

## **LMS Student to Compete in State Spelling Bee**

An eighth grader from Lincoln Middle School will be one of two students representing Alameda County in the State Junior High Spelling Bee later this spring.

Hazel Purins, 13, came in 5<sup>th</sup> at the island's Alameda Spelling Bee on February 3. She went on to take second place at the ninth annual Alameda County Junior High Spelling Bee on March 10. More than 50 students, hailing from 10 Alameda County school districts, competed in that event.

Purins missed first place at the county competition when she misspelled "condescension." Anisha Rao, of Dublin Unified School District, was able to spell that word and so secured top spot. As the top competitors, both Rao and Purins will now compete in the California State Spelling Bee in San Rafael on May 5. Purins is the first AUSD student to make it this far.

Adriana Argyriou, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Haight Elementary School, won 4<sup>th</sup> in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Alameda County Elementary Spelling Bee. She was runner-up in the Alameda Spelling Bee in February.

In an email to Hazel's family, Superintendent Sean McPhetridge shared how as an elementary school student he won a spelling bee by correctly spelling ichthyology. "Competing at this level is something for which Hazel should be very proud," he wrote. "I am personally grateful knowing that Hazel admirably represents Lincoln Middle School, AUSD, Alameda, Alameda County, and her family in this way."

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