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MASD Students Headed to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals



Moon Area elementary school students Zach Gribben, R.J. Kanith, Nick Ulven, Sarah Ellis, Leah Eberts, Shannon Melton and Julia Puhalla will compete at the 2010 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in May.

For the first time in nearly a decade, Moon Area School District students will join more than 800 teams at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals following their recent qualifying performance in the state tournament.

Bon Meade Elementary School fourth-graders Leah Eberts, Sarah Ellis, R.J. Kanith, Julia Puhalla and Nick Ulven and third-grader Shannon Melton and Allard Elementary School third-grader Zach Gribben will compete in the international event at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., on May 26 to 29.

The team turned in a second-place performance at the Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament on April 9 and 10 topping 10 other teams in the Division I "Return of the Flight" challenge, where team members made and operated an aircraft that completed six specific flight patterns. Their entry centered around a "New Nursery Rhymes" theme and each flight pattern featured students' variation of a childhood nursery rhyme performed in song.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international competition that fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills in competitors from kindergarten through college. Students solve problems in a variety of areas, from building mechanical devices such as spring-driven vehicles to giving their own interpretation of literary classics. In the competition, students learn important skills in the creative problem-solving event such as teamwork, idea evaluation, leadership and self-confidence.

For more information on Odyssey of the Mind, visit <http://odysseyofthemind.com>.