Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

I can still remember my 5th grade year participating in the elementary spelling bee. I had lucked out and made it to the final round versus a 6th grade girl who was known for her ability to spell tough words. We began the spell off, fielding words from the more difficult part of the list. My luck continued and I found myself in the enviable position of just needing to spell the next word for the win!

And then several things unfolded in the next few seconds. Out of my peripheral vision, I saw the window to the gym door darken with the silhouette of my dad, who had been teaching high school band at the time and had been covered by another teacher so he could see the final moments of the spelling bee. Mrs. Edberg, the elementary music teacher, was announcing the words to spell. I saw her move her finger to the next word on the list. She looked up with a knowing smile and, I thought, even a hint that the next word might be in my favor.

And then she said the word as if I must surely be a shoo-in for the win... M-U-S-I-C-I-A-N! I suddenly felt the weight of expectation in the crowded gymnasium and could feel the adrenaline rush set in. I jumped at the word and delivered what I thought was the correct spelling, only to skip the second “i” toward the finish. Yes, it really happened that way...my dad and my elementary music teacher had just witnessed one of the most spectacular crash and burn moments ever in the history of the competition! Two M-U-S-I-C-I-A-N-S by profession could not rescue me in the big moment. My 6th grade opponent did not waste any time putting me away to win the match. I am pretty sure she even felt sorry for me that I had to go out that way. My peripheral vision caught the slumping silhouette of my dad. The agony of defeat was palpable.

I share this true account with you to inspire you to attend the Community Spelling Bee on Tuesday, March 5th in the Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts at 6:00pm. (See the linked event flyer) The Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation is sponsoring the event to raise additional funds for our One Community One Book program. I promise there will be many nail-biting moments to observe throughout the competition as well as humorous interludes and opportunities to engage with the event. I will be participating with the Community Hive and there will be additional hives for students, teachers, and principals. It is sure to be a fun event for folks of all ages. Buy your tickets and join the cause for building your child’s Literacy skills. The event begins at 6:00pm and the ticket price includes snacks and mocktails in the GLCFA gallery.

Come join in the spelling fun and drama!

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent

Gull Lake Community Schools

www.gulllakecs.org
Updates

No school on February 23rd for Mid-Winter Break.

Join us for a family FUNdraising event and watch the teams S.P.E.L.L. their way to the championship!

Online or cash donations at the event to support your favorite team!

MARCH 5th
6:00 p.m.

Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts

EDITION

The Student Hive
The Teacher Hive
The Principal Hive
The Community Hive

Ticket includes Appetizers & Mocktails

Tickets
$12.00
GLCSF.org
Students FREE