



48th annual Prince William Regional SPELLING BEE

48th Regional Spelling Bee scheduled for March 10

Two-time Prince William Regional Spelling Bee champion Siya Sampath will square off against 52 other spellers in the 48th annual Prince William Regional Spelling Bee on Tuesday, March 10.

The young spellers pictured on these pages won school spelling bees across Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. They will compete for the right to represent the community at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in late May in Washington.

The spellers 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.

Sampath, a seventh-grader at Ronald Reagan Middle School, won the regional bee in 2023 and 2024, when she was at J.W. Alvey Elementary School. She advanced to the quarterfinals of the national bee both years. Last year, she did not qualify

for the regional bee.

Last year's regional winner, Vincent Chu of George Hampton Middle School, is no longer eligible for the bee, which is only open to students through the eighth grade.

Two 6-year-olds are competing in this year's bee: Suqaina Khan of John D. Jenkins Elementary School and Viaan Shrestha of Innovation Elementary School. Both are first-graders. Six 8-year-olds and eight 9-year-olds also are among this year's spellers.

ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

Simeon Belete

Age: 12

Grade: 6

Alternate: Noah Porter



ANTIETAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Viet Nguyen

Age: 10

Grade: 5

Alternate: Efren Huh



ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sabawoon Ameree

Age: 10

Grade: 5

Alternate: Mckenzie Reid



BALDWIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Aksel Moussi

Age: 9

Grade: 3

Alternate: Sana Haqshenas



BALDWIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Michael Turner

Age: 12

Grade: 6

Alternate: Jostin Macareno Espinoza



BELMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bruce Urrutia

Age: 10

Grade: 4

Alternate: Leola Turner



BRISTOW RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bennett Pappa

Age: 8

Grade: 2

Alternate: Aizah Qazi



BUCKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Noah Park

Age: 10

Grade: 4

Alternate: Zander Pangilinan



BULL RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hardhika "Candy" Kalepu

Age: 11

Grade: 6

Alternate: Hrisheet Kalepu



C.A. SINCLAIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jacob Noria Becerra

Age: 11

Grade: 5

Alternate: Sarah Tafader



COVINGTON - HARPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Naiya Smith

Age: 11

Grade: 5

Alternate: Charlotte Carlot



E.H. MARSTELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dhanush Baliyan

Age: 11

Grade: 6

Alternate: Naafe Hussain



ELIZABETH VAUGHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Abdulai Kamara

Age: 9

Grade: 4

Alternate: Isabella Lemus-Rubio



ELLIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Adam Richard

Age: 9

Grade: 4

Alternate: James Nguyen



FEATHERSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Isabel Allen

Age: 11

Grade: 5

Alternate: Natalia Parra



GAINESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ethan Thompson

Age: 13

Grade: 8

Alternate: Allen Ma



GEORGE CARR ROUND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elaina Parker

Age: 9

Grade: 3

Alternate: Emma Anderson



GEORGE G. TYLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Abigail Joung

Age: 10

Grade: 5

Alternate: Narjis Belaizi



GEORGE M. HAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Nisha Sagar

Age: 12

Grade: 6

Alternate: Lee Hua Comar-Xu



GEORGE P. MULLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Noah Wolelaw

Age: 10

Grade: 4

Alternate: Zander Bartkowiak



GLENKIRK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Keanu Shirsolkar

Age: 10

Grade: 5

Alternate: Rachel Dsouza

