

Press Release From: Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center
Contact: Laura Glaza
Phone: 630-561-3080; Cell: 630-561-3080
Email: lglaza@aol.com
Date: Updated Feb. 24, 2009



CHANNEL 2 ANCHOR TO EMCEE SPELLAPALOOZA! ON MARCH 13 Community Spelling Bee At Glenbard West Benefits Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center

GLEN ELLYN, Ill. – Feb. 24, 2009 – The organizers of SPELLAPALOOZA!, the Glen Ellyn spelling bee, have announced that WBBM-TV, Channel 2 morning anchor, Don Schwenneker, will emcee the event.

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 television reporter is in the business of words, so confirming Don Schwenneker as our emcee was a natural," said John Mulherin, president of the organization's executive board. A spelling bee was designed as the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center's most significant fund-raiser because it is consistent with the program's focus on literacy. The Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center is a nonprofit organization providing after-school and summer literacy programs for children from low-income families.

SPELLAPALOOZA! teams confirmed to date include Lincoln Elementary School, home of the Resource Center; Glen Crest Middle School; Glen Ellyn School District #41 Central Services Office; and the Glen Ellyn Public Library (sponsored by the Glen Ellyn Rotary). 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 March 2.

Prizes for the winning team have been donated by Costello Jewelry, Green Branch Florist, and various Glen Ellyn restaurants. The winning organization will also receive a plaque. The winner of the team spirit award will receive a cake from Flour Barrel Bakery.

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.

All audience members will receive a Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center pencil and *SPELLAPALOOZA!* entry pad. Prizes will be awarded to winners of the audience participation round.

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; Peter Cooper, incoming Village of Glen Ellyn board member; and Elizabeth Macik, reporter for the Chicago Tribune’s TribLocal.

For those who want to hone their spelling skills in advance, the organizers of The Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center’s *SPELLAPALOOZA!* event offer the following sample words that will not be included in the March 13 competition: accessible, chauffeur, identify, intensity, labyrinth, obedient, preferential, saunter, translucent, and virtue.

Tickets, \$5 each, can be purchased 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. 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 above.

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, including membership and donations, visit www.gecrc.org or call 630-899-9919.

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Don Schwenneker

WBBM-TV, Channel 2 Chicago