

March 27, 2015 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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Shelburne Students Sweep VFW Essay Competition

(STAUNTON, VA – March 27, 2015) The annual Patriot's Pen Essay Awards Ceremony took place at the Staunton Public Library on March 21. The Thomas-Fields VFW Post 7814 judged over sixty essays from the following local schools: Stuarts Draft Middle School, Beverly Manor Middle School, Ridgeview Christian School, and Shelburne Middle School. First, second, and third prizes all went to seventh grade students from Shelburne Middle School.

The essay's theme, "*Why I Appreciate America's Veterans*," was open to students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The topic drew in such a large number of responses that it required the VFW to ask for additional judges from the community.

Alice Cormier won first place at the local level. She was also invited to the district competition in Lynchburg, where she was awarded third place. Laura Craft's essay won her the honor of a second place finish. Reese Goodson rounded out the Shelburne sweep by taking home third place.

All three ladies received plaques and monetary awards. They were very grateful to the Thomas-Fields Post 7814, The Ladies Auxiliary, and all American Veterans.



VFW Essay Contest Winners: Laura Craft (2nd place), Reese Goodson (3rd place), and Alice Cormier (1st place) of Shelburne Middle School.

Staunton City Schools Annual Math Tournament Draws Crowd

(STAUNTON, VA – March 27, 2015) Roughly 300 parents, friends, relatives, school board members and faculty filled the bleachers at Bessie Weller Elementary School during Staunton City Schools' annual "24 Challenge Tournament." The animated crowd cheered on 48 students from Staunton's three elementary schools: T.C. McSwain, A.R. Ware, and Bessie Weller. The 24 Challenge game hones elementary level math skills including fact fluency, computation, and problem-solving.

Interested grade 3-5 students from Staunton's elementary schools have been practicing for months in preparation for this week's exciting tournament. The gymnasium full of "mathletes" had to quickly solve problems while under pressure. Students were given 4 numbers on a card, then had to derive ways for them to total 24, using all four numbers and any mathematical operation. For example, one student seeing a card with the numbers 6, 3, 2, and 12 might solve the problem by calling out: six times three equals eighteen; eighteen times two equals thirty-six; thirty-six minus twelve equals 24. Another student with the same numbers could state his answer of: twelve divided by two is six; six times three is eighteen, eighteen plus six is twenty-four.

After competing in three fast-paced rounds, four students made it to the final: Caitie Spielman and Emma Witt from Ware, and Ivan Einselen and Lucas Esperon from Bessie Weller. When the six-minute final round was over, Ivan Einselen from Bessie Weller emerged as the champion.

The top four 24 Challenge players from each school, along with alternates, are now qualified for the regional tournament to be held at Wilson Middle School on April 16. Those who will be participating in the regional competition are: from T.C. McSwain -- Ben Farley, Emma Garletts, Kendal Brown, Sophia Schwaner and Trinity Nolette; from A.R. Ware – Caitie Spielman, Emma Witt, Landyn Coggins, Lauren Austin, Ta'Nia Fields and Timothy Conner; from Bessie Weller -- Ameiya Robinson, Ivan Einselen, Jeffrey Claytor, Lila Steiner, Lucas Esperon and Serenity Bunch.



Ivan Einselen of Bessie Weller proudly displays the trophy he was awarded for winning the SCS 24 Challenge Tournament.