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Lee's Summit R-7 School District's Community Newspaper

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Connecting your community

FEBRUARY 2016

MASON ELEMENTARY WINS GRAND PRIZE IN KANSAS CITY'S BATTLE OF THE BRAINS

Local school receives \$50,000 grant and their entry will become a million-dollar exhibit at Science City

Mason Elementary students won the grand prize in Burns & McDonnell's Battle of the Brains, a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competition open to schools throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. At a ceremony held Nov. 18 at Union Station, it was revealed that Mason's proposal, called "Not-So-Simple Simple Machines Playground," won \$50,000 as the grand prize winner.

In addition, Mason's proposal will be transformed into a million-dollar outdoor exhibit at Kansas City's Science City. Students in Jenny Reidlinger's gifted classes designed the school's entry, an exciting exploration of simple and compound machines. Students developing the proposal



Mason's team reacts as they learn they have won the grand prize at the awards ceremony.

BATTLE OF THE BRAINS | page 16

Groundbreaking to take place this spring for new Summit Technology Academy/Missouri Innovation Campus

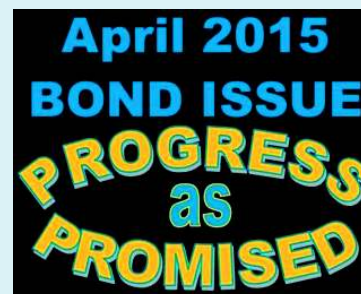
New facility and numerous school improvements funded by \$40 million no-tax-increase bond issue

During spring 2016, the district's new Summit Technology Academy / Missouri Innovation Campus will begin to take shape thanks to a no-tax-increase bond issue. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility is scheduled for 2 p.m.

March 10 with the new school scheduled to open in August 2017.

The \$40 million bond issue, approved by close to 80 percent of voters, is funding

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From the superintendent

COMMENTARY



Dr. David McGehee is Lee's Summit R-7 School District superintendent and a Lee's Summit resident

David McGehee

Creating a bright future for students

"The best way to predict the future is to create it," said well-known author, consultant and professor Peter Drucker. This spring, a team of community and staff members are working together to help ensure a bright future for our district's schools and, most importantly, our community's students.

As part of our district's focus on long-range planning, we are developing a strategic plan designed to serve our schools from 2016 through 2021. This is actually the fifth time we have involved staff and citizens in creation of our strategic plan, and it is definitely

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