

Spellbound: Hanna Ghouse heading to state bee

I felt a surge of parental pride when **Hanna Ghouse — a seventh-grader at KTEC West — won the CESA 1 Regional Spelling Bee.**

She now moves on to the state championships Saturday in Madison.

It's not that I am related to Hanna, but she was one of "my kids" when she won the Kenosha Unified School District's middle school spelling bee in January at Indian Trail High School. (I was one of the judges at the bee, but the kids are the stars.)

Mahmood Ghouse — Hanna's father, who feels real parental pride — says his daughter "loves to read books and is very much into spelling."

She'll have an advantage at the state competition, being a veteran on that stage. Hanna first went to state in 2015 as a fifth-grader at Nash Elementary School.

As her dad reminds us, "Every speller in the competition is a winner in some way because it takes lot of courage and confidence to stand in front of so many audience members, pronouncers and judges."

No doubt Hanna is busy studying for the state bee, which should be quite a challenge. At the regional bee, her dad says, the spellers flew through the official words list (made up of about 1,150 words compiled from 14 different languages) and had to spell "off the list" to get to the title.

Good luck, Hanna, and — just to be safe — we advise brushing up on your Klingon.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hanna Ghouse holds the CESA regional champion award she won. Now she moves on to the state spelling bee.

Your chance for spelling bee fame

What: The Kenosha Literacy Council's 18th annual Corporate Spelling Bee, offering adults a chance to get into the exciting world of competitive spelling

When: April 7 in the Madrigano Conference Center at Gateway Technical College, 3520 30th Ave. The "pre-Bee" starts at 5:30 p.m., with the spelling bee at 6:30 p.m.

Details: "This is always a fun evening," says Cheryl Hernandez, the group's executive director. "Teams from local organizations and businesses enjoy good-natured competition while raising much-needed funds for the Literacy Council."

Dress up: This year's event has a superheroes theme. Teams are encouraged to come dressed in costumes.

Bonus: The event features hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a cash bar. There will be silent auction items and raffles.

Information: www.kenoshalit.org/bee

— Elizabeth Snyder