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**THE PURPLE SCHOOLSM 2016 SPANISH LANGUAGE BEE
REGISTERS 26 KIDS BY EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

May 3, 2016 (Williston, ND). Yesterday was the deadline for early registration for the 2016 K-6 Spanish Language Bee. The Purple School announced today that with over two weeks to go until the 2016 Bee, 26 children had registered for the Spanish Bee in time by the early registration deadline.

The Bee, to be held Thursday, May 19, at 3:45 pm at Williston Trinity Christian School (WTCS), provides elementary school children with an opportunity to showcase the Spanish they have learned. The Spanish Bee judge will ask each participant how to say a word in Spanish. For example, "¿Cómo se dice 'red' en español?" If the child answers correctly (*rojo*), he will have successfully completed the round. If the child does not answer correctly, he will lose one of three lifelines. Once a participant loses all his lifeline, he is eliminated. The last participant remaining in the Bee will win \$100. The second place participant will win \$50, and the third place participant will win \$25.

Explaining the genesis of the Bee, Joyce Shui, The Purple School owner, said, "Early childhood language learning leads to better academic performance overall and develops the brain in ways that can't happen later in life. So in order to increase excitement for learning Spanish in early childhood, I proposed the novel idea of a Spanish Bee to community leaders, Debbie Richter and Marilyn McGinley, a few years ago. Their enthusiasm was just the start of a wave that has spread across Williston. This year, we have four co-sponsors: American State Bank & Trust, Ryan Motors, Walmart, and Don Pedro's Family Mexican Restaurant. Almost another 20 additional businesses and organizations have donated to recognize our accomplished K-6 students. The children's pride and positivity over learning Spanish is amazing, and I am grateful for the community support of this 'feel-great' event for kids!

Shui counseled participants, "Because there will be a wide range of Spanish levels, the important thing is to study and do your personal best. While winning prize money would be wonderful, we recommend setting a personal objective for how many rounds you can stay in the Bee. All participants will earn a nickel for each round you complete and receive a certificate to help commemorate your accomplishment."

Leading up to the final on May 19th, class run-off Bees were held in many classrooms last week. A St. Joseph 3rd grade classroom competed 47 rounds with Kinsley Hendrickson closely beating out Samantha Afrifa and Robin Harrison. All three plan to compete in the May 19th city-wide Bee. Classroom Spanish Bees were held in eight WTCS classrooms as well. Shui raved, "WTCS principal Cory Fleck's leadership has been incredible. WTCS is one of the few schools in the country where all K-12

children have the opportunity to learn a second language, and it is because of Mr. Fleck's vision and commitment that Spanish learning for all kids at WTCS is enjoyed." Shui continued, "WTCS's star Spanish teacher, Laura Abuhl, has been key to motivating hundreds of students at Trinity to learn Spanish, including over 100 K-6 students who qualify to compete in the Bee. Ms. Abuhl has fostered a healthy competitive spirit at the school, motivating students to study and participate in the city-wide Bee, which in turn has motivated other classrooms around town to compete."

Paloma DeLaRiva, a volunteer teacher for The Purple School, who has been preparing St. Joseph K-3 students all year commented, "We are anticipating 30+ participants this year. With such a large turnout, we are thankful to have the Chapel at WTCS to accommodate all the participants and their fans!

The Spanish Bee judge will be Silvia Milena Zubke, a Williston resident who is originally from Bogota, Colombia. Ms. Zubke will be judging for the fourth straight year.

The registration fee for the Bee is \$15. Classroom Bee winners who registered by yesterday earned free registration to the Bee. For more information about the 2016 Spanish Language Bee and/or to register, contact info@thepurpleschool.com or 425-269-7120.
