

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PLACER COUNTY SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS ANNOUNCED**

**Auburn, CA** – Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Placer County Spelling Bee.

2019 Oral Champions:

4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Ashleen K. Gill	Orchard Ranch Elementary	(Roseville City School District)
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Aaron Baur	Stoneridge Elementary	(Roseville City School District)
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Hosanna Teketel	Antelope Crossing Middle School	(Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District)
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade &amp; Grand Finals Champion</b>	<b>Sarah Yee</b>	<b>Granite Oaks Middle School</b>	<b>(Rocklin Unified School District)</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Abhinav Sharma	Granite Oaks Middle School	(Rocklin Unified School District)

“We’re proud of the academic achievements of our students in Placer County,” said Superintendent Garbolino-Mojica. “The students who participated in the spelling bee are the top 10 students in their grade level in the county and are all winners.”

Approximately 250 students in grades four through eight competed in the Placer County written examination in January, with the top 10 scorers moving on to the Oral Finals on March 13 at the Placer County Office of Education’s Seavey Center in Rocklin, CA. Emeritus Professor of English at Sierra College and retired Placer County Superintendent Alan Shuttleworth once again served as the “Voice of the Spelling Bee.” Mr. Shuttleworth pronounced the words the students had to spell correctly while Placer County Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer Hicks and Placer County Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Colleen Slattery served as Co-Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Both 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Champion Abhinav Sharma and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Champion and Grand Finals Champion Sarah Yee will represent Placer County at the California State Junior High Spelling Bee on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Miller Creek Middle School in San Rafael. Additionally, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Champion Aaron Baur and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Champion Hosanna Teketel will represent Placer County at the California State Elementary Spelling Bee on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the San Joaquin County Office of Education's Wentworth Education Center.

"Abhinav has been excited about spelling since he was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade," said Abhinav's father Ravi Sharma. "He competed in spelling bee competitions over the past six years and even placed in the top 10 at the state level previously. Spelling is his passion and legacy."

**FOR MEDIA – Photo and interview opportunity**

The 2019 Placer County Spelling Bee Champions will be recognized by the Placer County Board of Education on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6 p.m. at 360 Nevada Street in Auburn in the Burns Conference Room.



*(Left to right: Sarah Yee, Abhinav Sharma, Ashleen Gill, Hosanna Teketel and Aaron Baur.)*

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**About Placer County Office of Education**

*Situated in the Sierra Foothills, Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) serves over 68,000 students in sixteen individual school districts across Placer County. In order to serve the students of Placer County, PCOE provides an array of programs and service to meet student needs. This task is accomplished by providing high quality specialized programs for students; recruiting, retaining, and developing highly qualified staff; and monitoring fiscal accountability and expenditures of our tax. For more information, please visit [www.placercoe.k12.ca.us](http://www.placercoe.k12.ca.us).*

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