



David Pogue

The Ridgefield Library Teams, from left to right are Noah Turner and Devin Gund, Jacob Litt and Stephen Alt, Jerray Chang (Somers MS) and Stephen Winston and Kell Pogue and Amy Rowland.

Library's Scrabble squads among top 10 at nationals

Four teams of sixth to eighth graders from the Ridgefield Library Scrabble Club competed against 91 other teams from 20 states and Canada this past Friday and Saturday at the National School Scrabble Championship in Orlando, Fla. All of the Ridgefield teams finished in the top 25, with two in the top 10.

Jacob Litt and Stephen Alt, eighth graders at East Ridge Middle School, made it to the semifinals as one of only three undefeated teams. A close loss in that

game took them to seventh place overall with a 5-1 +343 record. Stephen also bested 189 other players to win a word quiz given during the course of the tournament to win an iPod.

Amy Rowland, a seventh grader at Ridgefield Academy, teamed with Westport seventh grader Kell Pogue to finish 10th with a 5-1 +193 record (their only loss was to the seventh place Ridgefield team). The team had been together only a few months, but had studied hard.

Noah Turner of Ridgefield, who is homeschooled, and Devin Gund, an eighth grader at East Ridge Middle School, finished 16th with a 4-2 +422 record; and Stephen Winston, an eighth grader at Ridgefield Academy, paired with Somers sixth grader Jerray Chang to finish 24th with a 4-2 +218 record.

"This was an outstanding performance by all of the Ridgefield teams," said Cornelia Guest, Ridgefield resident and coach of the Ridgefield Library program.

"The kids worked really hard to prepare, and it paid off. The Ridgefield teams won more games at the tournament than any other School Scrabble program in the country and Canada."

The Ridgefield Library Scrabble Club meets Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 during the school year. The classes are open to players of all levels, from fourth to eighth grade.

Contact Geri Diorio, Children's Services Department head, at 203-438-2282 for more details.