

I am happy to report that the Science Olympiad Team members have earned their third consecutive 1st place finish at the regional tournament on Saturday at Inver Hills Community College. The competition was stiff but the Eastview Lightning, Thunder, and Storm teams each had great showings and earned 1st, 7th, and 13th place respectively out of 17 teams. Technically, our 2nd team also earned a trip to state as the top 9 teams get to go but only 1 team per school is allowed to go to state.

The Lightning placed in the top 3 for 9 of the 12 events. Eric Storm and Christi Peterson earned gold medals for Ornithology as did Peterson and Jon Dorsch for Dynamic Planet and Storm and Andrew Solfest for Mousetrap vehicle. Nishaan Pal and Jack Mullaney earned 1st place for Write it, Do it. Silver medals were earned by Chau Nguyen and Kali Ask for Astronomy and Samantha Zarate and Jon Dorsch for Tower Building. Zarate and Sarah Olson earned 2nd place for Forensics. Nishaan Pal and Cole Stapleton earned silver medals for Wind Power. Eric Storm and Jon Dorsch finished out the medal winning for the Lightning by earning bronze medals for Sounds of Music. Just missing medals were Troy Spencer and Nishaan Pal who earned 4th place for Technical Problem solving. Rounding out the field were Eric Storm and Nathan Carr earning 7th place for Chemistry Lab and Carr and Chau Nguyen earning 8th place for Anatomy and Physiology.

Our Thunder team medaled in 3 events and earned top 5 in 3 more. Earning 1st place in Wind Power were Alex Grant and Gayle Roque. Earning 2nd place for Write it, Do it were Grant and Rachit Gupta. Earning 3rd place for Forensics were Anna Underhill and Sam Elinson. 4th place finishes went to Gayle Roque and Kristine Hiedeman for Anatomy and Physiology and Isaac Mensink and Elizabeth Wolf for Ornithology. Earning 5th place for Dynamic Planet were Abby Golder and Logan Stapleton. Rachit Gupta and Nitin Prasad earned 7th place for Astronomy. Logan Stapleton and Sam Elinson earned 8th place for Mousetrap Vehicle and Alex Grant and Prasad earned 9th place for Technical Problem Solving.

Our Storm team didn't medal but earned two 5th places in addition to a 6th place and a 9th place finish. Eric Boeshart, Brian Taintor, and Josh Ruth earned one of the 5th place spots for Mousetrap Vehicle. Sean Bradley and Alyssa Hiedeman notched the other 5th place finish. Brian Taintor earned the 6th place finish while Alexis Gaul and Maddie Szempruch earned 9th place for their Astronomy efforts.

The Lightning will be defending their state championship crown and a right to go to nationals for the 2nd straight year on March 5th at the University of St. Thomas.

I would like to express my gratitude for the tremendous amount of work done by our coaches Emily Barkley, Dawn Peterson, Jeff Dorsch, Matt Gantz, and Dan Dorsch. We all would like to express our appreciation to all of the staff who had a hand in our success including the math and science departments, Dr. Franchino, Dr. Peterson, and Mr. Miller. We would most especially like to thank our 5th Beatle, Mr. Luke Podmers. Without his patience, assistance, and encouragement, we would not be able to approach anywhere near the success we have been fortunate enough to earn.

Our players have really worked hard this year and even though this is a relatively young squad, top to bottom, it is full of talent. Captain Eric Storm and the other captains and a small band of returning vets have been tasked with trying to make a run at another state tournament with a contingent of young, inexperienced band of competitors. Eric put most of the burden squarely on himself this year. Through his persistent nurturing, strong leadership, and tremendous organizational efforts, our three teams have performed well beyond our wildest dreams.

Thanks to you all,

Engstrom