

Governor Mifflin School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CUMRU STUDENTS EARNS PERFECT SCORE IN WORDMASTERS CHALLENGE

SHILLINGTON, PA, MAY 2011 - A student representing Cumru Elementary School recently won highest honors in this year's WordMasters Challenge – a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year.

Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the Challenge, third grader Kira Angstadt earned a perfect score in the year's third meet, held in April. In the entire country only 180 third graders achieved at this level. Others at the school who also achieved outstanding results in the meet included third graders Jacob Johnston, Madison Kopchinski and Alyssa Smith, and fourth graders Morgan Magdalinski and Callum Wilson. The students were coached in preparation for the Challenge by Lisa Smith and Kristen Swanson.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that 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 WordMasters Challenge has been administered for the past 24 years by a company based in Allendale, New Jersey, which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools. Now that all three of the year's meets have been concluded, medals and certificates will be awarded to those who achieved and/or improved the most in the course of the year.

The media is welcome to report on the WordMasters Challenge. To schedule a visit or interview, please contact Keri Morton at 610-775-1312 or kmorton@gmsd.k12.pa.us.

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