

## Students from six local schools will compete in Battle of the Books

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

BEND, Ore. -- A battle of reading supremacy will be fought by students in six local schools this month. The regional Battle of the Books Tournament is set for March 14 at Cascade Middle School.

Bear Creek, High Lakes, Ponderosa, Three Rivers, and Buckingham elementary students, and Three Rivers and Cascade middle students will compete for the right to advance to state finals on April 4. The competition will start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and is open to the public.

The Oregon Battle of the Books is a statewide reading motivation and comprehension program sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Librarians with help from a Library Services and Technology Act grant. The event is open to all ability levels. The goal of the program is to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension, and promote academic excellence.

Library Media Specialist Linda Bilyeu said hundreds of Bend-La Pine students have been competing in the last month to earn the right to represent their schools at the Regional Tournament.

Student participants read a variety of quality literature, discuss the books and quiz each other on the contents. They compete in teams of four students within the school to correctly answer questions based on the books in a "quiz show" format. The book list and questions are for elementary and middle school levels. This year, in honor of Oregon's 150th birthday, many of the book selections are set in Oregon or are written by Oregon authors.

"We are so proud of all our students that have chosen to participate. It means spending time reading books they might not have chosen to read on their own. The questions really check their comprehension and challenge them to work as a team," said Bilyeu.

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