



Arlington
Education
Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2017

Stratton Smarties Sweep Trivia Bee
Event Raises Nearly \$20,000 for Schools

Town Hall was abuzz with activity on March 26th at the 22nd annual Arlington Trivia Bee hosted by the Arlington Education Foundation. With a record thirty-six teams participating and nearly four hundred attendees, the atmosphere was electric when 5th grade teams from each elementary school were introduced. Participating for the first time, teams of three students from each school eagerly took the stage to challenge their knowledge. In the end, 5th grade Dallin School students Henrietta Rota, Aaron Podesky and Nolan Roof won in a sudden-death pesticide round.

Wearing creative, modular-shaped hats, the 'Stratton Smarties' - principal Michael Hanna and parents Stewart Deck and Leslie Meltzer - set a Trivia Bee record by answering every question correctly and winning the 2017 Trivia Bee Championship.

Teams donned creative hats and outfits representing 90's film stars, rock bands, security enforcers, artists, cartoon and book characters and construction workers. Team 'Back to School', consisting of School Committee Alumni Joe Curro, Leba Heigham and Sue Sheffler won the prize for best costume dressed as Peanuts characters the Red Baron, Linus and Lucy.

Host Irwin Grossman kept the crowd laughing, pianist Todd Bearson kept the atmosphere lively and judges Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent of Schools, Henry Brush, President of Arlington Soccer Club and Linda Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Arlington Center for the Arts interpreted answers.

When asked "In 2016 in Rio, what U.S. swimmer became the first woman in 48 years to sweep the 200, 400, and 800 freestyle races at the same Olympics" the creative answer of the day went to the School Committee who answered 'Nancy Pelosi' when they could not recall Katie Ledecky's name.

The event raised a record \$19,671 from AEF's 2017 business sponsors and team fees. Twenty-six local businesses have partnered with AEF this year, including Platinum Sponsors Belmont Orthodontics & Belmont Pediatric Dentistry; Gold Sponsors Quad Cycles and Zipwall Dust Barrier Systems, Silver Sponsors AFC Urgent Care Arlington, Arlington Orthodontics, Belmont Savings Bank, Brookline Bank, Eye Level Learning Center, TDBank, Watertown Savings Bank and Winchester Savings Bank. An additional eighteen Bronze sponsors support AEF's work.

The event raised awareness for AEF's work enriching public education in the Arlington Schools. Relying entirely on community donations, AEF awards approximately \$125,000 per year to the Arlington Public Schools. For more information, and for a complete list of AEF's sponsors, visit www.aefma.org.



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