



Birchwood School of Hawken

BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL OF HAWKEN PRESS RELEASE

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Power of the Pen District Champions

Birchwood School of Hawken's eighth grade team placed first at the Power of the Pen (POP) District Tournament held at St. Jude School in Elyria on February 4. Team members Stella Connelly, Isabella Issa, Zuha Jaffar, Dharma Nautiyal, Shruthi Ravichandran, and Connor Stanton will advance to the regional competition to be held in March. Individually these students also turned in top performances: Issa placed second, Nautiyal earned fifth, Paul Abou Haidar won eighth place honors, and Ravichandran finished ninth among all eighth grade participants.

POP is an Ohio interscholastic writing competition in which school teams composed of six members demonstrate their imagination and writing skills. For over three decades students have had the opportunity to write impromptu creative narratives and advance from the district through the regional and state levels of POP, individually or as a team.

"I started participating in POP in seventh grade. My writing has improved greatly," Issa reported. "Writing is like building your own world from scratch, and that is something I absolutely love," she said excitedly.

Each year more than 7,500 students throughout the state participate in this program. "Birchwood students have been competing since 1991," said Lorraine Tzeng, Birchwood School of Hawken's language arts teacher and POP coach. "The program coincides with our emphasis on a strong writing foundation sprinkled with creativity and imagination."

These budding Birchwood authors will attend the Regional Tournament at Perkins Briar Middle School in Sandusky on March 19. There they will compose three unique pieces in an attempt to qualify for the State Finals which will be held in May at the The College of Wooster.

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Birchwood School of Hawken is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood's mission is to equip children to lead a life of becoming—growing, thriving and flourishing—through the development of intellect and character.

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