



NEWS RELEASE

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Literary Spelling Bee and Record Readers @ the Library

August was filled with excitement for spellers and readers alike at Harford County Public Library. The month began with the annual Literary Spelling Bee, held on August 2 at the Harford County Farm Fair. Fifty-nine participants from kindergarten through adult competed in this year's event. The third and fourth grade category is the largest every year but this year there was an equally large amount of participants in the adult group. "This is an exciting event every year for so many children, and I'm glad to see that the adults have started catching on to the fun as well," stated Hillary Fifer, Marketing Specialist for Harford County Public Library.

Children enjoyed spelling words like "sorcerer" from *Harry Potter* and "immortal" from the *Twilight* series. Adults were challenged with words like "sinuous" and "irascible." All participants were given a Farm Fair ribbon and small prize from the Library. The first, second and third place winners were also allowed to choose a new book from the library plus the Library mascot, Tales, was in attendance to cheer on the children and take pictures with the winners.

Winners in each category were:

Up to Kindergarten:

- First Place-Elysa Puglionesi

Entering Grades 1-2:

- First Place-Natalie Davis
- Second Place-Evan Shertzer
- Third Place-Riley Gilmore

Entering Grades 3-4:

- First Place-Faith Hill
- Second Place-Vijay Modi
- Third Place-Darby Hyde, Sara Fernandez & Duncan Barbes (tie)

Entering Grades 5-6:

- First Place-Robbie Spratt
- Second Place-Richie Goles
- Third Place-Francisca Estay

Entering Grades 7-8:

- First Place-Ignacio Estay
- Second Place-Yash Upadhyay
- Third Place-Ryan Thompson

Entering Grades 9-12:

- First Place-Harrison Nealley
- Second Place-Christine Wise
- Third Place-Toni Strehlen

Adults:

- First Place-Lani Hyde
- Second Place-Katie Holter
- Third Place-Judith Bollinger

This year over 17,000 children and teens registered for the Summer Reading Program, *Be Creative @ Your Library*, an increase in 500 registrants versus last year. This program offers children from birth through high school the opportunity to stay engaged in reading throughout the summer and have fun while doing it.

Elementary school participants in the *Be Creative @ Your Library* program received a free book after reading 10 books. Middle school participants received a free book and high school teens received a Barnes & Noble gift card when they read three books. All giveaways were supported by Celebree Learning Centers, HarCo Maryland Federal Credit Union, LPGA and Harford County Public Library Foundation. The summer reading program ended on August 15th.

Harford County Public Library operates eleven branches located throughout Harford County, Maryland. The library serves over 200,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of almost 5,000,000. The mission of Harford County Public Library is to provide access, service and information to the citizens of

Harford County anytime, anywhere and to create an environment that encourages the acquisition of knowledge and the love of reading.

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Photo caption #1: Three generations competed in the Library Literary Spelling Bee. Pictured left to right: Lilly Benwell, Sean Benwell, Linda Ruth. Grandmother and her son competed against each other in the adult round and tied for fourth place. Granddaughter competed in the 3rd-4th grade category and also came in fourth.

Photo caption #2: Pre-kindergarten winner, Elysa Puglionesi, shares a big smile with Tales, the Library mascot.