



THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL HOSTS ANNUAL SPELLING BEE

Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders compete for Top Honors

(Thomaston, CT)—The Education Enrichment Fund of Thomaston, Incorporated, also known as EEF, sponsored a rewarding event for Thomaston Center School Students in grades four, five, and six at the thirteenth annual EEF Spelling Bee.

All students, who enjoy the challenge of learning to spell difficult words, were invited to compete in the annual event. The judged event took place on Friday, January 27, 2017 in the Thomaston Center School auditorium. Thirty-one students competed in the event while the student body as well as family and community members observed.

Students had prepared well for the event. According to Principal Kristin Bernier, an after-school spelling club was specially created to help students study word spellings, vocabulary, and word origins. Facilitated by Ms. Susan Larson, Reading Interventionist at Thomaston Center School, students met weekly to review the word lists provided by Scripps, the national spelling bee

program from which the Thomaston Center Bee is modeled. The students' preparation paid off and many students remained through the first few rounds. By round seven, six spellers remained to compete to spell words such as "equestrian" and "gnarled." At round twelve, the top three were left to compete for the winning title. On round thirteen, sixth grader Liliana Sela won the third place position. The top two competitors would continue for seven more rounds before fifth grader Cierra O'Sullivan would correctly spell "rendition" to win the championship. Sixth grade student Marissa Van Ormer placed second.

The top three winners received trophies and cash prizes thanks to the support of the Education Enrichment Fund of Thomaston, Incorporated.

Mr. Eric Martin, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction of Thomaston Public Schools, served as pronouncer for the event. Ms. Roxy Fainer, Thomaston Board of Education Chair and EEF Chairperson, Ms. Francine Coss, Superintendent of Thomaston Public Schools and EEF Secretary, and Ms. Caroline Osowiecki, EEF Treasurer, served as judges.

Background of EEF:

The Education Enrichment Fund (EEF) of Thomaston, Incorporated, is a local education foundation that contributes resources to support Thomaston Public Schools. The EEF is a non-profit organization with board members who represent Thomaston community members and education leaders.



Student Participants in the Thirteenth Annual Thomaston Center School Educational Enrichment Fund of Thomaston Annual Spelling Bee.



Ms. Roxy Fainer, Chairperson of the EEF, congratulates first place winner Cierra O'Sullivan, as EEF members Ms. Caroline Osowiecki and Ms. Francine Coss and second place winner, Marissa Van Ormer looks on.

Thomaston Board of Education Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

-TBOE Policy 0100

Goals and Objectives of the Thomaston Board of Education:

The Thomaston Board of Education believes that all students have a right to an education which is based on standards of excellence, which stresses rigorous demands and which serves to expand students' personal horizons. The Board believes that the education of each student is the shared responsibility of students, parents, faculty, and administrators. The Board also recognizes that students differ in their interests and abilities and therefore the district offers a comprehensive program consisting of a variety of learning experiences. The Board believes that an important function of the school is to prepare students for participation in our American democratic society. The Board seeks to improve the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical capacities of all students. The Board encourages the development of thinking and communication skills, the tolerance of and responsibility for others, and the understanding of varied cultures and life styles. In order to implement this philosophy, recognizing that elementary, middle and high school education are important steps in a lifelong process, the Board of Education establishes the following objectives:

- A. To teach the essential skills traditionally associated with the various disciplines.
- B. To develop the four communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- C. To extend and refine the students' ability to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate printed, visual, and aural material.
- D. To develop critical thinking.
- E. To further the students' development of self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-esteem.
- F. To promote the physical well-being of all students.
- G. To promote creativity and appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences.
- H. To encourage students to consider both the alternatives to and the consequences of their actions in the decision making process.
- I. To present career options and to assist students in setting tentative goals.
- J. To help the student appreciate that learning is integrated and continuous.

-TBOE Policy 5010

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kristin Reichelt Bernier at 860-283-3036 or email at kbernier@thomastonschools.org.