

January 16, 2025

Hello Lake Bluff Families!

What's the buzz? The Grand Final Lake Bluff School spelling bee was held last week, congratulations to all of the students who participated!! We are so proud of the composure, courage, and sportsmanship displayed by all competitors during the bees! The 1st and 2nd grade bees ended with the Grade Level bee. Below are all of the grade level spelling bee winners, in order from first place onward, per grade.

1st:

Hugh B.
Luna H.
Avi P.
Eva P.
Emory F.

2nd:

Eunjoon C.
Amalia A.
Addison O.D.
Zachary N.
Amelia H.

3rd Grade:

Esther E.
Clara H.V.
Henry H.

4th:

Calla B.
Olivia G.
Emilia M.

5th:

Oscar G.
Seamus L.
Sammy H.

6th:

Olivia D.
Evelyn W.
Maya R.

The Lake Bluff School Spelling bee winners are:

1st place: Maya R.
2nd place: Sammy H.
3rd place: Calla B.
4th place: Olivia D.
5th place: Oscar G.

CONGRATULATIONS!! We are so proud of all of you! Maya R. will be heading to the Regional Spelling Bee in February, and will be competing against other students from the Milwaukee area, with the opportunity to advance to the Wisconsin State Spelling Bee, held in March in Madison. Best of luck, Salubrious Speller!

Math Olympiad and 6th grade MathCounts met this week. The third Math Olympiad challenge was held this week. There are five challenges given throughout the year, where students compete against others from across the country, to try to attain high scores on the tests. MathCounts is a middle school level competition series that our 6th graders, (as well as 7th and 8th grade SIS mathletes,) are participating in this year. MathCounts “mathletes” have the opportunity to compete at the school, chapter, state and national levels.

WordMasters will meet again the week of January 28th. Packets were handed out this week, and word nerds should work on them during guided study at school, or at home. The next test will be held the week of February 3rd.

Sixth Grade Coding will meet again the week of January 28th. Students are welcome to work on the self-led code.org program during their free time or at home.

Battle of the Book teams met last week, and held some practice battles! We will have more practice battles before the real battles begin in February. Keep reading bookworms, this is the last month to finish your books!

Signed agreements must be returned **ASAP**, if they have not yet been turned in. Please review [this agreement](#) with your student. We ask that your student commits to staying with their team for the duration of the school year, reading their share of books, and being present during the school battles and possibly the regional battle if their team advances. In-person school battles (no Zoom or video calls allowed) will be held during February 2025, and the Regional battle will be held in the evening on **April 9th, 2025**. If you know your student will not be present on April 9th, he or she should not plan on being part of a team, as the other team members will be greatly disadvantaged by their absence at the regional battle. In the spring, we will celebrate the end of the Battle of the Books season with a much-loved pizza party!

Attached is a copy of the [book list](#), which can also be found on the hallway bulletin board outside of room 201. Books can be found in room 201 or at any local library.

Other information:

There is a free “open house” being held tomorrow, Friday January 18th, at the UWM Planetarium, from 1-3pm. Celebrate the planetarium’s birthday with free cake and live indoor stargazing shows! For more information, please click [here](#). The next UWM Planetarium show will be “The Scale of the Universe” starting on Friday January 24.

Learn how to put the vastness of space into perspective! Tickets are selling out in advance!! For tickets and more information, please click [here](#).

Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted ([WATG](#)) is holding a FREE workshop for gifted and talented students in grades 4th - 12th, on **January 18th 2025**, 9-11am, at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Brown Deer. While students are in their session, caregivers will have the opportunity to connect with other caregivers of gifted children and participate in a social and emotional session with Jackie and Dal Drummer, WATG Board Members and [SENG](#) (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) facilitators. To register to attend, click [here](#).

Is your child interested in trying their hand at directing and filmmaking, Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association ([WEMTA](#)) is holding a [contest](#), open to all Wisconsin students, to create a "book trailer" video! The book trailer must represent a Battle of the Books book (book list for [elementary](#), [middle](#), and [high school](#)) or a [Golden Archer Nominee](#) book. Submissions are due **January 17, 2025**. For more information and rules / details, please click [here](#). Battle of the Books bookworms should continue to read, and work their way through their list of books. Battle of the Books will meet again in January, due to spelling bees and Winter Break.

UWM's Saturday Academy is an academic program for middle school students in the **6th**, 7th and 8th grades that meets for six Saturdays. Each semester, students participate in a total of nine different classes focusing on one of these subject areas: math, reading, English, science, STEM, computers, foreign language, arts, and/or career-related classes. Curriculum reinforces basic skills and competencies through various hands-on activities in and out of the classroom, group projects, classroom instructions and/or presentations. The program costs \$125 and is limited to 75 students each semester. For more information click [here](#).

We continue to consider and plan how we can serve and challenge our Lake Bluff students, so check our resource [website](#) for additional information and ideas for enrichment at home. Please email [Ms. Davauer](#) with any questions. We wish everyone all the best, and look forward to working with your students this year!

Sincerely,

The Advanced Learning Department

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Current Advanced Learning Enrichment Program Opportunities

Battle of the Books (BOB)

Grade level: 4th-6th graders

Start Dates: The week of September 23rd

Check-in Dates: Monthly during guided study

Duration: September-March

Description: Teams consist of 3 students (from the same grade level). Each team is given a list of 45 books to read. Teams meet monthly to discuss the books they've read, compare notes, and prepare for upcoming competitions, known as "Battles". School Battles occur in February, followed by the Regional Battle on April 9, 2025. All students are invited to a spring pizza party to celebrate their hard work throughout the year.

Math Olympiad Practice

Grade level: 4th & 5th graders

Dates: Weekly during math small groups starting the week of October 21st

Duration: October-March

Description: Students will work on a variety of problem-solving skills focused on preparing for the Math Olympiad competitions. There will be five meets throughout the year. All students are invited to a spring pizza party to celebrate their hard work throughout the year.

Math Counts

Grade level: 6th graders

Dates: Weekly during math small groups, starting the week of October 21st

Duration: October-March

Description: MathCounts is a middle school level competition series that our 6th graders, as well as 7th and 8th grade SIS mathletes, will participate in this year. MathCounts mathletes have the opportunity to compete at the school, chapter, state and national levels. All students are invited to a spring pizza party to celebrate their hard work throughout the year.

Coding

Grade level: 6th graders

Dates: Once a month during guided study, starting the week of October 7th

Duration: October-April

Description: Students will work independently on an Express Coding program offered through code.org. Students can use a fun and engaging platform that will help them progress through Computer Science fundamentals at their own pace. This will help students develop their logic and computational thinking, problem-solving, programming concepts, and digital citizenship. Students may present a final project to the class.

Scripps Spelling Bee

Grade level: 1st - 6th graders

Dates: the month of December

Description: Students can participate in a classroom spelling bee, and potentially continue on to a Grade Level Spelling Bee, and finally a School Spelling Bee. One student from Lake Bluff will go on to a Regional Spelling bee, held the week of February 18 2025, and further advancement up to a National Spelling Bee is possible.