

## Bethel Boasts the Best in Spelling Again

Written by Steve Frank

Monday, 15 October 2012 13:56

---

Watauga's smallest school continues to provide the best county spellers. That was again the case as last week, Alyssa DiBella, a sixth grader at Bethel Elementary, won the Watauga County Schools Spelling Bee for 2012-13. Her win marks the second time in the last three years that the district's champion speller has come from Bethel, the smallest school in the WCS system. Her winning word was "ecstatic," an appropriate final word for a person becoming a champion. The runner up in this year's competition was Zachary Holtkamp of Blowing Rock School. In addition to DiBella and Holtkamp, the school winners participating in the 2012-13 Spelling Bee included Caitlin Vines from Cove Creek, Erin Griego from Green Valley, Rebecca Anderson from Hardin Park, Benjamin Oakes from Mabel, Katie Hanna from Parkway, and Morgan Hoyt from Valle Crucis. Each school's champion advanced to the WCS finals of the Spelling Bee after winning the competition among 4th through 8th grade students at their school. Four of this year's school winners are eighth graders and three—Rebecca Anderson, Katie Hanna, and Benjamin Oakes—are fifth graders, while WCS champion Alyssa DiBella is in sixth grade.