

Carpenter High En Route to National Reach For the Top Competition April 22, 2011

Eight bright young students from Carpenter high are busy preparing for the Reach For The Top national finals, to be held in Toronto at the end of May. Coached by Travis Harrington and Todd Handspiker, the team, which will be representing Saskatchewan, is composed of students Megan Zacharias, Elisia Snyder, Jessica Zacharias, Wayne Graham, Nolan Ens, Josh Edelman, Brendan Grela and Charlie Marsh.

They are building on the experiences of the Carpenter team that made the national championships in 2009.

“Our results that year weren’t great,” said coach Harrington, “but we learned valuable lessons about how to get ready for the competition. We purchased a subscription for preparation and question packs that have been very helpful. Our kids have been studying the packs this year and we’ve also benefited because other teams have generously given us study packs. We now have over 50 that the students exchange. It’s been great!”

The use of study packs is a key ingredient in obtaining success at Reach For The Top competitions because the team members are able to indicate (with the ubiquitous buzzer) that they’re ready to answer a question well before the host has finished asking it.

“The system benefits an aggressive student who can recognize the question by hearing only the first three or four words,” said Harrington. “That was what hurt us the most two years ago – the aggressiveness of the other teams. This year we not only have some very aggressive students on the team, but we also have a much broader knowledge base.”

The students who make up this year’s team were drawn from a pool of 24 who expressed interest last October. The numbers were pared to eight following an in-house tournament. One week ago the team competed against the Carpenter High staff in an exhibition match. The results were close but “really,” said Principal Larry Waterman, “they kicked us and they kicked us hard.”

On Saturday May 7th the team will be hosting a public tournament at the High School in Meadow Lake at the Carpenter High School Theatre. Teams from the community, regional schools and local businesses are invited to come and participate. Entry is free, but donations are encouraged to help defray the costs of travelling to Toronto. For details on the competition please see the attached letter, and to enter a team please submit the attached entry form by 4:30 PM on Wed. May 4th.

To: Whom it may concern

Your group is cordially invited to enter a team into Carpenter High School's Community Reach for the Top Tournament to be held on Saturday May 7, 2011, at the CHS Theatre, starting at 1:00pm. This event is designed to bring awareness and support for the CHS Reach for the Top team that is going to Toronto for the Reach for the Top National Tournament from May 28-30, 2011. Reach for the Top is an academic quiz competition held annually throughout Canada. The types of questions asked come from diverse categories such as: history (Canadian and World), the sciences, math, entertainment, pop culture, music, literature, etc. Reach for the Top has been a mainstay in Canadian culture since 1961. The National final has been televised every year since its inception.

The tournament will consist of the CHS Reach for the Top team, local businesses, community members and groups interested in competing. The maximum number of people able to compete at one time is four, but you may enter two teams, if so desired. There are NO registration or administration fees, but donations to help offset the cost of the trip to Toronto are greatly appreciated.

The format for the CHS Community Reach for the Top Tournament involves community teams competing against other community teams or against one of two CHS Reach for the Top teams depending on the draw. Also, the format for the tournament will be dependent on the number of teams entered into the tournament. *Each game will be no more than 20 minutes long with the number of games dependent on the number of teams entered.*

Entry forms for the CHS Community Reach for the Top Tournament must be submitted to Carpenter High School by 4:30pm on Wednesday May 4, 2011. For more information about the tournament, Reach for the Top or for more entry forms please call Travis Harrington or Todd Handspiker at Carpenter High School (236-5236).

We look forward to seeing your team on Saturday May 7, 2011 at the Carpenter High School Theatre.

Sincerely,

Travis Harrington and Todd Handspiker
Teacher Advisors
CHS Reach for the Top Club 2011

Carpenter High School Reach for the Top Community Tournament
Entry Form

Team Name/Community Group: _____

Team Members: _____

Team Contact Person: _____

Phone #: _____

Cell #: _____

e-mail: _____

ALL TEAM ENTRIES ACCEPTED

Please return to Carpenter High School by Wednesday May 4, 2011.

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Please return to Carpenter High School by Wednesday May 4, 2011.