

# Pranava, Deeta, Viraj, Shreya Win With Words

## STAFF REPORTER

Fremont, Calif.

**T**HE award winning accelerated learning center for children, Genius Kids Inc, presented its annual *Win With Words* 2010 Competition on Saturday, April 10 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School in Fremont. The event was open to all community members and not just students of Genius Kids. The competition is an opportunity for children to have the chance to research interesting topics and talk about them, developing leadership, fostering self-confidence and personal growth. It was a full house auditorium, filled with over 40 speakers ranging from ages of 3 to 9 and their families, as they took the stand to present their topics with confidence and charisma. The competition was divided into various age categories. Genius Kids engages the child in a learning opportunity that develops confidence and public speaking skills, promoting positive growth every step of the way along with various other offerings to enhance childrens' learning

The bunch of precocious kids wowed the audience for the 3rd year in a row with cute and well prepared presentations on topics ranging from their 'favorite recipes' and their 'favorite books', 'what they want to be when they grow up'. Viraj Verma, 1st place winner in category 4 (ages 5 to under 7) had the audience amazed as he talked about the pressures and expectations parents place on their children at a young age to choose their career.



*Win With Words* contest winners with the organizers and judges

Deeta Ganapathy, who won 1st place in category 3 (ages 4 to under 5 years) reeled out and demonstrated the importance of dance for children, while Pranava Shetty, who just turned 3 last week, entertained the audience with his presentation on *The Hungry Caterpillar*, his favorite book, and won 1st place.

Shreya Balaji was cheered loudly as she walked away with the 1st place in category 5 as she astounded the audience with her perky

presentation on what she would do if she were the US president. The *Win With Words* Public Speaking Competition is produced and conceptualized by Genius Kids Inc, Fremont. "At Genius Kids we believe in catching kids young. Great minds start little and by providing a platform for the young generation to speak their minds, we create leaders of tomorrow," said Rennu Dhillon, founder of Genius Kids, and announced that Genius Kids would be avail-

able as a franchise in September 2010.

This year's judging panel included Vidya Pradhan, managing editor of *India Currents* and co-founder and editor for *Water No Ice*, an online magazine; Shambhu 'Sam' Rao, journalist with *The Indian Express North America* publication and founder of YouthUtsavFest and *Indian-American.Org*, and Shivani Prashar, a recent graduate in Political Science and founder of Sapna Initiative, a non-profit organization working to help rural communities in India, who plans to attend law school.

## The Winners

### CATEGORY 2

Pranava Shetty	1st
Shrey Valia	2nd
Kanishk Gautam	3rd

### CATEGORY 3

Deeta Ganapathy	1st
Sanah Bhardwaj	2nd
Tanisha Jha	3rd

### CATEGORY 4

Viraj Verma	1st
Ayaan Shah	2nd
Ashmit Gaba	3rd

### CATEGORY 5

Shreya Balaji	1st
Rahul Joshi	2nd
Shreyak Duggirala	3rd

