

CREEKSIDE SPELLING BEE

K-I-N-D-N-E-S-S, kindness. While the word kindness was never read aloud as a word to be spelled at annual Creekside Spelling Bee, acts of kindness reverberated around the room by all of the participants. On Thursday, October 21st, over 50 Fifth Graders and 50 Sixth Graders participated in the longstanding tradition of the Spelling Bee.

From the moment students walked in to the doors, Mr. Matthew Brown Creekside Sixth Grade Teacher and Spelling Bee Coordinator, made sure to create a comfortable and fun environment for students to do their personal best. Mr. Brown explained to students that, although the Spelling Bee *is* a competition, kindness and empathy were the most important skills to have that day. This could be seen through students giving each other high fives, fist bumps, golf claps, finger naps, pats on the back, sharing words of congratulations as well as words of consolation when students misspelled a word.



While spelling bees have been taking place since as early as 1850, most of us are familiar with the Courier Journal Spelling Bee, later renamed as the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which started in 1925. In recent years, the Scripps National Spelling Bee has aired on national networks such as ESPN. The Consolidated Word List for the Scripps National Spelling Bee has over 24,000 words for students to study!



The word list used at Creekside didn't quite reach 24,000 words, but each grade level's spelling bee went many rounds as students demonstrated their mastery of the English language. Rounds were facilitated by three wonderful parent volunteers who ensured that students heard the word correctly, were given information about the word and listened to each word for the correct spelling.

The top three 6th graders and top two 5th graders will go on to compete in the SEMMLAA competition on Saturday, November 13th in Milan at the middle school. Representing Dexter in the 6th Grade will be Kadence

Chan, Liam Grimm and Maggie Meek. In 5th Grade, Caroline Fealy and Grayson Hardesty will represent Creekside. We are sure that their classmates will be cheering them on and providing fist bumps from afar. Now *that* is

K-I-N-D-N-E-S-S!