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Tucker Student Wins Elementary Oratorical Contest Langston Road Wins 2nd, Quail Run 3rd



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Seventeen fifth-graders from the Houston County School District’s gifted and talented education classes competed in the Elementary School Oratorical Contest on March 6, 2020, at the central office in Perry. The topic this year was, “Just Imagine a World without Boundaries.”

The 2019-2020 top orators are:

- ★ 1st place – Livia Herbst, Tucker Elementary, Coach Victoria Mendoza;
- ★ 2nd place – Katie Abara, Langston Road Elementary, Coach Christie Lehman; and
- ★ 3rd place – Dalton Wiggins, Quail Run Elementary, Coach Kasey Hopkins.

Cash awards of \$25, \$20 and \$15 were awarded to the first- through third-place winners. They were invited to present their speeches at the March 10 Board of Education meeting.

Two honorable mentions were also announced:

- ★ John Warren, Lake Joy Elementary, Coach Traci Shipp; and
- ★ Kyndall Scott, Eagle Springs Elementary, Coach Kristina Cummings.

The top five winners are pictured (from left): Warren, Wiggins, Abara, Herbst, and Scott.

This year a special award was presented to an orator who experienced stage fright for the first attempt, but she tried again at the end of the rounds and completed her speech. Bianca Alcantar, Parkwood Elementary, Coach Tracy Walker-Brown, received a Perseverance Award.

Fifth-graders create a two-minute speech to present at school and vie to qualify for the district competition. School representatives are selected by a panel of judges at their school. The top district orators are chosen by four judges using a scoresheet. Judges consider each orator for his or her poise, speech content and depth, delivery, presentation, and overall effectiveness.

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The Director of Gifted Education, Jan Jacobsen, said. "Our Oratorical Contest encourages students to write and revise their own speech, practice it several times, present it to their teacher, and cross their fingers to be selected as the school representative orator. This opportunity involves them throughout the whole process and encourages them to be academic risk-takers through engagement, enthusiasm, and enjoyment. Many thanks to our 5th grade teachers who serve as oratorical coaches, our district judges for their time and expertise, and our Board of Education for their support of this event."

For more information, please contact Jacobsen at Jan.Jacobsen@hcbe.net or 478-988-6200, ext. 10393.

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