

Kids Korner

Homeschoolers Want Others To Join Them For Upcoming Spelling Bee

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Food And Family
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EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Spelling — some students love it, others hate it.

No matter what their stance, many students are preparing for upcoming competition that can lead to national recognition.

The winners of the Lancaster County Spelling Bee will qualify for the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal Champion Spelling Bee. That winner will qualify for the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C., during the week of May 22-June 2, 2003.

Students can participate through their schools. Homeschoolers must have a group of 25 to be eligible to participate. The deadline for registration is Dec. 1, for the annual Lancaster County Home Schoolers' Spelling Bee scheduled for Monday, Feb. 3, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster.

Some students are a bit skeptical of participating in the event, but realize the benefits of participation.

"I feel like I will be embarrassed because the audience will be watching, but I'm doing it," said Matthew Woodcraft, 11.

His parents Bradley and Elaine Woodcraft, Ephrata, and many other parents believe participation is a valuable experience.

A free paideia, which is a booklet of spelling word lists is available to those who registers.

The paideia is designed to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularities, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.



Homeschoolers preparing for upcoming spelling bee, from left, are Nathaniel Woodcraft, 9; Virginia Maness, 11; Matthew Woodcraft, 11; and Titus Jones, 13. More homeschoolers are needed in order to qualify for the competition. Registration deadline is Dec. 1.

The paideia has 3,700 words grouped into 27 categories and three levels: beginning, intermediate, and advanced.

You could say the paideia makes kids smarter. Not only do they learn how to spell words, but they learn how to use the words in conversation, and recognize them when reading books.

Of course, standing in front of an audience helps prepare students for the transition in the working world where speaking

before an audience is often required.

Titus Jones, 13, has participated in the annual event before. He knows what it is like to know how to spell a word, but have his mind go blank when standing in front of an audience.

Nevertheless Titus is going to try again. His sister took second place in the regional competition two years ago.

Virginia Maness, 11, daughter of Paula and Tim Maness, Roth-

sville, said that spelling is an easy subject for her but she doesn't really like it. She, too, plans to participate. She believes it is important to learn to be a good speller.

More than 230 newspapers around the world participate in the E.W. Scripps Company Spelling Bee.

It is open to students attending public, private, parochial, charter, and home schools. Participants must have reached their

16th birthday on or before the date of the national finals and must not have passed beyond eighth grade on or before Feb. 1, 2003. A comprehensive set of requirements may be found in the Suggested Rules for Local Spelling Bees at the Website www.spellingbee.com.

Most homeschoolers plan to practice independently by using words from the paideia.

While studying, students will often write down a word that their mother or other instructor pronounces. But on the day of competition, all spelling is done orally. Students will not be able to write out the word and decide whether or not it looks correct.

The word will be pronounced. The students may ask to have the word repeated or for the pronouncer to use the word in a sentence or for a definition.

This method is a precaution against misinterpreting the word. Titus said that he lost one time because he thought the pronouncer was saying a word that sounded similar to the one actually spoken.

The annual event began in 1925. Nine students participated in the first national finals. This year, more than 10 million students at the local level and more than 240 national finalists will participate.

To register for the Lancaster County Home Schoolers Spelling Bee, send your child's name, grade, parents' names, address, and phone number with \$2 for each child to Elaine Woodcraft, 174 Parkview Heights Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522. Checks can be made payable to Woodcraft, who will forward details. For more information, call Woodcraft at (717) 738-9735.



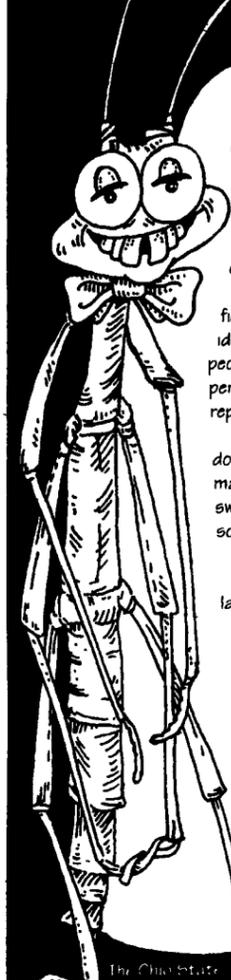
Jacob Labonte, Kennett Square, is open-mouthed with wonder as he gazes at large metal moths on display in the new Transition Exhibit at Longwood Gardens. The moths are actually models of insect-themed shutter handles that will be part of Longwood's future indoor Children's Garden.

The Transition Exhibit underscores the strong tradition of change throughout Longwood's history by highlighting major past, present, and future projects to renew the Gardens. The Exhibit uses flow charts and photographs to give an overview of planning at Longwood and the inter-relationships between the Garden's research, plant production, and horticultural display divisions. Isometric drawings, conceptual illustrations, and models explain four future projects: the construction of a new indoor Children's Garden, the renovation of the East Conservatory, the construction of a new outdoor Winter Garden, and the renovation of the Ballroom Complex and historic 10,010-pipe Aeolian organ.

The Transition Exhibit is open during Conservatory hours, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. For more information, call (610) 388-1000 or visit online at www.longwoodgardens.org. Photo credit: Longwood Gardens photo by L. Albee.

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: Do Asian lady beetles bite? My friend says they do. What do you know?

Multicolored Asian lady beetles, those non-native ladybugs that swarm into homes in fall, do, in fact, bite, although not too often.

That's what an Ohio State scientist named Joe Kovach tells me, based on his research and his own experience

Joe is studying the pesky orange bugs so he can figure out ways to keep them out of your house — ideally, by using few or no pesticides. He surveyed people who had lots of ladybugs in their house, and 40 percent of those people — four out of every 10 — reported having been bitten.

Fortunately, multicolored Asian lady beetles don't have stingers. They bite with their tiny, sharp mandibles (mouth parts). Joe was bitten while in a swarm in southern Ohio. He says it felt like a cat scratch or someone dragging a pin on his arm.

Ouch

Joe and other scientists aren't sure why Asian ladybugs bite. They might be trying to get moisture — sweat. They might be grazing on microbes on your skin. (Yuck.) Or it might be that they think you're an aphid, a really big aphid who probably isn't even excreting any honeydew. Go figure.

Twig

