



Moon Area School District

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For Immediate Release

Elementary Students Hold Mock Trial of Cynthia Rella



Hyde fourth-grader Noah Pinter, playing the part of Jacques Q. Stowe, is questioned by defense attorney Alayna Trice, a Bon Meade fifth-grader.

Bon Meade Elementary School students performed their 11th Mock Trial to determine the guiltiness of Cynthia Rella, who was accused of stealing the crown jewels from King Garthur's Palace.

Students prepared for a month in their roles as defense and prosecuting attorneys, witnesses, jurors and evidence team members before the fictitious Cynthia Rella was judged guilty or innocent by real-life lawyers Mark Ulven and Richard Gaitens. The detailed scenario mirrors the complexity of an actual trial with nervous witnesses, guilty parties and dishonest persons.

Preparation included drafting questions, brainstorming solutions and creating evidence for the trial that was loosely based on a famous fairy tale. Character portrayed by students included Fella Rella, Cruella Rella, Fred Exx, Prince Charming, Jacques Q. Stowe, Diane Mond and Duke L. Ington. Additionally, students portraying lawyers learned courtroom protocol to apply during the trial which was known on the Bon Meade docket as District Attorney for the County of Challegheny in the Commonwealth of Pencilvania v. Cynthia Rella

Elementary Challenge teacher Sharon Gaitens, who writes the scenarios and coordinates the event, sees the mock trial as a divergent thinking activity where participants must think about how their character will respond as well as recall background information.