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**ABNER CASIANO WINS  
THE PURPLE SCHOOL™ SPANISH LANGUAGE BEE**

*May 17, 2013 (Williston, ND).* Third-grader Abner Casiano won first place in yesterday's Spanish Language Bee held at St. Joseph's school in Williston.

The Purple School started Spanish instruction for children in Williston in January. By May, several children felt prepared enough to participate in The Purple School's 2013 Spanish Language Bee. Supported by financial donations from American State Bank & Trust and Walmart, children had an opportunity to compete for a \$100 first prize, a \$50 second prize, and a \$25 third prize.

Dressed in lime green Purple School t-shirts for the bee, all the participants had an opportunity to showcase what they learned had learned. As the children and audience members watched quietly and with bated breath, Silvia Milena Zubke, now of Williston but originally from Bogota, Columbia, judged the answers to questions ranging from "*¿Como se dice duck en español?*" (answer: *pato*) to "*¿Como se dice hot pink en español?*" (answer: *fucsia*) Many of the children were stumped by horse and turquoise, but vowed to remember those words forever more.

After 29 rounds, 3rd grader Abner Casiano emerged as the first place winner, winning the \$100 prize. Third place winner was 2nd grader Koia Krenz of Williston, and the second place winner was kindergartner Julia Shui also of Williston.

Joyce Nadolny Shui, owner of The Purple School said, "I'm so proud of these students. Learning a new language can be intimidating. Participating in a public bee in front of audience members can be also be daunting. All of these kids made the double challenge look easy. We made it through two of our five categories of testing. I hope that next year we'll have double the number of participants and make it through all five categories of testing. I hope the kids and families who participate will spread the word that learning other languages is fun and comes with lots of rewards, educational as well as financial!"