

Spring 2025
Volume 31 No. 2

Hooked on Books for Kids

Looks on Books

SPELLING BEE 16 SETS A RECORD! OF \$17,500!



Office team of (l to r) **Steve Liboski**, **Shane Kaliszewski**, and **Sara Warnhuis**. Two teams, Knox Law and Port Erie Plastics, tied for second place. In the end, it was the Knox Law team of **Kelly Stolar**, **Sarah Everett**, **Chris Bowler**, and **Jonilee Hlusko** who correctly spelled two of the three words given to both second place contenders. That in itself was a first, as we've never before had to run a spell-off for second place.

All told, it was a memorable night, with about 200 attending, a panel of four judges: head judge **Mary Jane Koenig**, plus **Erin Fessler**, **Kathy Harrington**, and **John Last**, and perennial MCs Alan **Carpenter** and **Traci Teudhope**.

Most importantly, we thank all the sponsors, donors, spellers, and HBKids board members who made the whole evening possible.

It was a new look and a new venue on April Fool's Day at the Zem Shrine Club. Fourteen teams of three adults took turns trying to spell such head-scratchers as "daguerrotype" and "synecdoche." It required several rounds to narrow the field to four teams, each of whom was given the same five difficult words. The clear winner was once again the D. A's



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Donors since our winter newsletter will be acknowledged in our summer newsletter. Meanwhile, thanks to all of them.

We value and thank all our donors and supporters for the gift of literacy, life-long learning, and the love of reading to thousands of needy children and youth in Erie County.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of you and others like you, and thank you again to all of our Erie Gives Day donors.

THANKS, EVERYONE!



SPELLING 2ND PLACE & BEST COSTUME



MOST SPIRIT

Top: Spelling Bee second place winners Knox Law represented by Art House "Rock-Ettes" Kelly Stolar, Chris Bowler, Sarah Everett, & Jonilee Hlusko

Bottom: Most Spirit Winners R. B. Wiley School's Simeon Pickens, Sauvana Pickens, and Nora Dolak



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To keep up with our many activities, please "friend" us on Facebook. There you'll find photos of recent events, news of upcoming events, and comments by recipients of our books.

On our website, you can find information about our programs, an application to receive books, photos and a video of the hijinks at our annual spelling bee, and information about donating.

Remember, we are an all-volunteer organization, so we have no paid employees or officers and very low overhead. Eight-five to ninety percent of donations are used to purchase books; the rest goes to essential operating costs.

**WE ARE GOOD
STEWARDS WITH
YOUR MONEY!**

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Since our founding in 1990, we have distributed over 600,000 books.

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