

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION



157 students recognized in all!

37 local schools participated this year!

Student work in the Design-An-Ad, Editorial Cartoon, Feature Photo, My Favorite Storybook Character, Original Artwork and Student Essay contests

Teachers of NIE winners



Donna Carrier
Sacred Heart School
9 winners
p6, Vachon; p7, Kajjala; p18, R.J. Ramos; p19, Muzyk; p21, Foley; p24, J. Fay; p25, Raymond; p26, Hartin.



Jackey Antonian
Holy Rosary School
7 winners
p5, Bradshaw; p12, C. Leger; p17, DeMalia; p17, Duguay; p24, C. Leger; p28, Tonet.



Mike Fontaine
Murdock Middle High School
7 winners
p9, Bernd; p10, Lucier; p11, Wood; p16, Arsenaull; p19, Evans-Bedell; p26, MacArthur; p26, Demont.



Mark Kobel
Gardner High School
6 winners
p6, McGrath; p8, Armstrong; p15, Duangsay; p22, Surette-Narcisse; p25, Duangsay; p28, Thompson.



Susan Alario
Westminster Elementary Sch.
5 winners
p13, Milton; p13, Dewey; p18, Gilbert; p18, Hawkins; p23, Milton.



Heather Boylan
Helen Mae Sauter School
5 winners
p5, Fluet; p10, Fluet; p11, Walton; p17, Sleeper; p19, Fluet.



William Hulette
Holy Rosary School
5 winners
p2, Aube; p7, Dornig; p9, Hammond; p11, Sykes; p26, Keith.



Lynn Morrissey
Holy Rosary School
5 winners
p20, Whiting; p20, Gaullin; p24, Begin; p27, Lucas; p27, Dilling.



Robert Myette
Westminster Elementary Sch.
5 winners
p5, Barry; p15, Bedard; p20, Varieur; p22, Quill; p23, Barry.



Krystina Fleck
Sacred Heart School
4 winners
p16, Ryan; 18, Webb; p24, Romero; p27, K. Fay.



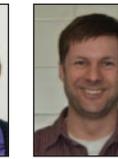
Linda Herbison
Montachusett Reg. Vocational
4 winners
p10, Rolon; p14, French; p16, Franz; p21, Melendy.



Lynn Murray
Toy Town Elementary Sch.
4 winners
p8, Lively; p9, Signa; p11, Rodriguez; p17, Gemme.



Stephanie Rondeau
Murdock Middle High School
4 winners
p19, Desgroselliers; p19, Ricard; p20, Scott; p20, Hancock.



William Simons
Quabbin Reg. High School
4 winners
p13, Tuttle; p26, Senecal; 28, Holland; p28, Pasternack.



Julie Tobin
North Central Charter Essential
4 winners
p12, L'Bay; p13, Marr; p19, Fortier; p20, Carrier.



Brian Beaudoin
Overlook Middle School
3 winners
p5, Shenk; p16, Iocci; p17, Moore.



Katie Blake
Sacred Heart School
3 winners
p12, Bator; p14, Dymek; p24, A. Ramos.



Allen Dernalowicz
Gardner Middle School
3 winners
p11, DuBois; p23, Colcord; p23, Martioski.



Joanna Draugsvold
The Winchendon School
3 winners
p21, Frushell; p28, Yin; p28, Xu.



Janet Dupuis
Narragansett Middle School
3 winners
p9, Meredith; p10, Wilson-Shattuck; p26, Nelson.



Donna Murphy
Elm Street School
3 winners
p15, Zelesky; p25, Sargent; p25, Tremble.



Brian Snell
Royalston Community Sch.
3 winners
p18, Dembrocke; p23, Normandin; p28, Wrigley.



Dan Starr
Montachusett Reg. Vocational
3 winners
p7, Salter; p8, Holmes; p9, Velez.



Theresa Barry
Oakmont Reg. High School
2 winners
p13, Wang; p14, Wang.



Nina Belanger
Mahar Regional School
2 winners
p24, Engele; p27, Sale.



Mike Fitzgerald
Westminster Elementary Sch.
2 winners
p6, Sargent; p26, Chace.



Linda Ganson
Mahar Regional School
2 winners
p15, Truesdell; p25, Patria.



Dena Hengst
Quabbin Reg. High School
2 winners
p5, Villaran; p26, Desjardins.



Cyndi Hawke-LeRoy
Memorial Elementary School
2 winners
p22, Rodriguez; p23, Yang.



Helen Miller
Mahar Regional School
2 winners
p6, Denis; p22, Galvin.



Linda Qualters
Phillipston Memorial School
2 winners
p12, Bennett; p25, Campos.



Nichole Ruggles
Petersham Center School
2 winners
p25, Younger; p27, Teele.



Michelle Sarkisian
Quabbin Reg. Middle School
2 winners
p28, Franklin; p28, Walsh.



Eric Sifert
Westminster Elementary Sch.
2 winners
p22, Arnold; p28, Boyack.



Lisa Topper
Hardwick Elementary Sch.
2 winners
p21, Stegle; p26, McGrail.



Sue Wiita
Baldwinville Elementary Sch.
2 winners
p7, Guthrie; p11, Collins.



Raja Bala
Cushing Academy
1 winner
p16, LaPointe.



Nancy Barrieau
Holy Rosary School
1 winner
p19, Pelton.



Kerry Bart-Raber
Hubbardston Center School
1 winner
p15, DiNardo.



Eileen Bohigian
Hubbardston Center School
1 winner
p15, Kusske.



Kristine Boudreau
Hubbardston Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p28, Graves.



Christina Boyer-Thompson
Petersham Center School
1 winner
p17, Chinian.



Mark Burnett
Butterfield Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p27, Torres-Zelaya.



Melissa Clark
Petersham Center School
1 winner
p9, Butler.



Jen Collins
Meetinghouse Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p24, DiAngelo.



Edie Conrad
Wachusett Hills Christian School
1 winner
p18, Curran.



Barbara Dietrich
Hubbardston Center School
1 winner
p19, H. Leger.



Joanna Draugsvold
Homeschool
1 winner
p22, Leveillee.



Tara Furr
First Year's Academy
1 winner
p24, LeBlanc.



Beth Gospodarek
Athol-Royalston Middle School
1 winner
p7, Burgos.



Beth Gospodarek
Riverbend Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p18, Hard.



Kathie Huhtala
Templeton Center School
1 winner
p25, Abbott.



Steven Latorre
Narragansett Regional High
1 winner
p23, Hamel.



Lynn LaRoche
J.R. Briggs Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p25, Oliveira.



Wendie LeBlanc
Petersham Center School
1 winner
p10, Lyden.



Julie Mankowsky
Hubbardston Center School
1 winner
p27, Marcinkiewicz.



Anne McDonald
Toy Town Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p12, Benjamin-Smith.



Sherry McDonald
Hubbardston Center School
1 winner
p18, Berd.



Carla Medeiros
Hubbardston Center School
1 winner
p6, Shaveet.



Debbie Miller
Baldwinville Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p6, Tourigny.



Mark Nevard
Oakmont Reg. High School
1 winner
p17, Reida.



Nancee Roy
Ruggles Lane Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p23, Nevard@Phps.



Mary Beth Sekurski
Holy Rosary School
1 winner
p9, Roscoe.



Tracy Smith
Petersham Center School
1 winner
p9, Hastings.



Ruth Suyenaga
Waterford Street School
1 winner
p25, Plotkin.

Cover photos:

(starting from upper left, left to right):
Students hold up the newspaper in Heather Boylan's class at Helen Mae Sauter School in Gardner; Students read the Voice page during Mark Nevard's class at Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham; A student in Lynn Murray's class at Toy Town Elementary points out a detail to another student in Winchendon; A student reads the newspaper in Allen Dernalowicz's class at Gardner Middle School; Two students in Susan Alario's class get a laugh from the comics in the newspaper at Westminster Elementary School; Two students read the newspaper on the floor in Heather Boylan's class at Helen Mae Sauter School in Gardner; Two students look at a story pointed out by Oakmont Regional High School teacher Mark Nevard; A student points out a detail in a Breakfast Serial story to another student in Lynn Murray's class at Toy Town Elementary in Winchendon. (Photos by SENIOR NEWS EDITOR/NIE DIRECTOR ANDRES CAAMANO)



FEATURE PHOTO
*Kaitlyn Aube, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School*

Other participating teachers

Baldwinville Elementary
Kathy Carruth

Kim Doyle
Jane Gregoriou
Gita Haddad
Sue LaRose
Ted Newton
Jan St. Jean

Riverbend Elementary School
Amy Magazu
Tracy Johnson

Butterfield Elementary
Greg Smith

Meetinghouse Elementary School
Kristin Burke
Beth Foster
Sandy Fowke

Royalston Community School
Frank Hains
Sally Knechtel

Gardner High School
Sue Gallagher

Narragansett Middle School
Michelle Smith

Ruggles Lane Elementary Sch.
Beth Olson

Helen Mae Sauter School
Ruth Suyenaga

Petersham Center School
Bridget Koetsch

Sacred Heart School
Jan Gleason
Tracy Salem
Kim Brillon

Holy Rosary School
Joyce LaBonte

Phillipston Memorial School
Leanne Bruen

Toy Town Elementary School
Yolanda Duprey

Hubbardston Center School
Wendy Castriotta
Jacqueline Cabot
Jen Churchill
Kristen Coons

Dear readers,

For a eighth consecutive year, I am proud to announce that participation in the *Newspaper In Education* supplement has increased once again. Historically, NIE is considered something solely for elementary schools to participate in, but in the past seven years, there has been an increased recognition toward middle and high school students in the Greater Gardner area by way of this supplement.

Six years ago was the first year where there was any high school participation in the supplement, as Gardner High School participated in the Feature Photo contest, which was added to five other contests in that year's supplement. This year, students from Cushing Academy, Gardner High, Murdock Middle High School, Mahar Regional School, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, Narragansett Regional High School, Oakmont Regional High School, Quabbin Regional High School and The Winchendon School participated, along with six other schools that did not participate last year — 36 in all, along with one homeschool student as well.

By turning page after page of this supplement, you will see the writing, drawing and photographic talents of many talented young people in Greater Gardner. As the *Newspaper In Education* program at *The Gardner News* grows, to where nearly 1,900 students each week during the school year benefit, it becomes ever more apparent that our area schools are filled with exceptional young minds ready to lead us into tomorrow.

This year's winners and honorable mentions were, as usual, difficult to judge. All of the students should be commended for a job well done. A special thank you goes out to every single teacher and administrator, of which there were 93 this year, who helped make this year's supplement a success. In recognizing that detail, we not only are including a photo of every student that had a supplement-winning entry, but also of each and every one of their corresponding teachers that submitted an entry to *The Gardner News* for this supplement. This is just a glimpse at what is possible when newspapers are used in the classroom, of which there have been 84 teachers thus far who have utilized *The Gardner News* this year.

NIE is a worldwide effort that connects teachers, students and local newspapers by providing stimulating teaching materials to facilitate learning. Whether the subject matter is the ABC's for primary grades, or real life learning (exercises in finding a job through the classified section) the newspaper offers something for every subject and grade level.

Students who learn how to read, enjoy, understand and use newspapers are equipped with a lifelong learning resource.

The Gardner News is proud to offer our very own NIE program to Greater Gardner schools, and your support is very much appreciated. Parents, businesses and other organizations can help students at any point during the school year. For a surprisingly small donation, you can help pay for the educational services we provide.

Once again, congratulations to each of our 157 winners and a hearty thank you to everyone who participated in *The Gardner News 2012 Newspaper In Education Supplement*.



Andrés Caamaño
NIE Director

NIE Contest Winners

First Place



p6
Lauren Tourigny
Baldwinville
Elementary Sch.
Original
Artwork
K-3



p15
Aiden Zelesky
Elm Street
School
Original
Artwork
4-6



p13
Minna Wang
Oakmont Reg.
High School
Original
Artwork
7-9



p5
Mindy Villaran
Quabbin Reg.
High School
Original
Artwork
10-12



p8
Emma Lively
Toy Town
Elementary Sch.
Editorial
Cartoon
4-6



p6
Curtiss Vachon
Sacred Heart
School
Editorial
Cartoon
7-9



p9
Marissa Hastings
Petersham
Center School
Student
Essay
K-3



p9
Kimberly Butler
Petersham
Center School
Student
Essay
4-6



p13
Matthew Marr
North Central
Charter Essential
Student
Essay
7-9



p9
Sabrina Velez
Montachusett
Reg. Vocational
Student
Essay
10-12



p14
Kasja Dymek
Sacred Heart
School
Feature
Photo
4-6



p14
Minna Wang
Oakmont Reg.
High School
Feature
Photo
7-9



p7
David Salter
Montachusett
Reg. Vocational
Feature
Photo
10-12



p7
Madelyn Guthrie
Baldwinville
Elementary Sch.
Storybook
Character
K-1



p5
Abbey Fluet
Helen Mae
Sauter School
Storybook
Character
2-3



p5
Emma Barry
Westminster
Elementary Sch.
Design-An-
Ad
4-6



p14
Kailey French
Montachusett
Reg. Vocational
Design-An-
Ad
7-9



p6
Shawn McGrath
Gardner High
School
Design-An-
Ad
10-12

Second Place



p10
Alexandria Lyden
Petersham
Center School
Original
Artwork
K-3



p15
Gina DiNardo
Hubbardston
Center School
Original
Artwork
4-6



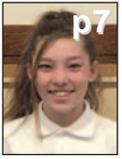
p5
Abigail Shenk
Overlook
Middle School
Original
Artwork
7-9



p13
Dan Tuttle
Quabbin Reg.
High School
Original
Artwork
10-12



p11
Felipe Rodriguez
Toy Town
Elementary Sch.
Editorial
Cartoon
4-6



p7
Bethany Dornig
Holy Rosary
School
Editorial
Cartoon
7-9



p10
Abbey Fluet
Helen Mae
Sauter School
Student
Essay
K-3



p17
Lindsey Gemme
Toy Town
Elementary Sch.
Student
Essay
4-6



p10
Shayna Rolon
Montachusett
Reg. Vocational
Student
Essay
7-9



p16
Melissa Franz
Montachusett
Reg. Vocational
Student
Essay
10-12



p15
Abigail Bedard
Westminster
Elementary Sch.
Feature
Photo
4-6



p2
Kaitlyn Aube
Holy Rosary
School
Feature
Photo
7-9



p8
Mikhailla Holmes
Montachusett
Reg. Vocational
Feature
Photo
10-12



p15
Anneliese Kusske
Hubbardston
Center School
Storybook
Character
K-1



p11
Alica Walton
Helen Mae
Sauter School
Storybook
Character
2-3



p7
Javier Burgos
Athol-Royalston
Middle School
Design-An-
Ad
4-6



p5
Paige Bradshaw
Holy Rosary
School
Design-An-
Ad
7-9



p15
Sean Duangsay
Gardner High
School
Design-An-
Ad
10-12

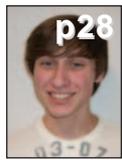
Third Place



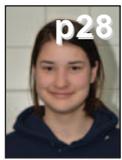
p12
Lauren Bennett
Phillipston
Memorial School
Original
Artwork
K-3



p27
Mayte Torres-Zelaya
Butterfield
Elementary Sch.
Original
Artwork
4-6



p28
David Walsh
Quabbin Middle
School
Original
Artwork
7-9



p28
Maddison Holland
Quabbin Reg.
High School
Original
Artwork
10-12



p27
James Teele
Petersham
Center School
Editorial
Cartoon
4-6



p11
Samantha Sykes
Holy Rosary
School
Editorial
Cartoon
7-9



p17
Jessica Sleeper
Helen Mae
Sauter School
Student
Essay
K-3



p12
Angela Bator
Sacred Heart
School
Student
Essay
4-6



p12
Nadia L'Bahy
North Central
Charter Essential
Student
Essay
7-9



p16
John LaPointe
Cushing
Academy
Student
Essay
10-12



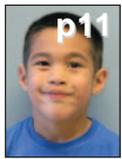
p6
Josh Sargent
Westminster
Elementary Sch.
Feature
Photo
4-6



p9
Zoe Hammond
Holy Rosary
School
Feature
Photo
7-9



p15
Leah Truesdell
Mahar Regional
School
Feature
Photo
10-12



p11
Bryton Collins
Baldwinville
Elementary Sch.
Storybook
Character
K-1



p6
Ma'ayan Shaveet
Hubbardston
Center School
Storybook
Character
2-3



p10
Madelyn Wilson-Shattuck
Narragansett
Middle School
Design-An-
Ad
4-6



p28
Ed Tonet
Holy Rosary
School
Design-An-
Ad
7-9



p28
Samantha Thompson
Gardner High
School
Design-An-
Ad
10-12

Turn to next page for
Honorable mentions

NIE Contest Winners

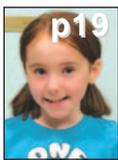
Honorable Mentions



p25
Faith Campos
Phillipston Memorial Sch.
Original Artwork
K-3



p24
Kendra DiAngelo
Meetinghouse Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
K-3



p19
Abbey Fluett
Helen Mae Sauter School
Original Artwork
K-3



p22
Michelle Rodriguez
Memorial Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
K-3



p23
Anaray Yang
Memorial Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
K-3



p23
Emma Barry
Westminster Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p26
Teagan Chace
Westminster Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p18
Sarah Dembroske
Royalston Community Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p18
Eve Hard
Riverbend Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p26
Olivia McGrail
Hardwick Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p23
Dominic Milton
Westminster Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p23
Ryley Newcomb
Ruggles Lane Elementary
Original Artwork
4-6



p23
Jack Normandin
Royalston Community Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p23
Gavin Phelps
Ruggles Lane Elementary
Original Artwork
4-6



p24
Alexandria Ramos
Sacred Heart School
Original Artwork
4-6



p25
Arianna Sargent
Elm Street School
Original Artwork
4-6



p21
Dalton Siegle
Hardwick Elementary Sch.
Original Artwork
4-6



p25
Claudia Tremble
Elm Street School
Original Artwork
4-6



p25
Tyreece Younger
Petersham Center School
Original Artwork
4-6



p24
Holland Engele
Mahar Regional School
Original Artwork
7-9



p28
Grace Franklin
Quabbin Middle School
Original Artwork
7-9



p24
Andrew LeBlanc
First Year's Academy
Original Artwork
7-9



p17
Jared Moore
Overlook Middle School
Original Artwork
7-9



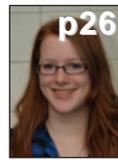
p18
R.J. Ramos
Sacred Heart School
Original Artwork
7-9



p19
Hannah Ricard
Murdock Middle High School
Original Artwork
7-9



p16
Madison Tocci
Overlook Middle School
Original Artwork
7-9



p26
Karisa Desjardins
Quabbin Reg. High School
Original Artwork
10-12



p21
Olivia Frushell
The Winchendon School
Original Artwork
10-12



p22
Brendan Galvin
Mahar Regional School
Original Artwork
10-12



p23
Koie Hamel
Narragansett Reg. High School
Original Artwork
10-12



p22
Sam Leveille
Homeschool
Original Artwork
10-12



p28
Brandi Pasternack
Quabbin Reg. High School
Original Artwork
10-12



p25
Natasha Patria
Mahar Regional School
Original Artwork
10-12



p26
Jessica Senecal
Quabbin Reg. High School
Original Artwork
10-12



p22
Alice Xu
The Winchendon School
Original Artwork
10-12



p28
Tian Yin
The Winchendon School
Original Artwork
10-12



p22
Sydney Arnold
Westminster Elementary Sch.
Feature Photo
4-6



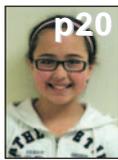
p28
Isabella Boyack
Westminster Elementary Sch.
Feature Photo
4-6



p28
Hunter Graves
Baldwinville Elementary Sch.
Feature Photo
4-6



p28
Destiny Wrigley
Royalston Community Sch.
Feature Photo
4-6



p20
Alyssa Varieur
Westminster Elementary Sch.
Feature Photo
4-6



p27
Kelsey Dilling
Holy Rosary School
Feature Photo
7-9



p27
Kalli Duguay
Holy Rosary School
Feature Photo
7-9



p24
Cody Leger
Holy Rosary School
Feature Photo
7-9



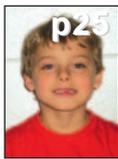
p27
Matthew Lucas
Holy Rosary School
Feature Photo
7-9



p20
Bryce Scott
Murdock Middle High School
Feature Photo
7-9



p27
Jacqueline Marcinkiewicz
Hubbardston Center School
Storybook Character
K-1



p25
Lucas Oliveira
J.R. Briggs Elementary Sch.
Storybook Character
K-1



p25
Lily Abbott
Templeton Center School
Storybook Character
2-3



p19
Hannah Leger
Hubbardston Center School
Storybook Character
2-3



p25
Sofi Plotkin
Waterford Street School
Storybook Character
2-3



p24
Jack Fay
Sacred Heart School
Editorial Cartoon
7-9



p17
Addie Chinian
Petersham Center School
Student Essay
K-3



p9
Jack Roscoe
Holy Rosary School
Student Essay
K-3



p18
Anna Berd
Hubbardston Center School
Student Essay
4-6



p18
Devin Curran
Wachusett Christian Hills
Student Essay
4-6



p18
Madison Hawkins
Westminster Elementary Sch.
Student Essay
4-6



p19
Celine Pelton
Holy Rosary School
Student Essay
4-6



p20
Leah Carrier
N. Cent. Charter Essential School
Student Essay
7-9



p19
Cheyenne Fortier
N. Cent. Charter Essential School
Student Essay
7-9



p20
Leon Gaulin
Holy Rosary School
Student Essay
7-9



p21
Jordan Melendy
Montachusett Reg. Vocational
Student Essay
7-9



p19
Josh Muzyk
Sacred Heart School
Student Essay
7-9



p17
Elyssa Reid
Oakmont Reg. High School
Student Essay
10-12

Congratulations to the 157 students that appear in the 2012 Newspapers In Education Supplement!

Other Design-An-Ad winners



p8
Christopher Armstrong
Gardner High School



p16
Alyssa Arsenaull
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p12
Cassandra Barnjum-Smith
Toy Town Elementary



p24
Curtis Begin
Holy Rosary School



p9
Devin Berndt
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p17
Christina DeMalia
Holy Rosary School



p26
Alyssa Demont
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p6
Savanna Denis
Mahar Regional Sch.



p19
Eric Desrosiers
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p13
Luke Dewey
Westminster Elementary



p25
Sean Duangsay
Gardner High School



p17
Kalli Duguay
Holy Rosary School



p19
Zoie Evans-Bedell
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p27
Kevin Fay
Sacred Heart School



p21
Emmett Foley
Sacred Heart School



p18
Taylor Gilbert
Westminster Elementary



p20
John Hancock
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p26
Paul Hartin
Sacred Heart School



p26
Gillie Keith
Holy Rosary School



p12
Cody Leger
Holy Rosary School



p10
Brandon Lucier
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p23
Zackery Martioski
Gardner Middle School



p26
Douglas MacArthur
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



p9
Chiara Meredith
Narragansett Middle School



p26
Trevor Nelson
Narragansett Middle School



p22
Emily Quill
Westminster Elementary



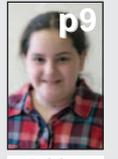
p25
Jonathan Raymond
Sacred Heart School



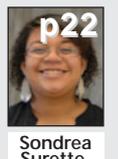
p24
Nicole Romero
Sacred Heart School



p16
Connor Ryan
Sacred Heart School



p27
Noreen Sale
Mahar Regional Sch.



p22
Sondrea Surette-Narcisse
Gardner High School



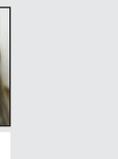
p21
Brandon Truax
Sacred Heart School



p18
Matthew Webb
Sacred Heart School



p20
Elizabeth Whiting
Holy Rosary School



p11
Rylen Wood
Murdock Mid.-High Sch.



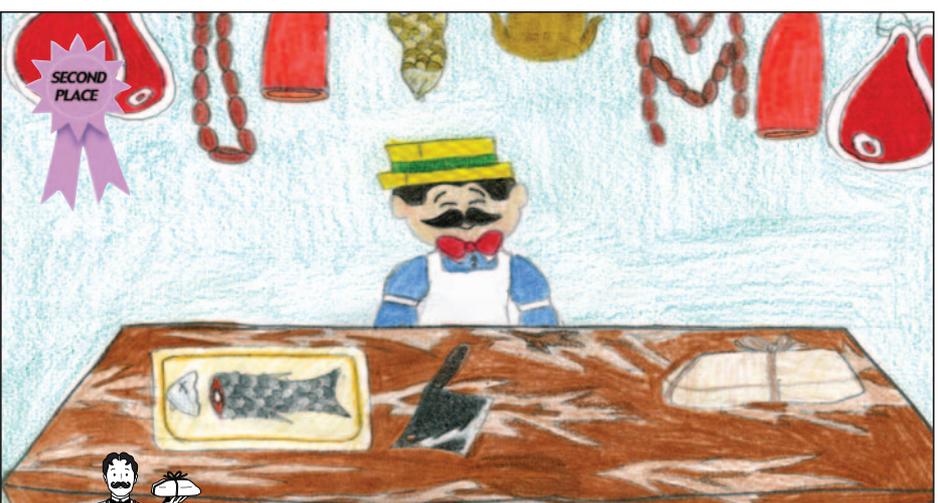
STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Abbey Fluet, Grade 3,
Helen Mae Sauter School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Mindy Villaran, Grade 12,
Quabbin Regional High School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Abigail Shenk, Grade 8,
Overlook Middle School



LARRY'S MEAT & PRODUCE
1935 MAIN ST., ATHOL
978-249-4402

DESIGN-AN-AD
Paige Bradshaw, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School



HORSE & BUGGY FEEDS



Dunbar Street, Keene • 603-352-0328
Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30, Sat 8-5
Rte. 12N, Winchendon • 978-297-2518
Monday-Friday 10-7, Sat 8-5
www.horseandbuggyfeeds.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
Emma Barry, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



FIRST PLACE

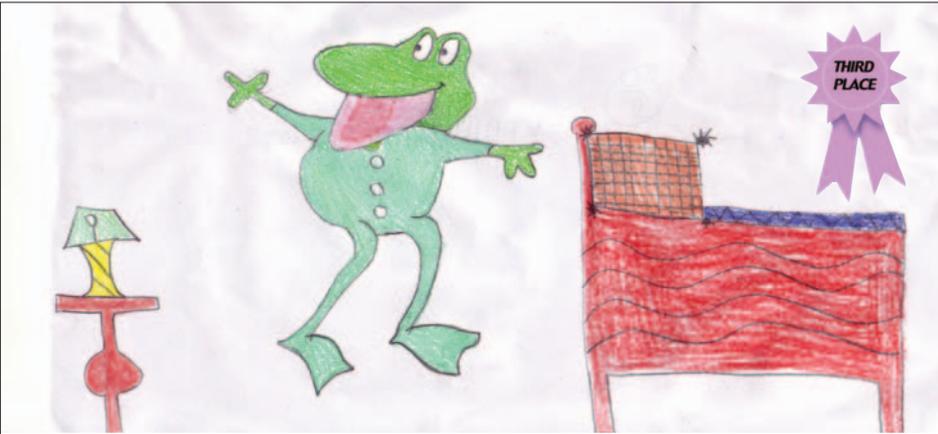
EDITORIAL CARTOON

Curtiss Vachon, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School



FIRST PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Lauren Tourigny, Grade 2,
Baldwinville Elementary School



THIRD PLACE

STORYBOOK CHARACTER

Ma'ayan Shaveet, Grade 3,
Hubbardston Center School

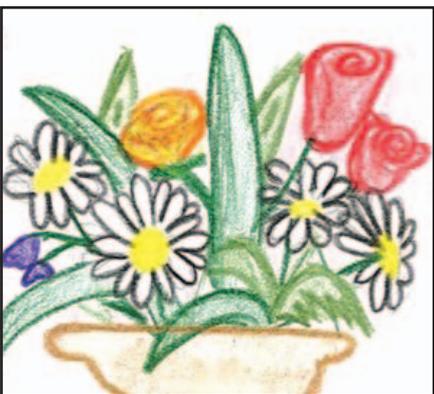


THIRD PLACE

FEATURE PHOTO
Josh Sargent, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO



Valley Florist
GREENHOUSE & GIFT SHOP

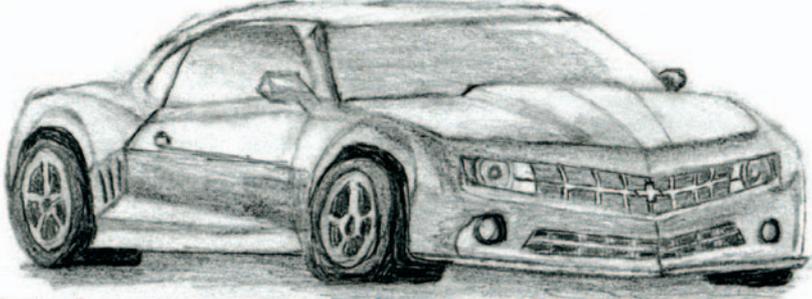


Lower Parker Street, Gardner, Massachusetts
Telephone (978) 632-2950
Rte. 101 on the Gardner/Templeton line

DESIGN-AN-AD
Savanna Denis, Grade 12,
Mahar Regional School

SALVADORE
FAMILY OF DEALERSHIPS

#1 LARGEST
AUTO GROUP
IN THE AREA



442 WEST BROADWAY GARDNER MA

www.salvadoreauto.com

FIRST PLACE

SALVADORE #1 LARGEST
Family of Dealerships Auto Group in the Area

442 West Broadway, Gardner, MA
www.salvadoreauto.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
Shawn McGrath, Grade 12,
Gardner High School



FEATURE PHOTO
David Salter, Grade 12,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

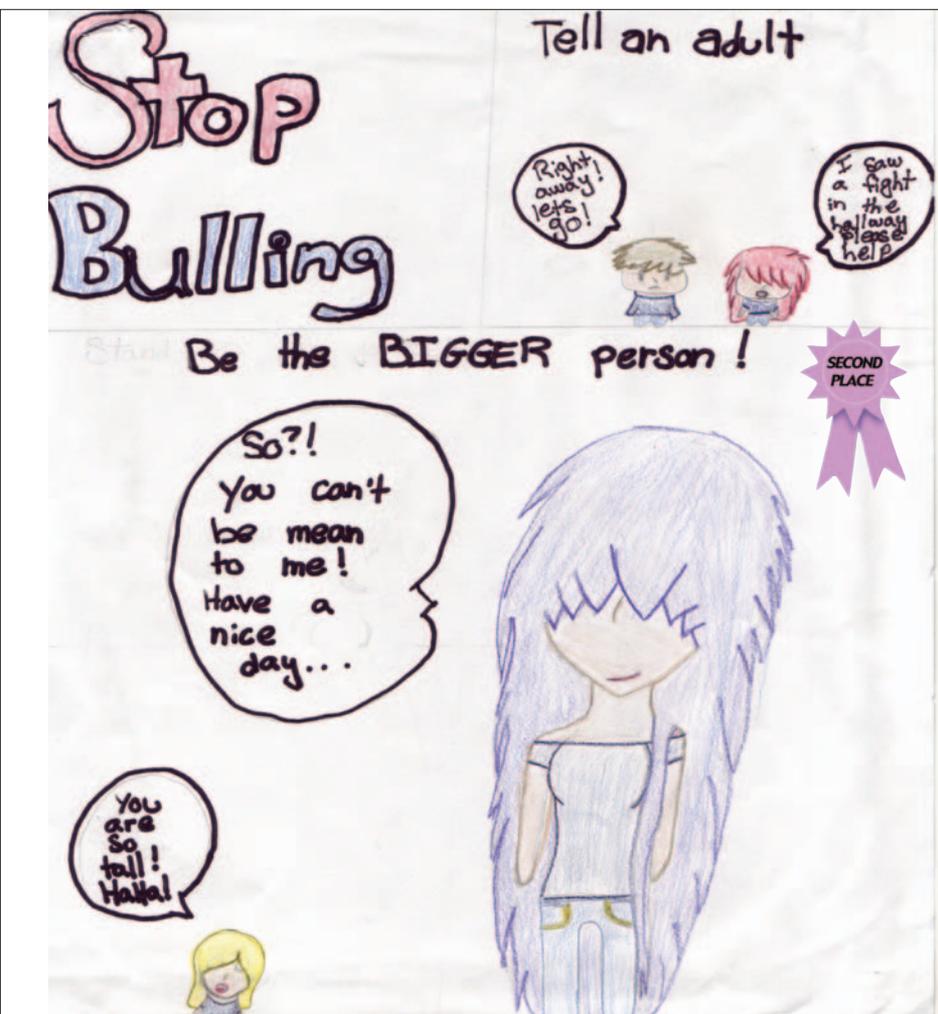


STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Madelyn Guthrie, Grade 1,
Baldwinville Elementary School

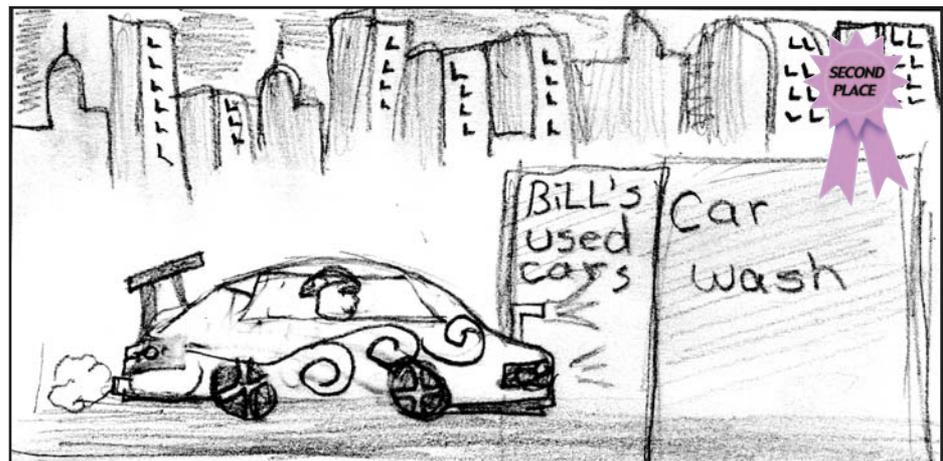


74 Parker Street, Gardner
978-669-0122
www.gardnerale.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
Joel Kaijala, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Bethany Dornig, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School

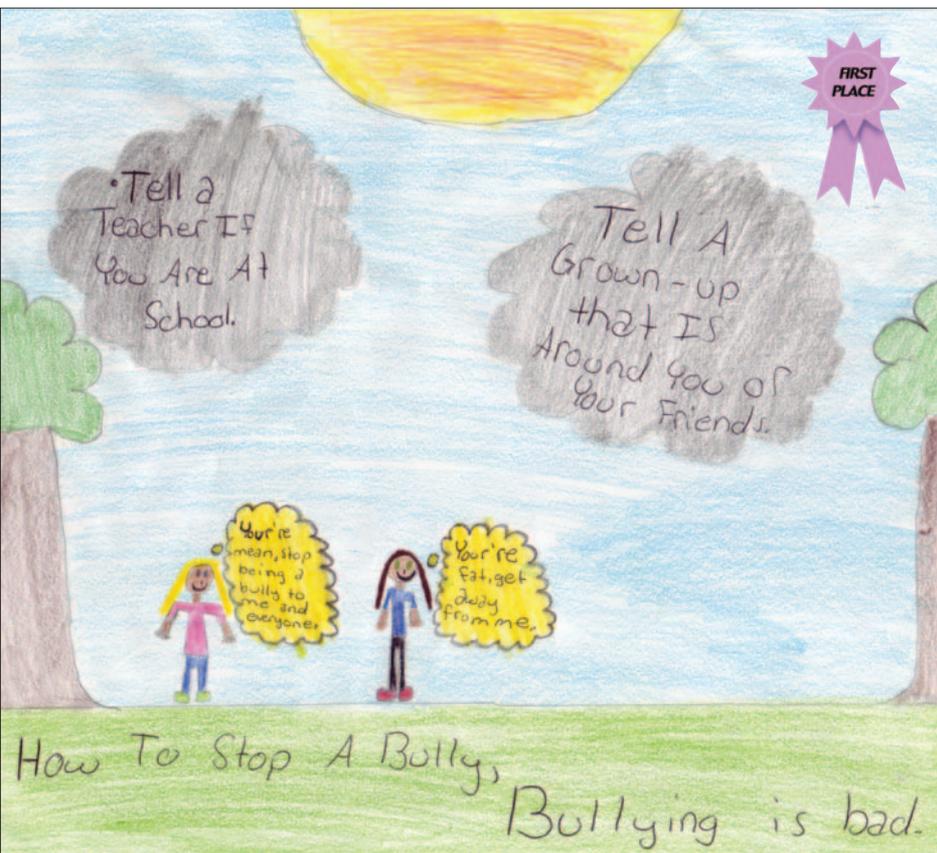


BILL'S USED CARS

36 MAPLE ST., RTE. 202,
BALDWINVILLE, MA
(978) 939-2103

Visit us on the web at
www.billsusedcars.net

Hours: Monday thru Friday 8 A.M.-6 P.M., - Saturday 8 A.M.-3 P.M.
DESIGN-AN-AD
Javier Burgos, Grade 6,
Athol-Royalston Middle School



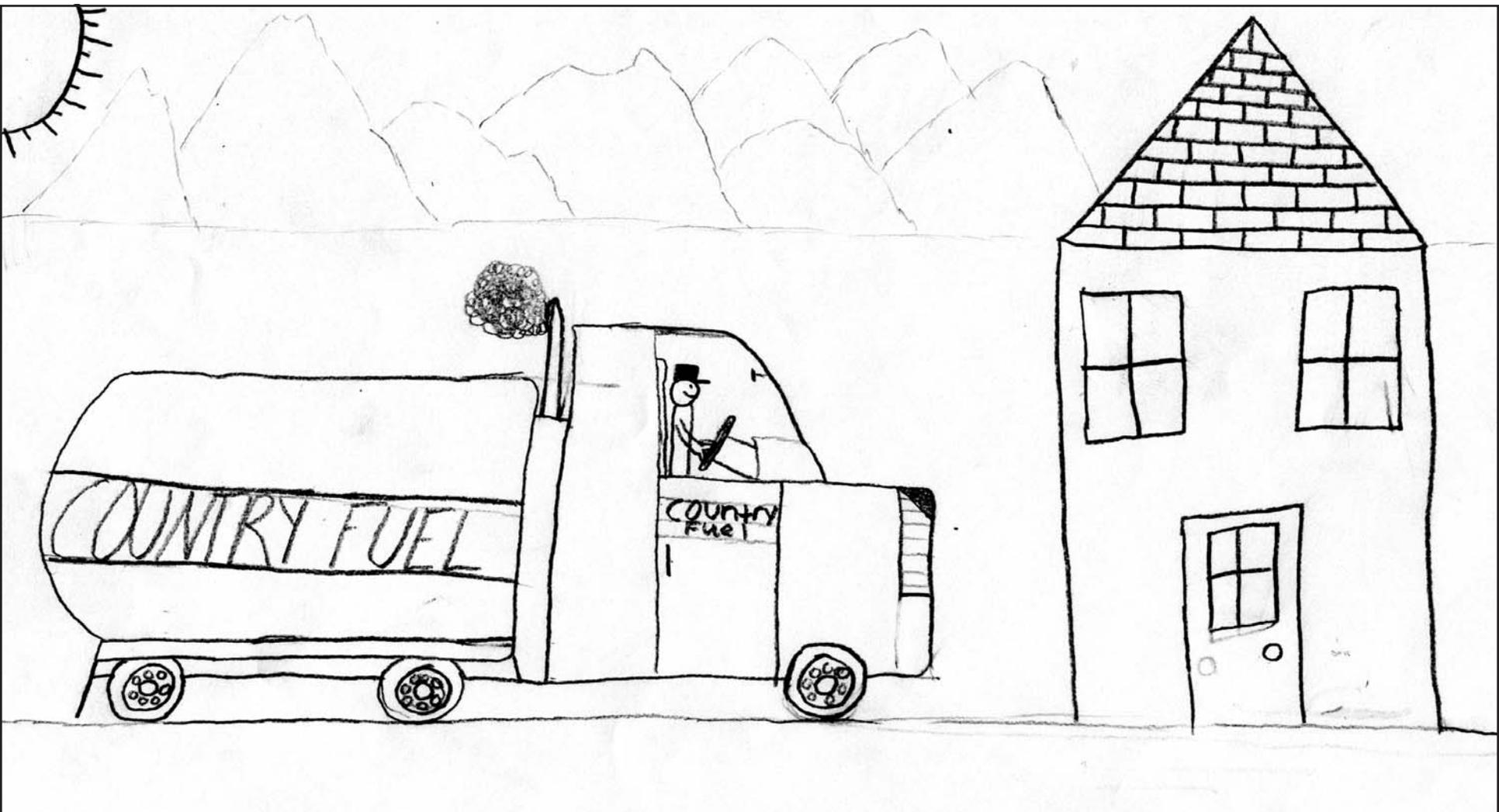
FIRST PLACE

EDITORIAL CARTOON
 Emma Lively, Grade 5,
 Toy Town Elementary School



SECOND PLACE

FEATURE PHOTO
 Mikhaila Holmes, Grade 12,
 Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



"Why Make more than one call...When Country Fuel can do it all"

OIL - HEATING - PLUMBING - AIR CONDITIONING - SOLAR

www.countryfuel.net

212 WEST ST • GARDNER, MA • 978-632-1100 • 800-995-6395

DESIGN-AN-AD

Christopher Armstrong, Grade 9,
 Gardner High School



What is your favorite toy?

Let me tell you about my favorite toy. This toy is my favorite because my grandpa gave it to me before he died. The toy is a stuffed animal, a leopard named Rufus. I can't remember when I got him. I have had him for a long time. When I was sad, Rufus was always there with a hug.

We moved across the country, and I forgot to tell my dad to bring him. He is in the state of Washington, in a storage unit. I miss him so much. I'm so discouraged! I hope I go out and get him some time.

He is brown and has black spots. Two of his whiskers are bent. He has eight whiskers. Rufus has shiny brown eyes.

I wonder if he is OK. Rufus might be dusty. He is in a big brown cardboard box. Maybe he is playing with my other stuffed animals. I have a lot of other stuffed animals.

FIRST PLACE

STUDENT ESSAY
Kimberly Butler, Grade 4,
Petersham Center School

Should iPads be used in class?

Could you imagine your life without the Internet? In an ever-growing world, technology is the key to progress. Technology has advanced in such a way that modern society relies on it and utilizes its power to perform everyday tasks. What was once an option, has grown to become necessity. Emerging technologies have enabled us to unravel the mysteries of the past, as well as uncover the way to the future. When Apple co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer Steve Jobs invented the iPad, he had not only the future of our generation in education as well as the workplace in mind, but he also revolutionized our way of life.

With the right amount of supervision in an educational environment, the iPad has the potential to become the single most valuable learning tool on the planet. Applications that can be purchased on the iPad from iTunes allow access to textbook information without lugging around the actual paper textbook. A myriad of images and interactive captions gives students a whole new learning experience. iPads are not only better for the environment, they are a cost efficient resource as well, with free and affordable apps that are updated regularly, available for purchase — as opposed to schools that are struggling financially (who isn't?) having to purchase expensive textbooks that eventually become outdated and damaged by students throughout the course of only a few school years. With over 20,000 educational apps, iPads are great study and learning aids, notebooks, and are useful for keeping one organized. Teachers can also give lessons using the iPad's video mirror imaging software — and the list for this device's capability goes on and on.

Starting students in grade school and kindergartners in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District as well as throughout the country, off early with using the iPads will enable them to be more apt to learn with technology hand in hand, in later years. Technological literacy is already considered to be an extremely valuable asset to students and workers in the country and will become increasingly so in the years to come, considering the direction technology is taking in our future. These iPads inspire creativity among the younger audiences especially, providing a safe, and easy-to-use learning tool as well as a great interactive tablet for fun and games, which generally makes both teaching and learning enjoyable for all.

For young students with disabilities such as autism, iPads provide visual and audio learning simultaneously, that they can connect with easier and learn in ways that would otherwise prove to be very difficult for them. Simple, non-distracting, interactive applications allow them to sustain interest, which motivates them to engage in games with others, and even enables them to read and write better without all the complexities of an ordinary learning environment. All those qualities of the iPad, coupled with a screen reader, support for playback of closed-captioned content, and other innovative features make it far more easy to use for students with vision or hearing impairments or other physical or learning disabilities.

Today, there exists social networking Web sites and communities who are concerned with using the iPad as an opportunity to ultimately 'transform' how technology is used in schools, colleges and universities. They dedicate themselves to finding new ways to integrate touch tablets and other technology into the educational system, opening doors to a future where technology makes learning more accessible and less difficult for everyone. Recently, a select few schools have already begun attempting to embed the use of the iPad into the curriculum.

FIRST PLACE

What's your favorite season?

I like all the seasons, but I like spring the best. I love when the birds come to my bird house. When they have babies, the babies chirp and chirp and chirp so loud, sometimes I can't fall asleep. I like seeing all the different birds coming and going from my bird feeder. When some of them fight for the food, it's very funny.

I love smelling the grass, and when I do, it smells sweet and fresh.

I also like planting things with my mom and dad and my little sister. We plant watermelon and squash. That's why my favorite season is spring.

FIRST PLACE

STUDENT ESSAY
Marissa Hastings, Grade 3,
Petersham Center School



THIRD PLACE

FEATURE PHOTO
Zoe Hammond, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School

STUDENT ESSAY

Sabrina Velez, Grade 12,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

What's your favorite pet?

My favorite pet is a dog, because a dog is fun to play with. My dog still is little and still bites a little, but I love him. He likes a lot of toys. He does not like to be in his crate. I don't know why, but my dog likes to watch TV.

HONORABLE MENTION

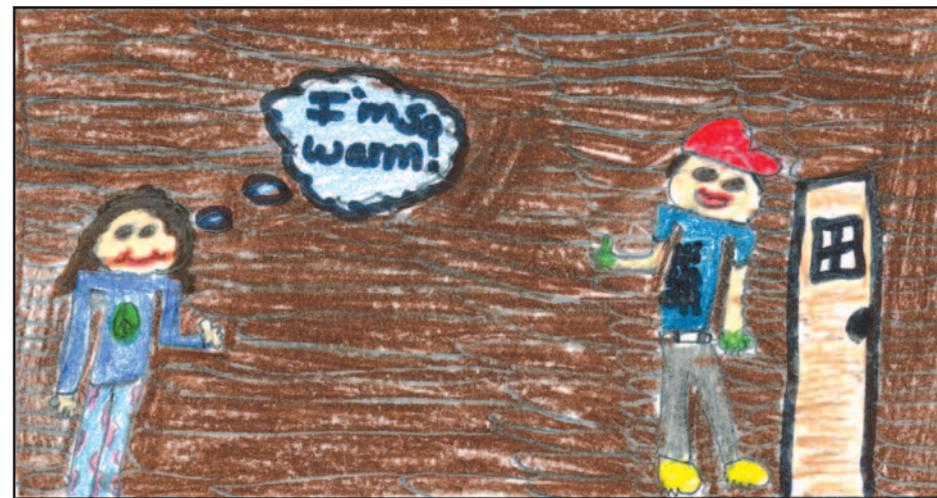
STUDENT ESSAY
Jack Roscoe, Grade 1,
Holy Rosary School



PARKER GLASS
441 Chestnut St., Gardner
978-632-5382 • 800-564-5382
HOURS: Mon-Fri 8-4:30
www.parker-glass.com



BELLETETES
SMART • FRIENDLY • SERVICE
SINCE 1898
BUILDING PRODUCT SPECIALISTS
245 Central Street • Winchendon, MA
(978) 297-1538



HI - LO OIL INC. 978-297-4456
Route 202 South, Winchendon, MA
OFFICE: 1335 Alger St.

DESIGN-AN-AD
Chiara Meredith, Grade 7,
Narragansett Middle School

DESIGN-AN-AD
Devin Berndt, Grade 9,
Murdock Middle High School

DESIGN-AN-AD
Ashley Signa, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School

What do you think of the recent changes to Gardner?



A few changes have been taking place in Gardner. There are new buildings being built and old ones are being torn down. Now, it is not only affecting our town, but the people in it too.

For example, many people are talking about the Price Chopper being built. They're making great progress. They're making our town a lot better. There are many positive changes. Couponers are very happy, because they might be able to have even more savings at the Price Chopper. Speaking of which, people drive long distances to get their products at the best prices in Rindge or Fitchburg. This means that if Price Chopper has good prices, there will be another local store, so we'll save money on products and gas.

However, there are some negative changes too. Since a new store is being built, some of the other stores might not make as much money for a while, because people will try out Price Chopper. But eventually, they'll probably have better business.

Even with the negative changes, though, I think it will make our town a much better community.

STUDENT ESSAY
Abbey Fluett, Grade 3,
Helen Mae Sauter School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Alexandria Lyden, Grade 2,
Petersham Center School

Someone local recently won \$4.3 million in the lottery. What'd you do if you won?



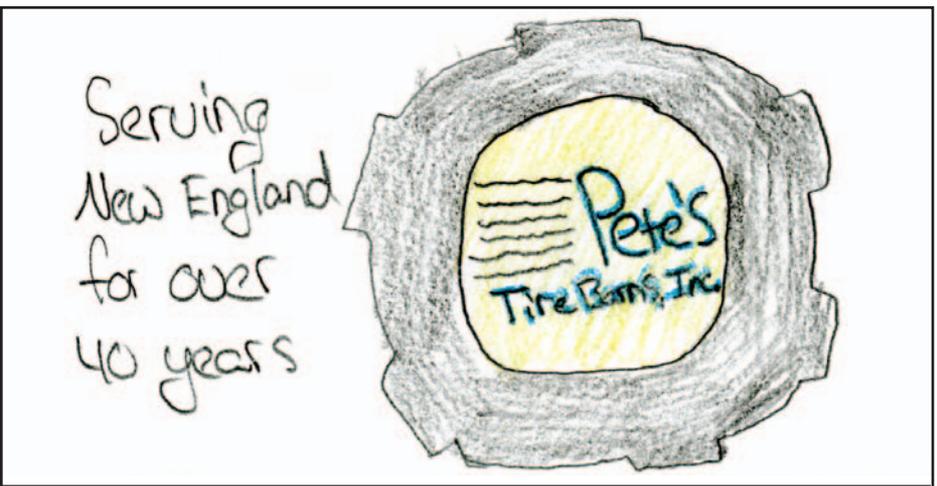
What would I do if I were to win a \$4.3 million lottery ticket? I've always known the lottery to be a very dangerous thing in this world — money can easily make the proper citizen into a mad man. \$4.3 million is enough to be the foundation of an ocean! What may I do with that much money? Although after all the taxes are paid, it isn't as much anymore. \$4.3 million. Would this much money really make happiness for a person? Money can't buy happiness, but it may buy many things that can take you closer to the happiness you would like.

If I were to win \$4.3 million, however, I'd come to be the happiest girl yet. If I were that very person that just won that money from the lottery ticket, I may just stare at the sacred ticket before screaming with relentless joy and run around as if I never ran before, never letting go of the ticket with my strongly happy hand. I would call all my friends and family, loudly exclaiming, "I'm rich, I'm rich! I'm filthy rich! I just won \$4.3 million!" Then I would probably go home as to keep the ticket safe somewhere, and maybe just sit down and think about a few things. Like how maybe I shouldn't have told so many people that I won that much money, and suddenly feel anxious that the gossip may go around and suddenly the whole town of Gardner becomes my friend! After much regret, I may shrug off the feeling with an "Oh well." And suddenly think of all the things I could do with \$4.3 million. I could go shopping, go to London and Tokyo, go shopping, buy myself 20 rabbits, go shopping, oh, what crazy things I would do if I were as irrational as my fantasies. It would feel good, just to be entitled as "The girl who won \$4.3 million"! Perhaps just having that title, better yet the money in my hand, would suddenly make a young, classy, sophisticated and wealthy teenage girl. Then, before I let the thought of the money saturate any more of my dreams, or compose any more ridiculous fantasies, I would suddenly shake my head, and scold myself to think more rationally of the money. Then I would really ask myself, "What should I do with this much money?"

A really good idea would be to put it all in a bank account. My family doesn't have that much money, so what I would do first with it, is give some of the money to them. Maybe I'll buy them a gift instead. I'll buy my Dad and my brother their own bowling alley, since they both love to bowl. For my Mom, I may just go on a never-ending shopping spree at our favorite stores in different malls. I wouldn't spend all of my money just like that, though. Just a fraction of the money would be spent for leisure. However, \$4.3 million is a lot of money, so maybe I could have that endless shopping spree, but only with a little bit of that money. Then maybe I'll save the rest after all of that for all the things I may need in the future for, like when I want to go to college, or if I ever have any kids that may want to go to college, or to buy a house, or a car, or just to have it forever to claim the title of a wealthy person! Oh what a grand idea! No, I should be very wise with it. I would not quit my job just because I have it, and I would not let people convince me to waste it upon useless things with it. I remember my friend actually telling me that usually people that win a lot of money from the lottery usually end up needing therapy after, so the therapist can help them not do anything stupid with the money. I knew that money could make you crazy.

Maybe I'll donate the money to someone who really needs it, like the poor who have not an ounce to eat or drink or a roof over their head. For the people that were never even born with those things, or to someone who has never had the privilege to smile and be happy, and have a home to go to. I'll use some of it to help the needy as well. I'll also use it for my younger brothers and sisters, who are currently in complicated situations and I'm not able to help them, so maybe they would appreciate it if I were able to help them when they grow up. But really, who knows if this will all happen accordingly, if I were to win that much money?

STUDENT ESSAY
Shayna Rolon, Grade 9,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



Pete's
TIRE BARNS, Inc.

16 Locations Across New England
 275 E. Main Street, Orange, MA • 978-544-8811
 591 W. Broadway, Gardner, MA • 978-632-7697
 petestire.com • M-F 7:30-5:30 Sat 7:30-Noon

DESIGN-AN-AD
Brandon Lucier, Grade 11,
Murdock Middle High School



WACHUSETT
MOUNTAIN

499 Mountain Road
 Princeton, MA
 978-464-2300
 wachusett.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
Madelyn Wilson-Shattuck, Grade 6,
Narragansett Middle School



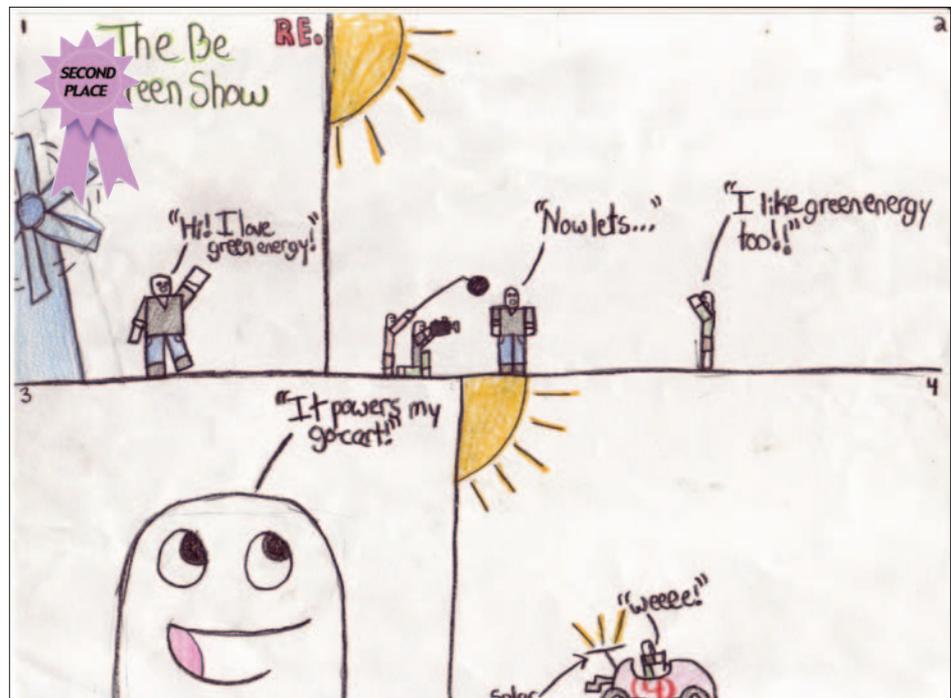
STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Bryton Collins, Grade 1,
Baldwinville Elementary School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Samantha Sykes, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Alicea Walton, Grade 3
Helen Mae Sauter School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Felipe Rodriguez, Grade 5
Toy Town Elementary School



21 Timpany Blvd. • Gardner, MA
978-632-6139

DESIGN-AN-AD
Jada DuBois, Grade 8,
Gardner Middle School



Saloom Furniture Company
256 Murdock Avenue
Winchendon, MA 01475

DESIGN-AN-AD
Ryen Wood, Grade 9,
Murdock Middle High School

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?



When thinking of the Pledge of Allegiance, what usually comes to mind? An oath to honor the United States of America or a public prayer whose mention of God breaks the law of separation of church and state and divides, wakens, and creates conflict in America? In my opinion, the words "Under God" should not, under any circumstances, be in the Pledge of Allegiance.

First of all, the American people were fine without any mention of God in the pledge for more than 50 years. The original pledge, written by socialist Francis Bellamy in 1892, went like this: I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

As you can see, there is no "Under God," in the original oath. Then in 1923 the National Flag conference changed the words "my flag" to "the flag of the United States of America." The final change came in 1954 when Congress added "Under God" into the pledge, making it a public prayer. The pledge was fine for 62 years without any mention of God in it; Americans used it to honor their country, not pray, which is a practice usually reserved for places of worship or on people's free time. But as soon as it was put in, a debate began on whether it should be taken out, making it more trouble than it's worth.

Many people believe that there's nothing wrong with saying "We are one nation under God," because they think our country was founded for religious reasons. The Puritans were treated poorly after having separated from the church of England and came to the new world in order to freely worship God. However, this country was founded on the desire to worship as you please and as a country created for religious freedom, not a country where everyone is made to believe in one God, even if they don't belong to a monotheistic religion.

In addition, "Under God" wasn't added solely for the purpose of honoring God. It was added to show that America wasn't a Communist country during the time of the Cold War. In most Communist countries, religion was banned, so to separate ourselves from them, "Under God" was added. But when saying that America is a country under God, we encourage the common belief that America is a Christian country, which isn't true and isn't fair to those of the many other religions practiced here. Did adding a mention of God to our pledge make Russia or any other country give up Communism? No. Did it upset many of other religions, the unaffiliated, agnostic and atheist Americans? Yes.

Also, America is far too religiously and ethnically diverse for a pledge that assumes everyone believes in the same one God. There are over 300 different religions and denominations in the U.S (pro-con.org), and according to a survey run by The Pew Research Center in 2007 approximately 22 percent practice religions other than Christianity. America has been religiously diverse since the colonial days, when in 1620 the Puritans brought both Christianity and slaves with their own African religions to the new world which was already home to animist Native Americans, which proves that America was not based solely on Christianity.

Even if America wasn't religiously diverse and wasn't based on religious freedom, our Constitution calls for the separation of church and state. Having "Under God" in a pledge said in many public schools is an infraction of the law. The law of separation of church and state is, unfortunately, broken so many times. In 2012, Cranston, R.I., Jessica Ahlquist had issues with a prayer posted in her high school. She filed a successful lawsuit against her school and as a result received threats posted on Twitter bad enough for police to have to escort her to school (NY Times.com). Prayer in the schools leads to violence!

When state and religion are mixed, violence erupts, just like with Jessica and the prayer in her school. But things can be much more serious. For example, George Bush said that he was on a mission from God when he launched the war in Iraq that has killed 4,486 of the American military (information from 12/18/11 at Antiwar.com) and many Iraqis. Small infractions of the separation of church and state such as the pledge and prayers in school can make it seem OK for politicians to use religion in their favor.

Another thing wrong with mentioning God in the pledge is that it is taught to children before they even know their opinions on religion. Kindergarten students from all different religious backgrounds are taught right away to stand up, hand on heart, and recite what everyone else is saying. Many of these children haven't begun to seriously think about where they stand with God and therefore shouldn't have to honor him in school. To make matters worse, most teachers never go over the pledge and what it means with their students; they simply have them memorize it without explaining what they're saying every morning 180 days a year.

Mentioning God in the pledge also divides and weakens America. When God is mentioned in schools, those who may have different beliefs can feel uncomfortable or like they're less American for not believing in the same God. Jessica Ahlquist, for example, said as noted in the New York Times, of the prayer posted in her public high school: "It seemed like it was saying, every time I saw it, 'You don't belong here,'" We're spending so much time teaching students about bullying and making children feel comfortable and like they belong in schools with programs like Second Step, health classes, and TAB training, and yet we have students of so many different religions talk about a God that many of them don't believe in without considering if it makes them feel uncomfortable or unwelcome.

The debate on "Under God" being in the pledge is, like any other religious debate, a heated one. People's opinions on it vary depending on how they were raised, their religious backgrounds, and their personal beliefs. This makes it even more important for the mention of God to be taken out of the pledge in our public schools — not all Americans agree or have the same beliefs on the topic. As a country based on religious freedom, it only makes sense for us to honor our flag in a way that accepts all religions without mentioning God.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Nadia L'Bahy, Grade 7,
North Central Charter Essential School**

What is your favorite pet?



I think that a dog is the best pet. Dogs are very intelligent. Dogs always need love and if you give them love, they will give it right back. They will protect you, because they don't want to see you get hurt.

A dog is what you raise it to be. Dogs can sense when their owner is in trouble. Dogs are very loyal to their family. If you get them when they are you, and you give them a name, they will start to pick it up very fast. They always need a home. If you go to a shelter, you will know if it is your dog when you see it.

Dogs can be small and big, but it does not matter, it only matters if they love you. They will always want to see your face. They are hard to let go of, if you love them. Dogs will always count on you. They are very playful. When a dog wags its tail, it shows a sign of happiness. You know when your dog gets sick, because their nose becomes dry, but they still want lots of love.

You can walk them and they will love it. They are cute when they are puppies and when they are older too. People think that cats are great pets, but they jump all over the counter and on your table.

Dogs might shed their hair, but they don't jump all over the counter and table. Some dogs don't shed, but the ones that do shed, are much cuter than other ones. Dogs will always eat, even if they are not feeling good. That is why a dog is my favorite pet.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Angela Bator, Grade 6,
Sacred Heart School**

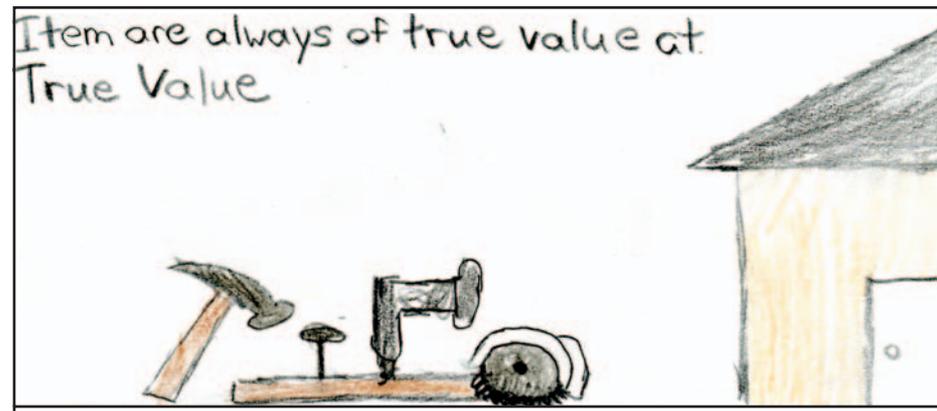


**ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Lauren Bennett, Grade 3,
Phillipston Memorial School**



**ERICKSON SILVER SHOP
119 Green Street, Gardner, MA ~ 978-632-0702
www.ericksonsilver.com
OPEN DAILY**

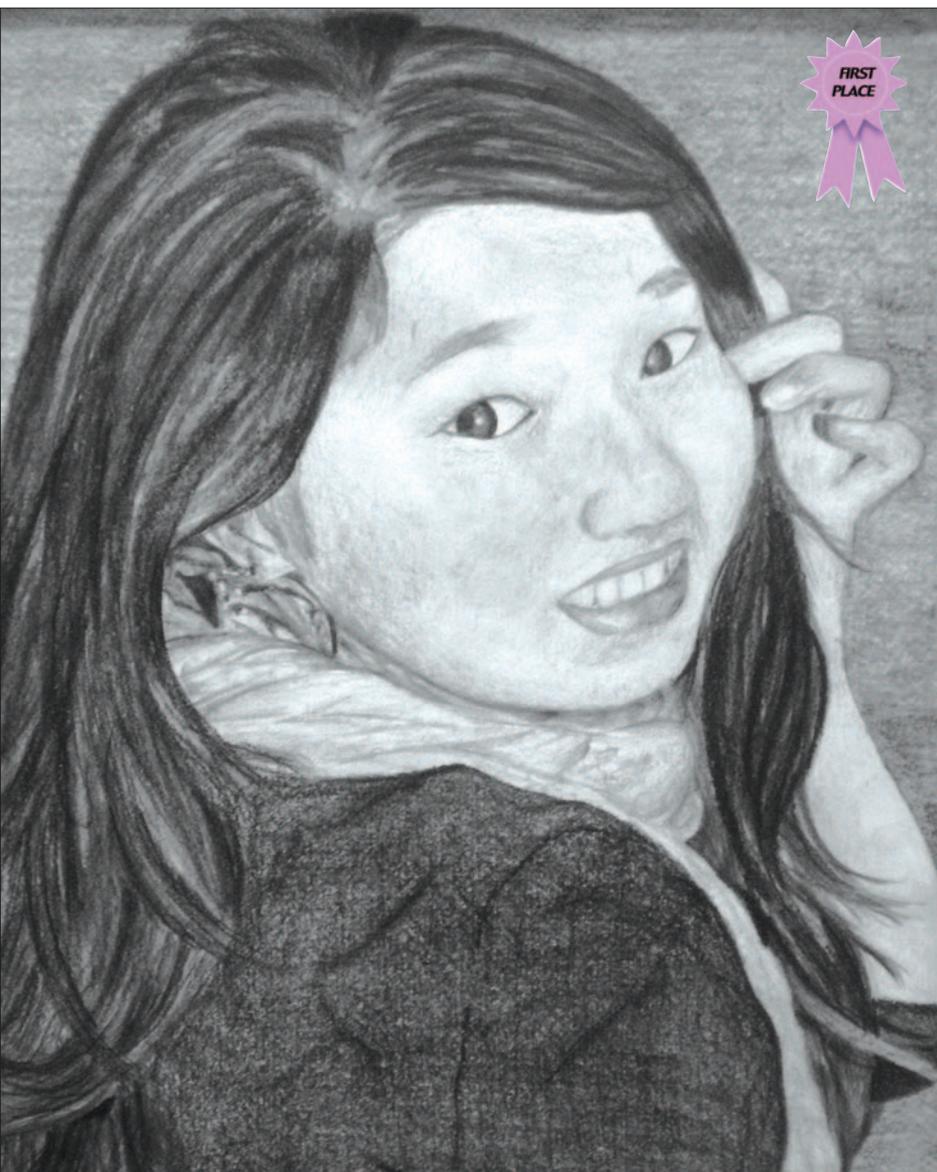
**DESIGN-AN-AD
Cassandra Barnjum-Smith, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School**



**LYNDE
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE
483 Main St., Gardner
(978) 632-0500**

**True Value.
START RIGHT. START HERE.™
Open 7 Days
VISA MasterCard Discover American Express**

**DESIGN-AN-AD
Cody Leger, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Minna Wang, Grade 9,
 Oakmont Regional High School

What is your favorite pet?

I was home alone. No one except my dog, two cats and hamster to keep me company. I heard a terrifying noise, jumped, and ran to my dog's side. As I dug my face into the animal's fur, I knew that I would be all right, and that this dog, my dog, would be my beloved companion for life.

I remember by heart the day we got our splendid dog, Ginger. It was a sunny day out and everyone was shining with glee when my sister opened up a present to find a tiny, excited puppy in the very large box. Oh, what a cute puppy it was; with its wagging tail and adorable puppy eyes.

This dog, Ginger, is the best companion I could ever have. She may be a frightful wimp when it comes to other dogs, but she is a fierce lion at heart. She has a glorious coat of copper brown and a heart of polished gold.

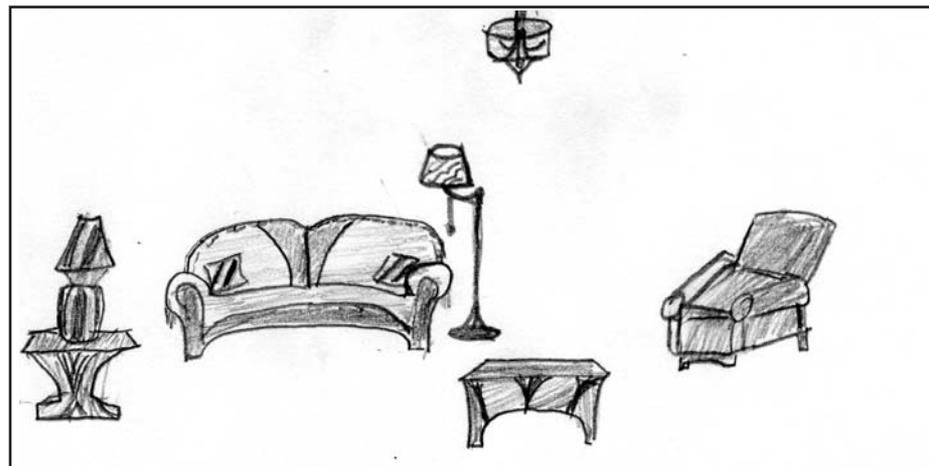
Although Ginger has many strong points, she has even more weaknesses. One of which is that she is deathly afraid of water, and if you politely say "bath" she will run with the tail between her legs. Ginger also has a very obnoxious, high-pitched bark, which can set off every loud dog in the neighborhood.

Another thing that is highly odd about Ginger is, when somebody walks through the door, she will always greet them happily when they walk in. However, whenever someone tries to sneak out the door, she will blunder toward the door, and pounce at it, closing it sharply. You had better watch your hand when you walk out my door!

One time I had my spectacular cousins over for dinner, when a terrible tragedy befell us...my dog got out! We had to act very fast to reclaim our mischievous dog from the outside world; and by my mother's uncanny helpfulness, we brought our playful dog back indoors by tempting her with treats. This uncanny incident, I remember by heart.

So what does make a good pet? Tricks? Beauty? Loyalty? No. Love is what makes a good pet. When she greets me at the door, when I get home, and tries to lick me all the time, I know that Ginger is the most loving dog I have ever met.

STUDENT ESSAY
 Matthew Marr, Grade 7,
 North Central Charter Essential School



TEMPLETON FURNITURE

162 Baldwinville Road, Templeton • 978-939-5504
 Open 7 Days A Week

DESIGN-AN-AD
 Dominic Milton, Grade 5,
 Westminster Elementary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Dan Tuttle, Grade 12,
 Quabbin Regional High School



109 Main Street, Westminster
 978-874-1705

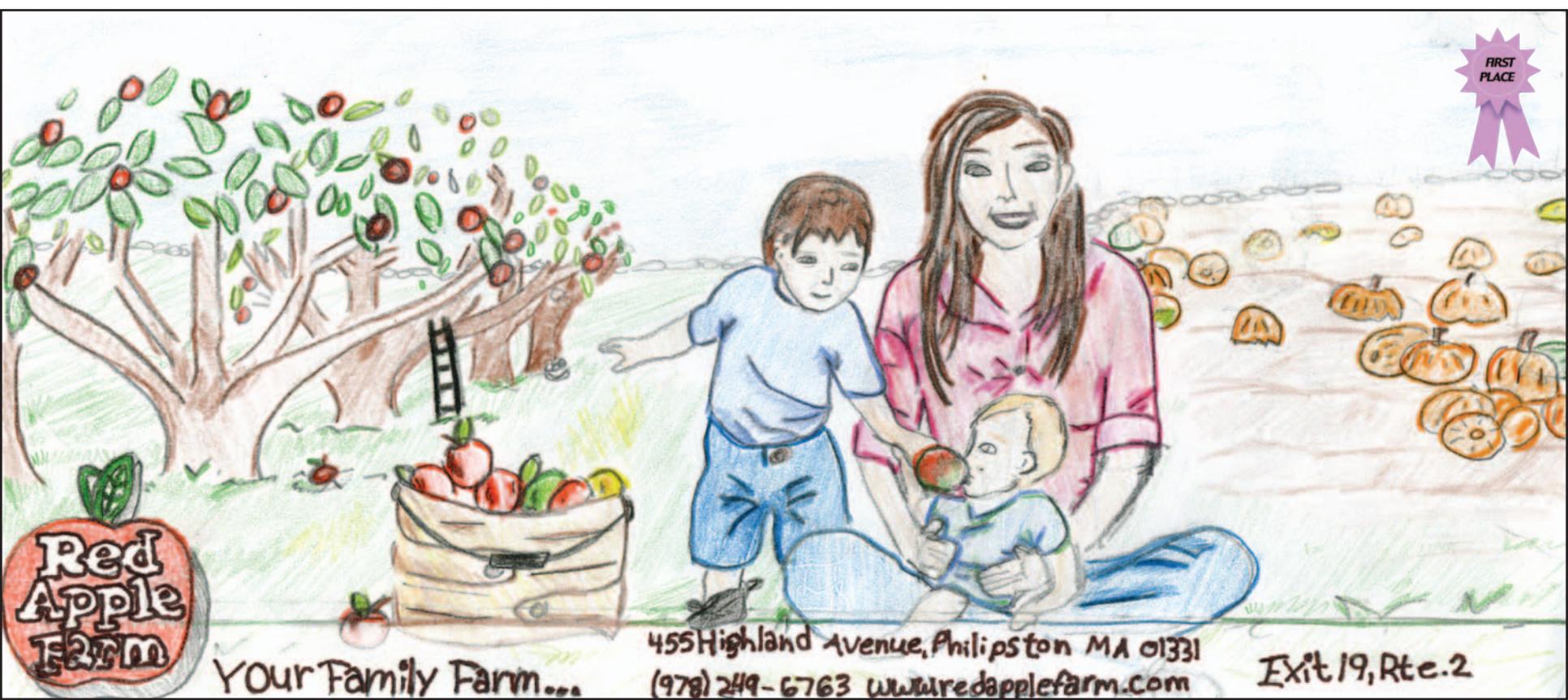
DESIGN-AN-AD
 Luke Dewey, Grade 5,
 Westminster Elementary School



FEATURE PHOTO
Kasja Dymek, Grade 6,
Sacred Heart School

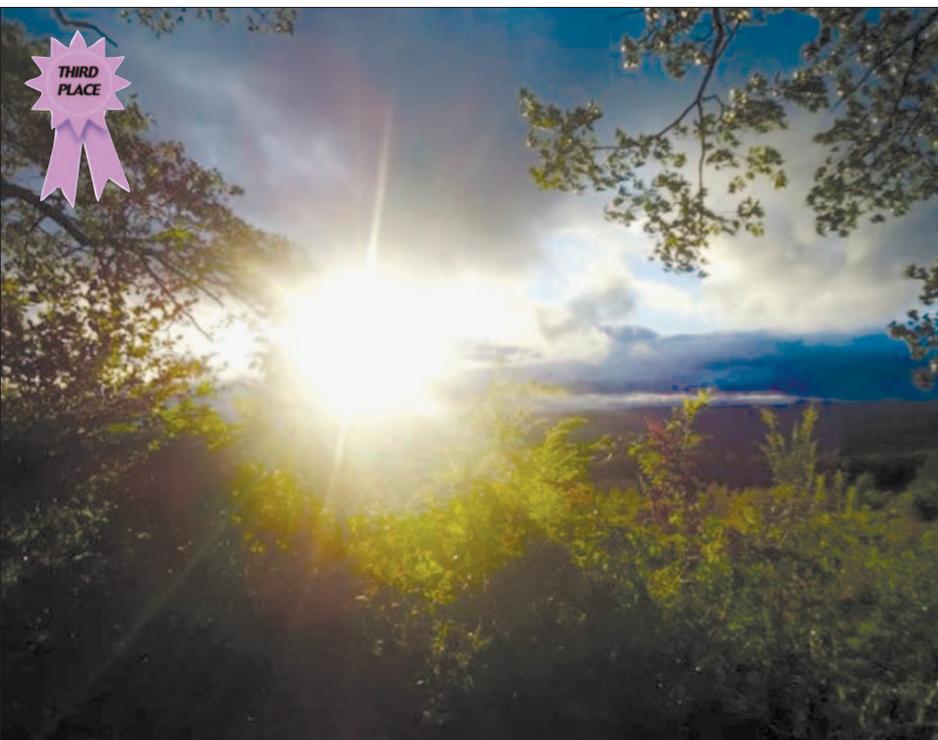


FEATURE PHOTO
Minna Wang, Grade 9,
Oakmont Regional High School



Exit 19, Rte. 2, Phillipston
(978) 249-6763
www.redapplefarm.com

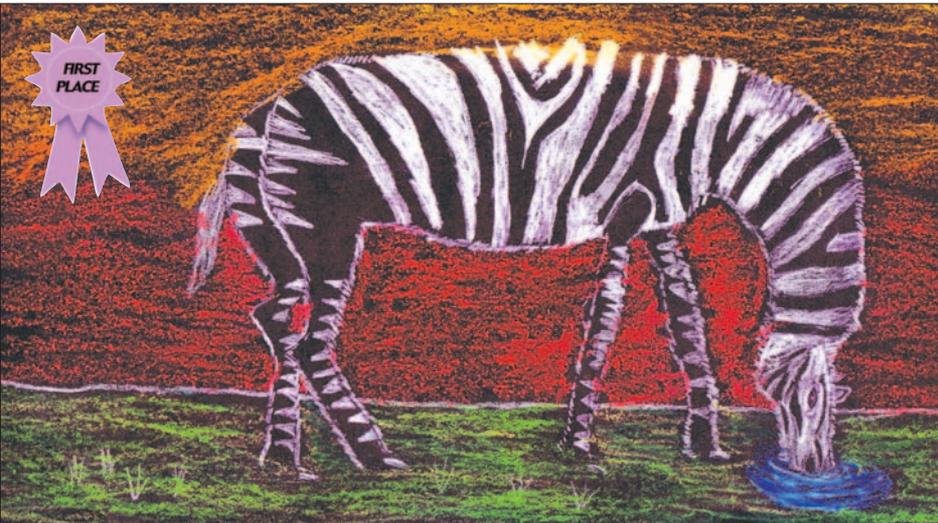
DESIGN-AN-AD
Kailey French, Grade 9,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



FEATURE PHOTO
*Leah Truesdell, Grade 12,
Mahar Regional School*



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
*Anneliese Kusske, Grade 1,
Hubbardston Center School*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
*Aiden Zelesky, Grade 5,
Elm Street School*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
*Gina DiNardo, Grade 5,
Hubbardston Center School*



FEATURE PHOTO
*Abigail Bedard, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School*



GARDNER TEN PINS
560 W. Broadway Gardner • 978-632-0010
www.gardnertentpins.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
*Sean Duangsay, Grade 12,
Gardner High School*

Should iPads be used in class?



Technology has been a key factor in the growth and development of America in the 21st century. Over the past 10 years, there have been numerous advancements made in the electronics industry, and Apple has been a leading manufacturer during this time period. In 2010, when Apple introduced their first tablet, the iPad, it created a buzz around the world. People were not sure what exactly iPads were supposed to do and what kind of impact they could have on society. As more people began to use iPads, it became more apparent that they would soon become key to our culture and people everywhere would be picking up their very own tablets.

With the shifting of resources from paper to electronic, it has heightened the case for iPads and other tablets to become more utilized throughout society. The widespread debate of books versus tablets has become contested in many schools across the country. It seems evident that many schools are beginning to incorporate tablets into their library systems and the results have been popular among many students. At Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, the library has made the transition from paper books to Amazon Kindle tablets. The tablets allow students to have access to any book they desire on their Kindle, while eliminating the issue of having only one copy available to hundreds of students. The use of Kindles also saves the trouble of having to carry many heavy books at one time. Some schools around the area, including those in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, have taken notice of the growing sensation of tablets and are now incorporating them into their Kindergarten classrooms.

In those classrooms, many of the students are able to have access to iPads on a regular basis. Having the chance to utilize such advanced technology at a young age is an amazing opportunity for the Kindergartners in the area. The exposure to the iPads allows the young kids to be able to familiarize themselves with some of the technology they will see in the future. As 21st century students, the Kindergartners have access to many fun and exciting games that will allow them to learn simple educational skills, such as math and grammar, through applications available on the iPads. The ability to make use of these games will allow the Kindergartners to be able to further their knowledge at a faster rate than many other students at their age. The reason Kindergartners respond so well to iPads is that many young kids find more excitement from computers and technology than they do from books and worksheets. Kindergartners see a tablet screen and they become fascinated that they can change things on the screen using just the touch of their fingers. When teachers introduce games to their students that permit them to accumulate points and compete against their peers, it allows the students to maximize their learning experience, while they become accustomed to modern technology. iPads need to be available in schools all over the country because they have the ability to incorporate everything a computer does, everything a textbook does, and everything a student does.

Introducing iPads to Kindergartners is a revolutionary idea. Not only do these young kids in the Ashburnham-Westminster School District have access to the most popular tablet in the world, but also they are able to use it in such a way that allows them to learn and become educated. The use of iPads and other tablets in schools is something society will see growing rapidly over the next decade.

STUDENT ESSAY

**John LaPointe, Grade 12,
Cushing Academy**

How do you plan to contend with rising college costs?



With college, it will leave a hole your pocket. With the cost of college increasing, it is making it a lot harder on students. They have to think about paying all this money off, and having a plan to afford everything that is required in college. I think this changes many people's mindsets about going to college and which college they would like to go to. It changes my mindset in a few ways. Today it is much harder to get a loan or grant than it was before, and it just keeps getting harder. This could make many students to be unable to afford even just applying to all the colleges that they want to. It makes me worry that I won't make enough money so that I can get a loan or grant. Everything costs money, and it's hard to pay for these things with just a high school diploma.

College costs make people's lives much tougher when thinking about college plans. The cost on everything just keeps going up and students don't know how they will be able to afford everything they need. This has changed my mindset a lot, and left me with a lot of thinking to do. I have to worry about saving up enough money to be able to pay for books and also applications for college. I wanted to apply to everywhere I could, until I found out the reality of it and the cost of just applying to colleges. For the career that I want to go into, it is going to cost a lot of money and be very hard. Each class that you take costs a certain amount if you fail a class, you have to take it again. That also gets me thinking about how hard going to college is actually going to be! There is going to be no one there to say, "Well, did you do your homework?" All that made me realize is that it was going to be very hard and that I'm going to have to put a lot of time and effort into my applications. I also realized that trying to get a loan is going to be the hardest part of all. If I can't get student loans, then I will not be able to go to college at all. That is a very scary thought!

Thinking about all the things that you have to be prepared for in college, is a lot of work. It is going to take a great amount of time and effort to plan out everything, which is going to be tough. Right out of high school, I wanted to go straight to college to become a pediatrician. Now that I know how much work it is going to be to get a loan, I have to wait until I save up enough money to get me by. I wanted to only have to work for the summer after I graduate; now I realize that isn't a reality. It is going to take many more working hours than that to save enough money for all my books and other things that I may need as well. Thinking of how much things are going to cost, can be nerve wracking and make you notice that things may not be as easy as you thought they would be. Even with costs increasing, I will achieve my goal and go to college!

When I think about going to college, I think about many things. The thing that worries me the most is being able to get a loan. So many people apply for loans every day and many of them don't get it. They look at a few main things when you apply for a loan, like how much money you make, what bills you pay, and also what you want the loan for. I worry that I won't make enough money and that the bank will just shut me down. It may be a scary thought when your dream job takes eight years of college. I have also thought about scholarships, and how they could help me out a great deal. Those are also hard to get and you have to apply for them as soon as you can. You also cannot rely on a loan, because you may not get it. All these things make me want to wait to go to college until I know I can afford it. I believe that a lot of people feel this way as well. You can't start living too soon for things like this. Even though I worry about the costs for college rising, it hasn't made me change my mind too much. I just hope that I make it, and end up a success!

STUDENT ESSAY

**Melissa Franz, Grade 10,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
**Madison Tocci, Grade 8,
Overlook Middle School**



Call For Free Estimate
Visit our Showroom - Mon.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 9-1
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF LEOMINSTER
444 Central St., Leominster
978-537-9932 • 1-800-649-9898 • www.theoverheaddoorco.com

DESIGN-AN-AD

**Alyssa Arsenault, Grade 9,
Murdock Middle High School**



WESTMINSTER
Collision, Inc.
Collision Repair Specialists

7 Main Street
Westminster, MA 01473
Phone (978) 874-2979
www.westminstercollision.com
MA Reg. # RS486 • MA Appraiser # 10922
FAX # (978) 874-1056

DESIGN-AN-AD

**Connor Ryan, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School**

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?



Brahma, Allah, Ojibwe, Jesus, Rama, and other names; God unites our diversely religious country. Even atheism comes into play when saying words as simple as in the Pledge of Allegiance's verses. But simple words can have a huge meaning. Many citizens see the words "Under God" in the Pledge as offensive. Religion is one aspect of the world's culture that everyone is involved in. Isn't religion just a collection of beliefs shared by a group of people? People from different religions can infer their own conclusions from the words "Under God," without the words being offensive.

When school age students recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the main purpose is to express patriotic thoughts about our great nation. Children are not held to the belief that they have to worship God. Religion is practiced openly in the United States because of the diverse religious and cultural population. "Under God" expresses the union, and neutrality between religions. All people are equal under the Pledge of Allegiance for the common thoughts of pride while speaking the words "Under God."

Perceptions of the words "Under God" can change how you feel about the Pledge. Once you change your perception, a whole new view of the Pledge can appear. As a sign of respect for our country, the Pledge cannot be changed. Changing the words only reinforces the idea that believing in God is wrong. The first step to ending this controversy is to know that there is freedom of religion. The words "Under God" may lead people to believe the Pledge was written to outcast all other beliefs. In reality, the Pledge of Allegiance was not written to be offensive or to hurt anyone. Our country is defined by being strong and keeping faith in ourselves. "Under God" expresses this idea since God, universally, is said to be a strong force.

Removing the words "Under God" would separate the united feeling citizens get when at a sports event, during school, and even at our nation's capital. The American population would find an even bigger controversy would arise involving the removal of the words "Under God." Our nation was founded on the idea that patriotism united all citizens. The Pledge of Allegiance's wording should not change the feeling of unity in the United States.

Changing the words "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance would alter a part of American history along the way. When reading the Pledge as a whole, "Under God" is not the focus of the statement. Instead, the focus is based on patriotism. The history of how our nation was founded includes a belief in God as the creator. Erasing the phrase "Under God" would destroy part of our nation's founding beliefs and ultimately, the history.

Students are aware that the words "Under God" are incorporated into their minds when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. But the Pledge has a different meaning that can only be expressed through actions. Turning to the American flag during the Pledge shows that the recitation is not based upon religion. Instead, our nation's red, white, and blue, waving flag represents patriotism throughout the country. Another action, laying your right hand over your heart, shows citizens care about pride in the United States, not the love of God. Though the Pledge of Allegiance involves the words "Under God," actions while saying the Pledge do not have any influences on religion.

Civic culture in the United States is centered on patriotism and unity. Though the Pledge of Allegiance has the words "Under God" near the end, it was not written to have a religious basis. The Pledge of Allegiance references the religious basis this country was founded on, but solely these words are not the purpose of the patriotic statement. Whatever religion you choose to participate in, become aware of other religious faiths in order for our country to be united. We are "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

STUDENT ESSAY

**Elyssa Reida, Grade 12,
Oakmont Regional High School**

What's your favorite season?



Summer is great! My favorite season is summer, because I like to swim. I like the hot weather and I like to be with my family. My favorite place to go in summer is the beach. I like to play with my dog, and to play with a beach ball.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Addie Chinian, Grade 1,
Petersham Center School**

What's your favorite season?



If I had to choose my favorite season, I would pick fall. Fall is wonderful in so many ways. I love all of the seasons, but fall is my favorite.

The first reason I love fall is that it is not too warm, and not too hot; it is perfect. The weather is almost always great in fall. There are also no bugs or mosquitos to bother you. It is a great time to play outside! In winter, it is very cold, in summer, it is usually hot and in spring, it is often wet from all the rain. Fall is the perfect season.

The second thing I love about fall is all of the beautiful leaves and trees. They have a mixture of different colors. It makes the town look bright and beautiful. I think fall is the prettiest season. It is a wonderful time to have a party and celebrate for a special occasion outdoors. It is very pretty watching the leaves fall.

The third thing that I love about fall is how fun it is! You can jump into piles of leaves, ride your bike, play on a playground and many more fun, awesome outdoor activities. Then there is Thanksgiving and Halloween! Fall is a happy, peaceful, thankful and loving time.

Fall is truly fabulous. Every year, I get so excited about it! Fall is so exciting, delightful and terrific. Now after sharing this wonderful time with me, you know why I love fall so much.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Lindsey Gemme, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School**

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?



I think it is important and very smart to say "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance for many reasons. I think it is important, because the soldiers need somebody to pray to. They need somebody to watch over them. The angels need somebody to talk to. They also need a place to go. Everybody needs somebody to talk to during our hard times. We need somebody to help protect the soldiers, so we can be free. That is why I think it is so important to say "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

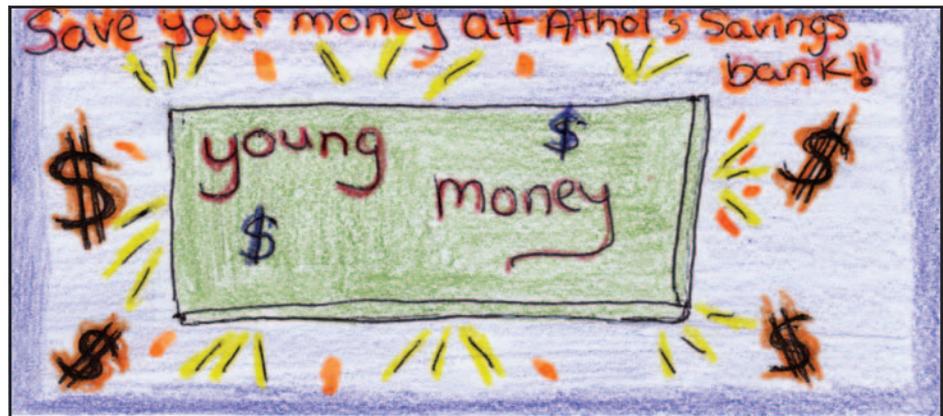
STUDENT ESSAY

**Jessica Sleeper, Grade 3,
Helen Mae Sauter School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

**Jared Moore, Grade 8,
Overlook Middle School**



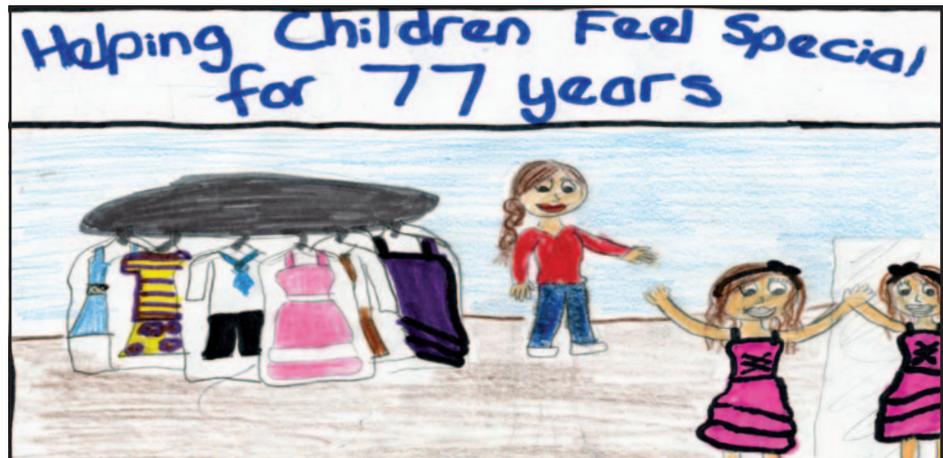
ATHOL SAVINGS BANK
Proud of Our Past, Focused on the Future

888-830-3200 • www.atholsb.com

Athol • Ashburnham • Baldwinville • Barre • Gardner • Winchendon

DESIGN-AN-AD

**Kalli Duguay, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School**



LAKIN'S

Children's Fine Apparel
68 Parker St., Gardner
978-632-1699

A Legend with a Timeless Tradition

Hours: Mon. - Wed. 9:30-5:30, Thurs. 9:30-7:30, Fri. - Sat. 9:30-5:30

DESIGN-AN-AD

**Christina DeMalia, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School**

What's your favorite season?

He's a trickster, as he changes the leaves' colors to orange, yellow, red and brown. He makes it drizzle with rain in crisp, cool air. Can you guess who he is? Yes! It is fall.

I like the feeling of crisp air in the afternoon. The way the colorful leaves feel around me when I plop into a leaf pile. The warmth of the sun on foggy days. Hold on winter, because I'm staying a little longer.

I hear geese squawk overhead, as they leave for warmer places. There is a rustling of leaves while a squirrel scampers upon brown grass. My tennis shoes crunch the dead, brown grass. Some birds sing their last melody, for winter to come and to blanket the ground of snow. Winter, don't make me end early... please.

I see the full moon in the starry night sky. The geese fly in a V formation. The leaves on gray branches look like fairies dancing in the wind. It's a magical place here, in the season of fall.

I taste cool, misty air in the mornings, when I zipper up my jacket to go ride my bike. The morning breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon and orange juice dance across my tongue and give me energy to do the things in fall, before winter comes. I can't wait until next year, when I will play in brightly colored leaves as I did this fall.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Anna Berd, Grade 4,
Hubbardston Center School**



What's your favorite season?

My favorite season of the year is winter, because when it snows, I love to watch the snowflakes fall. For example, three years ago, we had an ice storm. At first, I was scared, as the power went out, and I couldn't see, and I was terrified I was going to hurt myself. The next morning, it was only snowing. I looked outside, and I smiled. Although most of the entire town suffered damage, the trees made me happy. They looked so pretty with the ice hanging off them; I wanted to play outside right away! I had never seen anything like that in my whole life. To me, winter is a season of happiness. I love Christmas, sledding, watching snow fall, making snowmen, building forts, and a lot more! Winter is the season I get to be who I am and enjoy every moment that is going by.

When I wake up Christmas morning, I always want to scream because I'm so excited to find out what's going to happen next! When I go down the stairs, and see all the presents for my brother and I under the tree, I can't bear waiting any longer to open them. So I run back up the stairs and try to wake up all of my family members. They always tell me, wait just one more minute! But I don't take that answer. I leave their room for about five minutes, then I go back in and try again. They finally get up, and we start to open presents. I love the smiles on their faces when they see my brother and I open the presents! They are always so happy to know that we love everything they got for us. All the happy faces make my day. That is one of the only times throughout the year that I get to see those great smiling faces.

Winter is filled with all kinds of joy and happiness. I think of all the people that say they hate winter, who just need to think of the fun and happy times... not the things that are sad and bring you down. I think of people who say they hate winter because of the snow, cold and ice. But that's just a part of living. Always think of the happy thoughts in times that you feel are terrible, sad or just plain boring. My brother and I love to play in the snow and build forts, and then we have snowball fights and hide behind our forts. I think the snow is cold, but very yummy! As long as it is not yellow!

I know one of the reasons many kids do like winter is because of the snowboarding, skiing, and tubing in the white, fluffy snow. I don't enjoy these things as much as I enjoy a nice and cozy day under the warm covers, with the fire going. I love to snuggle up with the family, have a nice cup of hot cocoa, and watch a couple of movies. I think it gives families a great opportunity to talk and learn more about what's going on in their lives. There are many more reasons for why winter is my favorite season. But there are too many for me to tell you. These memories and reasons are most of the biggest and happiest times in my 11 years of living. They are all explaining, why I love winter!

STUDENT ESSAY

**Madison Hawkins, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School**



What is your favorite pet?

The best pet in my opinion is a rabbit.

A rabbit to me makes a good house pet, because it is easy to take care of. All you need to buy for it is Timothy Hay, a water container, a food bowl and a cage. It is about \$20 in total. But out of all the things one needs for animals, this is probably the cheapest total.

They're also really easy to take care of. You have to feed them about two to three times a day, depending on how fast they eat the food. If you have school in the morning or a job, you should feed it before you go out to school or work, then sometime around dinner. You'll have to clean the cage about once a week or so. For some people, to make it easier to clean the cage, buy a little litter box, but you'll need to keep an eye on it to make sure it's not piling up too high. If it is, then you'll have to clean it. And with the water container, that'll probably last for one to four days.

Rabbits are really quiet, so that won't be a problem for people. They don't cause a lot of noise from hopping around. They, unlike dogs or cats, don't bug you if they run out of food or water, they just hop around, lay down and sleep.

Rabbits are really fun to play with. They get along with everyone in the family and including kids. They need to be in a closed room and no small things on the floor that they would eat. They hop around, but you'll have to keep watch to make sure it doesn't go behind or under things.

This is why rabbits make the best pet.

STUDENT ESSAY

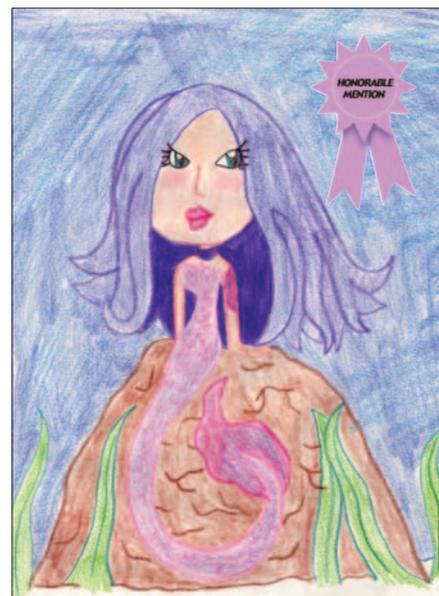
**Devin Curran, Grade 6,
Wachusett Hills Christian School**



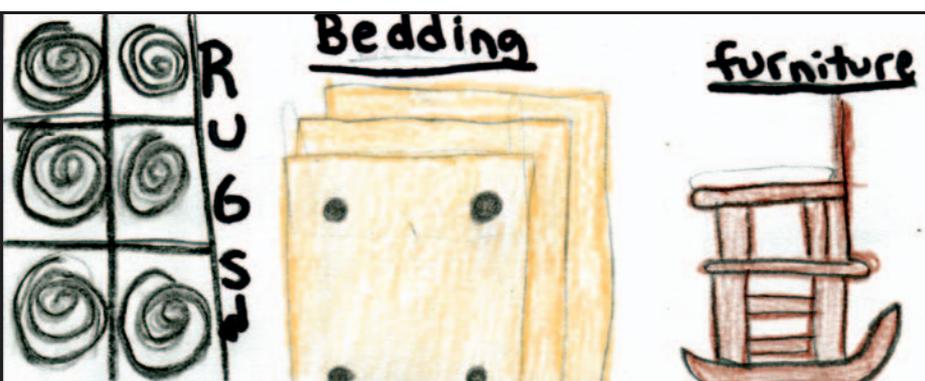
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
**Eve Hard, Grade 4,
Riverbend Elementary School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
**R.J. Ramos, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
**Sarah Dembroske, Grade 6,
Royalston Community School**



ROME
FURNITURE CENTER

- Furniture
- Bedding
- Carpets

Serving Our Customers Since 1945
562 Main Street • Gardner, MA
Visit us on the web at www.romefurniture.com
978-632-0687



DESIGN-AN-AD
**Matthew Webb, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School**



Speedee
OIL CHANGE & TUNE-UP

15 Donlan Street
Gardner, Mass.
978-630-1511

DESIGN-AN-AD
**Taylor Gilbert, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School**

What is your favorite pet?

The luscious, soft, black hair brushed against my skin and sent a shiver down my spine. This hair belongs to my perfect pet. My perfect pet is a horse but what makes her so perfect? What makes her perfect are her color, breed, and height. The color will be black. Her coat will be blacker than the night. She will look like a shadow through the night. This is what will make her name Shadow. The sun glaring down and making her coat fizzle. She will be 16.1-17.2 hands high. I will get on her making everyone look like ants. She will tower over all horses. Her breed will be an England Shire. These are the tallest breeds in the world.



She'll be very obedient. I'll barely have to pull on the reins to stop her. She'll come to me when I call her name. Shadow will be able to do tricks, like rolling over and jumping high jumps. This will make her amusing to kittle kids. She'll be as well behaved as a drill sergeant.

Shadow will be very active. Shadow will love walking up the big Blue Mountains that roll over the land. She'll also love walking in the forest. The beautiful spring air and the streams trickling down the rocks. The tall trees that reach the sky with the exuberantly green color. She'll love to run around the vast farm as I liberate her with the other mares. She'll be bewildered by everything around her.

She'll have the same personality as me. She'll be a goofball, hardworking, and bright. She'll know when the time is right to goof around. Shadow will also know when it's a day for hard work or if I'm feeling down she'll lift me up. Everyone will be happy with her personality because they'll see me.

The dark, gray, melancholy days will be brightened with Shadow around. She'll always be there to comfort me on days when I'm stressed. When I groom her long black fur in the vast barn, it will soothe my stress and anger. Horses are good stress, angry, and sadness relievers. They're just something so calming about grooming them. I will talk to her and she'll listen attentively. She won't only comfort me but disabled people who are always made fun of.

One last thing that is important is the lessons she teaches. It may be loving, or how to trust. One good lesson on trusting is when you're bareback. This has to do with trust because all there is a horse, bridle, reins, and no saddle beneath you. You have to trust that she won't buck, rear, or take off with you on her. One good lesson of love is when disabled people are riding because they can't steer, or make the horse move or stop. This loves the fact that even though the rider may be disabled that they still are friends. The disabled people will feel that love because the horse loves them for them.

This is all that would make my perfect pet! What makes your pet so perfect? All these things will make her very loveable. You can become one with your pet when you know them really well. At my old riding lessons, I rode a horse named Velvet. She was amazing; we became one. Clip-clop all the way down the old dirt road as my body swayed with hers. My heart beat pounding with excitement. I knew we became one and riding became a whole lot easier because we knew each other's strengths and weaknesses. Side by side, head by head, back by back we are one! No one can ever break this bond between me and my perfect pet Shadow!

STUDENT ESSAY

**Cheyenne Fortier, Grade 7,
North Central Charter Essential School**

What is your favorite pet?

I think that the best pet is a grizzly bear. Grizzly bears are descended from Russia, so you could own a Russian bear which is super cool. Grizzly bears are descended from Ursuri brown bears. If you have a grizzly bear, they are very protective of loved ones, so no one will rob a house that has a "Warning: Grizzly Bear, Enter with Caution" sign. Instead of spending \$500 on one of those fancy security systems, you will be protected by a big, grizzly bear. Also, you won't have the police yelling at you to put a leash on it, because you could be like, "Seriously, a leash? Yeah, because a leash can hold back a charging 600 lb. grizzly."



As long as you live near a stream, when you wake up in the morning you just let the grizzly out of the front door, have him catch a few salmon and train him to bring you back a couple and guess what, you just saved a \$5 trip to Dunkin Donuts, because your friend the bear brought you fresh salmon. Isn't that awesome? What's your 2:30 feeling...fresh salmon, oh yeah! Grizzly bears are also threatened animals, so you would be saving the grizzly from hunters and other things. Once you own a grizzly, you don't need blankets anymore, so you can donate your blankets to charity, because you have a grizzly to keep you warm. If you have a female grizzly, she may have cubs and imagine if you had a bunch of bear cubs running around your house. Those reasons are why I think grizzly bears are the best pet.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Josh Muzyk, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School**

What do you think of the recent changes to Gardner?

Nichols and Stone was one of many furniture companies in Gardner a few years ago. It hired more than 100 employees in New England at a time. It opened in the late 1800s and employed many. Sadly in 2004, it shut down because of competition and the economy. It was vacant for about seven years and finally, the city decided to do something about it. The city decided to add another grocery store, Price Chopper.



Price Chopper will bring a lot of attention, good and bad. Adding the store would be good, because it would bring more jobs, to people from the highway, and it would be good to see something more modern and new. It would also be good for the prices, and more importantly, the food.

There is also another side to the coin, as there is already a Hannaford and Stop and Shop in Gardner. Adding a Price Chopper would bring a lot more competition and could end up like Nichols and Stone. If this happens, they would have to lay a lot of people off. This happened to Nichols and Stone in 2004, and many of those former employees still don't have jobs.

Many have their opinions, but I think the new Price Chopper will bring more jobs and will improve the local economy. The new Price Chopper is set to open this summer.

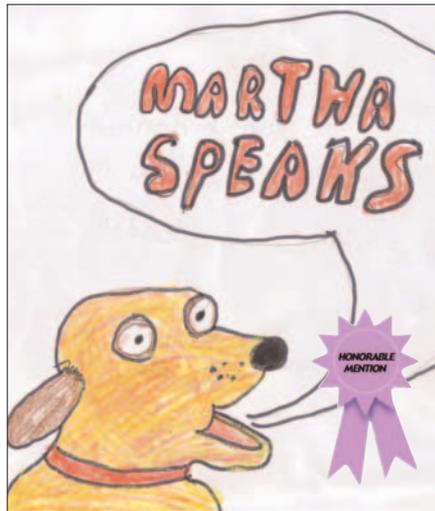
STUDENT ESSAY

**Celine Pelton, Grade 5,
Holy Rosary School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

**Hannah Ricard, Grade 7,
Murdock Middle-High School**



STORYBOOK

**Hannah Leger, Grade 2,
Hubbardston Center School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

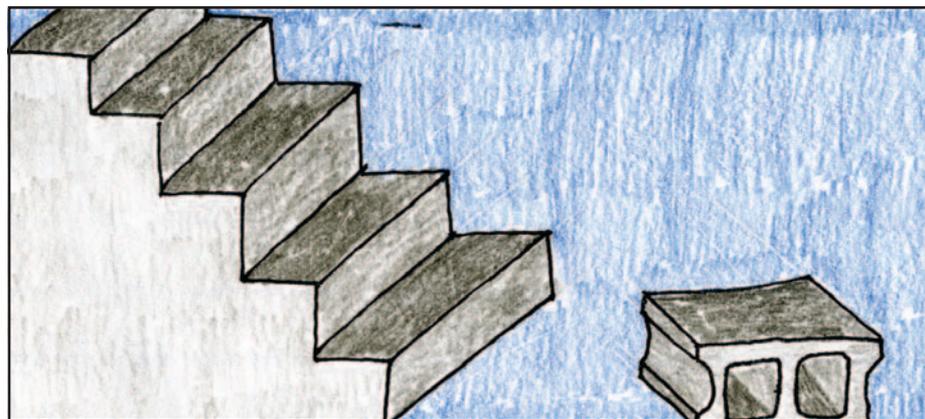
**Abbey Fluet, Grade 3,
Helen Mae Sauter School**



MCCAULEY CHIROPRACTIC CENTER, P.C.
Dr. Sean E. McCauley
31 Lake Street, Suite 151 • Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

DESIGN-AN-AD

**Zoie Evans-Bedell, Grade 9,
Murdock Middle High School**



CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

199 EAST BROADWAY, GARDNER
978-669-0088

DESIGN-AN-AD

**Eric Desgroseilliers, Grade 7,
Murdock Middle High School**

How do you plan to contend with rising college costs?



Do you plan on going to college in the future? Is money going to put your future on hold? Well, I'm certainly not going to let money stop me from fulfilling my dreams. Because college costs are going up, I have been planning out how to earn enough money to get through college. I have been thinking about and researching what kind of jobs I could get, while in college. I have also been considering different ways to manage my time between college, homework and a job. If college costs were more reasonable, I wouldn't be nearly as concerned with getting a fairly good paying job while in college.

Lately, I have also been thinking about earning and saving money now to help pay for college later. Since I am only 13, there aren't many jobs available other than babysitting right now. So, of course, I babysit to earn as much money as I can, so I will have a little more money by the time college comes around. Babysitting doesn't earn me a ton of money, but every little bit counts. The frightening price of college is definitely the cause of my dispirited attempts to earn money, if it wasn't for college prices, I wouldn't be babysitting. I also plan on getting an official job when I'm older. Most of the money I earn now and will earn in the future goes to my college savings.

Last year, in sixth grade, there was an essay contest that every sixth grader entered, called the "Maki Essay Contest." Our writing prompt was, "Have you checked your empathy level today?" I tried very hard to win, and I would have, even if there was no prize, but I found the prompt fairly difficult to work with. Don't get me wrong, I tried my absolute hardest and in the end, I won. Looking back on that contest, I am so glad I persevered because that'll help pay for college. I may not have known it then, but winning that contest is going to help my future.

This summer and summers to come, I plan on spending my time trying to earn money for college. Any other 13-year-old girl I know is spending their summers partying, relaxing and enjoying their time off school, but I am too worried about college costs to do those things. Even if I tried to relax over the summer, I don't think I'd be able to, because what if college comes around and I'm unable to pay for it? I think summer time is a great time to focus on earning money for college, because you don't have many obligations.

Even though I'm only in seventh grade, I look at college Web sites a lot. I used to only look at things that interested me such as their theatre program, their music program and their English courses. Now, I've added price to the list. However, if I really like a college that has a price on the higher side, I'll still consider going there, it just means I have to work a little harder to get there. It's really hard to save up for something without a goal or an estimated price of what you're saving for. So, I like to check out college prices to get a general idea of how much I'm going to have to save up and how much I'll have to earn while in college.

When I find out that I want to apply for a college that costs a lot, I'm not going to just give up on that college, I just need to work hard to pay for it. I know people that will completely give up on a college that they had been exuberant about a few moments ago, just because they were scared away by the price. I don't want to have to forget about a totally awesome school, just because it'll be hard to pay for. I'm not going to let annoying fees limit my life.

There has never been a doubt in my mind that I am going to college. I know that some people do contemplate on whatever or not they will be going to college. For those unsure people seeing the high price of most colleges may be the deciding factor for them. College fees can destroy a person's life, but they won't destroy mine and I hope you don't let them destroy your life either.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Leah Carrier, Grade 7,
North Central Charter Essential School**



FEATURE PHOTO

**Alyssa Varieur, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School**

Is extending commuter rail a wise idea?



Extending the commuter rail further west has a lot more benefits than harmful effects. For one, convenience. Now, if somebody from Athol wanted to go to Boston, they would have to drive to Fitchburg to get a ride on the commuter rail. That could take around 40 minutes. If somebody from Franklin County wanted to get to Boston, it would take a long time to drive there, and probably would not even be worth the wait. Driving to Fitchburg would take plenty of time, so it takes a very long time to get to Boston. Extending the commuter rail further west could make a trip from Franklin County to Boston bearable.

The carbon dioxide emissions would be less, with fewer cars on the roads, and it would connect smaller towns to Boston and benefit the environment. It would clear up some traffic on highways and overall, would be a benefit to the communities, bigger and smaller, of northern Worcester County. Some people work in Boston or other towns along the commuter rail, and driving even from Winchendon to Fitchburg takes time, and takes an even longer time to ride on the commuter rail. "Right now, trying to get into Boston from the north, west or south of Fitchburg is a challenge," said Congressman John Olver, D-Amherst said recently. "Route 2 is gridlocked during prime commute times, and it can be difficult to find parking and to drive to some of the stations along the line. Once built this station will be in a prime location for commuters to quickly get off Route 2 and onto a train within minutes. The hardest part of the workday shouldn't be getting to the office."

Extending the commuter rail would allow for the morning commute for Worcester County residents who work in other towns, much easier.

Even though extending the commuter rail would provide many benefits, there are some disadvantages. For one, cost. Extending the commuter rail, while still spending money to upgrade older tracks and to make it faster, can be very costly. The cost could make taxes go up to fund the building of these new tracks. This one disadvantage alone definitely lessens the chances of extending the commuter rail. The cost of just getting to Wachusett is more than \$12 million per mile.

Another disadvantage would be that the commuter rail is a service, and just like any other service, it needs customers. If the commuter rail is extended, it would need to have plenty of customers to make it a profitable decision. It would be like a restaurant buying more food than they could sell. Extending the rail where there might be few customers wouldn't make much sense, so if nobody uses it, the commuter rail would spend more money on diesel fuel and on building the tracks then might be needed and would lose money, but if they get enough customers west of Fitchburg, then the move could be highly beneficial to many people, in Worcester County, and in Boston.

Overall, the extension of the commuter rail west of Fitchburg would be beneficial to many people in northern Worcester County, despite the cost. Thanks to recent funding, from the Recovery Act, \$55.5 million to extend the service has been invested for extending such service throughout Massachusetts. "This is great news for the region's economy and the thousands of Massachusetts commuters who will benefit from a faster, safer, more reliable, and more comfortable ride," noted Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently, when discussing the funding.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Leon Gaulin, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School**



FEATURE PHOTO

**Bryce Scott, Grade 7,
Murdock Middle-High School**

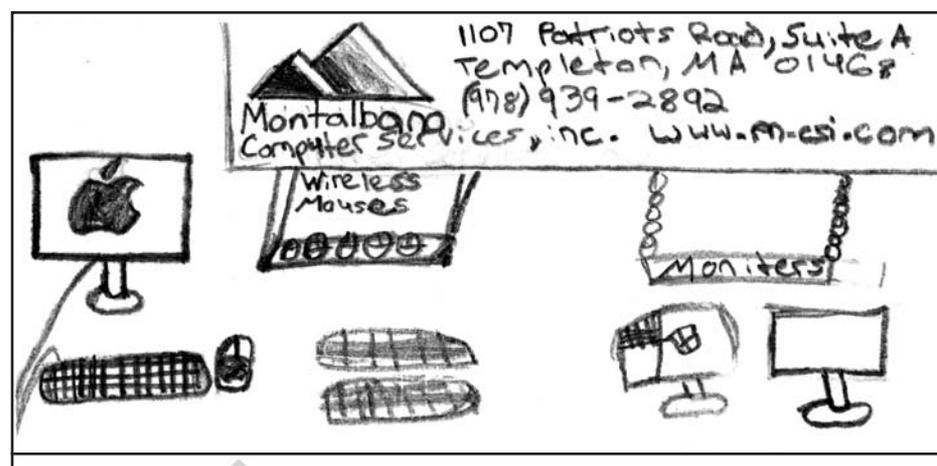


Carriage House Restaurant

Rt. 12 Winchendon • 978-297-1089

DESIGN-AN-AD

**Elizabeth Whiting, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School**



**Montalbano
Computer Services, Inc.**

1107 Patriots Road, Suite A
Templeton, MA 01468
(978) 939-2892
www.m-csi.com

DESIGN-AN-AD

**John Hancock, Grade 7,
Murdock Middle High School**

Someone local recently won \$4.3 million in the lottery. What'd you do if you won?



You could do millions of things with your winnings. But here is what I would want to do. If I won \$4.3 million, I would want to change someone's life in some way. I could make a change to one person's life just by handing them a dollar. I could hand every person I know that I am close to \$100, and help them out somehow.

If I could, I know that I would help a friend, someone who hasn't been able to walk for more than 16 years, a person who cares more for everyone else, but herself. Someone who told me that she would walk 100 miles just to help me with everything, but the one problem is that she can't walk and won't be able to, and she will not be able to walk without a walker, braces or someone's help. Her name is Samantha and she was born at 24 weeks and has cerebral palsy.

Cerebral palsy is a group of disorders that can involve brain and nervous system functions such as movement, learning, hearing, seeing and thinking.

Samantha will be in a wheelchair all her life from now on. When Samantha was born, she was born 16 weeks premature and developed cerebral palsy because of complications at birth, low oxygen to the brain and bleeding in the brain. All of these are contributions to having cerebral palsy, as Sam had a 10 percent chance of living and lived past the age of six months. After that, she was given a 25 percent chance of living past the age of five. Slowly, Sam became unable to walk and was diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy. Sam has adjusted to not being able to walk. Not walking has changed her life. She had to relearn how to do simple, everyday activities. Sam is now going to be turning 21 and is a happy girl. She has realized that she will be in a wheelchair for the rest of her life and is unable to walk without help.

Specific therapies can help Sam develop specific skills and abilities, with the overall goal of her treatment being to help the individual with cerebral palsy reach her greatest potential physically, mentally and socially. This can be accomplished with a variety of different approaches managed by a team of professionals. Caring for people with cerebral palsy is complicated, requiring a number of different services and specialists.

Physical therapy involves stretching, physical exercises, and other activities that develop muscle strength, flexibility and control. The goal is to maximize function and minimize disabling contractures. The focus is developing specific skills such as holding the head up, sitting unsupported, or walking. Braces, splints, and casts may be used to help reach these goals.

Special equipment that may be helpful with cerebral palsy include walkers, positioning devices, customized wheelchairs, scooters, and tricycles.

Part of cerebral palsy has to do with a person's nervous system. Sam's nervous system is very sensitive and causes her to spasm when she hears a loud noise or when her emotions change. Spasticity may be treated by injections into the muscles or by medications.

Botulinum. This substance is widely known as Botox. When injected, it causes a mild muscle paralysis and reduces contractions. In cerebral palsy, it is used to decrease spasticity of muscles of the arms or legs, which improves range of motion and overall mobility. This can be important in allowing a child to fit into an orthotic (brace or splint) or even to be comfortably positioned in a wheelchair. Botox helps other treatments work better, such as physical therapy or casting the limb.

Samantha has to get the Botox injections at least once a year and which the injections can control the muscle movement of her arms, legs and neck when she spasms.

Samantha's family has several bills to pay from all of her appointments with her specialists, to the cost of a new wheelchair. Giving Samantha's family some of the \$4.3 million would help much on those bills.

On average, the cost of one physical therapy is \$250 for a 45-minute session, or \$30 to \$45 per 15 minutes with the physical therapists. Samantha can go see the physical therapists up to six times a week, because of her condition. The cost of Sam's electric wheelchair un-customized to suit her, was \$1,400.

I would do anything to help Sam walk again. Sam doesn't remember when she was able to walk, because she was so young. All Sam keeps asking me to do, is to help her walk. Samantha's one wish is to walk, and her one wish is priceless.

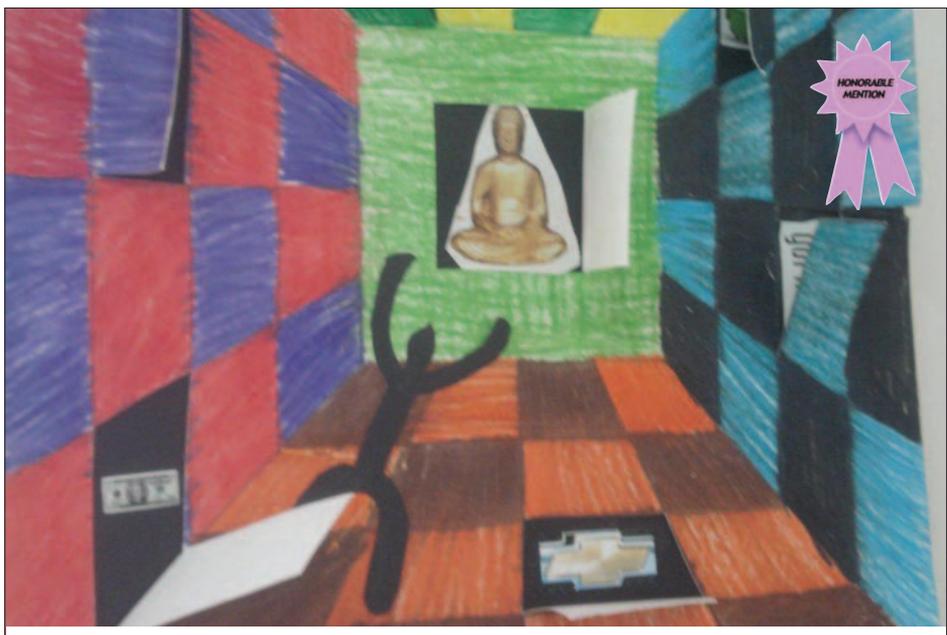
STUDENT ESSAY
Jordan Melendy, Grade 9,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



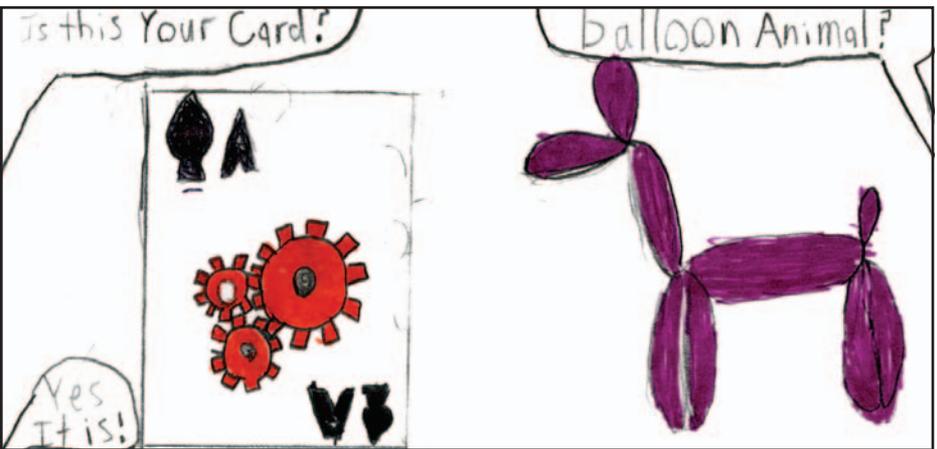
News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Olivia Frushell, Grade 11,
The Winchendon School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Dalton Siegle, Grade 5,
Hardwick Elementary School



242 West Broadway
 Gardner, MA
 978.632.1057
www.southsidemargaritafactory.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
Emmett Foley, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School



TANGUAY JEWELERS

19 Connors St., Gardner • 978-632-1362 or 1-800-856-1362
 Hours: Tues-Fri 9-5, Thurs 9-7, Sat 9-2, Closed Sun & Mon

DESIGN-AN-AD
Brandon Truax, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Sam Leveillee, Grade 12,
Homeschool



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Michelle Rodriguez, Grade 2,
Memorial Elementary School



FEATURE PHOTO
Sydney Arnold, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Brendan Galvin, Grade 11,
Mahar Regional School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Alice Xu, Grade 12,
The Winchendon School



Little's Floor Covering, LLP

359 Summer St, Fitchburg • www.littlesfloorcovering.com
Hours: M-W: 10am-5pm • Th: 10am-7pm • F: 10am-2pm • Sat: 10am-1pm

DESIGN-AN-AD
Emily Quill, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School

COME JOIN US!
Every Tuesday from 5-8 FOR KIDS NIGHT
WITH BINKY THE CLOWN
Kids under 12 eat for 1.99 for every
adult meal purchased. MUST
bring this ad to get the special
meal. Includes meal, drink, and
a free ice cream.
COME DOWN TO IXTAPA!




978-582-9701

www.ixtapacantina.com

308 Massachusetts Ave., Lunenburg
Corner of Routes 13 & 2A • Across From Wal-Mart
Sun-Thurs 11a-10p • Fri & Sat 11a-11p

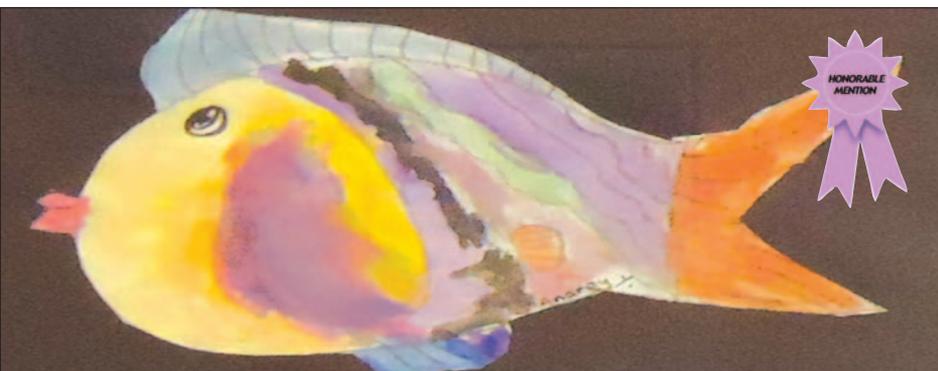
DESIGN-AN-AD
Sondrea Surette-Narcisse, Grade 12,
Gardner High School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Emma Barry, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



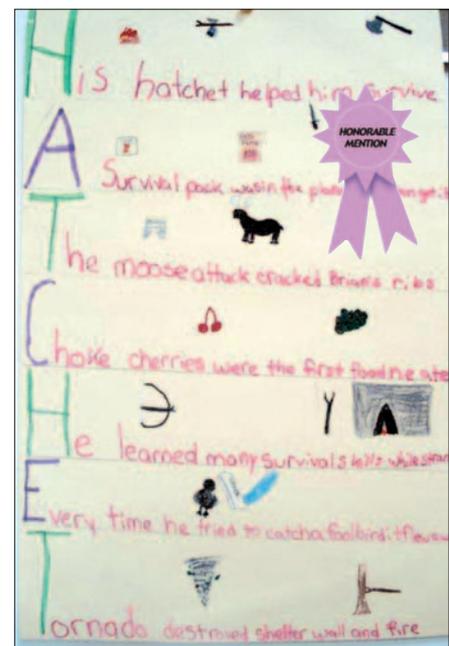
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Jack Normandin, Grade 6,
Royalston Community School



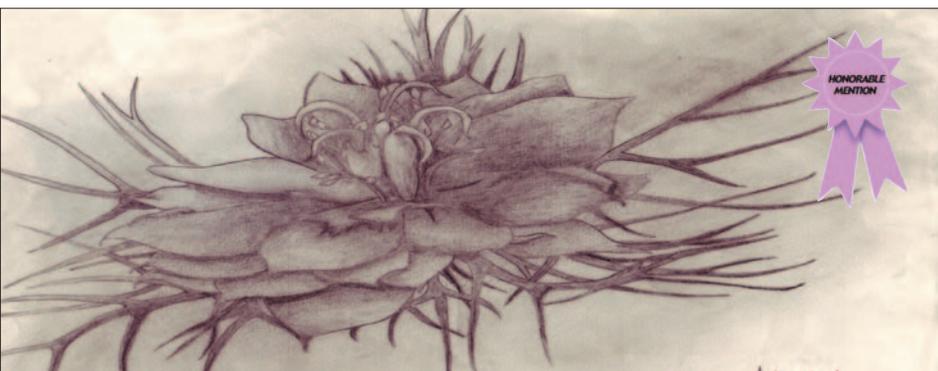
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Anaray Yang, Grade K,
Memorial Elementary School



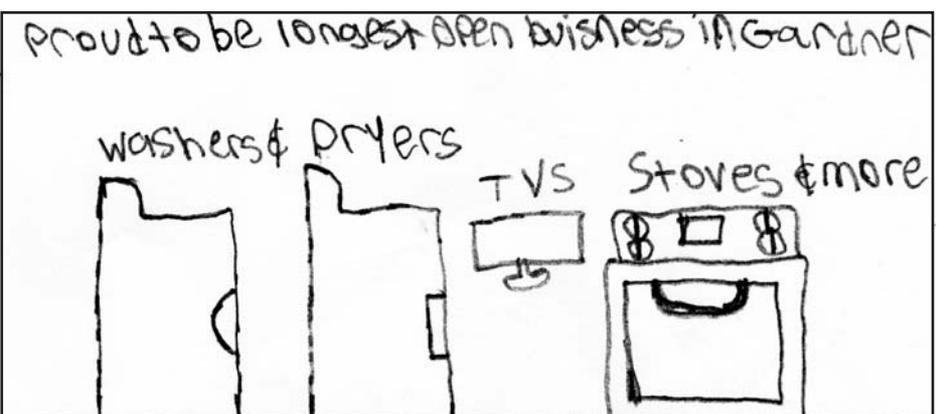
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Dominic Milton, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Ryley Newcomb and Gavin
Phelps, Grade 6,
Ruggles Lane Elementary



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Koie Hamel, Grade 12,
Narragansett Regional High School



STASUKELIS™
WAREHOUSE SALES

NAME BRAND APPLIANCES & TV'S AT WAREHOUSE PRICES
287 Main Street Gardner, MA 01440 • (978)-632-0241
HOURS: M-F 8-5:30, TH 8-8, SAT 8-5, CLOSED WED & SUN

DESIGN-AN-AD
Zackery Martioski, Grade 8,
Gardner Middle School



CITY BARBER SHOP

20 Marquette St, Gardner
978-632-3811

Hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs 6-8 • Wed 8:30-12 • Fri 6-6 • Sat 6-12

DESIGN-AN-AD
Sam Colcord, Grade 8,
Gardner Middle School



EDITORIAL CARTOON

*Jack Fay, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School*



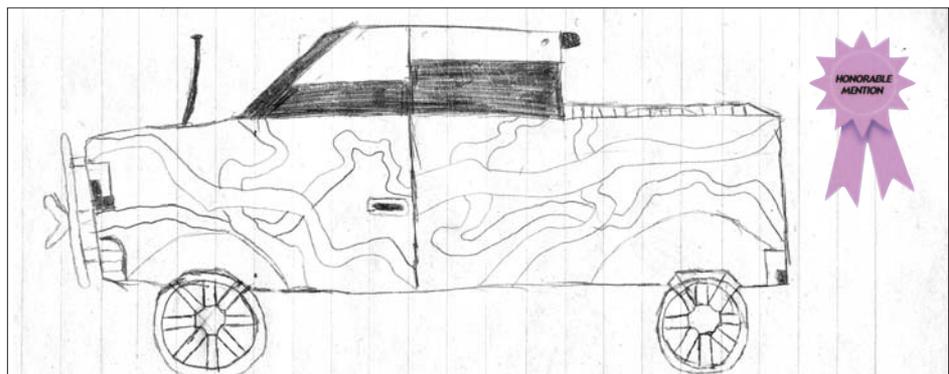
ORIGINAL ARTWORK

*Alexandria Ramos, Grade 6,
Sacred Heart School*



FEATURE PHOTO

*Cody Leger, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

*Andrew LeBlanc, Grade 7,
First Year's Academy*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

*Holland Engele, Grade 7,
Mahar Regional School*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

*Kendra DiAngelo, Grade K,
Meetinghouse Elementary School*

NO Fueling around, people's
Is The Best.

PEOPLE'S FUEL, INC.

73 CITY HALL AVENUE, GARDNER, MA
Call 978-632-4890 • www.peoplesfuel.com

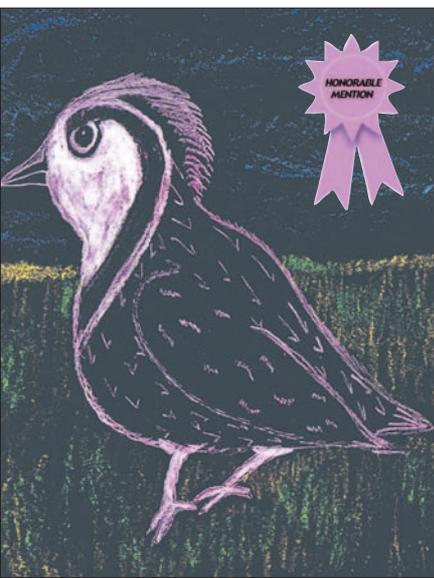
DESIGN-AN-AD
*Curtis Begin, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School*



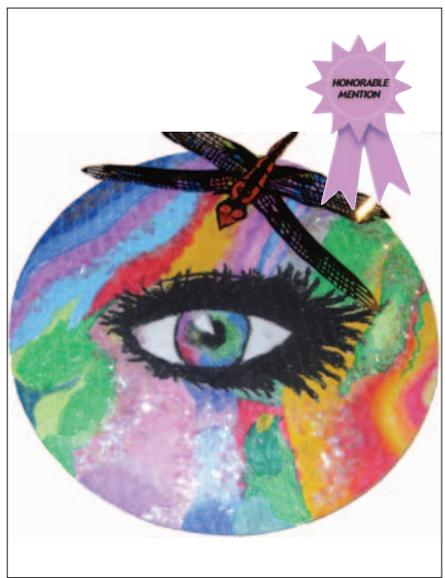
LITTLE ANTHONY'S

676 Spring Street, Winchendon
978-297-2669 • 978-297-1880
Hours: Mon-Thurs 11:30am-8pm
Fri & Sat 11:30am-9pm
Sun. 11:30am-6pm

DESIGN-AN-AD
*Nicole Romero, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School*



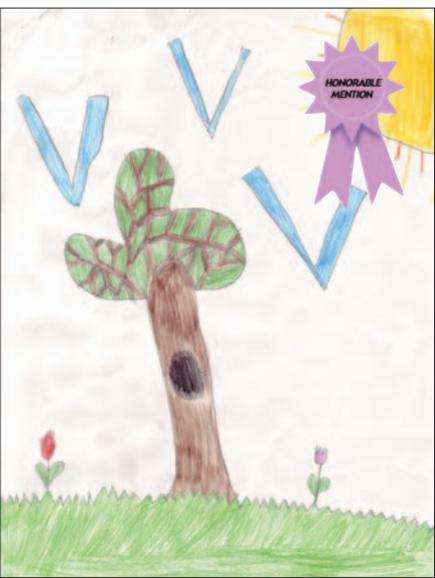
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Arianna Sargent, Grade 5,
Elm Street School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Claudia Tremble, Grade 5,
Elm Street School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Natashia Patria, Grade 10,
Mahar Regional School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Faith Campos, Grade 3,
Phillipston Memorial School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Tyreece Younger, Grade 6,
Petersham Center School



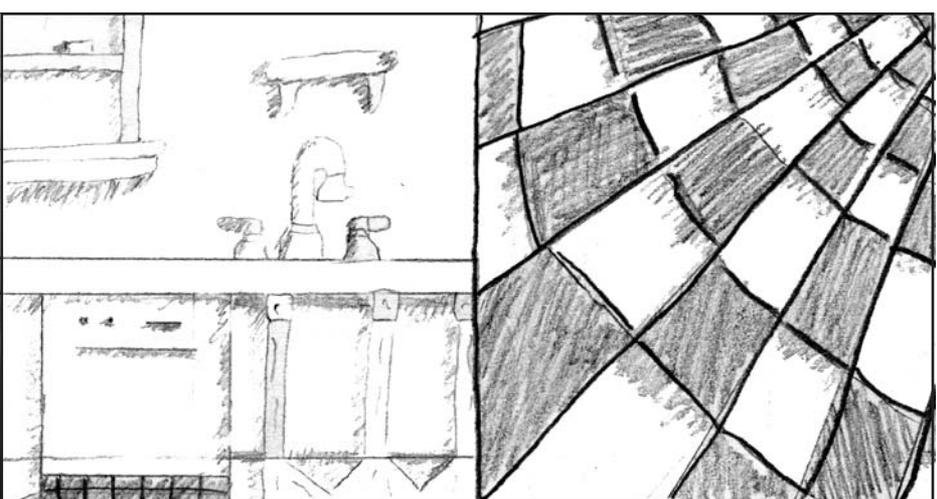
STORYBOOK
Lily Abbott, Grade 2,
Templeton Center School



STORYBOOK
Sofi Plotkin, Grade 2,
Waterford Street School



STORYBOOK
Lucas Oliveira, Grade K,
J.R. Briggs Elementary School



**Kitchens
Plus Flooring**

50 Main Street
Gardner
978.632.2700
Mon-Fri 8a-5p
Sat 10a-2p

DESIGN-AN-AD
Jonathan Raymond, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School



Cleghorn Oil 978-345-4188

SERVING THE Gardner/Ashburnham/Winchendon AREAS EVERYDAY.

DESIGN-AN-AD
Sean Duangsay, Grade 12,
Gardner High School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Jessica Senecal, Grade 12,
 Quabbin Regional High School



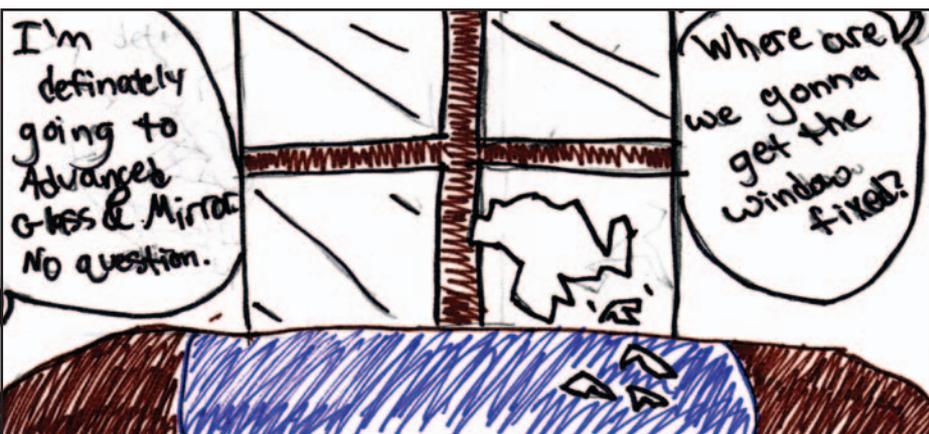
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Karisa Desjardins, Grade 12,
 Quabbin Regional High School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Olivia McGrail, Grade 5,
 Hardwick Elementary School

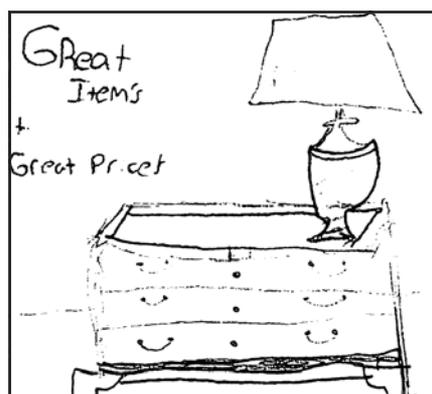


ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Teagan Chace, Grade 5,
 Westminster Elementary School



ADVANCED G&M GLASS & MIRROR
 New Construction & Replacement Windows
 COMMERCIAL 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
 978-874-1865
 158 State Road East, Rte. 2A, Westminster
 www.advancedglassmirror.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
 Paul Hartin, Grade 8,
 Sacred Heart School



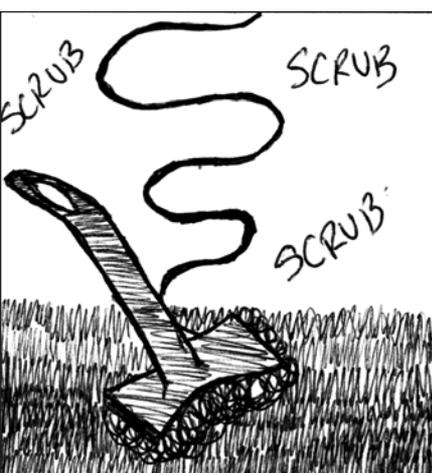
KEEPIN' IT LOCAL
 Gift Shop & Growing Consignment
 536 Main Street, Athol • 978-249-6800
 Hours: M-F 9am-6pm,
 Sat. 9am-2pm, Sun. Closed

DESIGN-AN-AD
 Trevor Nelson, Grade 7,
 Narragansett Middle School



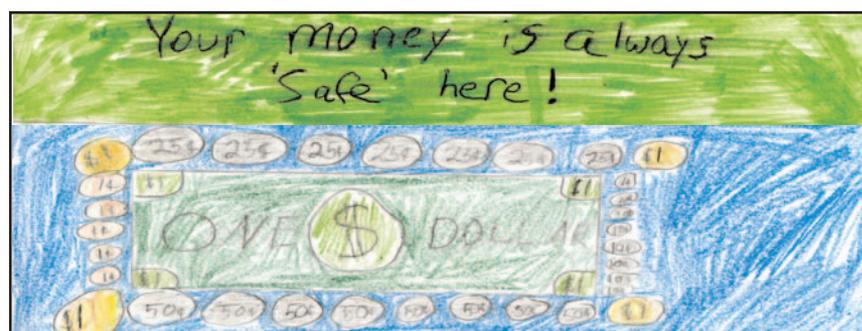
PLOTKIN FURNITURE
 41 EXCHANGE STREET
 ATHOL, MA
 Hours: Mon.-Wed. 9-5, Thurs. & Fri. 9-6,
 Sat. 9-5, Sun. Noon-4
 (978) 249-3256 www.plotkinsofathol.com
 TOLL FREE 1-800-PLOTKIN

DESIGN-AN-AD
 Alyssa Demont, Grade 9,
 Murdock Middle High School



Steve LaPrise Steam Way Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
 Experience The Difference
 (978) 939-8395 or 1-800-393-8395

DESIGN-AN-AD
 Douglas MacArthur, Grade 9,
 Murdock Middle High School



Ashburnham • Fitchburg • Gardner • Hubbardston
 Rindge • Rutland • Winchendon
 978-632-2542 • gfafcu.com

DESIGN-AN-AD
 Gillie Keith, Grade 7,
 Holy Rosary School



GFA
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



HONORABLE MENTION

STORYBOOK

Jacqueline Marcinkiewicz, Grade 1, Hubbardston Center School



HONORABLE MENTION

FEATURE PHOTO

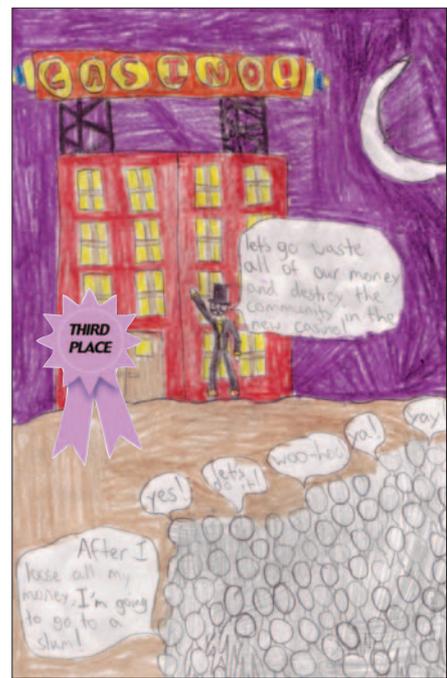
Kalli Duguay, Grade 8, Holy Rosary School



THIRD PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK

Mayte Torres-Zelaya, Grade 6, Butterfield Elementary School



THIRD PLACE

EDITORIAL CARTOON

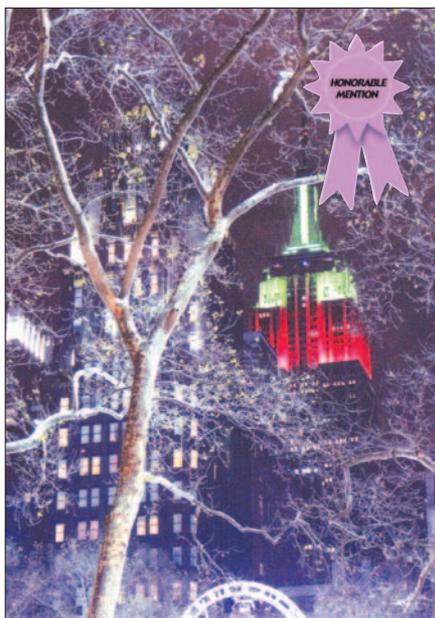
James Teele, Grade 6, Petersham Center School



HONORABLE MENTION

FEATURE PHOTO

Kelsey Dilling, Grade 7, Holy Rosary School



HONORABLE MENTION

FEATURE PHOTO

Matthew Lucas, Grade 7, Holy Rosary School



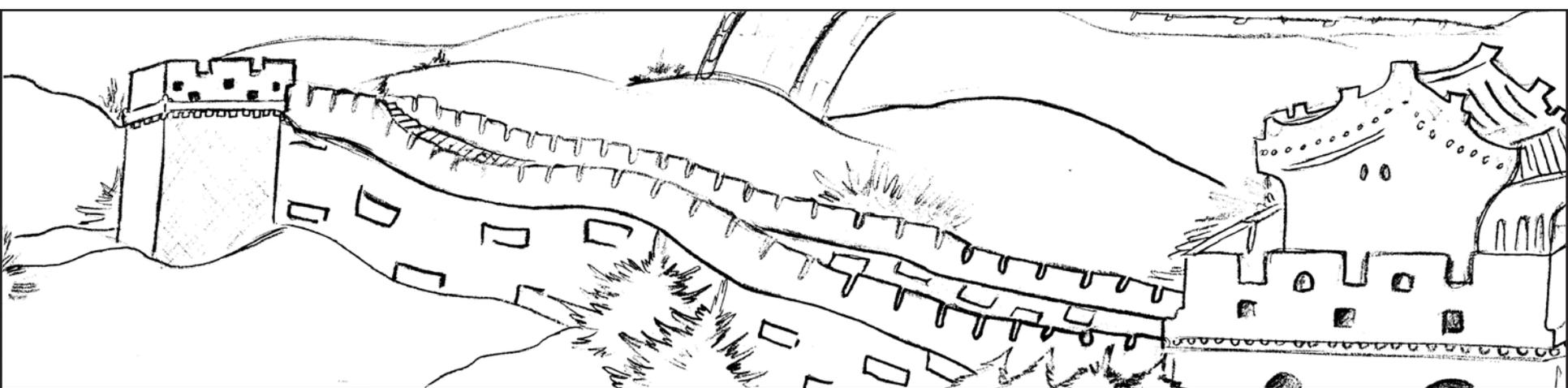
513 Main Street • Athol, MA 01331

978-249-3527

www.atholcreditunion.com

DESIGN-AN-AD

Kevin Fay, Grade 7, Sacred Heart School



英英酒家
CHINESE RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Open 7 Days a Week • We Deliver!
Take Out Orders – Please Call **978-630-1535**
42 Pearson Blvd., Gardner

DESIGN-AN-AD

Noreen Sale, Grade 10, Mahar Regional School



HONORABLE MENTION

FEATURE PHOTO
Hunter Graves, Grade 4,
Baldwinville Elementary



HONORABLE MENTION

FEATURE PHOTO
Destiny Wrigley, Grade 6,
Royalston Community School



THIRD PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Maddison Holland, Grade 12,
Quabbin Regional High School



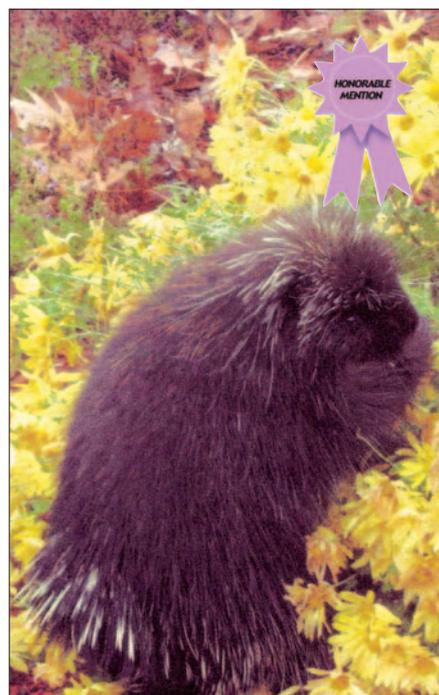
THIRD PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
David Walsh, Grade 8,
Quabbin Middle School



HONORABLE MENTION

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Grace Franklin, Grade 7,
Quabbin Middle School



HONORABLE MENTION

FEATURE PHOTO
Isabella Boyack, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



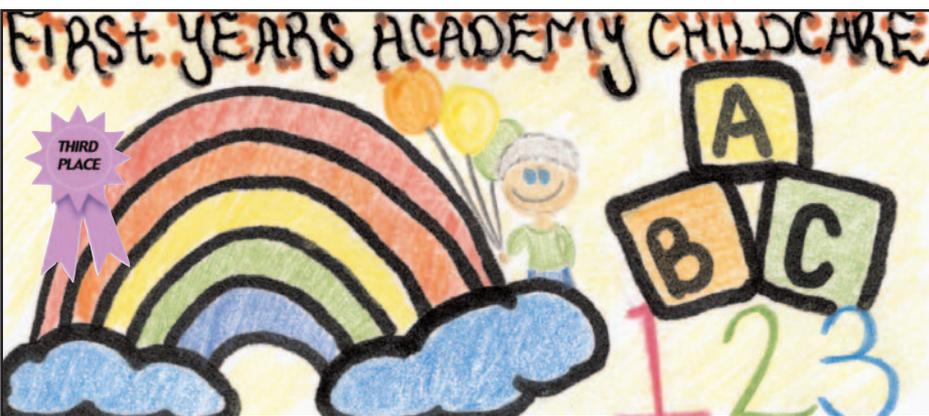
HONORABLE MENTION

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Brandi Pasternack, Grade 12,
Quabbin Regional High School



HONORABLE MENTION

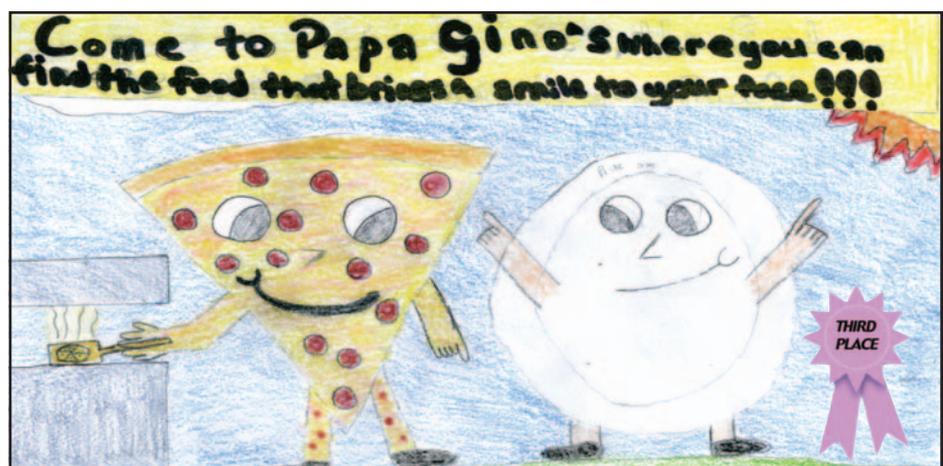
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Tian Yin, Grade 11,
The Winchendon School



THIRD PLACE

First Years Academy Childcare Center
Openings Available for Infants through School Aged
6:30AM-6:00PM • CONTACT MS. TARA 978-630-0010
Just off Rt. 2, East Templeton • License # 9002347

DESIGN-AN-AD
Samantha Thompson, Grade 12,
Gardner High School



THIRD PLACE

Papa Gino's PIZZERIA
326 Timpany Boulevard
Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-8051

DESIGN-AN-AD
Ed Tonet, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School