



***Southborough Recreation is extremely proud and excited to announce great news about our Destination Imagination and Wordmaster Challenge™ programs.***

***Destination Imagination 2014***

***Sponsored by Southborough Recreation - RAP (Recreation After-school Programs)***

*This year Southborough RAP and Imagination Unbound of Framingham partnered to bring Destination Imagination program to Southborough students.*

*Destination Imagination, an international competition, challenges teams of students from preschool to university level to solve challenges in engineering, science, theater, improv, structural, community service and creativity areas. This year, three teams from Southborough schools participated in the competitions at various levels.*

*Our youngest team of students from Woodward school performed the Circus challenge. This was a noncompetitive challenge. Students learned about balance and geometric shapes, and explored poetry. "The more DI I do, the less stage fright I have. The more DI I do, the more ideas I get in a flash!" reflected Priya. "I was shy on the first day. I only knew one person. Now, at the end of DI, I am used to DI and I am not shy," shared Kaveri. The team called their circus The Wonderland Circus. The team's solution was well received by the appraisers, who appreciated the various songs that the team had composed. During the DI season, the team learned many public speaking and presentation skills. We all voted The Wonderland Circus as the best circus in town!*

*A team of students from Neary participated in the competitive Structural challenge. The team, called Imagination Army, was required to build a structure made completely of wood, glue and fishing wire to withstand two forces and bear weight. The team built and tested over 25 structures to learn about building, measurement, strength of materials, various kinds of forces- stress, buckling,*

*compression and tension, and developed unique ways for their structure to bear maximum load with minimum weight of the structure. The team also wrote and performed a spoof about Washington's war and the story of our independence. The team's energy at the tournament was contagious, their enthusiasm was high, and their original, patriotic song was a perfect climax to the exciting day. All students were thrilled to receive the first place award! They will participate at the State level tournament on March 29th.*

*Our oldest team, the Sea-Snake Sabers from Trottier participated in the Engineering challenge. Students designed and built containers and objects in such a manner that team-designed equipment would open the containers, remove the objects, and transport them across a 20-foot distance using technical methods. The team also wrote and performed an original skit about a character who used special technology to solve problems. The Sea Snake Sabers used magnetic technology, built an electromagnet to detect objects and used grabbers and vacuum cleaners to remove them. It was an intense challenge; time bound with a need for perfect coordination among team members. The Sea Snake Sabers will also participate at the State Tournament!*

*"We are proud of all three teams and are looking forward to the State Tournament," commented Rupali Sharma, Founder of Imagination Unbound. During this season, Mr. Timothy Roesch and Mrs. Nausheen Mynampaty, teachers at Imagination Unbound managed the Trottier and Neary teams respectively. Mrs. Rupali Sharma managed the youngest team from Woodward. All of us at Southborough RAP and Imagination Unbound look forward to the State tournament at WPI, Worcester on Saturday, March 29, 2014. The teams have already begun working on the next stages, improving their solutions and challenging each other to learn new concepts and deliver an even better solution!*

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**WordMasters Challenge <sup>(TM)</sup> 2014**  
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*A student representing Neary School recently received a perfect score in the first of three meets for this year's Wordmasters Challenge-a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually.*

*Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the WordMasters Challenge, fourth grader Stefan Linden earned a perfect score of 20 in the recent meet. Nationally, only 50 fourth graders achieved a perfect score. Stefan Linden was coached in*

*preparation for the WordMasters Challenge by Diane Kaiser, Neary School teacher and Dee Kerner, Neary School aid.*

*The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Although most vocabulary enrichment and analogy-solving programs are designed for use by high school students, WordMasters Challenge materials have been specifically created for younger students in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for children who are motivated by the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.*

*The WordMasters Challenge program is administered by a company based in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools. Further information is available at the company's website: <http://www.wordmasterschallenge.com>.*

***Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and dedication.***