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Rheem School Student Advanced to **State Geo Bee Finals**

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Submitted by Charlotte Gruebele



Rheem Elementary School fifth grader Mason Gruebele

Photo provided

tory, the school's Geography Bee traveled to Fresno State University Champ advanced to the National Ge- April 4, to compete with 97 other

or the first time in Donald ographic Bee State Finals. Mason Rheem Elementary School his- Gruebele, a 10-year-old fifth grader,

fourth through eighth graders for the title of State Champion. Nearly 600 schools in California participated in school Bees this year. Each school's Geo Bee champ then took a test to qualify for the state championship. This year, 101 students were invited to participate in the State Final, and 98 were there to compete.

Mason's love for geography started in first grade when he began drawing his own maps of the United States. Now he is passionate about drawing maps of the world, and learning about the cultures, languages and histories of other countries. He collects maps and reads atlases for enjoyment. In addition to his love of geography, he enjoys Boy Scouts and playing classical music on the piano. He was also Rheem School's Bee champ last year as a fourth grader, the only student to win the title two years in a row.

Although Mason missed one question in the preliminaries and did not get to advance to the tie breaker round in Fresno, it was such a great experience that he is eager for a chance to earn a spot at the National Geographic Bee State Final next year.

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Beach Music in Lafayette

By Cathy Dausman



Matt Kolb (left) and Ben Miller listen to a song they recorded as the duo Eventide.

Photo Cathy Dausman

"I love Saklan because we are family" Saklan Schoo CELEBRATING 60 Nurturing the true spirit of every child

pact affair with a phone boothsized sound room holding only a fluence my whole life," Kolb said, Shure mic. Add a keyboard and beat adding he'd like to make a career of pad, an acoustic and electric guitar music production. and two musicians, and it becomes production headquarters for the duo, take a music theory class, but that not a band, who call themselves Eventide. Matt Kolb and Ben Miller are Eventide; they're aiming for a laid back guitar sound filled with riffs, light percussion and what love to open for a favorite band in a Miller calls fast-spoken "flow" vo-

There's a gentle jazzy, soft rap feel to the Eventide sound, one that Kolb and Miller describe as a blend

of alternative rock and hip-hop. The students - Kolb attends Diablo Valley College; Miller is an music skills are really good," said Acalanes High School senior – aim to make "beach" music, hence the sunset-evoking name. They began working together last year after Miller taught himself to play guitar, and approached Kolb to jam. "It'd be a waste not to share [their lyrics," Zucker added. music]," Kolb reasoned, so they recorded and produced it. Miller versity of California at Santa Barwrites the guitar line music first, bara, close enough to drive to Kolb then fills in lyrics; Kolb lays down the beat work and handles production.

Kolb describes himself as classically trained, having started piano Cloud lessons in second grade. He played piano and percussion in wind groups and jazz ensembles through Stanley Middle School, regularly attending Lafayette Summer Music Jazz

he Lafayette studio is a com- Workshops, and Acalanes High School. "Music has been a huge in-

The self-taught Miller has yet to didn't stop him from singing lead vocals. The duo listens to Bostonbased Aer, Jack Johnson and Foo Fighters for inspiration, and would small Berkeley venue, but right now their focus is the upcoming release of a five song EP recording. They're pleased to have accumulated 50,000 plays on the web-based audio distribution platform, SoundCloud.

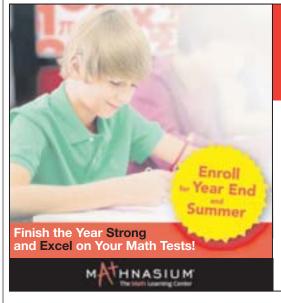
"Eventide's production and Lafayette singer/songwriter Laura Zucker after listening to their music online. "They are able to emulate several musical styles, and I like the contrast of traditional rap style music with non-traditional style

Miller wants to attend the Uniat USC or UCLA, where he "can be Matt's weekend roommate" and continue to make music together.

Listen to Eventide via Sound-

https://soundcloud.com/eventidemusic-1, find them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/TheEve ntideMusic or follow the duo on Twitter: @eventide_music.

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