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NEWS RELEASE

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Elementary Oratorical Contest Winners



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Eighteen fifth-graders from the Houston County School System's gifted classes competed in the Elementary School Oratorical Contest on Dec. 8, 2011. The topic for this year's competition was *"How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles."*

The winners for 2010-2011 are:

- 1st place – Michael Paredes, Hilltop Elementary (pictured center); Coach Dr. Jennifer Wynn;
- 2nd place – Grace Thomas, Quail Run Elementary (right); Coach Tina Jacques; and
- 3rd place – Emma O'Neill, Morningside Elementary; Coach Carol Cannon.

Cash awards of \$25, \$15 and \$10 were awarded, respectively to first- through third-place

winners. The top three students will present their speeches at the Jan. 10, 2012, Houston County Board of Education Board meeting. All students received a certificate of participation.

The school representative is selected by a panel of judges at the school level. Fifth-graders create a two-minute speech and strive to win at the school level and also qualify for the system competition. Three judges - high school debate coaches and a counselor - selected the top three speakers using a rubric.

For more information, contact Jan Jacobsen, director of gifted education and AP coordinator, at Jan.Jacobsen@hcbe.net or 478-988-6200, ext. 10393. All 18 participants are pictured below in no particular order.



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