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# Littleton Public Schools

Dr. Kelly R. Clenchy,  
Superintendent

33 Shattuck St.  
Littleton, MA 01460



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jordan Mayblum

Phone: 617-993-0003

Email: [jordan@jgpr.net](mailto:jordan@jgpr.net)

# Russell Street School Hosts Annual Geography Bee



*From left: fourth grader Kaden Rowe, fifth grader Tyler Branco and fifth grader Kavya Kolukula finished in the top three of the Russell Street School's National Geographic Bee. Branco won first place. (Courtesy Photo Russell Street School)*

LITTLETON -- Principal Scott Bazydlo is pleased to announce that the Russell Street School hosted its annual geography bee last week.

On Thursday, Jan. 17, students at Russell Street School took part in the National Geographic Bee (GeoBee), which is an annual competition designed to foster students' curiosity and understanding about the world.

The bee is open to students in grades fourth through eighth, and Russell Street School was one of 10,000 schools that participated in this year's bee.

Fifth grade student Tyler Branco emerged as the school's GeoBee champion, with fifth grader Kavya Kolukula and fourth grader Kaden Rowe finishing as the runner-up and second runner-up, respectively.

"The National Geographic Bee is quickly becoming a tradition at Russell Street School," Bazydlo said. "It is a great opportunity to highlight some of our students and their

passion for geography and learning. I'm impressed every year by the knowledge and composure under pressure displayed by our students.

Students participated in preliminary rounds of the GeoBee before winter break, from which 10 finalists emerged to compete for Russell Street's GeoBee championship. With his win in the school competition, Branco will now complete a qualifying exam that will determine his eligibility for the statewide competition.

The event was coordinated by librarian Starla Hazen and math interventionist Susan Mitchell, while Bazydlo and fifth grade teacher Melissa Maxner served as judges. Fifth graders Ridit Karnati and Connor Orton volunteered as student assistants.

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From left: Lucas Wright, Josie Rothleutner, Audrey Bonner, Connor Denehy, Tyler Branco, Kaden Berger, Matthew Gray, Patrick Canning, Kavya Kolukula, and Kaden Rowe (Courtesy Photo Russell Street School)

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John Guilfoil Public Relations LLC  
8 Prospect St.  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
617-993-0003