

January 30, 2012

Newton County School System to Host County Spelling Bee

The Newton County School System will host the 2012 System Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at Newton High School. Each of the system's elementary and middle schools will send its school spelling bee champion to participate in the county competition. Students in grades four through eight were eligible to participate in the school competitions. In addition to the champion, each school will send its runner up in the school spelling bee as an alternate in the event the school champion is unable to participate.

"Spelling is one of the life-long skills that children begin to learn early in school and continue throughout their lifetimes," said Dr. Ken Proctor, Executive Director of Elementary Schools. "Written communication is an essential component of everyday life. In order to be an effective and efficient communicator, one must have adequate spelling knowledge. The Spelling Bee is a fun activity in which children can participate to demonstrate the spelling skills and knowledge they have learned."

During the competition, contestants must spell the word they are given correctly. After having started to spell a word, the contestant will not be given any opportunity to change the letters, once pronounced. If a speller fails to spell the word correctly, he must step out of the competition.

Once the competition is down to just two remaining contestants, the elimination procedure will change. If a speller misspells a word, the other contestant is given the opportunity to spell the same word. If the second contestant spells the word correctly and spells the next word on the caller's list correctly, he or she will be declared the champion. If the second speller misspells the new word after correcting the first contestant's error, the first contestant will be declared the champion if he or she spells the misspelled word and the next word on the caller's list correctly.

The judges and the Newton County Spelling Bee Committee are in complete control of the Bee at all times and the judges' decision shall be final on all matters.

Parents and family members are invited to attend the Bee; however, we ask that parents refrain from bringing infants and small children to the competition as they may distract the contestants. We also ask that flash photography only be used after the competition is completed.

Newton County School System's 2012 school-level spelling bee champions are as follows:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>CHAMPION</u>
East Newton	Marjanae Watson
Fairview	Laura Jean Dole
Flint Hill	Rainey Loftin
Heard-Mixon	Adam Moseley
Live Oak	Marcus Exantus
Livingston	Justin Henry
Mansfield	Ryan Harris
Middle Ridge	Ava Arocho
Newton County Theme School at Ficquett	Ralph E. Brown
Oak Hill	Destiny Webb
Porterdale	Kiara Amancio
Rocky Plains	Hunter Smith
South Salem	Alyssa Williams
West Newton	BJ Allison Olter
Clements	Diana Vo
Cousins	McKenzie Snyder
Indian Creek	Dylan Carter
Liberty	Courage Ogie
Veterans Memorial	KC Alvina Olter

The winner of the Newton County School System Spelling Bee will represent the county at the Regional Spelling Bee on February 25, 2012 at 10 a.m. at Putnam County Middle School in Eatonton, Georgia.
