

Press Release From: Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center  
Contact: Laura Glaza  
Phone: 630-561-3080; Cell: 630-561-3080  
Email: [lglaza@aol.com](mailto:lglaza@aol.com)  
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***SPELLAPALOOZA! DEBUTS ON MARCH 13 AT GLENBARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL  
Community Spelling Bee Benefits Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center***

GLEN ELLYN, Ill. – January 26, 2009 – The original spelling bee gained fame during the spelling craze in America in the 1870's. Now, nearly 140 years later, the concept will be taking Glen Ellyn by storm.

Mounted as a benefit for the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center, *SPELLAPALOOZA!* will pit teams from Glen Ellyn organizations and businesses against each other in a community-wide spelling bee starting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009 at Glenbard West High School, 670 Crescent Blvd., Glen Ellyn.

"A spelling bee was chosen as the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center's most significant fund-raiser because it is consistent with our focus on literacy," said John Mulherin, president of the organization's executive board. The Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center is a nonprofit organization providing after-school and summer literacy programs for children from low-income families.

Teams from Lincoln Elementary School, home of the Resource Center, and Glen Ellyn School District #41 Central Services Office, are the first to come on board the *SPELLAPALOOZA!* bandwagon. Registration is \$500 per three-person team, ages 10 and older. The number of rounds for the event will be determined by the amount of teams, which will be finalized shortly after registration closes on Feb. 28. The winning team will receive a trophy and community-wide recognition. A team spirit award will also be presented.

Words for *SPELLAPALOOZA!* will be derived from beginning, intermediate and advanced lists chosen from the PAIDEIA, the National Spelling Bee Book published by Scripps Howard, and from Webster's International Dictionary. Judges include Dawn Bussey, director of the Glen Ellyn Public Library; Dr. Pamela Zimmerman, associate superintendent for education services

of Glenbard High School District 87; and Elizabeth Macik, reporter for the Chicago Tribune's TribLocal.

Famed journalist H. L. Mencken said in his discussion of the spelling bee, "there was usually some jollification when the work was over," and the Glen Ellyn version is no exception. In fact, throughout the evening, *SPELLAPALOOZA!* will feature audience participation and prize opportunities, and performances by local entertainment groups between spelling rounds.

Tickets, \$5 each, will be available for purchase starting February 1 at Renaissance Art Studio, 481 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn. Tickets can also be reserved and held at will call by contacting Kasey Sanders O'Connell, Resource Center executive board treasurer, by phone at 630-605-7247 or by email at [kcsanders@wowway.com](mailto:kcsanders@wowway.com). Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

For more information about *SPELLAPALOOZA!* and to register a team, please contact Kasey Sanders O'Connell at the numbers listed below.

The Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center provides tutoring in all academic subjects, with an emphasis on educating students for whom English is a second language. Founded in 2002, the program served more than 100 children in 2008. More than half of students served are refugees, representing families from 14 different countries in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Refugees are defined as those who flee their homeland and cross an international border because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion. Unless the situation changes, refugees are unable to return home and must find another country in which to permanently resettle.

For information about the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center, visit [www.gecrc.org](http://www.gecrc.org) or call 630-899-9919.

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