



Media Release - for immediate release

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Media Contact: Christie Lassen (410.313.7786 or 443.474.0740)

Victoria Goodman (410.313.7781)

Signature A+ Partnership Event Celebrates Twelfth Anniversary
67 TOP SPELLERS TO COMPETE IN
HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM SPELLING BEE
Friday, March 11, 7pm, Reservoir High School

ELLCOTT CITY, MD-- Sixty-seven top spellers in grades 4 through 8 from Howard County schools will meet to compete for the county crown when Howard County Library System (HCLS) hosts the twelfth annual HCLS Spelling Bee. The event will take place Friday, March 11, 2016 at 7 pm at Reservoir High School, 11550 Scaggsville Road in Fulton, Maryland.

This year's event draws students from 56 public schools, 9 private schools, and 2 homeschool associations. Participating students progress from inter-classroom spelling bees held within their schools to a school-wide bee, and then on to HCLS' countywide bee. The HCLS Spelling Bee champion advances to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC in late spring.

The HCLS Spelling Bee provides an instructive and enlightening opportunity for students to participate in a regional bee registered with Scripps National, and have the opportunity to advance to the national level. In conjunction with the annual event, thirty-nine younger students, in first through third grade who competed in BumbleBees at their schools during the winter will be recognized in an on-stage presentation before the competition begins. Both the HCLS Spelling Bee and the BumbleBee Celebration are part of the Library's signature A+ Partners in Education initiative designed to provide Howard County students the best possible chance to achieve overall academic success.

(continued)

Sixty-seven Top Spellers To Compete In 2016 Howard County Library System Spelling Bee

The HCLS Spelling Bee is sponsored by Friends of Howard County Library System, Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), and the Josephine B. Scheffenacker Education Trust. Officials presiding over this year's event are:

- Susan Stonesifer - Head Judge (Howard County Library System)
- Steve Lewicky - Appeals Judge (Howard County Library System Board of Trustees)
- Chris Merdon - Rounds & Records Judge (Howard County Government)
- Holly Johnson - Timekeeper (Howard County Library System)
- Ellen Flynn Giles - Pronouncer (Howard County Board of Education & Friends of Howard County Library System)
- Dick Story - Emcee (Howard Bank)

The following is a list of past champions and their winning words:

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|------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2015 | Lauren Smith | Bethel Christian Academy (Grade 6) | machete |
| 2014 | Megan Rabe | Clarksville Middle School (Grade 8) | quadrifid |
| 2013 | Mitsuki Ota | Columbia Academy (Grade 7) | sebaceous |
| 2012 | John Nolan | Mayfield Woods MS (Grade 8) | kudize |
| 2011 | Samuel Osheroff | Clarksville MS (Grade 7) | deleterious |
| 2010 | Samuel Osheroff | Clarksville MS (Grade 6) | pugilant |
| 2009 | John Nolan | Deep Run ES (Grade 5) | fortuitous |
| 2008 | Andrew Risinger | Patapsco Valley MS (Grade 8) | pompadour |
| 2007 | Heather desJardins-Park | Lime Kiln MS (Grade 8) | sympiosis |
| 2006 | Joey Haavik | Pointers Run ES (Grade 5) | zoroastrian |
| 2005 | Priyanka Chavan | Fulton ES (Grade 5) | piebald |

For more information about the HCLS Spelling Bee, visit **hclibrary.org/spellingbee**.
Streaming Live at **Youtube/User/HowardCountyLibrary**.
Follow the action on social media with **#HCLSBee**.

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