

Orange spellers meet in hard competition

Park Avenue student wins elementary school bee

Orange's best student spellers came to the Orange Preparatory Academy's auditorium Saturday for the school district's annual Spelling Bee of Champions.

Grade-level winners for the first through seventh grades, and overall spelling-bee champions from each of Orange's seven elementary schools participated.

After several grueling rounds, seventh-grader Samara Gibbs, from Park Avenue School, won the championship. Gibbs had a hard-won battle against the competition's second runner-up, fifth-grader Mageenah Dacy from Forest Street School, and the third runner-up, Heywood Avenue sixth-grader Justin Woods.

Grade-level winners included: first-grader Tamyra Rumble of Park Avenue School; Frankben Chatonda, a second-grade student from Lincoln Avenue School; third-grader Andrea Puerto of Cleveland

Among the words students had to spell were words like inimical, xerophyte and beignet.

Street School; Cleveland Street School; Rosa Parks Central Community School fourth-grader David Ortega; Mageenah Dacy, a fifth-grader at Forest Street School; sixth-grade student Justin Woods of Heywood Avenue School; and Gibbs.

The panel of judges consisted of Ronald C. Lee, superintendent of schools, Board of Education members David Wright and Daniela Small-Bailey, and Paula Howard, deputy superintendent.

Finalists included: Claude Monville, Abigail Excellence, Breanna Stephen, Victoria Fanfair,

Muhammad Haque, Justin Wood, Bianca Simeon, Shamaya Simola, Jalen Reece, Soigne Messiah.

Also, Medina Craig, Mageenah Dacy, Maya Suarez, Breyanna Grier, Zariyah Smith, Christopher Fernandez, Micheley Andrezil, Khalil Stewart, Tajae Grant, Vince Pollidor, Joseph Awoyera, Tamyra Rumble, Macdala Jean.

Also, Rhea Davis, Ariana Thompson, Briana Torrien, Eliezer Marc, Samara Gibbs, Jayona Jones, Nyasia Holden, Andrea Puerto, Rasheed Johnson, Nahree Winn, Austin Caceres, Dawn Flood, Michael Davis, Aniyah Gomez.

Also, Joel Smith, David Ortega, Nia Thomas, Michaela Baskerville

Katherine Figueroa, Jennifer Etienne, Tamara Auguste, Myya Rendon, Frankben Chatonda, Kolby Samuels, Jefferson Clerizier, Fritzdia Bailey, Khalfani Chambers, Tamara Fadael and Silas Bond.



Photo Courtesy Orange School District

Samara Gibbs, a seventh-grade student at Park Avenue School, with her mother, holds the trophy she received as the overall winner of the Orange School District's spelling bee Saturday at the Orange Preparatory Academy.