

# Think Day 2008

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A possible Think Day question could have been, "Which ruler made the following quote famous? 'Veni, vidi, vici.'" The typical and correct answer would normally be Julius Caesar, however on Saturday, March 15th it was much better suited for the William Davies Think Day Team!

We are VERY pleased to announce that the William Davies Think Day Team won 2nd Place in their very first appearance in the 30 year competition at Mainland High School, thus proving we will be a presence in this competition for years to come. We are very proud of our students for the hard work and determination that they had presented over the past couple of months. Our "Elite 14," as Mr. Santilli affectionately refers to them, has shown that they could compete with the best of the best throughout Atlantic County. Congratulations to the following team members: Edward Bakshis, Mac Boney, Jay Higbee, Sally Hu, Emily Johnson, Nick Murphy, Zach Nocera, Jason Palermo, Kyle Race, Casey Rowlinson, George Schieder, James Townley, Gabby Villamor, and Ciara Windsor.

Mr. Muldoon, Davies Principal, has said time and time again, "I would stack our students up against any school, any time!" Well that statement was proven to be true this past Saturday. We are not embarrassed to say that Bellhaven School (Linwood) did place first this year, while Northfield Community School placed third. As we are all aware these two districts have always had the reputation for excellence. Now we have proven that Hamilton Township School District deserves to be mentioned with the likeness of school districts like this, or shall we dare to say these districts should be lucky to be mentioned in the same sentence as our great school. Personally we prefer the latter!

Other middle schools who participated in the Think Day Competition were Brigantine North M.S., Emma C. Attales M.S. (Absecon), Eugene A. Tighe M.S. (Margate), Fernwood Avenue M.S. (EHT), Galloway Twp. M.S., Hammonton M.S., Jordan Road M.S., Mullica Twp. M.S., Upper Twp. M.S., and Ventnor M.S. The thirteen schools answered questions about visual and performing arts, history, math, spelling, current events, geography, literature, science, sports and entertainment. There were three rounds with each school answering each of the questions within a time limit. The first round had each school represented by six team members who receive 5 points for each correct answer and no penalties for incorrect or unanswered questions. Round two had a different group of six students who received 10 points for correct answers, -5 for incorrect answers and no penalties for not answering. In the last round each team had six members with unlimited substitutions and again received 10 points for correct answers and -5 for incorrect ones, but this time -5 for unanswered questions.

A big thank you goes to Mr. Stephen Santilli, 7<sup>th</sup> grade vice principal, for organizing our participation in the Think Day Competition. Our appreciation also goes out to our administrators, Mr. Donatucci, Mr. Martins, Mr. Muldoon, Mr. Bretones and Mrs. Cox as well as other throughout the district for their presence and support of our Think Day Team and the event itself. Along with this, Mr. Santilli can't thank the staff at Davies enough for their support during the Think Day process. A huge thanks especially to those who were able to provide questions and instructional resources to help quiz our students. Mr. Santilli also notes the large part that Ms. Kristina VonHess and Ms. Dawn Leek played in helping him stay organized, which was also a key to the team's success. Both Mr. Stanford and Mr. Disque are to be commended for the numerous hours they volunteered to prepare our students for the competition. They both added the additional support that was needed whether it was time in the morning or the afternoon to help prepare our students. Our fans, whether administration, staff, parents or members of the community, helped pack the stands and at times even the gymnasium floor due to how many people came out to represent our school. Our cheering section was not only the best dressed (thanks Coach Mathis) and had the most people, but more importantly was the most alive and had the most spirit. Lastly, we want to take the opportunity to thank our wonderful Think Day Team. These students not only worked hard to prepare for this event in a short amount of time, but are students who continue to work hard both in and out of the classroom each and every day that they walk through our school house doors.

While we are at the present time investigating another competition at Oakcrest High School in April, we are looking forward to competing again next year in the Think Day competition. While our teams may fluctuate from year to year we are confident that we will continue to produce very competitive teams in future competitions. Mr. Santilli stated, "I am fairly certain that Hamilton Township entered this competition as the underdog, however in my mind we were never an underdog but rather the "dark horse" that not many schools saw coming. While I think some may still be shocked at our performance and others are certainly proud, the consensus remained the same on Saturday; Hamilton Township came to win and win we did!"