



## Detroit Science Fair 2015



**MMSTC was well represented at the 2015 Detroit Science Fair at Cobo Hall on March 18. Students spent Tuesday setting up and Wednesday talking to judges.**

The 58th Science & Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit (SE-FMD) was held March 11, 2015, at Cobo Center. This event is dedicated to promoting science and engineering discovery in students in 6th through 12th grade.

The competition is open to all students who are dedicated to expanding their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Over 1,600 students from schools in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties competed at SEFMD this year.

Coordinated by Mrs. Hilliard, MMSTC had thirteen teams enter.

(Order of awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Blue, Green, Red ribbons.)

**First Place:** *Lindsay Fricano (FHS) and Haley Le (SHHS)*

**Second Place:** *Nicolas Giallombardo and Nathaniel Nunez (CHS)*

**3rd Place:** *Ryan Caliguri and Jeffery Wainz (WMHS); Brooke Hassig and Sydni Jordan (WMHS)*

**Blue (Outstanding):** *Alex Feleo and Zach Barringer (LHS); Kathleen Hawkey (LHS) and Nicholas Frechette (WMHS); Zachary Hoisington (SHHS) and Joseph Maleszyk (CHS); Trevor Polisuk-balfour (CHS), Randall Stroshein (WMHS) and Matthew DeSantis (CHS); Kelly Rayner (LHS) and Lindsey Rejc (CHS); Ryan Gohlke (SHHS) and Alex Henry (WMHS); Andrew Rouditchenko and Zachary Youkhana (WMHS); Christina Wark (SHS) and Jennifer Donovan (WMHS)*

**Green (Excellent):** *Samuel Tracy and John Estapa (SCHS)*

## Michigan Math Prize Competition Finalists

by Mrs. Bonnici

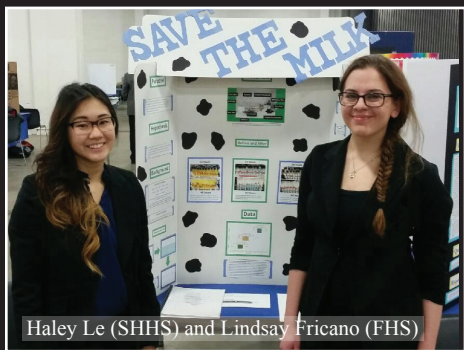
Congratulations to **James VanWagnen '16 (Center Line)** and **Mathew Polgar '16 (SHHS)** for placing in the top 100 students in the Michigan Math Prize Competition (MMPC).

The MMPC is sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) to develop student interest and abilities in mathematics.

Part 1 of the MMPC exam is open to all students in Michigan high schools. From over 6,000 participants in Part 1, the top 1000 are invited to participate in Part II, which consists of five challenging mathematical problems for which students must write their solutions providing full justification and proof of their claims.

**James** and **Matthew** are among 100 students in the state who earned top scores on both parts of the exam.

Approximately \$200,000 will be awarded to these qualifying students ranging from \$250 to \$2500. Winners will be announced at the awards banquet to be held at Eastern Michigan University on March 21st.



Haley Le (SHHS) and Lindsay Fricano (FHS)

“When I found out Lindsay and I won I think I jumped up! We saw a judge putting the sticker on our form, and we ran to our board and saw that we got first place. It was a complete surprise, but I was extremely happy nonetheless.”

**Haley Le (SHHS)**

“The best part of the science fair was just being able to adapt to different judges...Being able to connect with people who did not understand and explain the research to all the different backgrounds.

When we won first place, Haley and I were high fiving and everyone was excited. It was cool. We were the last category, so we were really excited.”

**Lindsay Fricano (Fraser HS)**



Jennifer Donovan (WMHS) Christina Wark (LHS)

“I really enjoyed presenting and talking to judges and getting feedback from them on the strengths of the project. They gave us a lot of possibilities that could be used to further the research. Ending a project like that with such recognition was an awesome feeling.”

**Christina Wark (Lake Shore HS)**

# MMSTC Science Fair 2015

Three minutes to IMPRESS! Seniors practiced their 3-minute presentations ahead of time in IDS class. They discussed their procedures, hypothesis, statistics, and results. They also stressed the importance of their research to the world and/or the scientific community.

Our esteemed judges (including many MMSTC graduates now working in science/technology fields) had a tough time deciding on winners in each category (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics).

The winners in Biology were

**Max Edwards and Destiny Kacir (SHHS).** In Chemistry, **Haley Le (SHHS) and Lindsay Fricano (Fraser)** took the winning spot. And in Physics, also winning the overall Science Fair Championship, were **Alex Feleo and Zach Barringer (Lakeview).**

One of the many aspects of MMSTC that makes the program so special is the community support it receives. MMSTC is always thankful for all of our community volunteers and MMSTC Alumni who continue to help with our special events!

## 3 Minutes to Impress



Madison Kirby (Lakeview HS) and Emily Koury (Cousino HS)



John Estapa and Sam Tracy (Saint Clair Shores HS)

## And the Winners Are....

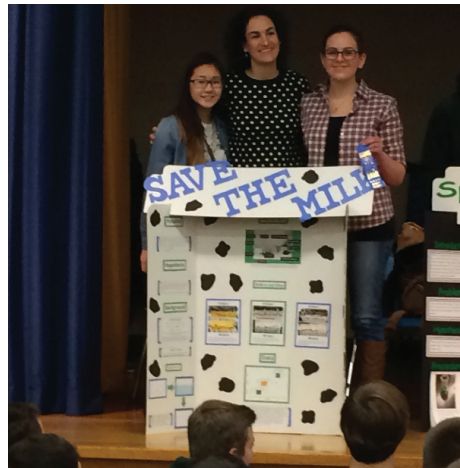


**Physics Finalists and Grand Champions Alex Feleo and Zach Barringer (Lakeview) with Mr. McMillan.**

## Runners-up in Biology and Chemistry



**Biology Finalists Max Edwards and Destiny Kacir (SHHS) with Mr. Estapa.**



**Chemistry Finalists Haley Le (SHHS) and Lindsay Fricano (Fraser) with Mrs. Hilliard.**

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# The 2nd Annual People's Choice Awards

Still want more senior research? Well, MMSTC's got it! In addition to the MMSTC Science Fair where students were judged and critiqued by professionals in the field, and the Detroit Science Fair, where partners made it through the two-day grueling critique and judging process, MMSTC also had the 2nd Annual People's Choice Awards!

This special event was held in the halls of the Warren Community Center. MMSTC seniors were able to show off their research ideas to family, friends, and anyone who showed up at the Community Center.

Spectators were given 100

Special "Supal Bucks" to put toward a research project of their choice. Senior presenters used their time to sell the importance of their research and get the most Supal Bucks.

**Destiny Kacir (Sterling Heights HS)** and **Max Edwards (Sterling Heights High School)** came out ahead and won the competition by earning the most Supal Bucks. Congratulations Destiny and Max!

After this friendly competition, seniors continued to compete in the Warren Community Center's pool where they tried out their water polo skills (or lack of skills!!)



**Top: Ken Braggs (Warren Woods Tower HS), and Lindsey Rejc (Cousino HS) drawing quite the audiences at the 2nd Annual People's Choice Awards held at the Warren Community Center.**

## Senior Research 2014

Want to see WHAT'S GOING ON in Senior Research?  
Check out  
**SENIOR RESEARCH BLOGS!**  
Feel free to leave  
suggestions, comments,  
or simple words of encouragement! Password: mmstc



# Paying for College

by Mrs. Bonnici

College applications are done! Acceptance letters received! Decisions made about which college is the best fit! Now, how do you pay for it?

The cost of attending college has increased dramatically over the past several years and 2015 is no exception. On average, college costs will increase approximately 3% this year. These figures do not include room and board and travel expenses.

A recent article in US News and World Report states that the average cost for tuition and fees to attend a public in-state college is \$8,709, public out-of-state is \$19,867, and private schools \$31,381.

With merit scholarships becoming less and less common, a strong academic background does not always guarantee a financial award. So, what are the options?

Scholarships, can make a significant impact on the cost of college. Grants for specific majors or through college endowments is another way to help offset the expense of a higher education. For most families, there is a need to find additional funding sources. When you consider that more than 65% of graduating college students borrowed money for college and

the average total debt for students who took out loans was just under \$30,000, it is important to know the resources that are available to finance a college education.

Completing the FAFSA is an important step in assessing how much college will cost for an individual family. The FAFSA also becomes an important tool for colleges to evaluate a student's financial need and create a financial aid package customized for the student which may include scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. This is sometimes referred to as "meeting 100% of the financial need".

There are a variety of loans that can help families bridge the cost between what they can afford and the actual cost of attendance.

The federal government, state governments, and colleges, and private organizations can all provide student loans to both students and parents. Many of these loans are need based. The Perkins Loan and Direct Subsidized Loan are two popular loans for students who cannot afford to pay for college. In both cases, the government supports students by subsidizing the loan. Interest rates are lowest and money does not need to be repaid

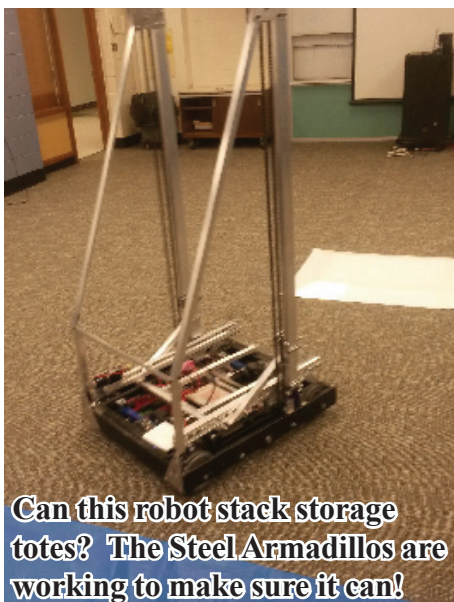
until a student graduates. If students qualify, this is the first loan to consider. There is no credit check for these loans.

Parent PLUS and Direct Unsubsidized Loans are also available. Both of these loans are sponsored by the Federal government but are not need based. These rates are somewhat higher than the need based loans. Parent PLUS loans allow parents to borrow the total cost of college, minus any financial aid received.

Private Loans, Home Equity Loans and Home Equity Line of Credit are other options that are available. They are not need based and are offered through banks, colleges, foundations, credit unions, state agencies. Interest rates are higher and sometimes a co-signer is required if a student is initiating the loan. For both home equity loans and home equity line of credit, the interest paid on these types of loans can be deductible when filing your income tax.

Investing in your education is a smart choice. Doing research on the types of loans and how they work will help you select the best loan type. The Financial Aid office at the college of your choice can be helpful in designing a financial aid package that best suits your needs.

It is always wise to never borrow more money than you need!



**Can this robot stack storage totes? The Steel Armadillos are working to make sure it can!**

## The Steel Armadillos

*Getting Ready to Compete*

By: Mr. Mark Supal MMSTC

Warren Consolidated Schools' robotics team, the Steel Armadillos, has been hard at work for the last month and a half designing and creating a robot for this year's challenge, Recycle Rush, where teams from across the country are challenged to create a robot capable of stacking storage totes.

Teams are allowed to work on their robots from the beginning of the calendar year to the middle of February.

The build process has involved hundreds of hours of work from doz-

ens of individuals, and it finally came together just in time for testing before the end of build season.

It was an accomplishment shared by every member of the team; not just MMSTC students, but students from all the WCS high schools.

The Steel Armadillos' robot will be competing at the end of March for the first time, and the entire team waits to finally see the fruit of their labor in action.

# Relieving Stress with **Euchre**

By: Christina Wark '15 (LSHS)

With senior research, college and scholarship applications, and science fair, the seniors are stressed around the beginning of the New Year. To relieve the stress and celebrate their accomplishments, all seniors participated in an annual Euchre tournament.

Students were randomly assigned playing partners and opponent partners. Students made six eight minute rotations, tallying the points they had acquired in each round.

**Christina Wark (Lake Shore HS)** won the tournament.

**Dominant: Zach Youkhana (WMHS), Trevor Balfour (Cousino), Olivia Smith (WMHS), and Katherine Sobodos (SHHS).**



**Zach Hoisington (Sterling Heights), Lucas Serraiocco (Cousino), Destiny Kacir (Sterling Heights), and Mahir Chowdhury (WMHS).**



**Alex Henry (WMHS), Lindsay Reje (Cousino), Nick Frechette (Fitsgerald), and Kelly Rayner (Lake Shore).**

# *Hitting the Slopes*

By: Christina Wark '15 (LSHS)

Mr. Supal, Mr. McMillan, and Mrs. Dewey faced freezing temperatures and hit the slopes with a group of juniors and seniors.

It was another great bonding activity that helps MMSTC students transition from aquantiance to family.

**Rebekah Kettler ('15 Lake Shore HS)** said, "There were multiple almost injuries. I hurt my thumb attempting a jump for the first time. Someone also didn't slow down fast enough and ran

in to a fence. Mr. Supal suggested that a group of us, students and teachers, hold hands as we tubed down the hill. That was a lot of fun because we went really fast."

**Mahir Chowdhury ('15 WMHS)** said, "Mr. McMillan held mine and Danny's hands down while skiing down the hill to teach us."

**Jeff Wainz ('15 WMHS)** said, "Tubing was fun and going down the hill as a giant group was a lot of fun!"



# Family Time at the Rink

## *Quality Time to Unwind and Reconnect*

By: Rylie Duggan '18 Lakeshore High School

On December 18th, MMSTC students in all grades participated in the annual Ice Skating Field Trip. As one of the various "stress relief" activities, students spent the morning or afternoon at the Troy Sports Center. Some students took part in broom ball with Mr. Supal. Other students passed the time in the lobby playing card games. Overall, it was a very enjoyable - and stress relieving - pre holiday tradition.

**Rachel Basela('18, WMHS)** shared: "School can become so overwhelming, so it's nice to have some free time, and to spend it with your second family. Even the kids that don't know how to skate enjoyed themselves. It was a good time!" "It was an all-around fun experience." says **Aaron Marcus. ('18, Fraser HS)**

**(Top right) Welcome home alumni! It is always great to see our alumni at the rink! Thank you for stopping by!**

**(Right) Charles Debczak '17 (Center Line HS) gets ready to hit the ice (wearing blue!) with the rest of the MMSTC family.**

**(Below) Kathleen Hawkey '15 (WMHS), Christina Wark '15 (Lake Shore HS)), and Jennifer Donovan '15 (Warren Mott HS)**





Above, seniors Emily Liu (Clintondale), Kathleen Hawkey (WMHS), Brendan Oles (Cousino), and Ryan Gohlke (SHHS).

Seniors enjoying a post game pot luck.

# Capture the Flag

By: Christina Wark '15 (LSHS)

During the first three years of the program, students are split in to morning and afternoon groups. For the final year, all seniors take classes together in the morning.

At the beginning of the school year, the newly conjoined senior class, was split in to rivaling teams for a fun, friendly game of Capture the Flag. The Blue Team was the overall victor!

“This was organized as a bonding and teamwork activity to bring the previously morning and afternoon classes together as one class,” said **Luke Emery (Cousino HS)**.

In regards to “big plays,” and “strategic moves,” **Trevor Balfour (Cousino HS)** recalls, “There were a few good plays at the end of the match,” **Mahir Chowdury (WMHS)** added, “A big jail break from Danny allowed about nintey percent of the enemy team to escape!”

But, what was the ultimate key to the Blue Team’s success? “Our defense won us the game,” said **Zach Hoisington (SHHS)**.

# the Hour<sup>of</sup> CODE

By: Mrs. Gravel

MMSTC joined the “Hour of Code” global movement whose goal is to expose students throughout the world to computer science. Code.org runs the Hour of Code program through sponsorships with organizations including Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the College Board.

Students in Mrs. Gravel’s and Mrs. Dewey’s classes dedicated an hour to the cause by participating in tutorials that teach Java, JavaScript, HTML, and Python programming languages.

“Our students tend to really enjoy programming. It is a skill that needs to be taught more in schools across the United States. Many

students take the skills they learn from this initial exposure and use the resources to teach themselves the languages more extensively,” said Mrs. Gravel.

In addition to this exposure, at MMSTC, students gain experience in programming throughout their four years in IDS classes.

1. Jordan Olszewski (South Lake HS) and Adellee Palaspas (Sterling Heights HS)
2. Johanna Lund (Fraser HS) and Sara Schultz (Sterling Heights HS)
3. Boston Suhr (Warren Mott HS) and Jocelyn Evert (Sterling Heights HS)
4. Francois Coppel (Cousino HS) and Thomas Szczesniak (Warren Woods Tower HS)
5. Elisa Monteiro (Warren Mott HS) and Owen Pierce (Cousino HS)



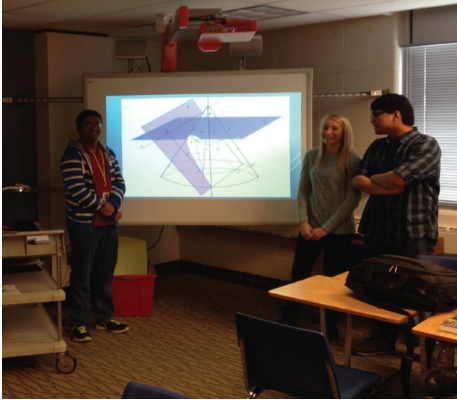
## Did You Know...

MMSTC’s online apparel store is now open and ready for business. Order t-shirts, hoodies, hats, bags, even blankets! Check it out! MMSTC items make GREAT gifts!! Go to: [http://mmstc.qbstores.com/all\\_products/all-products.html](http://mmstc.qbstores.com/all_products/all-products.html) or use the code to the left. There is also a link on our MMSTC Homepage!



# Proofs in Precalculus

By: Mrs. Tallman



**Nafis Jaigirdar (Warren Mott HS), Laura Benoit (Cousino HS), Julius Estrope (Cousino HS) presenting their proven proof in Mrs. Tallman's class.**

More than 2000 years ago, the Greeks identified the curves created by intersecting a conic surface and a plane in different ways (circle, ellipse, parabola, and hyperbola). Geometric definitions of these figures were developed later (such as, “an ellipse is the set of all points in the plane such that the sum of the distances from a point on the ellipse to two fixed points – the foci – is a constant”).

In 1822 Germinal Dandelin thought of a clever construction involving two spheres inside of two cones which enabled him to find the foci and prove the focal property all at once.

Precalculus students reconstructed these proofs for each of the conic section properties using these Dandelin Spheres. They made a clever diagram which allows them to integrate all of the definitions in one nifty model. They then proved that the points of intersection between the spheres and the plane are the foci of the conic section. They proved the eccentricity of the conic section. And they proved that the locus definitions are true.

Groups of students made models, wrote proofs, and presented their work to the class. Great job, Juniors!

## Our First Presentation

*Freshmen Start to Perfect Their Skills!*

By: Jill Schell '18 (SHHS) and Daria Parsina (SHHS) '18

Every MMSTC student seems to vividly remember his or her first formal presentation. For the class of 2018, this was the GAT/IDS Presentation, covering middle school common core standards.

The first major presentation of freshman year is a nervous time for everyone.

“I felt fine until I got up there, but then my legs started shaking,” says **Kendall Homic (Cousino HS)**.

The presentation was for both GAT and IDS, and the students were to present in front of both teachers as well as their peers.

**Emily Elizondo (Sterling Heights HS)** said “Before the presentation I was nervous, but then, once I got up there, I was okay.”

Senior **Robert Martin (Lake Shore HS)**, now an extremely confident and talented public speaker remembers: “It [his freshman presentation] wasn't anything short of terrible. I'll never forget that presentation because, even through

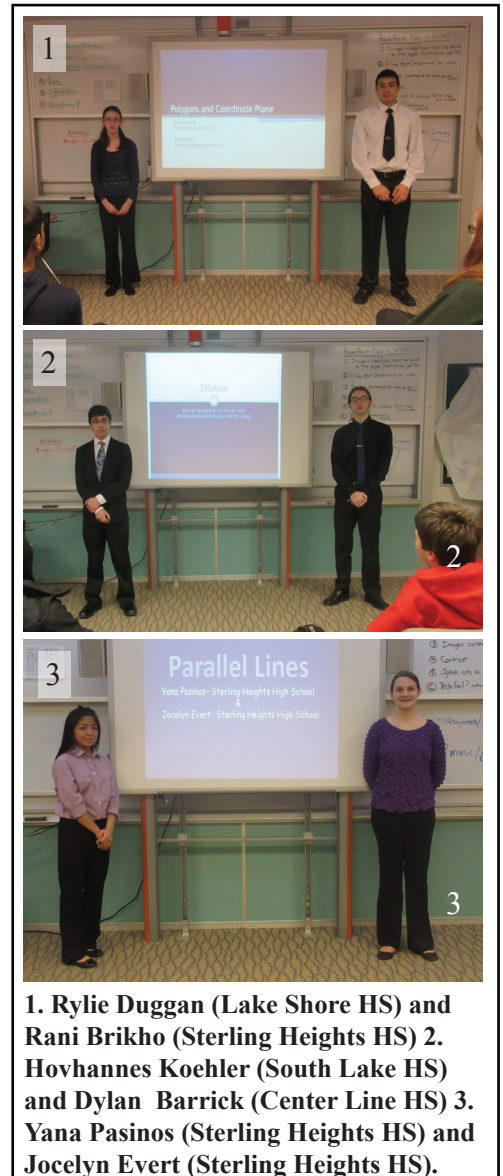
it was a smaller project, the sense of failure that I felt will continue to stay with me. In the present time, because of this experience, I find myself working to ensure that, not only my presentations, but my general work is completed to the best of my ability.

**Andrew Niedbala '15 (Sterling Heights HS)** has a similar memory: “I remember all the work that needed to be put into it [the presentation], because I wasn't expecting [that amount of] work!”

All the students appreciated the feedback from their teachers as well as from their classmates. **Emily Solecki (Fraser HS)** says, “It was nerve wracking, but afterwards it was well worth my time.”

“I was so proud of the freshman class. They learned important lessons about practice and teamwork,” said **Mrs. Gravel**.

Congratulations to all the freshmen who did a fantastic job presenting!



**1. Rylie Duggan (Lake Shore HS) and Rani Brikho (Sterling Heights HS) 2. Hovhannes Koehler (South Lake HS) and Dylan Barrick (Center Line HS) 3. Yana Pasinos (Sterling Heights HS) and Jocelyn Evert (Sterling Heights HS).**

# Pi Day

## *A Mathematical Holiday*

by: Stuart Coles '18 (SHHS)

MMSTC truly comes alive once a year around mid-March, in anticipation of the nerdiest day of the year, March 14th.

As all proud nerds, geeks and academics know, March 14th marks Pi Day, a huge celebration of everybody's favorite transcendental number. At MMSTC, being a school dedicated in part to mathematics, we can not resist the urge to celebrate.

This year, it began mid-way through the week leading up to Pi day. We played Pi trivia games, ate pie and held a Pi-reciting competition among the freshman. The winner, **Emily Elizondo**, recited an astonishing 94 digits, cementing her status as this year's champion Pi-reciter!

There were also sports, culminating in the freshman class dominating the basketball competition.

While fun, trivia, competition, and sport are not the main reasons that Pi Day is a huge event around MMSTC. After all, MMSTC is still a high school full of teenagers, and the ONLY thing that gets teenagers more excited than schoolwork is food. Tons of food. People brought in Pi-themed everything. There were cookies, cupcakes, and of course, pie. When asked about their favorite parts of Pi day, nearly every student gave the same response: "The food." However, MMSTC is not just students. The faculty are just as important to the

program, so they were subjected to the same interview.

"It brings a tear to my eye to know that mathematicians have a holiday that they can call their very own," said **Ms. Dewey**, when asked about her favorite part of Pi day. "Wait, no, scratch that," she said, mere seconds after completing her sentence. "It's definitely the food!"



Right: Molly Baerman '18 (Fitzgerald HS). Right below: Daniella Toma '18 (Warren Mott HS). Below: Freshmen bond with Pie during Pi Day.



# Top Wars

By: Mr. McMillan



Sparks flew as the senior AP Physics class competed in the annual MMSTC Battle Top Tournament. The goal of the tournament is to build an over-sized top with a large Moment of Inertia to achieve a high angular momentum for good stability and endurance.

Tops are seeded based how long they are able to spin individually. The tops then compete in one on one, full contact elimination tournament. The first top that touches the arena surface with the outer edge of the top is eliminated.

This year's Tournament, billed as the "MEGA-EXTREME BATTLE TOP SUPER EXTREME CHALLENGE FESTAPALOOZA MANIA party" was won by the number 2 seeded team of **Andrew Rouditchenko (Warren Mott HS)** and **Andrew Zannetti (Warren Woods Tower HS)**, who defeated the top qualifying team of **Ryan Caliguri (Warren Mott HS)** and **Jeff Wainz (Warren Mott HS)** after barely surviving an epic 5 minute battle with the #11 seed of **KJ Buiteweg (Cousino HS)** and **Rebekah Kettler (Lake Shore HS)** in the semifinals.

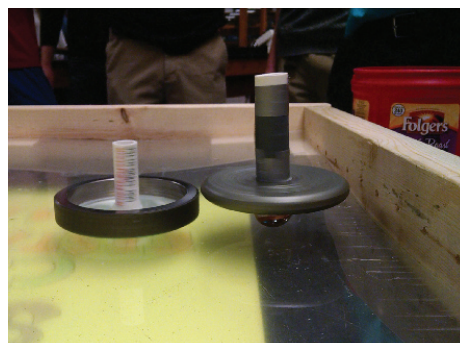
Congratulations to all the teams for making this year's tournament the most competitive in MMSTC history.



**Far Above:** Mohammed Kibria '15 (Fitzgerald HS) and Alexandra Costanzo '15 (Lakeshore HS) prepare for battle!

**Above:** The stage is set for another year of top battles! The intensity grew as top TOP designs were put to the test! the "MEGA-EXTREME BATTLE TOP SUPER EXTREME CHALLENGE FESTAPALOOZA MANIA party"

**Right:** An intense battle of the top TOPS!



## From the Director

**Catherine Neuhoff, Ph.D.**  
*Director of Programs*

*Greetings!* As you can see we have a lot of wonderful things going on at MMSTC due to the hard work of our students and staff. I want to take this opportunity to write about our newly formed Butcher Educational Center - PTO (BEC-PTO).

In a process that began back in September, due to the hard work of experienced PTO members from across all three programs housed at Butcher, our BEC-PTO is up and running. As of today we have an official PTO Board with trustees and chairpersons representing MMSTC; the Middle School Mathematics, Science, and Technology Center; and the Middle School Visual and Performing Arts programs. If you are interested in being part of the action, please plan to attend the BEC-PTO membership meeting scheduled

for Thursday April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Butcher in the Commons. Membership forms are found on the BEC-PTO link on the MMSTC web page.

Our BEC-PTO used resources collected from membership families as well as money earned at the spring Parent-Teacher Conference concessions to help pay the necessary fees for establishing 503(C)3 status.

Mrs. Schultz, whose daughter Sarah is a MMSTC freshman, put together a read-a-thon for "March-is-reading Month." Students across all three programs competed to earn a pizza party. Over \$1000 was collected to offset start-up costs including bonding the PTO board and chairpersons handling money.

The BEC-PTO has put together a Bowling Fundraiser to raise money for program needs ranging from research materials in the media center, tools for the middle school Native Species Habitat project, and for the 8th grade

MSVPA Banquet. Pampa Bowling Lanes will be the host site for the event scheduled for Friday May 15, 2015 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. If you are not a bowler but want to attend, please purchase a ticket for \$10 which includes 2 pieces of pizza and a drink. Advanced ticket sales are \$20 per person which includes 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, 2 pieces of pizza, and a drink. Bowling ticket order forms are found on the BEC-PTO web page link on the MMSTC web site. Come Roll with the new BEC-PTO!



**Mrs. Schultz, Fundraising Chairperson, organizing pizza parties for the winning Read-a-thon classes. Thank you Mrs. Schultz! Butcher is truly thankful for your support!**

## MACOMB MATHEMATICS SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

27500 Cosgrove | Warren, Michigan 48092 | [www.wcskids.net/mmstc](http://www.wcskids.net/mmstc)

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& Mr. Bill Shreeve- Administration Building



### MMSTC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center, in partnership with families and community, is to create the best innovative environment which fosters excellence and vision in teaching, learning, and discovering the relationships of mathematics, science, technology, and society.

## WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

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