

Lincoln School Foundation

Lincoln Journal – April 21, 2011

Can you Spell Well? Lincoln Kids Can!

Spring has come to Lincoln and that means the "buzz" around the town schools has been about the annual Lincoln School Foundation Spelling Bee that was held earlier this month. This year saw the largest turnout of third graders through sixth graders since its inception four years ago - and that meant nearly 150 students from Lincoln, Hanscom, private and home schools all registered for the event. Students and their families and friends showed up to the Brooks School Auditorium on a beautiful, warm spring afternoon, Sunday April 10th, ready to take on the Bee Challenge!

Continuing in the Lincoln Bee tradition, students took part in teams of two or three, keeping the focus on team spirit and fun rather than individual performance. "Its not as scary when we have each other," commented one "veteran" student of the Bee. Contestants received their goody bags upon check-in, which included a bright yellow Bee t-shirt (thanks to local town sponsors - AKA Bistro, Barrett & Company Real Estate and Maynard Design & Architecture), as well as water bottles, treats and fun give-aways. Throughout the afternoon, refreshments and snacks were available in the Field House for all the participants.

This year saw some special guests in attendance volunteering their services - State Representative Mr. Thomas Conroy (13th Middlesex District - Lincoln, Sudbury, Wayland), along with Ms. Randy Davis, Hanscom Primary School Principal, announced for the third graders. Colonel Parker Plante and Chief Master Sergeant Alfred Wilkes from Hanscom Air Force Base were judging - and it was four rounds of excellent spelling with the announcers having to dig deep into their word banks (and up to the fourth and fifth grade words) to stump these tough third graders. Finally after over two hours of stiff competition, the team of Ty Blumberg, Sofie DeChristofaro and Agnes Shan, the Honey Bees, took first prize - with a jubilant Ty jumping out of his seat on the stage, arms raised up in victory. As he proudly accepted his winners' trophy, he announced in an impromptu speech, "Thank you so much, we LOVE this Spelling Bee"!

Subsequent rounds of the Bee included other "town celebrities". Mr. Stephen McKenna, Lincoln School K-4 Principal, announced for the fourth graders with Amy Gavalis (Lincoln Public Library, Children's Librarian) and Stacey Clarkin (Hanscom Primary School Wellness Specialist) as judges. Three heats later and a championship

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round ended with the winning team, "The Fab 3," with Ashley du Toit, Audrey Ory, and Iris Sodowick.

Fifth graders had six teams and Mr. Erich Ledebuhr, Hanscom Middle School Principal announcing with Siobhan Theriault (Lincoln School K-4, First Grade Teacher) and Lieutenant Mark Mola (Lincoln Fire Department) judging. One long heat ended with team "Black and Yellow", Isaac Newell and Ruby Carmel, winning for a third year in a row!

And, finally, seven teams of sixth graders were all familiar with their hosts, Dr. Sharon Hobbs, Lincoln School 5-8 Principal announcing and judges Stacey Mulroy (Assistant Director, Lincoln Parks & Recreation) and Officer David Regan (Lincoln Police Department). The bright green hats on the team "HAT", with members Helen Rhines, Amelia Patterson and Tara Christian, must have brought them good luck as they took the sixth grade trophies home that day!

LSF Co-Chairs Eloise Patterson and Karen Prince were hosts for the event and were particularly pleased with the response in entries and the turnout on the day. "The Spelling Bee is a wonderful community event, one of the few that brings Hanscom and Lincoln students, public and private, all together for an exciting afternoon" said Eloise. "The local "celebrities" who serve as announcers and judges really make it special for everyone." Karen added, "I was so impressed. You could feel the excitement as the rounds progressed. As competitive as the event is, however, there remains throughout the day, a strong feeling of camaraderie and community."

The LSF Spelling Bee was "buzzing" with excitement from start to finish! Many thanks go out to all the students who participated and to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make this such a fun and successful event, including a special thank you to The Whistle Stop for providing sandwiches for the LSF volunteers. See you all again next year!