

January 25, 2013

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street
Hamilton. MT 59840

Dear Commissioners,

The Corvallis Middle School Science Olympiad team recently won the state Science Olympiad competition held at MSU in Bozeman, earning the honor of representing the entire state of Montana at the National Science Olympiad in Dayton, Ohio in May. This is the team's second win in three years, establishing a tradition of excellence here in the Bitterroot Valley and setting a standard for the whole state. At the National Science Olympiad held in Madison, Wisconsin in 2011, the Corvallis Ecology Event team placed second in the NATION! This is the highest finish by any Montana student in the 27 years the state has been participating. We read so much about America's falling science scores and ability. We are trying hard to prove that wrong here in Ravalli County.

Science Olympiad instills and encourages a love of the sciences, technology, engineering, and math. Olympiad events are at a level above and beyond the core classroom curriculum in both scope and depth and they challenge even the highest achieving students. Science Olympiad events include building and engineering events such as Boomilever, Helicopter, and Mousetrap Cars. Knowledge events include Anatomy, Electronics, Astronomy, Disease Detectives, Geology, Forensics, Thermodynamics, Food Science, Heredity, and Experimental Design. It is our hope that these kids will go on to study these fields in high school and college, perhaps going on to become Montana's future scientists, doctors, and engineers.

The members of this team have worked so hard and continue to work to raise the funds necessary to allow them to represent Montana. They are writing letters to local businesses and organizations, holding bake sales, dances, movie nights, working in the concession stand at the high school during home athletic events, selling pizza and cotton candy at lunch, selling Corvallis t-shirts and sweatshirts, and raffling a beef cow.

It is the hope of the Corvallis Middle School Science Olympiad team and its coaches that the Ravalli County Commissioners might consider making a donation that would help us on our way to raising the \$20,000.00 needed for this team to compete in Ohio in May, representing Ravalli County and Montana.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jill Warren
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Commissioners

2011-2012

Corvallis, Oregon

The Corvallis Public Schools Board of Education is pleased to announce that the Corvallis Public Schools Board of Education has selected a new superintendent for the district. The search process was completed in December 2010, and the Board of Education met on January 11, 2011, to select a new superintendent. The Board of Education has selected Dr. [Name] as the new superintendent of the district. Dr. [Name] has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Oregon and has over 20 years of experience in public education. He has served as a principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent in various districts. Dr. [Name] is a member of the National Education Association and the Oregon State Education Association. He is a strong leader and a dedicated professional who will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the role of superintendent of the Corvallis Public Schools.

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Respectfully,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]

Corvallis Middle School Science Olympiad Team honored

Posted On: 2/15/13 10:30 AM (Last Updated: 2/15/13 10:30 AM) KPAX News

CORVALLIS - The Corvallis Middle School Science Olympiad Team won the state competition in Bozeman earlier this week.

They were honored Friday at a school pep rally as they prepare for the national championship in May.

Liking science doesn't make you a nerd at Corvallis Middle School.

"Science has always been a love of mine, I just love it," said middle school student Zoe Brower.

"I just like the labs and learning about all that stuff," added fellow middle school student Charlotte Powell.

The Science Olympiad team competed at the state championship last week, and out of 45 schools, they won first place.

You might think the work stops there, but that's just not the case.

"We study a lot harder and then we go to nationals," explained middle school student Joel Haas.

The school held a pep rally honor the team, which is made up of just 14 students. The event showcased the various projects each student worked on for the past two months.

Preparing for nationals is no easy feat, it requires lots of studying outside of school, but these students say they like science so much they think the hard work is worth it.

"This kind of an extracurricular activity where they get to learn things that they don't learn in the normal classroom because we don't have the resources to teach 100 students of each grade level the type of stuff they learned doing this," middle school science teacher David Chimo.

The National Science Olympiad will be held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio in May 2013 and the team needs to raise over 18,000 dollars before then to attend.

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How often do we hear that our students are falling behind in the fields of math and science? It is a theme heard all too often with regards to our youth. The Corvallis Middle School Science Olympiad team, however, is working hard to disprove that statement. **For the second time in three years, the Corvallis Middle School team took top honors at the State Science Olympiad competition at Montana State University in Bozeman in November.** This first place finish earned the team an invitation to be the state of Montana's sole representative at the National Science Olympiad tournament (middle school level) in Dayton, Ohio May 17 & 18, 2013.

"Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. Science Olympiad tournaments are rigorous academic interscholastic competitions that consist of a series of team events, which students prepare for during the year."

The Corvallis Middle School Science Olympiad team consists of fourteen 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who have shown a tremendous level of self-motivation and initiative in order to qualify for this competition. These future scientists and engineers spent countless hours studying 14 different subjects including astronomy, forensics, environmental diseases, rocks and minerals, forestry, water quality, and metric measurement. Students designed and built helicopters, musical instruments, mousetrap vehicles, and boomilevers. They are continuing to study for their individual events, and are now also working hard to earn the funds necessary to make the trip to the National Tournament.

We are asking for your support to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$20,000. Any amount of support is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

Your tax-deductible donation can be sent to:

Corvallis Middle School (c/o Science Olympiad)
P.O. Box 700
Corvallis, MT 59828

Checks can be made out to Corvallis Middle School

