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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**2015-2016 CALIFORNIA STATE JUNIOR HIGH
SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONSHIP**

On Saturday, May 14, 2016, at Miller Creek Middle School in San Rafael, 49 seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students from 26 counties throughout California competed in the 2015-2016 California State Junior High Spelling Bee Championship. **Conor Bekaert**, an eighth-grade student from Siskiyou County, became the California State Junior High Spelling Bee Champion. **Mridini Vijay**, an eighth-grade student from Placer County, finished second and **Annie Cheng**, an eighth-grade student from Alameda County and **Annie Wang**, a seventh-grade student from Marin County, tied for third place.

Four other students made it to the final round of competition, finishing in the following order:

Fourth Place: **Sofia Potter**, an eighth-grade student from Humboldt County

Fifth Place: **Kevi Johnson**, an eighth-grade student from Marin County

Nadine McCluskey, an eighth-grade student from Shasta County

Jacob Pedler, a seventh-grade student from Santa Cruz County

Sixth Place: **David Chen**, an eighth-grade student from Merced County

The California State Junior High Spelling Bee Championship was coordinated by the Marin County Office of Education. The Spelling Master was Barrett Schaefer. Representing Marin County were: **Kevi Johnson**, an eighth-grade student, and **Annie Wang**, a seventh-grade student, both from Miller Creek Middle School.

Congratulations to all students!

The following is a list of the other California State Junior High Spelling Bee Championship participants and their order of finish:

County	Contestant	Place
Merced	Jaryll Acosta	7
Santa Cruz	Pratham Rathi	8
Trinity	Adelaide Hannum	9
Humboldt	Skaidra Pulley	10
San Benito	Delilah DeLaCerde	11
Stanislaus	Ashley Cabral	12
Placer	Melody Gill	13
Calaveras	Kaiya Hall	13
Tuolumne	Patricia Young	14
Santa Barbara	Max Lantz	15
San Joaquin	Jordan Manly	16
Kings	Mico Sarsozo	16
Fresno	Willem Kuenen	16
Stanislaus	Arya Gandhi	16
Sonoma	Imani Thompson	16
Alameda	Alicia Zhang	17
Inyo	Ace Selters	17
Nevada	Eva Zlimen	18
Inyo	Mahdi Ayman	19
Santa Barbara	Rhea Kommerell	20
San Joaquin	Prantik Bharadwaj	20
Tuolumne	Seth Pearlman	21
Colusa	Elena Kalfsbeek	22
Fresno	Allison Van Groningen	23
Mono	Lily Pedersen	23
Yuba	Amelia Adamson	24
Siskiyou	Lane Worley	24
Yuba	Braden Alder	25
Kings	Cesar Bazua	25
Del Norte	Monique Camarena	26
Butte	Brandon Kelley	27
Sonoma	Sam Hiserote	28
Glenn	Ivan Espinoza	29
Nevada	Amber Busse	29
Glenn	Natalie Fox	29
San Benito	Eduardo Padilla	29
Colusa	Eduardo Hernandez	30
Butte	Vivian Thao	30
Shasta	Tony Falconer	31
Calaveras	Genevieve Payne	31