



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Paul Swinford 603-497-2361 ext. 27

Goffstown 5th Grader Wins Villa Augustina School Geography Bee

GOFFSTOWN, NH – Jessica Langlois, a Villa Augustina 5th grader from Goffstown, won the school geography bee on January 9 and a chance to compete for a \$25,000 college scholarship.

Before more than 100 cheering friends and classmates, Jessica bested ten 4th to 8th grade classroom champions in a battle of wits featuring 25 questions testing map reading skills and knowledge of U.S. and international geography, history and world events. Students were eliminated from the competition after a second incorrect answer.

The contest began with an exercise in U.S. map reading skills featuring 2006 unemployment data. Students had to correctly identify a state when asked about the statistical data of its neighbors or region.

Langlois and Manchester 8th grader Anastasia Yogas squared off in the final round. Jessica won the competition by correctly answering “magma” when asked, “What is the term for melted rock under the Earth’s surface?”

Sarah Beattie, a 4th grader from Goffstown, finished third. Villa teacher Jane Bergeron, who moderated the event, said that two elementary students finishing in the top three bodes well for the program in coming years.

“Students deserve a lot of credit for participating in this competition. It is not easy to prepare for,” Bergeron said. “You can’t just sit down and memorize maps. The questions integrate current events, geography, geology, natural resources, wildlife, religion and history. Most adults, with our casual knowledge of these subjects, could answer only a fraction of these questions.”

The Villa’s ten classroom champions who competed in the school-wide Bee included: eighth graders Grace Pope of Francestown and Anastasia Yogas of Manchester; 7th graders Megan Callanan of Goffstown and Elric Case of Dunbarton; 6th graders Byrne Cronin of Goffstown and Madeleine Bergeron of New Boston; 5th graders Jessica Langlois and Spivey McLane of Goffstown; and 4th graders Sarah Beattie and Siobhan Pelletier of Goffstown.

more

Langlois' next step in the quest for the national \$25,000 college scholarship prize is a written exam to qualify for the regional Bee in Keene. The National Geographic Bee is an educational program of the National Geographic Society meant to promote the teaching and study of geography in 4th to 8th Grades.

You can test your knowledge by taking a quiz featuring ten questions from past Bees on the National Geographic Society web site, www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee.

Villa Augustina School, founded in 1918, is an independent Catholic school serving 248 students from 13 communities in pre-K to 8th grades.

##



Photo Caption: Villa Augustina School Junior High teacher Jane Bergeron and Principal Jack Daniels congratulate geography bee champion Jessica Langlois of Goffstown (right) and runner up Anastasia Yogas of Manchester (left).