

Birchwood School
Academic Awards and Achievements
2010-2011

Awards in Academic Excellence

Midwest Academic Talent Search

This year the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University conducted its 28th annual Midwest Academic Talent Search for third through eighth grade academically talented students. Students qualified for the Search by attaining outstanding achievement in the math and/or verbal areas. This year 67 Birchwood students qualified for achievement testing and 49 students participated. They took either the EXPLORE, the ACT or the SAT, which are all above level tests intended for older students. Congratulations to these students!

From over 29,000 who participated in MATS three students from Birchwood further distinguished themselves by having scored above the 99th percentile on the SAT (critical reading, math or combined) or the ACT (reading, math, or composite) compared to other SAT or ACT test takers. These students were invited to attend the Award Ceremony at Northwestern University or had exceptionally high scores. The students invited from Birchwood School are:

ACT

Vinayak K
Kavya R

SAT

Clive C
Kavya R

Awards in Social Studies

National History Day

Held in Columbus, Ohio the National History Day Competition is an educational program which requires students to conduct primary and secondary research on a particular theme. Through the National History Day contest, students in grades 6-12 engage in the discovery and interpretation of historical topics related to an annual theme. After choosing a topic, students conduct extensive primary and secondary research and present their work through creative and scholarly projects. They develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while competing in one of five categories: exhibits, documentaries, historical papers, performances, or websites. After a series of district and state contests, the program culminates with a national competition at the University of Maryland in College Park each June. This year's theme was Debate and Diplomacy in History.

National Level

Qualifiers:

Joan C - Cuyahoga River fire of 1969 - *National Finalist - 6th place*
Sachi G - Cuyahoga River fire of 1969 - *National Finalist - 6th place*
Hannah Y - Reykjavik Summit
Amir F - Sam Sheppard
Clive C - alternating and direct current
Nate C - alternating and direct current
Dhweeja D - *Brown vs. Board of Education*
Shan S - Cuban Missile Crisis
Peter A - Cuban Missile Crisis
Kavya R - Heliocentrism
Brad S - crossing of the Rapido River in WWII

National alternates:

Ammar M - Yalta Conference
Darius Z - Yalta Conference
Prithvi P - Treaty of Versailles
Trevor L - Lincoln/Douglas debates
Abhijeet S - Lincoln/Douglas debates

State Level

Honorable Mention:

(Students in addition to those mentioned above)

Naomi W - Jay's Treaty
Marla B - Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire
Sanjana R - Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire

Special Awards:

Dhweeja D - Society of Ohio Archivists: outstanding use of primary sources
Sachi G - The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board: best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project.
Joan C - The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board: best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project.

District Level:

(Students in addition to those mentioned above)

Sarah D - Camp David Accords - 3rd place
Alexandra P - Prohibition - 2nd place
Kareem T - Montgomery Bus Boycott - 1st place
Katelyn V - child labor at the beginning of the 1900s - 2nd place
Vinayak K - yellow journalism - 3rd place

Special Awards:

Susmita R - Cleveland Grays military history award

Amir F, Maya F, Joan C, and Sachi G - Early Settlers' Association of the Western Reserve local history awards

National Geographic Geography Bee - A nationwide contest open to students in grades four through eight, the Bee begins at a classroom level where students answer geography questions on place-names, the location of cultural and physical features, and the distribution and patterns of languages, religions, economic activities, populations, and political systems. Two winners from each classroom participate in the school Bee, after which the winner has to take a rigorous written qualifying exam for the state level Bee. One winner from each state then participates at the national competition held in Washington, D.C, hosted by Alex Trebek.

State Qualifier: Trevor L

Awards in Mathematics

Math Olympiads

Math Olympiads is a yearlong series of five contests that provides students training in creative problem solving skills in mathematics. Created in 1977 by Dr. George Lenchner, an internationally known math educator, the Math Olympiads went public in 1979. Last year 150,000 students from 5,000 teams worldwide participated in this competition. All 50 states and 25 other countries were represented.

Both the Junior and Senior Team from Birchwood School earned the distinction of "Highest Team Award", which was awarded to the top 10% of all teams.

The Senior Team consisted of:

Prithvi P	Trevor L
Susmita R	Sanjana R
Clive C	Kavya R
Nate C	Dhweeja D
Christine B	Brad S
Alexander I	

The Junior Team consisted of:

Vinayak K	Michael T
Prathna K	Ammar M
Haley Y	Pheby L
William L	Darius Z
Grace X	Megan P
Anthony C	Anna H

Individual Gold Award Winners: (Top 2% of all participants)

Trevor L	Clive C
Prithvi P	Susmita R
Nate C	Dhweeja D
Kavya R	

Individual Silver Award Winners: (Top 10% of all participants)

Sanjana R	Christine B
Brad S	Alexander I
Abijheet S	Ammar M
Haley Y	Pheby L
William L	Darius Z
Grace X	Megan P

Ohio Mathematics Competition

The Ohio Mathematics Competition is a 40 minutes exam covering thirty questions. Students prepare for this contest throughout the year and compete against some of the best math students and math programs in the state of Ohio.

On the *sixth grade* level, Birchwood's team came in second place in the state and first place in Cuyahoga County. The individuals that placed in the top thirty were Vinayak K, Prathna K, Michael T, Darius Z and Ammar M. Congratulations team!

On the *seventh grade level*, Birchwood's team came in first place on the state level and in Cuyahoga County. Both Dhweeja D and Clive C had perfect scores and placed first. The individuals who placed in the top thirty were Kavya R, Nate C and Christine B.

On the *eighth grade level*, Birchwood's team came in third place and second in Cuyahoga County. The individuals who placed in the top thirty were Trevor L, Hassan S and Susmita R.

Continental Mathematics Competition

In this contest, students complete in five separate thirty minute tests over a span of five months. We are in Region 5 - Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois.

Team Results:

Eighth grade team came in first place in Ohio and second place in our region (Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana). Trevor L was one of twelve students recognized as a **National Student Leader** having had a perfect score.

Seventh grade team also came in first place in Ohio and first in our region. In addition among the top six **National Student Leaders**, three were from Birchwood – Dhweeja D, Clive C, and Kavya R.

Sixth Grade team placed second in Ohio and third in our region/ Vinayak K was among the 18 **National Student Leaders** with a perfect score.

MathCounts

MathCounts is a national math enrichment, coaching, and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement in every U.S. state and territory. Schools select students to compete individually or as part of a team in one of the more than 500 written & oral competitions held nationwide. Top students advance to the state and ultimately national level.

**The Birchwood team consisted of: Clive C, Kavya R, Nate C, and Dhweeja D
Individual competitors: Hassan S, Vinny K, Prithvi P, Susmita R, Christine B**

Chapter Competition Winners:

Team: First place

Individual: Clive C - 1st place, Kavya R - 4th place, Vinny K - 5th place, Nathan C - 7th place.

State Competition Winners:

Team: First place

Individual: Clive C - 1st place, Kavya R - 7th, Vinayak K - 34th, Nate C - 42nd

American Mathematics Competition 8

The AMC 8 is a 25 question 40 minute multiple choice examination in junior high school mathematics, designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem solving skills. Many problems are designed to challenge students and to offer problem solving experiences beyond those provided in most junior high school mathematics classes.

The Birchwood School team earned *U.S. Merit Roll status* (top 5% of all schools).

Perfect Score

Kavya R

High Honor Roll *Top 1% of students nationwide*

Nate C, Clive C, Trevor L

Honor Roll *Top 5% of students nationwide*

Christine B Alexander I

Vinayak K Hassan S

Dhweeja D Prithvi P

Darius Z

Awards in Writing and Language Arts Grades 3-5

Cricket Magazine Writing Contest :

September 2010

Cricket is a literary publication for readers aged 9 to 14. During its over 30-year history, it has won numerous awards and praises. *The Los Angeles Times*, called *Cricket* "ad-free, with high-quality pages and top-notch writing and illustrations." Each 64-page monthly issue contains fiction, fantasy, folk tales, adventures, poems, history, and biography as well as cartoons, crossword puzzles, crafts, and recipes. *Cricket* also offers a story, poetry, art, or photography contest each month that is open to a national audience. Birchwood students regularly participate in these contests and many of them have earned prizes and had the honor of seeing their stories and/or names published in *Cricket* magazine. In the fall, students were asked to submit stories about a horse. Winners' work was published in the January 2011 issue of *Cricket* magazine.

Winners:

Abigail M (4th grade, 1st place, "A Horse Fit for a King")
Emma P (3rd grade, 2nd place, "A Pony to be Proud of")
Olivia S (4th grade, Honorable Mention, "Magic Mariachi")

Cricket Magazine Story Writing Contest: March 2010

(See above description) Several third and fifth graders won honors in the January 2011 *Cricket* magazine story-writing contest. Students were asked to write a fantasy about living under the sea or about an object that comes to life. The winners were published in the April 2011 issue.

Winners:

Olivia S--2nd place--"The Great Mermaid Adventure"
Abigail M--Honorable Mention--"This Sea Is Our Sea"
Channin M--Honorable Mention--"The Magical Fish"
Farah S--Honorable Mention--"Marissa's Journey"
Michael H--Honorable Mention--"The Plastic Wars"

Creative Communications Essay-Writing Contest

Celebrating What Is Important to Me: Fall 2011

Creative Communications sponsors three essay competitions each year and accepts approximately 40% of the entries they receive for publication in a hardcover book. This year the essays of 100% of the third, fourth, and fifth grade classes were accepted! This earned Birchwood the title of an Honor School.

Winners:

Layth A, "My Trip to Jordan"
Alia B, "Books are my Favorite"
Sahej B, "Save the Earth"
Arjun B, "My Family is Important to Me"
Jack B, "Plants Are Very Important to Me"
Favian B, "School"
Sophie C, "En Garde"
Grace C, "Two Great Brothers"
Maya D, "The Blood of Life"
Michael H, "Taking Care of Myself"
Bianca H, "Using Art to Change the World"
Chester H, "Why is the United States Ranked 19th in Math Education?"
Amir I, "My Dog Luna"
Cameron K, "The World's Pollution"
William L, "My Amazing Classmates"
Abigail M, "The McNaughton House"
Channin M, "My Awesome Family"
Isabela M, "My Parents Are Important to Me"
Rami M, "The Story of Life"
Tejas N, "Judo is Important"
Layla N, "Misty Dawn"
Jane N, "Aunt Vickie is Very Important"
Victor P, "I Wish One Week Had Eight Days"
Elizabeth P, "Filling the Void with Art"
Emma P, "Freedom Is Not Free"
Sofia R, "My Dog Hailey"
Olivia S, "New York City"
Farah S, "Donating My Long Hair"
Asim S, "5-4-3-2-1, Touchdown"
Megan S, "My Grandmother's Amazing Life"
Steven S, "Lucky and I Are Friends Forever"
Caroline V, "My Thoughtful Parents"
Annessa W, "All About Smokie"

In addition, Farah's essay was chosen as a "Top 10" winner in the 3rd-6th grade category. She was the only 3rd grader nationwide to be chosen for this honor and the only Ohioan.

Earth Day Essay Contest--April 2011

Cameron K--"A Healthy and Helpful Way to Live", Interviewed on the radio by Regina Brett

Grace C--"So the World Can Stay Green" Both honored at a ceremony at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and each earned a \$50 prize.

Writing and Language Art Awards 5-8

Letters about Literature Contest (5th and 6th grades)

This national contest receives 10s of thousands of entries, including 1536 from Ohio. From these, the state of Ohio selected only 7 semi-finalists in the 4th-6th grade level. Jack B wrote a letter to Stuart Little and his work reached this semi-finalist round where he received fourth place honors for the state of Ohio. Alexis H was the first place winner for the state of Ohio.

2011 SCHOLASTIC WRITING AWARDS

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc. supports the prestigious Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for teens in junior high and middle high school. Birchwood submits our entries to a region-at-large with over twenty-five states. Winners in this level are awarded the Regional Gold Key where they are then eligible to be judged at the national level. According to Alex Tapnio, manager of the National Program, "there were more than 185,000 manuscripts this year and only 1500 students earned National Awards... Students demonstrated such outstanding creative potential..."

Regional Gold Key Winners

Charles B	Kavya R
Clive C	Hassan S
Alex H	Katelyn V - 3 entries
Trevor L	
Hannah Y	

National Winners

Charles B - Gold Award
Katelyn V - Gold Award
Clive C - Silver Award
Trevor L - Silver Award

2011 POWER OF THE PEN

Crafted for seventh and eighth grade students in Ohio, Power of the Pen is an interscholastic writing competition where school representatives in teams of six flex their creative expression to hone their imagination and writing skills. Students write creative narratives impromptu and can advance from the district through the regional and state levels, individually or as a team. Best of Rounds Awards are separate awards presented for distinguished writing.

District Level

Seventh Grade Team – 3rd place: Clive C, Joan C, Dhweeja D, Kavya R, Katelyn V, Naomi W
Eighth Grade Team - 1st place: Sarah D, Trevor L, Prithvi P, Hassan S, Daniel W, Hannah Y
Individual Results: Naomi W -1st place, two “Best of Round” awards and Vindicator Journalism Award; Hanah Y - 3rd place; Sarah D - 6th place; Prithvi P - 9th place

Regional Level

Seventh Grade Team – 3rd place: Joan C, Dhweeja D, Katelyn V, Naomi W
Eighth Grade Team – 1st place: Sarah D, Trevor L, Prithvi P, Hassan S, Daniel W, Hannah Y
Individual Results: Katelyn V- 3rd place, Naomi W - 4th place, Joan C- 11th place, Trevor L - 14th place

State Level

Birchwood School - fourth among all participant schools in 72 Ohio counties
Katelyn V – 7th place
Naomi W – 3rd place

2010-2011 FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM

The Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) engages students in creative problem solving. Founded by creativity pioneer, Dr. E. Paul Torrance, FPSPI stimulates critical and creative thinking skills and encourages students to develop a vision for the future. FPSPI features curricular and co-curricular competitive, as well as non-competitive, activities in creative problem solving. The Future Problem Solving Program International involves over 250,000 students annually from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, and the United States.

State Finalists

Junior Division

Anthony C, Michael T, Pheby L, Prathna K – 1st place, Junior Team
Megan P, Anna H, Haley Y, Grace C
Ammar M – 1st place, Junior Individual
Vinny K - 2nd place, Junior Individual

Intermediate Division

Katelyn V, Naomi W, Kavya R, Dalya A
Sachi G, Kareem T, Joan C, Shan S
Hannah Y, Prithvi P, Sue R, Sarah D - 5th place, Intermediate Team
Marla B, Alex P, Sunny R, Christine B
Alexander I, Daniel W, Hassan S, Abhijeet S

Dhweeja D
Trevor L – 4th place, Intermediate Individual
Cameron S

Senior Division (alumni in high school)
Ben W, Ani D, Zaeem M, Miguel P

International Finalists

Anthony C, Michael T, Prathna K, Pheby L
Ammar M- 6th place, Junior Individual
Katelyn V – 3rd place, Intermediate Team Scenario

2010-2011 FPS SCENARIO WRITING

The writing component of the Future Problem Solving Competition, the scenario contest is a short story format that describes a possible outcome of one of five predetermined topics for the year. A student uses his imagination and creativity to develop a futuristic story. Scenario Writing personalizes a student's ever growing perspective of the future in a 1500-word narrative set at least twenty years into the future. First place winners qualify for the International Conference.

State Winners

Vinayak K – 4th place
Katelyn V – 1st place

International Winners

Katelyn V – 1st place

THE OHIO CELEBRATION OF POETS

An anthology by a national publisher of children's writing called *Creative Communications*. With publication being regionally based, students are competing against their peers in both age and location. Accepting less than 50% of the poems that are entered in each contest, to be selected is an honor. The editorial staff is comprised of teachers, professors, and writers. Birchwood School is repeatedly designated as an "Honor School" at both the junior and intermediate levels due to the number of students published at both levels. For this distinction, the school is presented with a hard-bound copy of the anthology. To read poetry by Birchwood published poets, the Ohio Celebration of Poets anthologies can be found in the school library in the poetry section. Students published in the Creative Communications Poetry Anthology:

Published in the Fall 2010 *Ohio Celebration of Poets Anthology*

7th grade winners: Dhweeja D, Kavya R

8th grade winners: Marla B, Sanjana R, Susmita R, Hassan S

Published in the Spring 2011 *Ohio Celebration of Poets Anthology*

3rd grade: Alia B, Chester H, Channin M, Jane N, Emma P, Dalton R, Farah S, Annessa W

4th grade: Layth A, Sahej B, Avi B, Bianca H, Cameron K, Abigail M, Elizabeth P, Olivia S

7th grade: Peter A, Christine B, Clive C, Joan C, Dhweeja D, Sachi G, Jorgen K, Kavya R, Cameron S, Katelyn V, Naomi W

8th grade winners: Marla B, Sarah D, Sanjana R, Susmita R, Abhijeet S, Bradley S, Daniel W, Hannah Y, Sam Z

Due to the exceptional number of poet winners at Birchwood, the school received the designation as *An Honor School*.

Science Awards

Young Astronaut Day at NASA Glenn

NASA Glenn provides an all-day program for students to focus their energies on tasks related to engineering and problem solving. "The Northern Ohio AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) and NASA Glenn Research center sponsor Young Astronaut Day at NASA. The purpose of the event is to provide a sense of excitement about science and to foster teamwork among students in grades K - 12. The Students compete as teams in two divisions: Pilots (K - 6th grade) and Commanders (7 - 12th grade). The "Pilot" Team earned a first place in the Balloon Car Race and the Marble Roller Coaster events. They earned a third place ribbon for the In-space Repair. The Commanders (7-12th grade) earned a second place ribbon in an event called Lunar Rock Race.

Pilot Team

Grace C, Alexis H, Anna H, Vinny K, Prathna K, Ammar M, Michael T, Caroline V, Grace X, Haley Y, and Darius Z

Commander Team

Dalya A, Clive C, Dhweeja D, Sachi G, Jorgen K, Kavya R, Sunny R, Sue R, Kareem T, Katelyn V, Naomi W, and Hannah Y

Earth Day Poster Contest

One thousand four hundred students from 28 different schools in Cuyahoga County entered the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District's Earth Day Poster Contest. Each grade winner and runner up had his/her posters featured on the Earth Day Calendar.

Birchwood had 4 winning posters and 10 "top pick" posters chosen by over 20 judges.

Brad S - 8th grade winner. Brad's poster was used on the "participant" certificate!

Joan C - 7th grade winner

Dharma N - 2nd grade winner

Shruthi R - 2nd grade runner up.

The following student posters were “top pick” (top ten in their grade):

1st grade: Paul A 3rd grade: Farah S 4th grade: Avi B
5th grade: Jack B and Caroline V
7th grade: Christine B, Katelyn V, and Naomi W
8th grade: Daniel W and Hannah Y

Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair

During the four-day event, approximately 600 students from over 100 schools in the area competed. Their projects were displayed and judged by more than 260 judges. Four students are chosen to represent Cleveland at the Intel Science Fair.

Kavya R – 2nd place for her project entitled *Electrolyte Concentration- Gatorade vs. Orange Juice*.

Western Reserve Science Day 5

The District 5 Science Day is one of 17 statewide science fairs that feed into the Ohio State Science Fair.

Vinayak K - Superior ranking for his individual project: *BMI, Heart Rate, Blood Pressure, and Exercise in Children: Possible Correlates to Cardiovascular Health?* He, also, received awards from the following organizations: Summit and Portage District Ohio Nurses Association (outstanding research project at the middle school level related to health and medicine), The American Society of Quality: (best use of statistics in research), Honor Society of Nursing (best nursing related project) and the Austen Bio Innovation Institute (outstanding performance and invitation to the Best Medicine Engineering Fair

Ashland University Science Day 4

The District 4 Science Day is one of 17 statewide science fairs that feed into the Ohio State Science Fair.

Dhweeja D - Superior ranking for her individual project: *Do germinating seeds have altered protein content?* She received a bioscience award of \$100 from the Ohio Soybean Council Foundation and was invited to the Ohio State Science Fair competition.

BEST Medicine Engineer Fair

The **Bridging Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) Medicine** engineering fair is an event hosted by the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA) to inspire students to participate in the biomedical engineering and medical science fields. More than 100 students from 33 schools across Northeast Ohio participated in the fair.

Vinayak K - *Grand Prize award in the 6th to 8th grade category and the Platinum award in the sixth grade Health Medicine for his individual project: BMI, Heart Rate, Blood Pressure, and Exercise in Children: Possible Correlates to Cardiovascular Health?*

Ohio State Science Fair

Sponsored by the Ohio Academy of Science, "State Science Day is the pinnacle of student originated, inquiry-based science education of Ohio's students". Drawing upon a base of over 30,000 students at more than 1,000 local school science fairs, over 1,000 students in grades 5-12 from nearly 300 schools were evaluated this year on their scientific research and communication skills. Although too young to be sent to the Intel Science Competition, this was the first year that a limited number of 5th and 6th grade students were allowed to attend.

Dhweeja D earned a Superior ranking for her individual project: *Do germinating seeds have altered protein content?* She was a 2nd prize winner in grades 5-12, and received a cash prize of \$100 for the Outstanding Project that focuses on health promotion and illness prevention from the Ohio Nursing Association.

Vinayak K earned a Superior ranking for his individual project: *BMI, Heart Rate, Blood Pressure, and Exercise in Children: Possible Correlates to Cardiovascular Health?*

NEO Science Olympiads

The North East Ohio middle school Science Olympiads is a competition for a team of 25 students composed of 4th-6th grade students who compete in 24 events that test knowledge of various scientific topics and engineering skills. This year 21 teams from the Metropolitan area competed.

Science Olympiad Team (One of 4 teams recognized for their sportsmanship)

4th graders: Sahej B, Avi B, Sophia C, Maya D, Abigail M, Elizabeth P, and Olivia S

5th graders: Jack B, Grace C, William L, Isabela M and Sofia R

6th graders: John H , Alexis H, Prathna K, Pheby L, Ammar M, Michael T, Grace X, and Haley Y

Event winners

Ammar M and Prathna K: *"A" is for Anatomy*, 2nd place

Vinny K, Avi B, John H: *Science Bowl*, a head-to-head event in which students won their round

Alexis H and Vinny K: *Experimental Design*, 3rd place

Sahej B and Abby M: *Keys*, 4th place

William L and Michael T: *Don't Bug Me*, 4th place

American Chemical Society and Chemistry Week

The Cleveland ACS sponsors three contests for students in K-8. Each contest requires that students experiment, record observations, and organize his or her thoughts to answer age-appropriate questions. The 5th – 8th graders observed the reactions that occurred to copper pennies and other metals soaked in vinegar and salt over a three-day period. One Birchwood student was chosen from the 550

4th – 6th grade entree: Bianca H was chosen as a regional winner.

The ACS, also, sponsors a poster contest for students in Kindergarten – Grade 12. This year's theme was "Behind the Scenes with Chemistry". Students from six counties in the greater Cleveland area submitted entries relating to the theme

Shruthi R - 1st place K-2 division

Sahej B - 1st place 3-5 division and 2nd place at the national level