



The School District of Osceola County, FL
Terry Andrews, Superintendent

Press Release (English and Spanish)

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Westside K-8 Student Is A Top WordMaster

A student representing Westside K-8 in Osceola County recently won the highest honor in this year's WordMasters Challenge, a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually. Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the Challenge, fifth grader Billy Fortin earned a perfect score in the year's first of three meets held in December. In the entire country, only 130 fifth graders earned perfect scores. Other fifth grade students at the school who also achieved outstanding results in the meet included Lianna Cote, Jarelys Torres, Max Boyers, Geraldine Dominicci, Angel Gozalez, Ashley Roman, and Katie Amato. The school's students were coached in preparation for the Challenge by teachers Theresa Bobola and Daniel Torres.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words which are 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.

Billy and his classmates will participate in two more WordMasters national meets during the coming months, and medals and certificates will be awarded in June to those who achieve and/or improve the most in the course of the year. The WordMasters Challenge has been administered for the past 25 years by a company based in Allendale, New Jersey, which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools.