

Thanks for making spelling bee a success

On the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 13, the Elks Lodge in Wakefield was a buzz with activity surrounding the South Kingstown CARES Adult Spelling Bee. This is the 14th year CARES has held the event, an evening of friendly but fierce competition that brings together spellers from our local schools and all corners of our community.

Twelve teams competed for the title of champions including the Curtis Corner Killer Bees, the Matunuck Manta Bees, the Wakefield Wizards, the West Kingstown Hawks, The South Kingstown School Committee, The Elks Lodge, The Miss Spellers, The Spellbinders, Mama C's Bees, Marinelli & Sons Electric, DiStefano Brothers Construction and The Original Spellcheckers. This year the Matunuck Manta Rays buzzed to the top of the hive for first place, edging out second place winners from the Elks Lodge and the School Committee who took third place.

The South Kingstown CARES Board of Directors and staff would like to thank our hosts of the evening, Kim Mather, retired principal of West Kingston Elementary who emceed the event and Denise Colombino, a

Math Coach in the SK Schools for being our Queen Bee. Our distinguished judges included Kristen Stringfellow, superintendent of SK Schools, Nancy Burroughs, a founding member of the SK CARES organization, Peggy Noble, a retired SK teacher and CARES mentor as well as Bryant DaCruz, SK town councilor. We'd also like to extend our thanks to Pauline Lisi, assistant superintendent of SK Schools and Deborah Kelso, SK town councilor for lending a hand during the event.

This event wouldn't have been possible without team-sponsorships from the participants as well as raffle donations from local businesses. Special sponsors of the event include Belmont Market, Graphic Expressions, The Elks Lodge, Ocean State Endodontics, Randall Realtors, South County Sand & Gravel, Stop & Shop, Sweenor's Chocolates, Tase Rite, Umelt and Wakefield Pediatrics whose generosity helped make this year's Spelling Bee a great success. All funds raised go directly to the volunteer programs CARES coordinates.

SK CARES is a vital part of the community, helping both students and teachers throughout the South

Kingstown School District through our four core programs: Classroom Volunteers, Mentoring, Homework Club and assisting at the SKHS Career and College Center. Last school year, over 325 volunteers gave thousands of hours in classrooms at our four elementary schools, two middle schools, the inclusionary preschool program and at South Kingstown High School. Our after school Homework Club program provided support for students in the elementary and middle schools and our Mentor Program paired students of all ages with a caring, supportive role model.

We are grateful to all who participated in this year's Spelling Bee and to those who came out to cheer on the spellers. The continued support of our community and the district helps us make a difference one child at a time. For more information about how to get involved with SK CARES and the South Kingstown public schools as a volunteer or a mentor, visit skcares.org or call 360-1304.

The South Kingstown CARES
Board of Directors & Staff

TEAM & EVENT SPONSORS

Belmont Market ~ Broad Rock Middle School ~ Graphic Expressions ~ The Elks Lodge ~ Ocean State Endodontics ~ Randall Realtors ~ South County Sand & Gravel ~ Stop & Shop ~ Sweenor's Chocolates ~ Tase Rite ~ Umelt ~ Wakefield Pediatrics

BALLOON & SILENT AUCTION DONORS

All That Matters ~ Bagelz of Wakefield ~ Bone Dry Dog Grooming ~ Brewed Awakenings ~ Caf Bar ~ Celestial Cafe ~ Charlie O's ~ China Garden ~ Chop House Grille ~ CrossFit South Kingstown ~ DeQuattro Orthodontics ~ Decor by the Shore ~ Dr. Deborah Fuller, DMD ~ El Fuego ~ Gansett Wraps ~ Geaber's Liquors ~ Green Line Apothecary ~ Ichiban Karate & Fitness ~ JL Photography ~ Launch ~ Melissa Gamma ~ Matunuck Oyster Bar ~ Mews Tavern ~ Pasquale's ~ Purple Cow ~ River Bend Athletic Club ~ Sandy Paws ~ Sons of Liberty Spirits ~ Spa Inspire ~ Spectrum Studio ~ Whaler's Brewing Co ~ URI Athletics