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THREE ETIWANDA SCHOOLS WILL COMPETE AT THE STATE FINALS IN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND COMPETITION!

Each year, schools in the Etiwanda School District participate in the *Odyssey of the Mind* (OM) program. OM is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students across the grade levels. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

This year, three schools from the District participated in the program: Etiwanda Colony Elementary, Grapeland Elementary and Summit Intermediate School. The District is proud to announce that all three schools had teams place at the Inland Empire Regional Competition held on March 3rd at Palm Springs High School. Overall, Etiwanda School District has five teams scheduled to compete at the state-level competition which will be held on Saturday, March 31st, in northern California at Heritage High School in Brentwood.

- At **ETIWANDA COLONY ELEMENTARY**, Principal Darlene Carlmark proudly remarked that with five teams competing at the regional competition, Etiwanda Colony had three teams earning regional awards. Etiwanda Colony had one team place 5th, one place 4th, and one place 1st, advancing to the state-level competition. This is the 4th year in a row that Etiwanda Colony has sent a team to the state finals! Students and coaches did a fabulous job! Coaches for the Etiwanda Colony teams were: Kim Pollock, Jeannie Tavolazzi, Karla Goyenaga, Joyce Tavill and Shelley Bobeda.

Featured in photo:

Front Row:

*Dylan Ta
Brayden Milius
Amaya Gooch
Ellie Congalton
Rachel Sang
Jason Cramer*

Back row:

*Mrs. Pollock, teacher,
and Mya Reyes*



- Once again **GRAPELAND ELEMENTARY** soared at the regional *Odyssey of the Mind* tournament. Grapeland's years of experience in the program shined through as all four participating teams placed high in their respective challenges. With teams advancing to the state-level competition, the school took two 4th place rankings, one 2nd place and one 1st place. Grapeland has become a consistent participant at the state level with five years of travel experience. However, this year Principal Jeff Sipos has promised to shave his head in front of the entire student body if a Grapeland team advances to the world competition. The Grapeland community wishes our teams the best of luck and sends a huge THANK YOU for the hard work and dedication of our amazing coaches: Mariam Pullon, Angela Melillo, Monica Flores, Jeanifer Moreira, Robyn Smith, Heidi Schiaretti, Tim Bermudez and Crystal Walsh. (Photo below features members of the winning teams.)

Students:

Jack Connor, Nico Garcia,
Taylor Pullon, Madelyn Coelho,
Tyler Pendergast, Cole Schiaretti,
Ford Melillo, Andrew Gonzales,
Mekenna Schiaretti, Owen Stewart,
Marissa Perez, Emily Aurangzeb,
Mason Rahim and Eija Kumlander.

Coaches:

Mariam Pullon, Heidi
Schiaretti, Robyn Smith, Angela
Melillo and Principal Jeff Sipos



- SUMMIT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL** Principal Lori Arita offered congratulations to the four Summit teams, three of which placed at the regional competition with a 3rd place and two teams finishing in 1st place, both of which will advance to the state-level competition (photos below). This is the first year Summit has participated in the *Odyssey of the Mind* program. Coaches for the Summit teams were Mrs. Curl, Mrs. Killion, Mrs. Nicol, and Mrs. Carlson, and Jeni Erenburg was the Summit staff advisor. Congratulations to all who participated to make this event a success!



Photo above features the 'You Make the Call' team with students Joshua Browne, Nathan Curl, Austin Hibdon, Megan Jenkins, Sabria Joaquin and Megan Radford. Coach: Trish Curl (not featured)



Photo above features the 'Odyssey Angels' team with students Alexander Alvarado, Jennifer Hale, Kelsey Hilton, Noelle Nicol, Elena Snitzer & Emily Starr. Coach: Laurel Nicol (not featured)

The Etiwanda School District is very proud of the efforts, passion and enthusiasm of their students and coaches. Administrators observed a fantastic display of team work and school spirit throughout the year as students used their academic knowledge and creativity to tackle these challenging problems.