

## Hyde Parker off to national spelling bee

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A Meadowwink is a kind of bird -- and it is also the word that is flying 12-year-old Devora Klionsky to the Scripps National Spelling Bee later this month.

Klionsky is a 7th grader at Akiba Schechter Jewish Day School, 5235 S. Cornell Ave., and will be heading to Washington on May 31 to compete against students from across the nation. She climbed her way up from last year's defeat at the regional competition and has also had wins in the Chidon HaTanach (Bible Contest) and Akiba's annual book contest -- where she read 11,000 pages.

Klionsky, who is interested in a career in journalism, said she enjoys learning and using new words. She became an active part of a

literary legacy once she and two of her classmates revived the school's student newspaper in 2008. Her brother Gideon Klionsky was the originator of the Akiba student paper, which fizzled once he graduated in 2002, and her sister Abby Klionsky was the editor of the student newspaper during her time at Walter Payton High School.

"I think it's going to be really fun," Klionsky said about her weeklong stay in D.C. During the week there will be several rounds of competition before the final three rounds of the televised competition.

The preliminary round will take place at 12:15 p.m. (central) June 3 on ESPN3, the semifinal will take place at 9 a.m. (central) June 4 on ESPN and the final will take place at 7 p.m. (central) June 4 on ABC.

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