



Calaveras County Office of Education

## PRESS RELEASE

Scott Nanik  
Calaveras County  
Superintendent of Schools  
185 S. Main Street  
Angels Camp, CA 95222

For Immediate Release  
April 15, 2019

Contact: Debbie Strand  
Phone: (209) 736-6009  
Email: [dstrand@ccoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:dstrand@ccoe.k12.ca.us)

### **“51<sup>st</sup> Annual Calaveras County Spelling Bee”**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Calaveras County Spelling Bee showcased spelling competitors grades 6-9<sup>th</sup> on Thursday, April 11 at the Calaveras River Academy/Mountain Oaks gymnasium. The Teichert Foundation, the Calaveras Enterprise, and the Calaveras County Office of Education sponsored this event.

Thirty-three students competed from the following schools:

- Avery Middle School
- Bret Harte High School
- Calaveras High School
- Christian Family Learning Center
- Copperopolis Elementary
- Jenny Lind Elementary
- Mark Twain Elementary
- Mountain Oaks
- San Andreas Elementary
- Toyon Middle School
- Valley Springs Elementary

Superintendent of Schools Scott Nanik acted as spelling moderator of the event and read words from the Marin County Junior High State Spelling Word List. The students had 15 seconds to write the correct spelling for each word; then proctors checked the students' work. Each student was allowed to misspell up to four words before being disqualified. With words like flabbergast, echelon, and spelunker, the bee proved to be challenging.

The top two spellers in 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades are eligible to move on to compete in the California State Junior High Spelling Bee Championship. Avery Middle School student Addy Heermance (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Calaveras High School student Alexis Horlacher (9<sup>th</sup> grade) are selected to represent Calaveras County at the state championship on Saturday, May 4, 2019 in San Rafael, CA. The audience applauded as the winner in each grade level was announced. The final word, “spelunker,” revealed Calaveras High School ninth grader Alexis Horlacher as this year's overall winner. Alexis competed in the state bee last year and wish her the best for this year's bee.

Here are results from the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Calaveras County Spelling Bee:

- 6th Grade WINNERS – 1<sup>st</sup> Place: David Messinger, Mark Twain Elementary
- 6th Grade WINNERS – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Gyver Crawford, Avery Middle School
- 6th Grade WINNERS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sadie Hanes, Avery Middle School
  
- 7th Grade WINNERS – 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Addy Heermance, Avery Middle School
- 7th Grade WINNERS – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sabrina Silos, Mountain Oaks School
- 7th Grade WINNERS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sioban Santiago, Toyon Middle School
  
- 8th Grade WINNERS – 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cooper Oliver, Avery Middle School
- 8th Grade WINNERS – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Lizzy Seely, Toyon Middle School
- 8th Grade WINNERS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Winter Whittle, Christian Family Learning Center
  
- 9th Grade WINNERS – 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Alexis Horlacher, Calaveras High School
- 9th Grade WINNERS – 2<sup>st</sup> Place: Lian Tuazon, Calaveras High School
- 9th Grade WINNERS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Zoe Day, Bret Harte High School
  
- **STUDENTS GOING ON TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**: Addy Heermance from Avery Middle School and Alexis Horlacher from Calaveras High School.

The Calaveras County Office of Education would like to congratulate each student who participated and wish Addy and Alexis the best of luck in the state championship.

For further information, please contact Debbie Strand at the Calaveras County Office of Education, (209) 736-6009.

###