

## News Release

For immediate release

March 14, 2016

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### **Four junior high school students named top spellers in county**

*Winning students from The Healdsburg School, St. Vincent de Paul School, Rincon Valley Middle School and Hillcrest Middle School*

Thirty-five students competed in the 2016 Sonoma County Junior High Spelling Competition held on Tuesday, March 8, at the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE). This annual event brings the county's best seventh, eighth, and ninth grade spellers together in a competition designed to promote and acknowledge exemplary student achievement. These students previously won their school competition, which made them eligible to compete for the title of county spelling champion.

Imani Thompson, an eighth-grader from The Healdsburg School in Healdsburg, won first in the competition. She broke the tie in the ninth-round by spelling "bureaucracy" correctly, then spelling "mayonnaise" to win the event.

Second place went to eighth-grader Samantha Hiserote, who attends St. Vincent de Paul School in Petaluma. Seventh-grader Rituja Bhowmik, from Rincon Valley Middle School in Santa Rosa, took third place and Claire Collins, an eighth-grader from Hillcrest Middle School in Sebastopol, earned the fourth-place award.

All spellers received a certificate of accomplishment, participation ribbon, and a souvenir. The four top-place spellers received trophies to mark their achievement. First and second place winners are eligible to advance to the 2016 California State Junior High Spelling Championship, which will be held in Marin County at Miller Creek Middle School, 2255 Las Gallinas Avenue in San Rafael on Saturday, May 14, 2016.



- 1 — Imani Thompson, grade 8, The Healdsburg School
- 2 — Samantha Hiserote, grade 8, St. Vincent de Paul School
- 3 — Rituja Bhowmik, grade 7, Rincon Valley Middle School
- 4 — Claire Collins, grade 8, Hillcrest Middle School
  
- 5 — Sebastian Rodriguez, grade 8, Adele Harrison Middle School
- 6 — Olivia Rubin, grade 8, The Healdsburg School
- 7 — Liam Moore, grade 8, Brook Haven School
- 8 — Christina Standley, grade 8, Adele Harrison Middle School
- 9 — Aaron Aguilera, grade 7, Roseland Accelerated Middle School
- 10 — Elena Perez, grade 7, Hillcrest Middle School
- 11 — Fiona Sweet, grade 7, Herbert Slater Middle School
- 12 — Paden Collard, grade 8, Washington School
- 13 — Nikole Fiden, grade 7, Salmon Creek: A Charter School
- 14 — Nick Webb, grade 8, Healdsburg Junior High School
- 15 — Lani Wongkar, grade 8, Harvest Christian School
- 16 — Miguel Gonzalez, grade 8, Washington School
- 17 — Maeve Kraybill, grade 7, Salmon Creek: A Charter School
- 18 — Lilitih DiMaio, grade 8, Guerneville School
- 19 — Julie Cao, grade 8, Roseland Accelerated Middle School
- 20 — Alex Chui, grade 8, Rincon Valley Middle School
- 21 — Erika Hovland, grade 7, Windsor Christian Academy
- 22 — Diego Luna, grade 7, Roseland Collegiate Prep
- 23 — Emma Kelly, grade 8, Altimira Middle School
- 24 — Joshua Delatorre, grade 7, Windsor Christian Academy
- 25 — Desiderio Orozco, grade 8, Altimira Middle School
- 26 — Chloe Thompson, grade 7, Mary Collins at Cherry Valley Charter School
- 27 — Miron English, grade 7, St. Vincent de Paul School
- 28 — Juan Villegas, grade 8, Cinnabar Charter School
- 29 — Madeline Moreno, grade 8, Guerneville School
- 30 — Bryant Nunez, grade 7, Healdsburg Junior High School
- 31 — Dani Collins, grade 8, Brook Haven School
- 32 — Andres Bautista, grade 9, Roseland Collegiate Prep
- 33 — Karissa Konezny, grade 7, Orchard View School

34 — Alex Azevedo, grade 8, Herbert Slater Middle School

35 — Max Motley, grade 8, Orchard View School

Did not attend:

Vina Roberts, grade 8, Forestville Academy

Andrea Luekens, grade 8, St. Luke Lutheran School

Michaela Rydberg, grade 8, Forestville Academy

Meredith Patchett, grade 8, Mary Collins at Cherry Valley Charter School

Nadia Ponce, grade 7, Cinnabar Charter School

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