

5/1/2012

St. James students win highest honors in WordMasters Challenge

Two St. James School, Red Bank students recently achieved top honors in the WordMasters Challenge national language arts contest for students grades three through eight. Fifth grader Anna Cleary and seventh grader Bella Murrer, competing in the contest's Blue Division, earned perfect scores during the second meet of the Challenge, an annual competition that tests verbal acuity and reasoning.

The Indianapolis-based WordMasters Challenge, begun in 1988, asks its nearly 250,000 competitors to complete analogies based on special vocabulary lists. The students are divided into two divisions per grade level and vie in three 20-minute meets held each December, February and April. After all three meets, the 100 top schools and 200 top students are awarded certificates and their names are published.



Master Wordsmiths –St. James School students excelled in the Annual WordMasters Challenge competition which tests verbal acuity and reasoning. Seated from left: Anna Cleary and Catherine Escueta; standing from left: Bella Murrer, Katie Cole, Nick Hanlon, and Sarah Milne. Not pictured: Sara Hough. *Courtesy photo*

The perfect scores achieved by Cleary and Murrer were matched by only 224 fifth graders and 97 seventh graders nationwide. Other St. James students who excelled in the contest included fifth grader Nick Hanlon; sixth grader Sarah Milne; seventh graders Catherine Escueta and Katie Cole; and eighth grader Sarah Hough. The team coach was St. James School librarian Elizabeth Powell.