

# Fifth Grade Team Competes For World Title

By Phyllis Makuck



Members of the team with Katie Shurtleff (Julie Anderson's daughter) second from right.

"The thing that impressed me most about World Finals—besides being emotionally overwhelmed with pride—was the camaraderie among all the teams. The children were so supportive of each other," says Julie Anderson, Pine Knoll Shores' Director of Finance and Administration. Julie's pride is justifiable. Her eleven-year-old daughter, Katie Shurtleff, was one of six fifth graders who represented North Carolina at the World Odyssey of the Mind Competition. Other team members were Blair Painter, Josh Mason, Robert Coles, Will Onorato and Alex Knorr. Their volunteer coaches were Debbie Painter, Renee Coles and Suzanne Thompson.

After winning the Division I North Carolina Coastal Region competition in March, this team of six from Morehead

## Year's End

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after the incorporation of the town, the Women's Club has provided the energy for the establishment of the sense of neighborhood we experience here.

Reflecting on the day's theme, Mayor Lamson asked members to consider the value of their lives in Pine Knoll Shores through the works of their club, the contribution to the community, the spirit of fellowship and the part members play in giving the club a special flavor, creating something really sweet. She

City Elementary at Camp Glen went on to win State Finals in April and earned the honor of representing North Carolina at World Finals that took place in Ames, Iowa in May. At the world competition, the Morehead City team faced 37 other Division I teams from four countries and 22 states, coming in 5<sup>th</sup>, just behind Bangi Elementary School from Seoul, Korea.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international, extracurricular educational program that encourages children to apply their creativity and problem-solving skills. Each year, the program presents young people with multiple problems

then handed over the gavel to President Linda Strader who graciously thanked former President Halada for two years of outstanding leadership. She also thanked members for their trust in her taking over such a task. She asked for continued support in fostering friendships through club service.

All women living in Pine Knoll Shores are welcome to attend meetings and join the club.

and participants compete in various divisions based on age. This year's competition included five problems with names that inspire creativity: "Earth Trek," "Teach Yer Creature," "The Lost Labor of Heracles," "Shock Waves" and "Superstition." Thousands of teams from 26 countries participated.

Morehead City's fifth graders worked on "Shock Waves." The challenge was "to design and build a structure out of balsa wood and glue." The structure had to "balance and support as much weight as possible while absorbing shockwaves." The shockwaves were to be the result of adding weights to the structure with spacers strategically placed at intervals so that when spacers were removed the top weight would fall onto the stack of weights. Teams were

to test the strength of their balsa wood creations by adding as much weight as possible in a limited period of time without breaking the structure. As part of the challenge, each team had to

"incorporate the testing of the structure into a performance." Cost of the solution could not be more than \$140.

Applying their knowledge of geometry, specifically an understanding of "properties and relationships of plane figures," our Morehead Elementary team was able to build a lightweight balsa wood structure that bore 773 pounds to win State Finals and then increased its capacity to 825 pounds for World Finals.

In a performance inspired by the name of their challenge—"Shock Waves"—they humorously portrayed forces working for and against keeping our beaches clean and our oceans healthy—an appropriate theme for a group of beach kids from Carteret County. Incorporating "fantastic costumes, props, and sound effects," they won high praise.

These children benefited in far-reaching ways from their participation in Odyssey of the Mind. Besides being a tremendous learning and confidence-building experience, the competition provided an enriching opportunity to interact with young people from around the world. Carteret County is fortunate to have such fine young ambassadors.

## "Water Angels"

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rescue, the family and my son tried to find the surfers to thank them.... They could not be located."

Mrs. McGuthry wrote Mayor Joan Lamson with two goals: "The first is to broadcast my message of gratitude. I can never manage to express how thankful I am that the surfers saved my child and his friend's father. The second goal is to inform you and the members of the community that you have a group of unsung heroes in your midst. Those water angels are out there. It is my hope that you can help me and the others that they will save in the future by providing them with a bit of positive regard. You can let them know that they are good Samaritans and that they are an asset to your community."

Within a week of Matthew's rescue, the PKS Fire Department was engaged in another beach rescue. This time the "water angels" were members of Pine Knoll Shores' beach and water rescue unit. Four people were in trouble in the ocean at Hammer Park beach. Firefighter Dawkins was on the town's four-wheeler when he heard the call. He was first on the scene and first in the water, followed by Lt. Cox and Capt. Williams. Firefighter Jones remained on the beach in communication with county counterparts and other team members. Firefighter Mann was at the Iron Steamer getting ready to launch the jet ski, but before it was needed, all four victims and three rescuers were safely out of the water—another happy ending thanks to those who risk their lives to rescue others.

*Editor's Note: If you know the identity of the surfers who helped Matthew, call the McGuthries at 912-756-0231.*