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Burton Valley 4th Graders advance to NorCal Odyssey of the Mind tournament

Submitted by Emily Kleeman



Photo provided

Da Galaxy Penguins, a team of fourth-graders from Burton Valley Elementary, placed second in their division at the regional tournament and advanced to the Northern California Odyssey of the Mind state tournament, where they placed sixth after competing against teams from all over Northern California on March 30 in Santa Rosa. The team of seven students spent months honing their problem-solving and engineering skills. The culmination of this work was their original presentation, comprised of a story, costumes, props, scenery, and technical elements. The team's presentation required them to make a mechanical creature that underwent multiple changes to hide in plain sight. Their creative story described a child looking for the creature in an alien dreamscape. Coaches Jill Marek and Maura Nicolini coordinated team meetings, but were not permitted to offer suggestions or opinions on the team's ideas.

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