

Superintendent's Highlight April 12, 2019

In a fitting finale to the 2019 Long Island Regional Spelling Bee, the championship word was "sophic" — a Greek-derived adjective defined by Merriam-Webster as "of, relating to or full of wisdom." And 10-year-old Bhavana Madini knew she could spell it.



Bhavana competed against 46 other spellers in nine rounds of competition. Some of the first-round words included "prodigal," "virtuosa" and "monotonous." In the second round, some of the words were "chary," "virgule" and "egregious." By the fourth round, spellers were asked to master the words "weevil," "placidly" and "plasticity." By round nine, only Bhavana, Keara Schneck, 13, of Blue Point, and an eighth-grader at James Wilson Young Middle School, remained. Bhavana had to spell "allision" — the running of one ship on another ship that is stationary — before getting a shot at the championship word. The students were selected from 109 schools. Winners from those school spelling bees completed a 50-word online test to determine who advanced to the final local bee. The contest was open to students through the eighth grade.

Bhavana now advances to the finals with an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland. About 500 students are expected to take part in the competition, which takes place from May 26th through the 31st.



Last year, more than 230 students competed in the national finals through RSVBee, including the 2018 champion, according to Scripps.



Bhavana will be cheered on by her 5th grade classmates in Mrs. O'Brien's and Mrs. Goldstein's room, as well as the entire POB community.

This is a milestone achievement that comes after months of diligent practice, and we congratulate Bhavana on this significant achievement.