

## Juniors hold annual Spelling Bee



Saturday, 03 February 2007

The **GFWC Junior Woman's Club** of the Merchantville Area, Inc. held its annual spelling bee on Saturday January 20th at **Pennsauken High School**. Thirty-three fourth and fifth graders from public and private schools in Merchantville and Pennsauken competed. While parents, friends and teachers anxiously looked on, they bravely took their turns at the mike to spell increasingly complex words. This year's competition offered some really impressive spellers. In first place was fifth grader Sean Gallagher from **St. Peter's School**, Merchantville.

The second place winner, from **St. Stephen's School** in Pennsauken, was fourth grader Taylor Holmes. Justin Weaver, a fourth grader from **Carson Elementary School** in Pennsauken, came in third.

The spellers went many rounds before the group was pared down to the final two who went toe to toe for several more rounds until Sean pulled out in front by correctly spelling the word "engorged". Awards were presented by the Country Buffet "Spelling Bee" who graciously attended the Spelling Bee to cheer on the kids. After the bee, the spellers and their fans relaxed with delicious pretzels and juice. Many browsed the book fair hosted by Borders Express looking for favorite books. All the kids went home with goodie bags filled with treats donated by event sponsors; Old Country Buffet and Borders Express. Pennsauken High School graciously offered the use of their facilities and the help of the (very important) audio visual folks who help make it possible for the fans and judges to hear the spellers in action. The fourth and fifth grade teachers in Pennsauken and Merchantville certainly seem to be doing a great job teaching spelling.

The Merchantville Juniors hold a spelling bee every year at this time. Local public and private schools are invited to send students to participate. Some schools have their own bees while others have the teachers pick the best spellers. All the kids are winners when it comes to spelling! The top three spellers from this local bee are invited to attend the GFWC District bee for District Three where they will be competing against the champion spellers from bees held in Haddonfield, Collingswood, Barrington and Moorestown. The winners from the eleven District Bees then go on to compete at the state level.

The Junior Woman's Club of Merchantville Area, Inc. is federated in the General Federation of Woman's Club and the New Jersey State Federation of Woman's Clubs – Junior Membership. The club is a nonprofit organization providing service to Merchantville, Pennsauken and surrounding areas. They contribute to charities such as Merchantville and Pennsauken Libraries, the Lions Club, CARE, Sacred Heart of Camden, and Cherished Creations, which offers support and respite to families with gravely ill children. Woman between the ages of 18 and 45 looking to get involved in the community can find out more about the Merchantville Juniors by contacting Amy Lignelli at

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