

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Geography whiz kids qualify for state

Gunnar Tormanen, a seventh grader at Battle Ground's Chief Umtuch Middle School, and Andrew Richardson, an eighth grader at the district's River HomeLink, can probably tell you which of the following descriptions correctly describes the location of Bratislava:

A – On the Danube River; **B** – South of Lake Balaton; **C** – Just north of Wrigley Field in Chicago; **D** -- West of Vienna

The answer, **A**, is the kind of fact that fills the heads of Gunnar and Andrew, who won their respective school's Geography Bees and learned recently they've qualified for the state Geography Bee in Tacoma April 1.

Gunnar Tormanen attended the former Chief Umtuch Primary School, Captain Strong Primary and now Chief Umtuch Middle School. He is the son of Quinton and Maria Tormanen of Battle Ground. A love of geography runs in the family. Gunnar's brother David, a fifth grader at Chief Umtuch, finished fourth in the school-wide bee and an aunt and uncle finished first and second in the bee years ago. Gunnar's grandfather, Bruce Kelley, an administrator with the school district, relates how a National Geographic atlas was the equivalent of a favorite toy and family members would continually quiz each other.

Andrew Richardson, son of Kevin and Diane Richardson of Camas, is active in Boy Scouts and his church. He has attended River HomeLink in Camas since the first grade. There's family tradition here as well. Andrew's brother, Adam, is a previous school winner who also qualified for the state Geography Bee.

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