



For Immediate Release

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Local Students Win Highest Honors in WordMasters Challenge

FALLS CHURCH – A team of students representing the Congressional Schools of Virginia recently won highest honors in the WordMasters Challenge – a national language arts competition entered by over 230,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets at intervals during the school year.

Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the Challenge, the schools' seventh graders tied for twelfth place in the nation in the year-end cumulative standings (after tying for fifth place in the year's final meet) among 301 school teams participating at this level and in this division. "The WordMasters Challenge is a fun but demanding adventure for our students", commented Suzanne Burns, Congressional Schools Study Skills Specialist who coached the students in preparation for the Challenge.

In addition, three of the schools' students won highest honors for individual achievement in the year's final meet, held in April: Hansung Bae, Jordan McDaniel, and Tejas Patel all earned perfect scores in this meet, while nationwide only 57 seventh graders did so.

Other students who excelled in the year's final meet included fifth graders William Clark and India Brahm, sixth graders Nour Aburish, Diane Arnos, Jane Werntz, and Alice Yuen; seventh graders Julia Anderson, Rukmini Basu, Nick Bourbeau, Caroline Mack, Rajeev Bhagowalia, Alexander Boyd, Spencer Hawkins, Matt Kelley, Casey Lim, and Marshall Nimick, and eighth graders Reece Anderson and Andrew Kolczynski.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking, which first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Though most vocabulary-boosting and analogy-solving activities have been created for high school students, the WordMasters materials have been specifically designed for younger students, in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for

able and interested children, who rise to the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

The Congressional Schools of Virginia is located on Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church, VA. An independent, coed day school founded in 1939, Congressional enrolls 375 children from pre-school through grade 8. As part of the schools' mission to educate the whole child, its teaching goes beyond academics to enable students to become productive members of society. Giving back to the community is an important part of the schools' values. For more information visit: www.congressionalschools.org.

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