**, third place. **Jared Brinkley** won the MCA bee by correctly spelling "magnifier," and also represented MCA at the Winston-Salem Journal Spelling Bee held in Winston-Salem.



Left to right: **Chandler Pharr**, 4th grade; **Silas Cooper**, 5th grade; **Kaylee Wagoner**, 4th grade.



Left to right: **Jared Brinkley**, 6th grade; **Jordan Rierson**, 7th grade; **Cameron Shaw**, 7th grade.

MCA Wins Big at North Carolina Science Olympiad

As stated on their website, 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, interscholastic competitions consisting of a series of different hands-on, interactive, challenging, and inquiry-based events that are well balanced among the various disciplines of biology, earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, engineering and technology.

For the first time ever, MCA had three teams, including a high school team, in the regional tournament, which was hosted at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. Students competed in events ranging from tests on invasive

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species to building events such as air trajectory where they had to launch a ping pong ball using a device they built and calibrated. One event required students to be experts on dairy science by making ice cream and then stacking it as tall as they could. Before the tournament, MCA students practiced for this event by making ice cream, butter, and cheese curd at school. Students also participated in events such as crime busters and forensics. With these events, students learned to understand evidence, fingerprints, shoeprints and powders. This year's bottle rocket event got a little messy as students designed and built rockets, each of which had to house a raw egg during launch with the hopes that the egg would not break. Two MCA rockets managed to protect their fragile cargo!



Division B, Varsity Team, grades 7-8, won 2nd place overall, and will continue on to the state tournament in Raleigh in April. Back row: Coach Brittany Branch, **Jack Bevard, Matthew Lee, Jack Campbell, Hamil Hira, William Marshall, Laurel Petri**, Coach Maria Kern; Middle row: **Ashton Rierson, William Erickson, Zachary Wardle, Alayna Smith, Olivia Malone, Maggie Glenn**; Front row: **Kathlyn Mauck, Cameron Shaw, Anna Gibbons, Brooksie Lawson, Emma Dowell, and Jessie Hinson.**

Division B, Junior Varsity Team, grades 6-9, won awards in several events including nine individual first place awards. Back row: Coach Brittany Branch, **Nate Sapp, Evan Key, Dawson Depetris, Philip Brantley, Matthew Keaton, Ben Wright**; Coach Maria Kern; Front row: **Russel Sapp, Cole Waddell, Zeke Harrison, Mason Greenstreet, and Travis Watts.**



Division C, high school, grades 9-10, won awards in five events and placed 4th overall. Back row: Coach Brittany Branch, **Henry Richardson, Christopher Rutt, Kayla Friend, Sarah Shepherd, Oscar Hampton, Amy Depetris, Alexis Watson, John Kiger**, Coach Maria Kern; Front row: **Jacob Gunter, Jacob Hiatt, Claudia Cooke, Calista Tomchick, Ben Thomason, Abbi Mauldin.** Not pictured: **Madison Meadows and Julia Southern.**