



# 47<sup>th</sup> annual SPELLING BEE Prince William County

## Top spellers to face off at regional bee March 4

Over 50 of the region's top spellers will compete in the 47th annual Prince William Regional Spelling Bee on Tuesday, March 4, including the second- and fourth-place finishers from last year's bee.

The young spellers, representing schools across Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, will compete for the right to represent the community at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in late May.

The spellers, pictured on these two pages, all won elementary or middle school spelling bees or home-school association bees to advance to the regional

bee, presented by InsideNoVa/Prince William and the Bel-Air Woman's Club.

Tuesday's regional bee will be at Gar-Field High School at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. Admission is free. The event will be covered by InsideNoVa, with complete details and photos online and in next week's edition of InsideNoVa/Prince William.

Two-time defending champion Siya Sampath is not competing this year, as she was eliminated in the Ronald Reagan Middle School Bee by Amaanat Banwait, who finished fourth in last year's regional bee. Sampath, who is the alternate speller from Reagan

Middle, previously advanced to the regional bee from J.W. Alvey Elementary School.

Also returning this year is last year's runner-up, Saranna KC of Pennington Traditional School.

Three 7-year-olds are competing in this year's bee: Nathan Chen of Buckland Mills Elementary School, Rishaan Ahuja of J.W. Alvey and Heela Kaakar of John D. Jenkins Elementary School. Two 8-year-olds and six 9-year-olds are also competing.

The competition is open to students through the eighth grade.

### ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

**Ghersey Anor**

Grade: 6

Age: 12

Alternate: Noah Porter



### ANTIETAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Nurina Joyowidarbo**

Grade: 5

Age: 11

Alternate: Joey Nguyen



### ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Imran Rahimi**

Grade: 5

Age: 10

Alternate: Theodore Baker



### BALDWIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Jayden Deffo Tchinda**

Grade: 3

Age: 9

Alternate: Aksel Moussi



### BALDWIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**Noreen Lisco**

Grade: 6

Age: 11

Alternate: Christopher Onate



### BELMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Noelle Herchert**

Grade: 5

Age: 11

Alternate: Leola Turner



### BRISTOW RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Ali Ibrahim**

Grade: 5

Age: 10

Alternate: Sadhikaa Cheviry



### BUCKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Nathan Chen**

Grade: 2

Age: 7

Alternate: Noah Park



### BULL RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Benjamin Stanton**

Grade: 6

Age: 13

Alternate: Hrisheet Kalepu



### C.A. SINCLAIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Cassandra Walker**

Grade: 3

Age: 9

Alternate: Angelina Lee



### COVINGTON - HARPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Vincent Perez**

Grade: 5

Age: 11

Alternate: Madison Jones



### E.H. MARSTELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Safwana Ora**

Grade: 6

Age: 12

Alternate: Thomas Jensen



### ELIZABETH VAUGHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Abdulai Kamara**

Grade: 3

Age: 8

Alternate: Natalia Quinteros Ramos



### FEATHERSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Kofi Agyei Barima**

Grade: 5

Age: 10

Alternate: Kaynen Shomo-Echevarria



### GAINESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Christine Fu**

Grade: 6

Age: 11

Alternate: Jonathan Rutz



### GEORGE CARR ROUND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Danika Patel**

Grade: 3

Age: 9

Alternate: Derion Arnold



### GEORGE G. TYLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Roman Mulvihill**

Grade: 5

Age: 10

Alternate: Christian Sanchez



### GEORGE P. MULLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Zyaire Green**

Grade: 5

Age: 10

Alternate: Tara Childress



### GLENKIRK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Thomas Tignor**

Grade: 5

Age: 11

Alternate: Safal Nepal

