

### April 11, 2014 - Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

**Contact:** Brenda Lovekamp  
School Board Clerk  
332-3920

#### MCSWAIN FAMILY FUN NIGHT – STEM STYLE

On the evening of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the McSwain PTA sponsored its third Family Fun Night – The Magic of STEM. A national campaign to promote education toward careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, STEM seeks to involve students in experiences using these skills.

As the job market for STEM careers grows, more and more graduates with an interest in these areas will be needed. While creativity is vital, the learning experiences require the students to research before building. Once an idea is realized, students then continue to refine their efforts toward a better product. With this introductory evening, parents and teachers provided the materials for students and parents to work and create together. Many different challenges were issued, such as: using fifty pennies -- create a bridge with a five inch span; or, build a roller coaster for a marble -- using card stock; and, using various boxes and cardboard tubes, build a structure -- knock it down with a tennis ball suspended in pantyhose.

At each activity, the materials and explanations were slightly different depending on the age of the child. After working in three areas, their STEM night bookmark was stamped. At the conclusion of the evening, a take-home bag containing another project was provided. Building, creating, and knocking it down -- an evening of FUN through STEM at McSwain.



Using magnetized tubes and shapes, kindergarten and second grade students worked together to create a marble run in the roller coaster activity center during the McSwain's STEM-themed Family Fun Night.



Kai-Lee Kinsale and Emmy O'Shea, kindergarten students, try their hand at stacking plastic cups. The challenge: make a cup stack as high as you can and get it to stand for at least thirty seconds.

### **WARE HOSTS RUN/WALK EVENT**

Ware's Health and Wellness Committee sponsored its first A. R. Ware Elementary School Run/Walk event on April 10. Many students, parents, teachers, and community members turned out to hear about the importance of exercise and nutrition and, most importantly, to run and/or walk the track behind the school. Participants were given water and snacks during the event, and many businesses and organizations donated wellness related items which were raffled off.



Participants walk in the 1<sup>st</sup> Run/Walk event at Ware Elementary School.