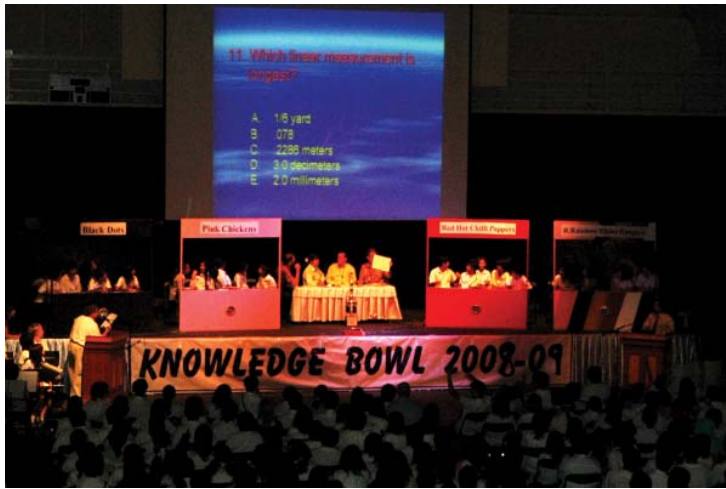


Are You Smarter Than a Middle Schooler?

By Cindy Lin, 6th Grade Parent



Similar to the popular television show “Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?” RIS Middle School (MS) has its own exciting version. On Thursday, November 6, from 1 to 2:30 PM in Godbout Hall, MS students and teachers competed at the annual Middle School Knowledge Bowl, just to find out which house team was the smartest. Four house teams with 18 students on each team were prepared to prove that they were the smartest and quickest with reflexes. The four MS teams consisted of a colorful array of our smartest and fastest thinking 6th, 7th and 8th graders: the Black Dots, Pink Chickens, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Rambunctious Rainbow Rhino Rangers. Each team had two representatives from each grade level compete in each of the rounds, totaling six students per team, per round. There was also a team of MS teachers that participated in each round.

Round one questions covered subjects like language arts, science, math, geography, history, music, drama, photography and current events. Round two focused on popular movies and music videos. During the bonus round teachers and students in the audience also got opportunities to answer questions on behalf of their team members on stage when they passed. Some questions were so tough that students and teachers were all stumped. For example, “What was the name of the first person to sail around the world by himself?” (Answer provided at the end of the article.)

When all was said and done, Team Black Dots won with a total score of 190 points, but in my opinion, all the students were winners. It really isn't easy answering all those questions under pressure, on stage with buzzers and timers. Congratulations to all the MS students, teachers and administrators on a program well done! This event was a perfect combination of learning, fun and healthy competitive spirit. Students truly enjoyed themselves and showed great team spirit. The excitement and fun in Godbout Hall that day was absolutely contagious!

(Captain Joshua Slocum was the first person to sail solo around the world.)