

Battle of the Books a wrap - finally!

Event saw drew 104 participants from across Drayton Valley schools

Verna Wicks, Drayton Valley Library

Drayton Valley Library has run their annual Battle of the Books for 27 years now. So why is it a wrap of the 25th anniversary? Why else? Blame it all on Covid! The official 25th anniversary was to be held in the spring of 2020 and lots of plans were underway when we, like everyone else, were interrupted by the pandemic. Guest authors had been invited, kids were reading, teachers were preparing, librarians were writing questions... and then we were all left asking, "What now?" At least one school had contacted the library hoping we could still do something as the students were very excited, so we modified and moved the battle online. It was, however, poorly attended, likely due to communication difficulties when the schools were closed.

This led to "Mini BOB 2021," another online Battle of the Books, where participants had to answer multiple choice and other fun questions about the books in order to unlock the locks of a digital breakout game. We ran both a team and an individual competition at the grade 3/4 level and 5/6 level, with four books as required reading. The feedback from Mini BOB was very positive and there were 64 participants.

And then it was time to get ready for BOB 2022. Would we be able to run a traditional battle in-person? We crossed our fingers and continued to hope and plan anyway. And it happened! Although there were some changes. Having had a break from the traditional battles allowed us to rethink how and why we were running this program. So here are the four big changes: encouraging participants to visit the library themselves to access books with their free library cards, having three levels of battles to allow as many students as possible to participate, introducing a new type of

question, and using a new buzzer system.

For the most part, all these changes went well although there was a bit of a learning curve! Library circulation spiked! We used an online platform for the qualifying round and had a total of 23 teams participate (104 participants). Those who qualified (top two teams or top 25 percent of teams - whichever was greater) moved on to an In-School Battle where the library brought their buzzers and quiz system to the schools. If the school had only one team, we still came so that they could practice with the buzzer system. Once the schools had battled it out to see who would represent them, it was time for the Grand Finales which

occurred in the town's council chambers. The finale was live streamed online via an unlisted video (for the safety and privacy of the students) so that schools and parents could still view the battle. The introduction of a new type of question, the huddle question, did make a difference in who won the Grand Finales, although all rounds had very close scores. And the new buzzers were enjoyed by all - even the guest author and illustrator, Chance and Pascha Hansen, who were later quizzed on their own book following their author visit at the library.

So, what was the outcome of BOB's 25th anniversary?

The grade 3/4 finale was held on May 10, with

questions being read aloud by the author of "Captain Bacon Farmer's Market," Chance Hansen. The first round was Evergreen's Bookworms vs. Wildrose Homeschooler's Home Team, the score being 14 to 13, allowing the Bookworms to advance. The Bookworms then played Aurora's Peacocks in round two where the Peacocks took it by one point (score 12 to 11) to become this year's champions.

The grade 5/6 finale was held on May 12, with the questions being read in round one by guest author Barbara Gregory who resides in Breton, Drayton Valley's own Cadance Sherman (currently a grade 11 student) read the questions in round two.

Both of these authors contributed "On the Trail to New Worlds," an anthology compiled by the Inkblots writing group, based in Red Deer. Round one was taken by Drayton Christian School's Papercuts who had a score of 14 to HW Pickup's Hardcover Habits with a score of 11. Next up was St. Anthony's Northern Warriors vs. The Papercuts who came out with a score of 15 to St. Anthony's 11, making Drayton Christian School this year's 5/6 champion.

The winning schools will have their success engraved on the Battle of the Books trophies which will be displayed at their schools for a year. Congratulations to all participants!



THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM, BUT WE SURE ARE GLAD THERE IS "U" IN OUR VOLUNTEERS!

THE 2022 DRAYTON VALLEY TRIATHLON ORGANIZING COMMITTEE would like to

thank all of the sponsors and volunteers

who dedicated their support and time to make this event happen. We would also like to thank all of the participants who competed and all of the spectators who came out to cheer everyone on!

The 2022 Drayton Valley Triathlon was supported by the following generous sponsors:

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