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A novel approach



Melissa Krause/Williston Herald

Six-year-old Emma Shui was the winner of The Purple School's 3rd annual Spanish Bee on Tuesday at Trinity Christian School.

Concurso de ortografía

Trinity Christian kids stretch their bilingual muscles in The Purple School's Spanish Bee

BY MELISSA KRAUSE
WILLISTON HERALD

WILLISTON — Early childhood is prime time to begin learning a second language. And with a growing multicultural community, there has been an initiative for language elective courses in area schools.

In an opportunity to test the skills they have learned, students came to Trinity Christian School on Tuesday to partake in The Purple School's 3rd Annual Spanish Bee. The number of students participating in the Bee have grown since last year.

"We are gathering momentum," said the organizer of the event, Joyce Shui.

Sitting in attendance was 3-year-old, Quincy Vohs, to support her older sister, Willow, who was competing. She has already begun learning the basics of Spanish. Very proudly she began to rattle off her numbers "uno, dos, tres...quince."

The event began with a "Bienvenido. Me llamo es Ms. Joyce," as she explained to the parents in attendance how the bee would operate. Last year's winner, Julia Shui, came up to demonstrate what the judge was expecting.

The order in which the students would answer was chosen at random. The children would be judged on their comprehension of naming the proper animal, color, body part, and parts of conversation in Spanish.

Williston local Silvia Milena Zubke, originally hailing from Bogota, Columbia presided as judge for the third year. "Como se dice cat

en español?" asked Zubke. "Gato," answered Julia.

The students started out impressively strong but began being eliminated as the questions became more difficult. The one question that stumped many of the students was "how do you say maroon in Spanish?"

Little sister of last year's winner, 6-year-old Emma Shui, claimed victory after completing 39 rounds. When asked how she was able to remember so many words she bashfully laughed "my sister taught me when we are driving in the car."

Fourth-grader Isaac Haugen completed 38 rounds and took second place; giving Emma a run for her money. Third grader Rebeca Cruz won third place, successfully completing 30 rounds, which is eight more than last year's victor.

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Melissa Krause/Williston Herald

Quincy Vohs and Emma Shui at the Spanish Bee on Thursday at Trinity Christian School

SPANISH BEE: Hoping to expand next year

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With many more spanish speakers in the community, it's beneficial if more children are involved in learning to communicate with a diverse culture.

"It has been scientifically

proven to open their minds," Shui said. "Students are better at math and science."

Shui says she looks to expand the Spanish Bee next year, hopefully incorporating a beginner bee and more advanced bee. The children paid no mind to that, though. After certifi-

cates, gifts, and raffles were complete, and everything quieted down a bit, older sister Julia told Emma, "congratulations."

Emma was beaming with the win.

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