The Pikes Peak Battle of the Books was a roaring success! MSES hosted 112 teams and more than 550 fifth-grade students competing in this year’s competition! Staff heard non-stop “ooh”s and “aah”s and “How cool is this school!” all day. MSES sure shined Saturday, April 16. Fifth-grade teacher Rachel Kazmier thanks all MSES staff for allowing the use of their classrooms and the custodial staff for making sure the school was ready for business the following Monday! Also, gratitude goes to Christi Marquardt and the robotics team, who were kind and gentle in directing teams throughout the building. District custodial supervisor Randy Woofter and his team were wonderful, offering traffic support along with event set-up and tear-down. MSES custodian Paul Quigley and school custodial staff helped after school with the set-up and made sure everything was ready for Saturday morning! Thanks too, to Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Domangue, Principal Maria Masone and District 14 Chief Financial Officer Suzi Thompson for their enthusiastic “YES” when they were asked to consider hosting this event.

On Friday, April 22, all MSSD staffers were shown a little appreciation for everything they do for students every day! Partners for Healthy Choices staff — Danny Tramel, Jane Squires and Angela Gieck — along with Paula Faucette and Nutrition Services staffers, teamed up with Phil LaSarre and Nunn Construction to serve up a good old-fashioned barbecue and lawn games. Local band Wirewood Station provided music and a good time was had by all!

Earlier this month, MSES first-grade students put on a performance of “Sleeping Beauty” for students and families. Great work, first-grade team!