This time of year is marked with changes, as you grow the changes may be different. Some will be graduating from elementary school, 8th grade, High School or even College in the next few weeks, while others may be looking forward to a summer off from school (student or adult (teacher or professor), and others still may just be growing older. I found this following passage and just needed to share it, in its entirety.

“Mark Twain told the story of a man who searched his whole life for the world’s greatest general. When the man died, he arrived in heaven and walked up to St. Peter and said, “I’m looking for the world’s greatest general.”

St. Peter replied, “I know. We’ve been expecting you, and I have good news. If you will look right over there, you will see the world’s greatest general.”

The older man excitedly looked over and said, “That’s not the world’s greatest general. That man was a cobbler on Main Street in my hometown.” St. Peter responded, “But had he been a general, he would have been the greatest general ever.”

This story is not meant to demean cobblers at all. The work of a cobbler is meaningful and requires very special talents. But the story does raise some fundamental questions: Did the cobbler know what he had the potential to do? Did he know that he had the talent to be the world’s greatest general? Did anyone try to convince him that he could be destined for greatness?

Twain’s tale points to a painful truth that’s echoed in the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes: “Most people go to their graves with their music still inside them.” There are plenty of perfectly good cobblers out there who could have been great generals, given the opportunity or encouragement. Maybe, given the choice, they would still have chosen to be cobblers. But they also could have pursued completely different, perhaps historic, careers. “Excerpted from “StrengthsQuest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academics, Career and Beyond” by Donald O. Clifton, and Chip Anderson

As a parent or volunteer, the power of your involvement in 4-H is that you are able to help provide the encouragement for one of our members to realize what their skills and strengths are that they possess.

As a member, in this time of change, I want you to reflect on your experience. What are your abilities? Have you been surprised by something that you could do really well?

I look forward to seeing you all at Achievement Day! And congrats to our graduates!

Jeremy
COUNTY NEWS

County Achievement Day
Are you ready to give a demonstration, do public speaking or compete at judging? If not, get practicing because the Newton/McDonald County Achievement Day will be held Saturday, May 11, 2013. This event will take place in the Farber Building on the Crowder College Campus. Registrations will start at 8:30 AM.

McDonald County Youth Horse Show
There has been a change in the McDonald County Fair Youth Horse Show. The Horse Show will be held on Saturday, June 15 at 9:00 AM at the McDonald County Fairgrounds. We will also be having an equine workshop/fun day this year, on May 18 at 10:00 AM, also at the Fairgrounds. Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find the rules and classes for the horse show. If you have questions, please contact Tim and Jody Scott at 417-845-6237.

REGIONAL NEWS

Southwest Regional Shoot
An early heads-up on the Southwest Regional Shoot so you can mark your calendars. This event will be held on July 2, 2013 at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range near Bois D’ Arc. More details will follow as we get closer to the event.

4-H Camp
SW Missouri 4-H Camp registrations are enclosed with this newsletter. Another creative, fun camp is planned for all 4-H’ers in Southwest Missouri at Roaring River State Park. Remember camps fill quickly and the deadline for registering is May 15. Dates are as follows:
June 15-16    Clover Kids Camp
June 16-19  Member’s Camp 1
June 19-22  Member’s Camp 2
June 22-26  Teen Camp
The camp theme this year is ‘Mission Space’, therefore, camp promises to be out of this world!

ATTENTION Club Reporters-
Send your club news to dumondL@missouri.edu or mail to
McDonald County  4-H  P.O. Box 336
Pineville, MO 64856

CLUB NEWS

The Splitlog 4-H Club met on April 8, 2013. There were fifteen members present. Before opening the meeting there was a guest presentation brought to the club by Adrienne and Seymour from First Community Bank. They taught the club that saving money is important even from a young age. Everyone in the club received a folder that told all about how even young kids can save money. In the absence of President, Andrew Littman, Junior President Koby McAlister and Vice President, Hannah Sherman, filled in the place. Secretary, Callie Keaton and Treasurer, Bailey McAlister were both present. Koby called the meeting to order. Ruth Sherman led the American Pledge and Courtney Keaton led the 4-H pledge. Bailey McAlister prayed for our club. There was no old business. In new business we discussed Achievement Day. The meeting was adjourned and we all had snacks. Our next club meeting in May will be held after Achievement Day, so there are no more chances to practice in front of the club. Good luck everyone. Hope to see you all after Achievement Day.
Alyssa Goddard, Reporter

The Crossroads 4-H Club met at the Longview Headstart Building on Friday, April 12. There were seven members present and three leaders. Anthony Garnett gave a cool demonstration on .22 caliber rifle and shooting sports safety. Vice President, Eli Jones called the meeting to order after the demonstration. Minutes and the Treasurer’s report were given. In old business we reported on the recent RATT trip and Sew-A-Thon events. In new business, we talked about the May 11 Achievement Day at Crowder and the Fair. Next month our meeting will be held on Friday, May 4 at 7:30 PM. Erron Jones will be giving a demonstration on how to make Mexican Cheesecake. Hope to see you there.
Annie DuMond, Reporter
Congress is a hands-on, fun opportunity. We will be happy to hear about their adventures when they return!

Public Speaking Academy  
**June 18-19, 2013**  
The 4-H Public Speaking Academy is preparing for its third year! Extension staff, along with former 4-H volunteers and college professors, will provide educational workshops to help youth build their skills and comfort with public speaking. Participants will be guided through the basics and finer points of writing and delivering a speech. Youth will receive individual assistance. The camp is open to all youth 11-13 years of age interested in learning more about public speaking. The Academy will be held June 18-19, 2013 and registration is due May 17. Lodging will be provided on the campus of Central Methodist University in Fayette, MO, with activities that include swimming. For more information, contact Patty Fisher at fisherp@missouri.edu or 573-324-5464 or Kathy Bondy at bondyk@missouri.edu or 660-584-3658. Event flyer is enclosed.

Filmfest 2013  
The third annual 4-H film festival, **Filmfest**, is open to all 4-H members ages 11 and up. **Filmfest** will be held in Branson, Missouri on August 4-7, 2013. This event is sponsored by the National 4-H Communications and Expressive Arts Task Force, Missouri 4-H Center for Youth Development and the City of Branson. Like any other national film festival, this event connects participants to professionals in the film industry and celebrates the work of the filmmakers. The competition categories for 2013 include Narrative, Animation, Documentary, 4-H Promotional, and Voices of History. Film entries are due by July 15. Youth interested in attending Filmfest should visit the event web site at 4h.missouri.edu/filmfest or contact Bradd Anderson at andersonb@missouri.edu or at 573-884-0576.

**STATE NEWS**

**State 4-H Congress**  
**May 29 – 31, 2013**  
We have six delegates from McDonald County and seven delegates from Newton County attending State 4-H Congress in Columbia the end of May. They will be experiencing campus life on the MU Campus, learning new skills, attending educational sessions and making friends from all across the region.
**Clover Kids Corner**

Do Different Colors Absorb Heat Better?

**Materials**
- 4 sheets of colored paper (white, yellow, red, black)
- Newspaper
- Scissors
- 4 Ice cubes
- Sunny day or heat lamp
- Notebook to record observations

**Directions**
1. Ask children to imagine that it is 100° outside. What kinds of things will they do to stay cool? What kinds of clothing will they wear? What about the color of the clothing?
2. Have pre-stenciled 5 sided boxes ready to cut out and assemble. You will need one per color for a total of 4 colored boxes. See example above.
3. Lay newspaper down under the sunlight and place color boxes side by side with the opening facing away from the sunlight so the youth can see inside.
4. Place 1 ice cube in each of the colored cubes.
5. Have the children check the ice cubes every few minutes and record on a notebook which melted first, second, third and fourth.

Discuss the children’s observations. Why do ice cubes melt? How does the sun affect ice? Which color absorbs heat the quickest in the sun? What kinds of clothes do people wear outside in winter/summer?