

# Yawning Moscow boy is a big hit

- **June 4th, 2010**
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By Kerri Sandaine of the Tribune

**Ian Wendt was eliminated at national spelling bee, but a photograph of him yawning appeared across the country**

Ian Wendt, 12, of Moscow, (center) yawns at the start of competition at the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Photo by S... Associated Press

Yawning is one of the ways Ian Wendt deals with the stress of spelling bees.

The Moscow Charter School student was eliminated Thursday during the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., but a photograph of him yawning was a hit.

The picture was picked up by The Associated Press and appeared in several newspapers across the country, including the online edition of the Washington Post.

"He did quite a bit of yawning and slouching in his chair during the regional competition, too," said his mother, Leah Wendt of Moscow.

The 12-year-old boy spelled his words correctly during the second and third rounds, but he didn't have enough total points to make it to the semifinals. The scoring is based on a written test worth 25 points and 3 points for each word spelled correctly in Rounds 2 and 3.

"He had mixed feelings about being eliminated because he was very nervous about spelling in front of all those people," she said.

His words were "dehiscence" and "slurvian." He took a long pause before spelling the second word, his mother said.

Ian is the third Inland Northwest Spelling Bee champion in his family. Older sister Karli (Devin) McIntyre, 24, was the region's winner in 1999, and brother Cody Wendt, 20, won in 2003 and 2004.

Parents Randy and Leah Wendt take turns accompanying their children to Washington, D.C., for the national competition. This year it was dad's turn, and Cody also got to go.

During the remainder of his stay in the nation's capital, Ian plans to attend the finals and visit monuments and museums. His mom said he'll also have an opportunity to play tennis on clay courts.

The final rounds of the Scripps National Spelling Bee are televised on ESPN and updates are available online at [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com).

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*Sandaine may be contacted at  
[kerris@lmtribune.com](mailto:kerris@lmtribune.com) or (208) 848-2264.*

