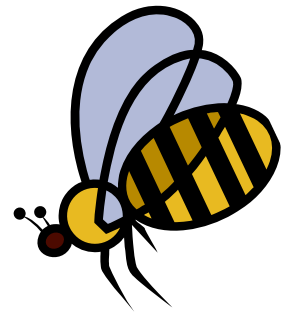


February 3, 2012



COUSINS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT WINS COUNTY BEE

McKenzie Snyder, a sixth-grade student at Cousins Middle School took home top honors at the 2012 Newton County School System Spelling Bee and will represent the district in the Regional Spelling Bee in Putnam County later this month. Veterans Memorial Middle School sixth-grader KC Alvena Olter, was this year's runner-up.

Spelling Bee winners from each elementary and middle school in the county competed in the competition, held at Eastside High School on February 2. After several rounds of competition, the pool was narrowed down to two finalists—Snyder and Olter. When Olter stumbled on the first word in the final round, “kosher”, Snyder stepped to the microphone and spelled the word correctly. When she spelled the next word, “nubby” correctly, she was pronounced champion of the Newton County School System Spelling Bee!

“I was very nervous,” said Snyder, though she admitted that she did calm down some after the practice round at the beginning of the Bee. She added it was, “awesome” to win this year's competition.

Although she was nervous, Snyder was still familiar with the pressure of the competition as this wasn't her first trip to the county spelling bee. She said she represented Ficquett Elementary School in the county competition when she was in fourth and fifth grade. Students in grades four through eight are eligible to participate in the spelling bee so Snyder still has two years of eligibility left.

According to Snyder, her favorite subject is Language Arts, and she enjoys reading.

“She reads a lot and is very good at spelling,” said Snyder's mom, Kerin Teague. “You can ask her a word and she just breezes right through it.

In addition to reading, Snyder invented her own unique way to study spelling words.

“I made a spelling game on my computer to practice the words,” she said. “My family also called out random words and I would have to spell them.”

As the Newton County winner, Snyder will now represent the school system at the Regional Spelling Bee on February 25, 2012 at 10 a.m. at Putnam County Middle School in Eatonton, Georgia.

“Obviously, Mackenzie has worked hard in preparing for this competition and we salute her work ethic, her diligence, and her accomplishments in earning this honor for Cousins Middle School and now for the



NCSS Spelling Bee Champion McKenzie Snyder of Cousins Middle School will now compete in the Regional Spelling Bee in Putnam County later this month.

Newton County School System,” said Scott Sauls, principal of Cousins Middle School. “We also recognize the commitment and support of her mother as well as the teachers at Ficquett Elementary School and Cousins Middle School in preparing her for this competition. We are very honored to have her as a member of our student body and we wish her well in the district competition!”

Despite the pressure of the Regional Bee looming in the future, Snyder said she was going to take a little time off from studying.

“I’ve done enough spelling today!” said Snyder. “I’ll study more tomorrow.”
