

|| शब्दमधुरा – Marathi Spelling Bee ||

ISW Marathi language school; run and operated by Indian Society of Worcester, Shrewsbury, MA; organized a unique and first-of-its-kind Marathi spelling Bee “शब्दमधुरा”. The objective of this bee was to convey Marathi language’s richness to our next generation and help increase kids' Marathi vocabulary, in a competitive yet fun way.

The bee was modeled after the popular English spelling bee that children all over the world enjoy and appreciate. Just like the English spelling bee, there were rapid fire rounds and buzzer rounds, however, what made the Bee unique was the language reversal i.e. the Bee conductor asked the words in Marathi and kids had to pronounce the words in Marathi followed by their meanings in English. On the similar line, next round was about gender identification; words were asked in Marathi and kids had to identify the gender in Marathi. Another round focused grammatical aspects of Marathi words (Plural, Noun, Pronoun, Adjective, Adverb etc.) was planned for higher grades but wasn't conducted due to time constraints.

Due to the pandemic, “शब्दमधुरा”, was conducted online. About 15 students from all the grades of ISW Marathi language school participated enthusiastically and enjoyed the Bee. It was heartening to see that kids were able to draw inferences and make connections based on Marathi prefixes and suffixes. They were given the word bank of about 400 words to practice. One winner and 2 runner ups were declared.

ISW Marathi language school recommends this initiative to other schools in the hope that it may help kids become more fluent in Marathi and may rekindle Marathi conversations at home.

