

Friday  
March 30,  
2007

2007 SUPPLEMENT  
NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

**19  
local  
schools  
took  
part  
this  
year!**

See the creative talents of local area school children in these contests:  
Design-An-Ad,  
Editorial Cartoon,  
Feature Photo, My Favorite Storybook Character, Original Artwork and Student Essay



# NIE Contest Winners

1st Place Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Kelsey Rodriguez, Sanders Street School**  
 2nd Place Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Bradley Logan, Hubbardston Center Street School**  
 3rd Place Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**André Lapierre, Hubbardston Center Street School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Marlee Tremdle, Waterford Street School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Quiana Rivera, Sanders Street School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades K-3  
**Sarah Burkle, Hubbardston Center Street School**

1st Place Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Brittany Pontbriand, Holy Rosary School**  
 2nd Place Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Brianna Dowse, Sacred Heart Academy**  
 3rd Place Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Annie Perreault, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Rebecca Toledo, Elm Street Elementary School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Noreen Sale, Silver Lake Elementary School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 4-6  
**Vanessa O'Brien, Toy Town Elementary School**

1st Place Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Stephanie Duke, Holy Rosary School**  
 2nd Place Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Trisha Wedemeyer, Narragansett Regional Middle School**  
 3rd Place Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Sarah Wilson, Gardner Middle School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Ashley Young, Gardner Middle School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 7-9  
**Nick Magalhães, Gardner Middle School**

1st Place Original Artwork, Grades 10-12  
**Ken Broeckel, Gardner High School**  
 2nd Place Original Artwork, Grades 10-12  
**Christopher Leonard, Narragansett Regional High School**  
 3rd Place Original Artwork, Grades 10-12  
**Ross Dembek, Gardner High School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 10-12  
**Laura Kaddy, Narragansett Regional High School**  
 Honorable Mention Original Artwork, Grades 10-12  
**Kayla Agnir, Narragansett Regional High School**

1st Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Elizabeth Raymond, Sacred Heart Academy**  
 2nd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Haley Martin, Holy Rosary School**  
 3rd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Michael Nicholson, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Jeffrey Hoyt, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 4-6  
**Ben Johnson, Holy Rosary School**

1st Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Stephanie Duke, Holy Rosary School**  
 2nd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Isabelle Johnson, Sacred Heart Academy**  
 3rd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Matt Cregg, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Kourtney Kacian, Sacred Heart Academy**

Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 7-9  
**Cole Dowse, Sacred Heart Academy**

1st Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 10-12  
**Shannon Saadek, Narragansett Regional High**  
 2nd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 10-12  
**Patrick Ashline, Narragansett Regional High**  
 3rd Place Editorial Cartoon, Grades 10-12  
**Stacy Smith, Narragansett Regional High**  
 Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon, Grades 10-12  
**Amilyn DeCarteret, Narragansett Regional High**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Hayden Wheeler, Hubbardston Center Street School**  
 2nd Place Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Patrick O'Toole, Hubbardston Center Street School**  
 3rd Place Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Brianna Stevens, Hubbardston Center Street School**  
 Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Larissa Brooks, Waterford Street School**  
 Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades K-3  
**Shayne Power, Hubbardston Center Street School**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**David Mansfield, Holy Rosary School**  
 2nd Place Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Veronica Phelps, Master's Christian Academy**  
 3rd Place Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Megan Bibeau, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Danielle Martin, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 4-6  
**Joshua Proulx, Master's Christian Academy**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades 7-9  
**Amy Wheeler, Master's Christian Academy**  
 2nd Place Student Essay, Grades 7-9  
**Christian Divoll, Gardner Middle School**  
 3rd Place Student Essay, Grades 7-9  
**Samantha Ervin, Master's Christian Academy**

1st Place Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Kayla Stowell, Gardner High School**  
 2nd Place Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Max Gutmans, Gardner High School**  
 3rd Place Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Jessica Thomas, Gardner High School**  
 Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Kelsey Perrett, Oakmont Regional High School**  
 Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Guthrie Hartford, Gardner High School**  
 Honorable Mention Student Essay, Grades 10-12  
**Josh Deveau, Gardner High School**

1st Place Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Joe Adams, Holy Rosary School**  
 2nd Place Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Meghan Bruce, Holy Rosary School**  
 3rd Place Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Maria DeMalia, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Nathan Nickerson, Master Christian Academy**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 4-6  
**Annie Perreault, Holy Rosary School**

1st Place Feature Photo, Grades 7-9  
**Chloe Danielson, Holy Rosary School**  
 2nd Place Feature Photo, Grades 7-9

**Jess Velera, Holy Rosary School**  
 3rd Place Feature Photo, Grades 7-9  
**Nathaniel Long, Sacred Heart Academy**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 7-9  
**Trevor Fletcher, Holy Rosary School**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 7-9  
**George Tyros, Holy Rosary School**

1st Place Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Josh Comeau, Gardner High School**  
 2nd Place Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Emily Minns, Gardner High School**  
 3rd Place Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Joe Davis, Gardner High School**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Josh Deveau, Gardner High School**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Jayson Drop, Narragansett Regional High**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Renee Grenke, Gardner High School**  
 Honorable Mention Feature Photo, Grades 10-12  
**Carissa Penney, Gardner High School**

1st Place Storybook Character, K-1  
**Maria Brooks, J.R. Briggs Elementary School**  
 2nd Place Storybook Character, K-1  
**Celia Shampine, Hubbardston Center Street School**  
 3rd Place Storybook Character, K-1  
**Julia Smith, Helen Mae Sauter School**

1st Place Storybook Character, 2-3  
**Noelle Sands, Helen Mae Sauter Elementary**  
 2nd Place Storybook Character, 2-3  
**Damarielys Toro, Elm Street Elementary School**  
 3rd Place Storybook Character, 2-3  
**Kristen Murphy, Elm Street Elementary School**  
 Honorable Mention Storybook Character, 2-3  
**Daniel Campbell, East Templeton Elementary**  
 Honorable Mention Storybook Character, 2-3  
**Kendra Keenan, Elm Street Elementary School**  
 Honorable Mention Storybook Character, 2-3  
**Nicole Mullin, Elm Street Elementary School**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades K-3  
**Serena Furr, First Year Academy**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 4-6  
**Brianna Dowse, Sacred Heart Academy**  
 2nd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 4-6  
**Veronica Phelps, Master's Christian Academy**  
 3rd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 4-6  
**Austin Cyganiewicz, Elm Street Elementary School**  
 Honorable Mention Design-An-Ad, Grades 4-6  
**Jacob Beaudry, Westminster Elementary School**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 7-9  
**Angela Tonet, Holy Rosary School**  
 2nd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 7-9  
**Dagan Cordio, Gardner High School**  
 3rd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 7-9  
**Isabelle Johnson, Sacred Heart Academy**

1st Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 10-12  
**Rebecca Songer, Narragansett Regional High School**  
 2nd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 10-12  
**Meghan Farrell, Narragansett Regional High School**  
 3rd Place Design-An-Ad, Grades 10-12  
**Kacie Arsenault, Narragansett Regional High School**



News photo by STEVE NYBERG



News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO

## On the cover:

Students at Toy Town Elementary School utilize the newspaper (2 photos by STEVE NYBERG); at Oakmont Regional High School in Westminster (2 photos by STEVE NYBERG); at Narragansett Regional High School in Baldwinville (1 photo by STEVE NYBERG) and at Elm Street Elementary School in Gardner (2 photos by ANDRES CAAMANO).

Dear readers,

For a third straight year, I am proud to announce that participation in the Newspaper In Education supplement has increased dramatically.

This year, more than 1,000 submissions were received, spread over six different contests.

Historically, NIE is considered something solely for elementary schools to participate in, but in the past two years, there has been an increased recognition from the local middle and high schools.

It was just two years ago when Gardner High School became the first high school participant in the supplement, with students this year coming from Gardner High, along with Oakmont Regional High School and Narragansett Regional High School, along with 16 other schools.

By turning page after page of this supplement, you will see the writing and drawing talents of many talented young people in Greater Gardner.

The recognition has grown to where 87 students were recognized last year, and this year 113 have been. As a result, the supplement has grown from a size of 20 pages that has been the standard, to 28 pages.

As the Newspaper In Education program at *The Gardner News* grows, it becomes ever more apparent that our 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 who helped make this year's supplement a success. This is just a glimpse at what is possible when newspapers are used in the classroom.

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.

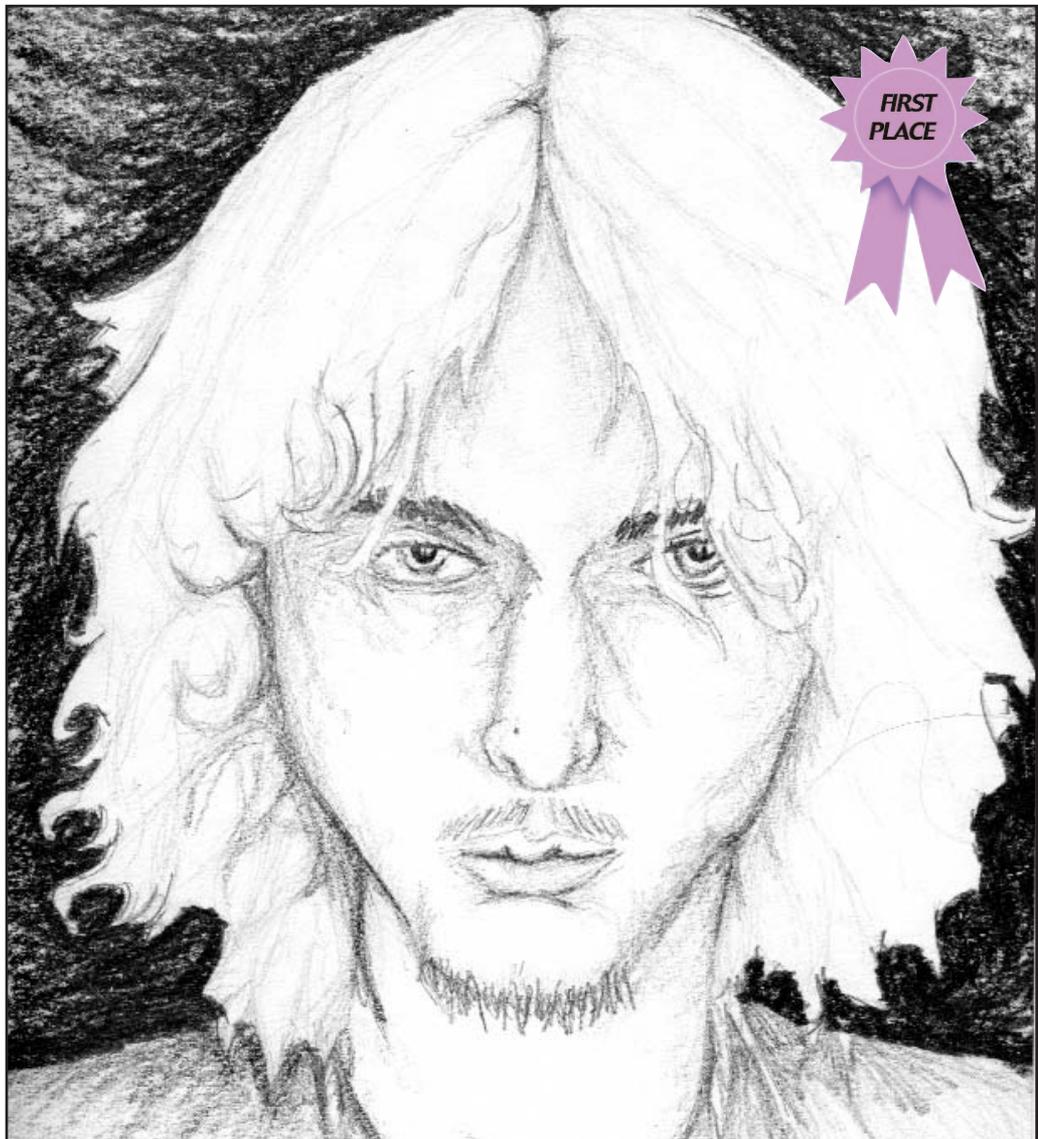
*The Gardner News* is proud to offer our very own NIE program to Greater Gardner schools, and your support is very much appreciated. Parents, businesses and other organizations can help and have done so at an increasing rate, with 16 programs having run in the Gardner area this year. For a surprisingly small donation, you can help pay for the educational services we provide.

Once again, congratulations to all our winners and a hearty thank you to everyone who participated in *The Gardner News 2007 Newspaper In Education Supplement*.

Sincerely,



NIE Coordinator



TGN photo  
Broeckel

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Ken Broeckel, Grade 10,  
Gardner High School

Teacher:  
Sue Gallagher



TGN photo  
Gallagher



News photo by STEVE NYBERG



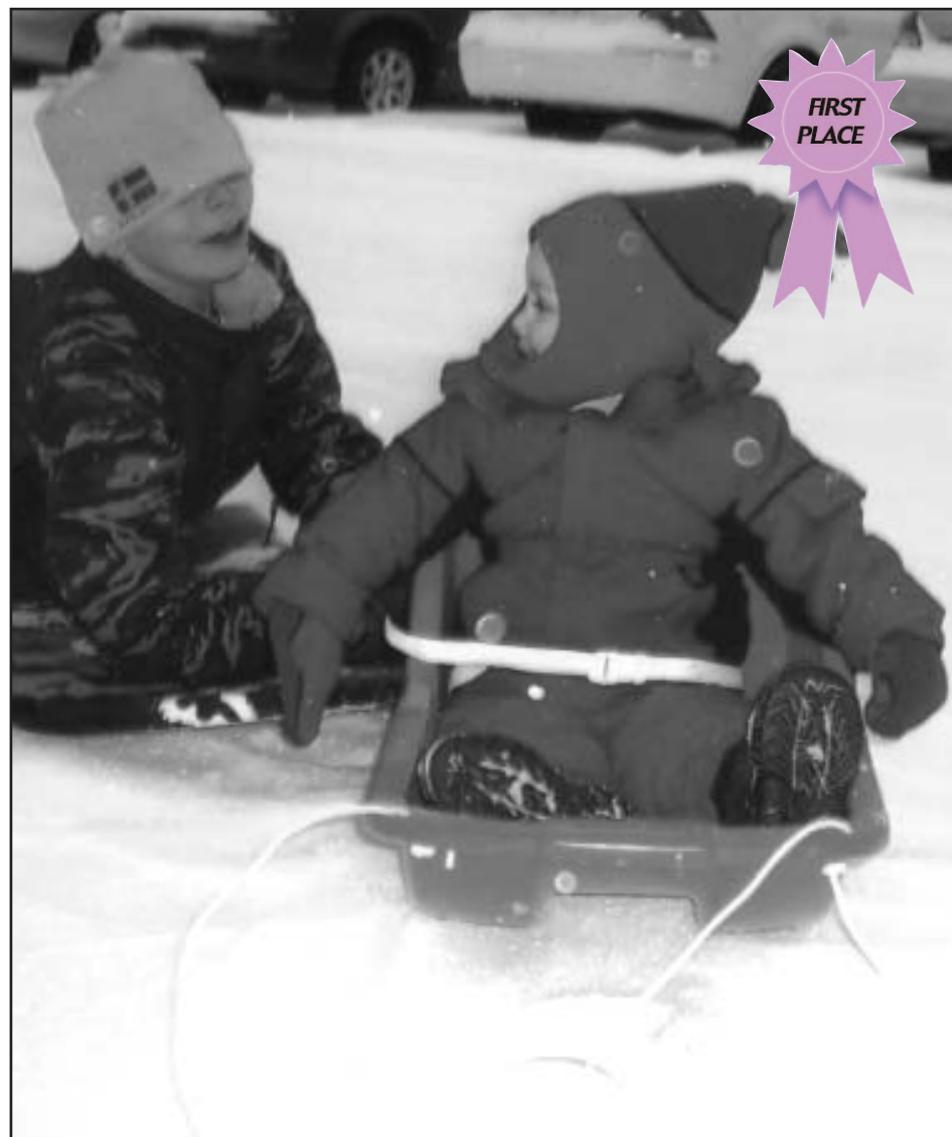
TGN photo  
Songer

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Rebecca Songer, Grade 10,  
Narragansett Regional High School

Teacher:  
Mandy Shirley



TGN photo  
Shirley



TGN photo  
Comeau

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Josh Comeau, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Mark Kobel*



TGN photo  
Kobel



TGN photo  
Danielson

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Chloe Danielson, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Bill Marsh*



TGN photo  
Marsh



TGN photo  
Dowse

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Brianna Dowse, Grade 5,  
Sacred Heart Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Jan Gleason*



TGN photo  
Gleason



TGN photo  
Furr

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Serena Furr, Grade 3,  
First Year Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Dawn Gilliatt*



TGN photo  
Gilliatt



## What is the biggest thing you want changed at your school?

During my freshman year, I changed schools from Oakmont to Gardner. There were many advantages of coming to Gardner, including the great academic classes and a variety of elective courses that are provided for students to choose from. Gardner seemed like a great school and I was ready for a change. What I wasn't ready for, however, was the rest of high school without any school buses.

The summer before my sophomore year of high school, I found out that Gardner High was going to go without buses. Nobody could believe what was going on. The first day of school that year was a mess of traffic and many kids were late for school. This was when everyone around Gardner realized what a problem this really was. Local TV stations reported on our lack of buses and soon Gardner was getting a lot of attention. If anything needs to be changed about Gardner High, this is it.

Although I do not live in Gardner, I am still affected by this. If not timed perfectly, I sometimes find myself running into school because I am stuck in traffic for so long. I still to this day do not understand how dozens of students are not late every day. When I am pulling into the school, there is always a line of traffic behind me, as far as I can see. Instead of the regular school buses that should be provided by our school, our parents are forced to pay for city MART buses if they are not able to bring us into school themselves. Their only other option is to have us walk. Seniors may have their own cars, but they are still affected by the traffic just as much. Students who are late more than three times a term are penalized with a half-hour detention for each additional time they are late. The length of the detention continues to increase until it reaches a full two hours. Without buses, it is very hard to avoid these detentions. It seems to me that this would increase attendance rates.

In the winter months this creates even more of a problem for the residents of Gardner.

Not only does winter get messy and cause more traffic, but Gardner High can no longer have delays after small storms either. Because the MART buses also have their own schedule, we either have school or don't. This is very dangerous to Gardner High's students and faculty. When roads are slippery first thing in the morning and surrounding schools have delays, there is a good chance there could be an accident while we are rushing to get to school on time. In the winter, the roads aren't the only things that get messy. The sidewalks that students have to walk on to get to school are often icy and snowy, which forces the students to walk in the road.

Now that I am approaching the end of my senior year in high school, this bus issue grows more and more ridiculous everyday. Residents of Gardner should not have to pay for MART buses to bring their kids to school, and students should have to worry about dodging traffic or ice on the sidewalks to get to school on time. When driving to school, I often see many kids walking. To me, this is nonsense and extremely dangerous. The city of Gardner seems quick to put its children in danger when they cannot "afford" buses. Instead, they should decrease the amount of money going into big building projects and perhaps make their high school a safer place to get an education. Hopefully, they will provide a means of transportation to get there also.



### ORIGINAL ARTWORK

*Brittany Pontbriand, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School*

*Teacher:  
Joyce LaBonte*



TGN photo  
**LaBonte**



### STUDENT ESSAY

*Kayla Stowell, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*

*Teacher:  
Maria Murphy*



TGN photo  
**Murphy**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Veronica Phelps, Grade 6,  
Master's Christian Academy*

*Teacher:  
Joanna Poirier*



TGN photo  
**Poirier**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Dagan Cordio, Grade 9,  
Gardner High School*

*Teacher:  
Mark Kobel*



TGN photo  
**Kobel**

TGN photo  
**Pontbriand**

TGN photo  
**Stowell**



TGN photo  
Adams

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Joe Adams, Grade 6, Holy Rosary School*



TGN photo  
LaBonte

**Teacher:**  
*Joyce LaBonte*



TGN photo  
Duke

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
*Stephanie Duke, Grade 8, Holy Rosary School*



TGN photo  
Marsh

**Teacher:**  
*Bill Marsh*

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Farrell

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Meghan Farrell, Grade 10, Narragansett Regional High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Mandy Shirley*



TGN photo  
Shirley



TGN photo  
Arsenault

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Kacie Arsenault, Grade 10, Narragansett Regional High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Mandy Shirley*



TGN photo  
Shirley

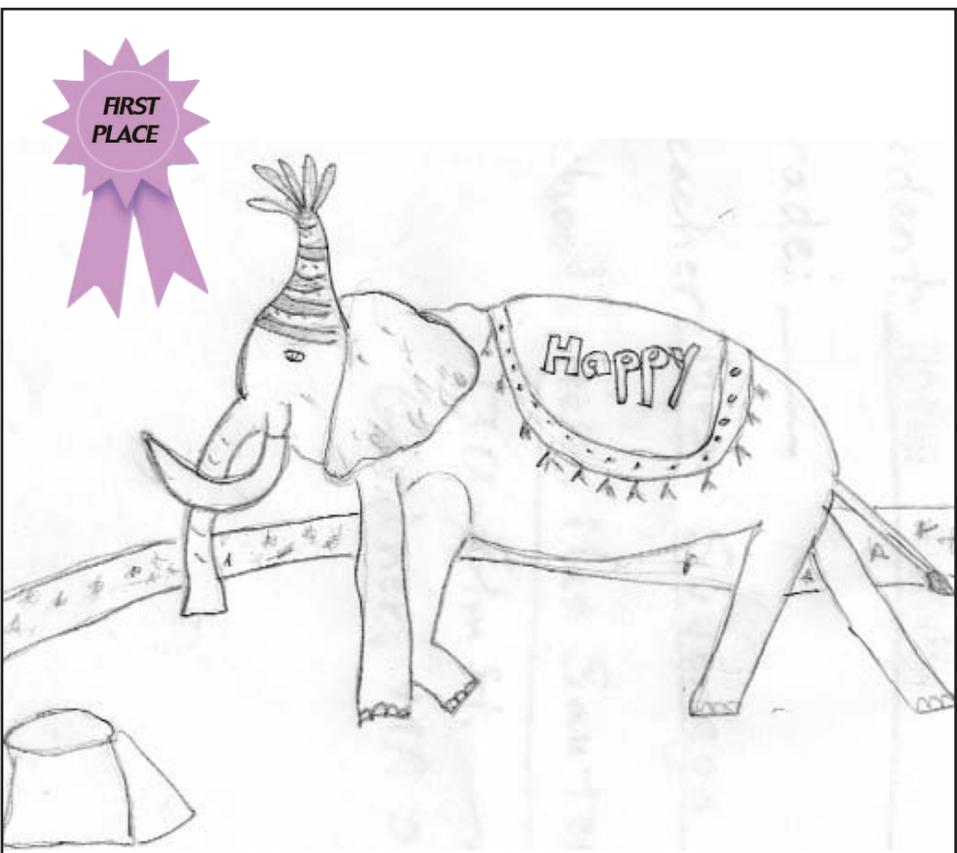


**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
*Elizabeth Raymond, Grade 6,  
Sacred Heart Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Nicole Keney*



TGN photo  
**Keney**

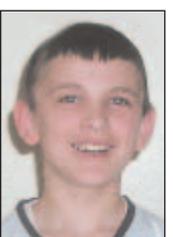


**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
*Noelle Sands, Grade 3,  
Helen Mae Sauter Elementary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Ruth Suyenaga*



TGN photo  
**Suyenaga**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Austin Cyganiewicz, Grade 5,  
Elm Street Elementary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Donna Murphy*



TGN photo  
**Murphy**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Jacob Beaudry, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Eric Sifert*



TGN photo  
**Sifert**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Kelsey Rodriguez, Grade 3,  
 Sanders Street School*

**Teacher:**  
*Ann Powers*



TGN photo  
**Powers**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Stephanie Duke, Grade 8,  
 Holy Rosary School*

**Teacher:**  
*Bill Marsh*



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**Marsh**



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Isabelle Johnson, Grade 7,  
 Sacred Heart Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Donna Carrier*



TGN photo  
**Carrier**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Andy Langlois, Grade 12,  
 Gardner High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Mark Kobel*



TGN photo  
**Kobel**

TGN photo  
**Johnson**

TGN photo  
**Langlois**



News staff photo by STEVE NYBERG

**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Maria Brooks, Grade 1,  
J.R. Briggs Elementary School  
Teacher:  
Robin Murphy*



TGN photo  
**Brooks**



TGN photo  
**Murphy**



TGN photo  
**Knight**

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Victoria Knight, Grade 7,  
Sacred Heart Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Donna Carrier*



TGN photo  
**Carrier**



TGN photo  
**Alger**

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Jonathan Alger, Grade 5,  
First Year Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Dawn Gilliatt*



TGN photo  
**Gilliatt**



WEEK 1



WEEK 2



WEEK 3



TGN photo  
Saadek

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Shannon Saadek, Grade 12,**  
**Narragansett Regional High School**



TGN photo  
Belko

**Teacher:**  
**Kate Belko**

**How do you think the country should proceed with the War in Iraq?**



The Iraq war has been going on for a very long time now. I cannot remember 9/11 because I was little, but I know that is what started the war. First we sent troops there to see if Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction in the country. We didn't find any, but we did find Hussein. After we found him we should have just left, but we didn't. Now it is 2007 and we are still in Iraq. Over 3,000 American soldiers have died there. To make matters worse, George Bush is going to send 20,000 more troops into Iraq.

The terrorists that are fighting us there are just going to keep fighting. If we send in more troops they will just take it as a challenge and are going to kill even more people. Not just Americans, but innocent Middle Eastern men and women, even children. We went into Iraq to try to help people; instead we just made things a lot worse.

The way that I think we should continue with Iraq is to take troops out gradually, just taking a few at a time so we can still keep an eye on things. The worse thing we could do is send more troops into the country. We know that the insurgency in Iraq will just continue to kill and torture people as long as American troops are in the country. It is just like a stubborn child that won't stop crying until he gets what he wants.

We shouldn't even be in that country anymore. The price for staying there is 3,000 American deaths. That is also 3,000 families that have been destroyed; this war doesn't accomplish anything whatsoever. When it started with the bombings of Iraq I was all for the war. Now it just seems like a way to turn Iraq into a country of death and destruction. The ironic part of this whole mess is that Iraq is in the area where Jesus Christ was born.

The Iraq police and military forces are almost ready to fight the insurgents in Iraq. As soon as they are ready we should just pull out of the country and let them do their jobs. Just leave a few American soldiers (all volunteers) to be advisors to the Iraq soldiers.

I think that the president of the United States of America has taken the war on terrorism to a personal level. He is obsessed with winning that war and will not stop until the terrorists give up. By then tens of thousands of Americans could be dead.

Now to add to the problems there is a holy war going on between the Shiite and the Sunni religions. Sooner or later they are going to target American soldiers and we will be fighting 3-1 odds. When this happens things will become even worse.

The only way we could possibly continue with the war is to back out slowly. Any other plan of action will end badly. The way I see things is that we are losing, but not all is lost. If the president would just pull troops out of Iraq, countless American lives would be saved.



TGN photo  
Mansfield

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**David Mansfield, Grade 5,**  
**Holy Rosary School**



TGN photo  
Bresnahan

**Teacher:**  
**Donna Bresnahan**

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Donahue

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
**Elise Donahue, Grade 8,**  
**Gardner Middle School**

**Teacher:**  
**Elizabeth McGann**



TGN photo  
McGann

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Damour

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
**Jessie Damour, Grade 7,**  
**Holy Rosary**

**Teacher:**  
**Barbara Wade**



TGN photo  
Wade



## How do you think the country should proceed with the War in Iraq?

It's everywhere. You turn on the TV to hear the news and hear that the lives of four more brave soldiers serving our country in Iraq have been killed. You step outside to grab the paper and the headlines are about Al-Qaida's next move. Hoping for a more uplifting approach, you open the guidebook for cable television and see that the recommended movie of the week is a drama about how war overseas impacts us at home. Now, we cannot escape the impacts of the war in Iraq, but today, I would like to pose some of my ideas on how we should proceed in the Iraqi War.

I personally think that we should be putting a lot more emphasis on training the Iraqis to run their own country and establish a military and police force rather than bury ourselves in deeper. The loss of life in Iraq has been devastating. Unless we want to spend the rest of our lives in Iraq, we need to focus our strength into these areas. If the Iraqis work really hard and we help them, we should establish military bases and training camps in populated locations and start recruiting soldiers. The Iraqis should possibly consider incentives such as free education, lodging and meals, not to mention valuable life lessons and a sense of pride for helping one's country. I think that the Iraqis will be capable of running their own country if they are launched into reaching goals like these by our army. Once the country is standing strong, we can focus our energy and military into other areas and have the comfort of our troops at home.

Secondly, America should be finding alternative fuels. A huge percent of the oil that fuels our nation comes from countries in the Middle East that have a strong hatred of the U.S.. When we buy a lot of oil from those countries, we are practically paying the people who hate our country and this money could easily fall into the hands of terrorists. Also, if they choose to cut their supply of oil to the U.S., we will have a crisis on our hands. If we find alternative fuels, we will become less dependent on some of our "enemies" for oil and will be helping to stop global warming at the same time.

Finally, we not only need to find a way out of Iraq, but also think about more important matters. Although it seems like the consequences are so far off, global warming is a fact and the harsh realities are becoming noticeable. The ice masses of Earth are melting at tremendous rates and if more of these ice shelves melt, the ocean's levels will rise and ports and oil refineries will be underwater. This is saying nothing of the increase in temperatures that will throw our climate out of whack and cause a lot more sun burns and skin cancer. If we don't take the time to fix these pressing matters now, the effects will be irreversible in the not-so-distant future. Is this really what we want to leave our kids caught up in? If we make our move soon, we may be in time to undo some damage.

In conclusion, although the war in Iraq is always around us, there are ways that I think we can stop it. If we focus on creating and establishing a government and military for Iraq and train the military and police to deal with the issues over seas, we can bring our troops home and focus on other important matters. We also should think about finding alternatives to fuel, as when we pay the Middle Eastern countries, such as Iran, that dislike America, the money can find it way into the hands of terrorists. We also need to think about more important matters such as global warming, which will have much greater consequences in the not-so-distant future. I hope that I have succeeded in stirring up some interest in these matters. Thank you for your time.



**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Amy Wheeler, Grade 7,**  
**Master's Christian Academy**  
**Teacher:**  
**Joanna Poirier**



TGN photo  
**Wheeler**

TGN photo  
**Poirier**

## What makes the best pet?



A dog is the best pet. A dog is loyal and playful. A dog can do tricks. A dog can make you feel better when you're lonely. A dog can run while you're walking with it. A dog can enter a contest. A dog can play with you when you're bored. A dog can listen to your words. A dog can play outside with you. Dogs can hear a lot of miles away. A dog can take baths like people. If you're blind, a dog can help you. If you have a job as a firefighter, you can have a dog to help with your job. A dog is a girl's best friend. I have a dog named Pretzel. He is five-years-old, but he is huge! Pretzel loves when my mom feeds him his ice cream. Pretzel is a special dog. He is still living. All in all, these are the reason why I think that a dog makes the best pet.



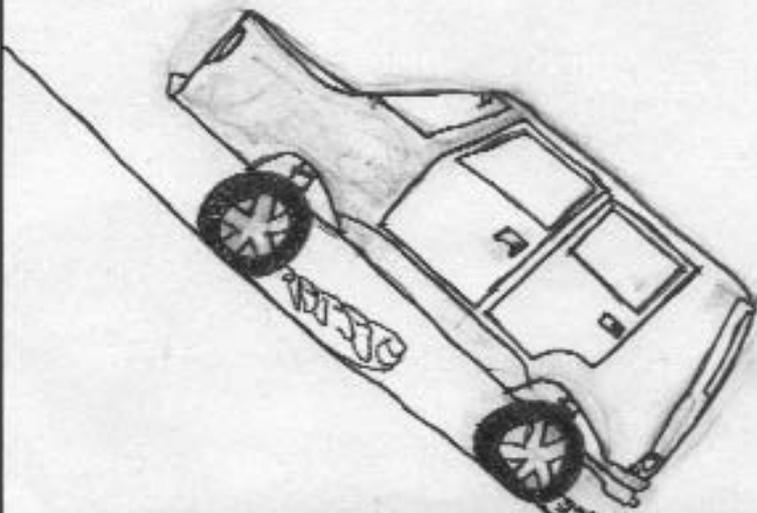
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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
**Hunter Manley, Grade 6,**  
**Narragansett Middle School**

**Teacher:**  
**Angela Everhart**

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**Manley**



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**Everhart**

## What makes the best pet?



I think dogs make the perfect pet because they're funny, furry and are always like a friend.

When I am with my dogs Ceri and Annie I can do lots of things! When I go outside at night my dogs come with me so I'm not scared. When I'm bored I can just call my dogs Ceri and Annie! They will come and play with me.

I know a lot about dogs because my mom's vet. That's why I know how to take care of my dogs. I like to feed my dogs, get them water, and make them really happy!

I know they shed fur and slobber a lot, but all dogs shed fur and they slobber, that just means they are hot! So, there is no reason to think that dogs are gross! That's just the way they live. But sometimes, they get a little crazy, just warning you! But even if they get crazy you should love and care for them or else they just might run away!

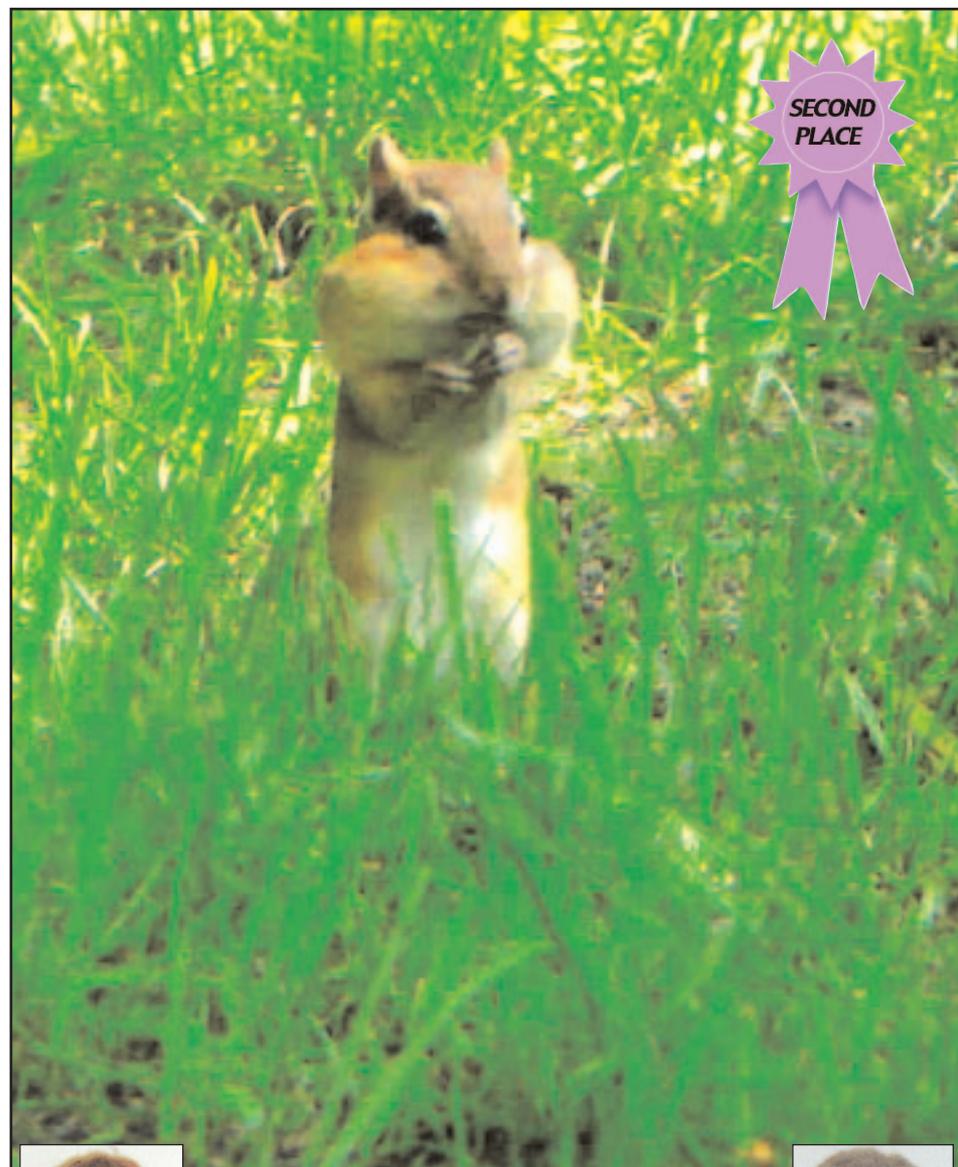
Now, I will give you a few tips on how to make your pet happy; 1. You should feed it twice a day. 2. You should play with our dog every day. 3. Go to the vet every once in awhile to make sure your dog is not sick. 4. *Always pay attention to your dog!!!*

Remember to get your dog a few chew toys or else they might want to chew up all your other things!

So remember what you have to do if you want a dog! Feed your dog twice a day. Play with your dog and take it to the vet.

That is all I know about dogs. But, you can look in books if you want to know more about dogs!

That's why I love dogs!



**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Hayden Wheeler, Grade 3,*  
*Hubbardston Center Street School*  
**Teacher:**  
*Jane Appleton*



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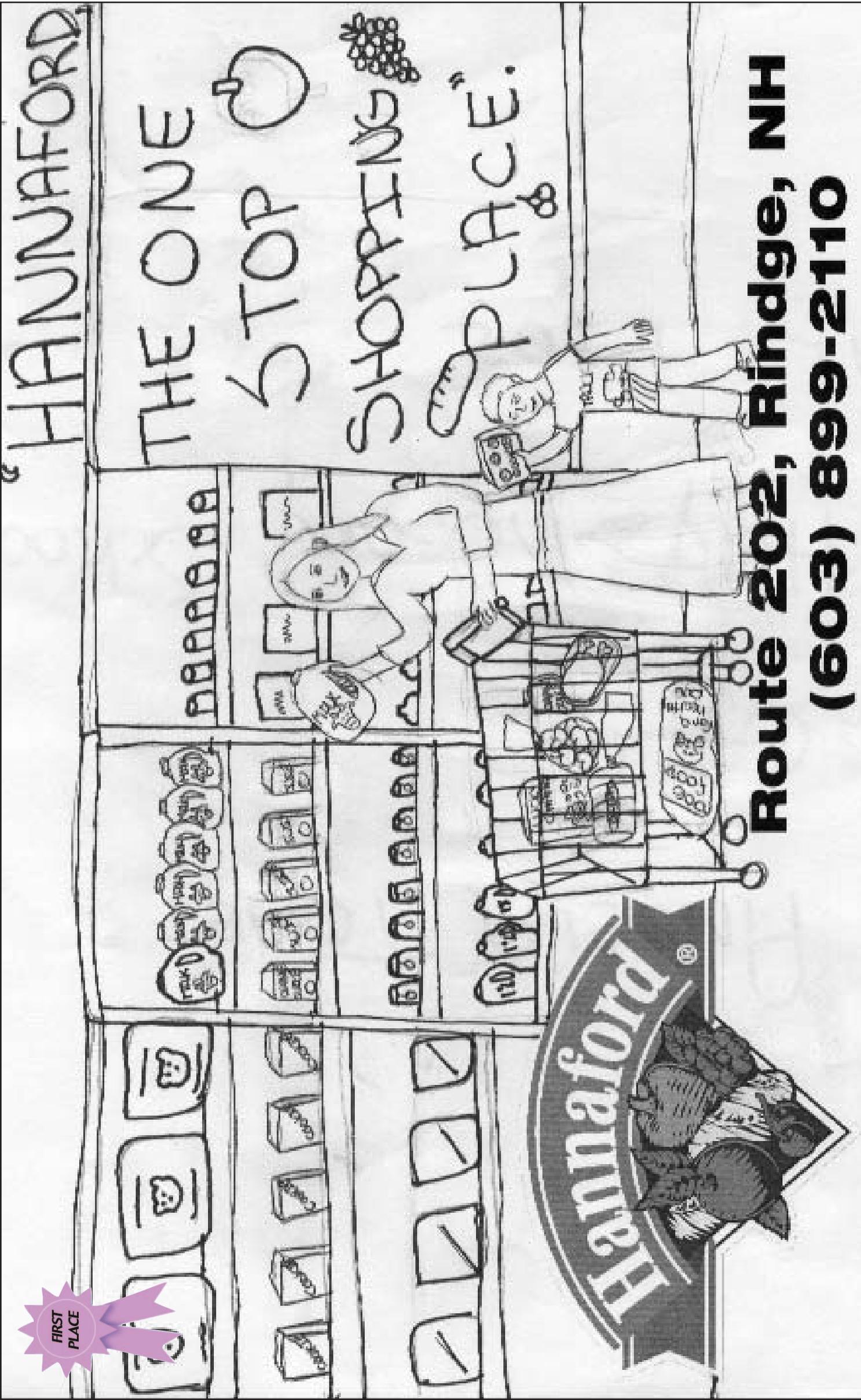
**Teacher:**  
**Jan Gleason**



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**Cullen**

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**Webb**



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**Wade**

DESIGN-AN-AD  
Angela Tonet, Grade 7,  
Holy Rosary School



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Miss in Boots



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Toro

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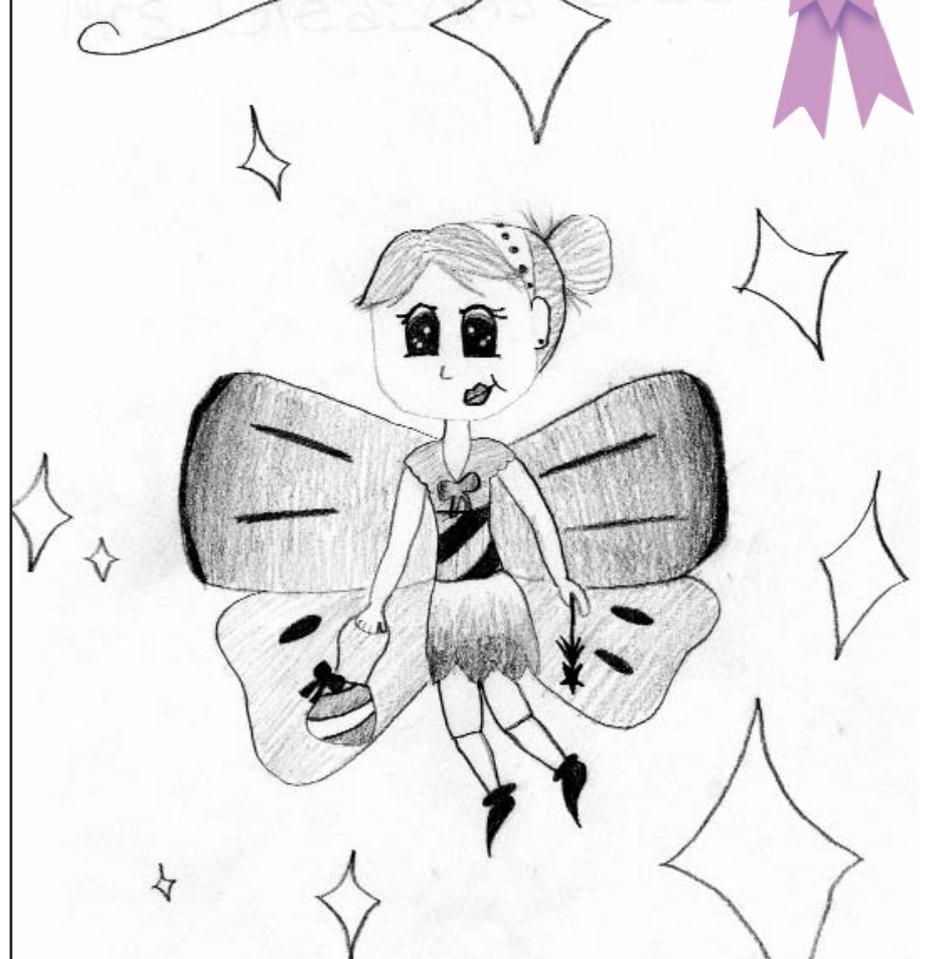
*Damarielys Toro, Grade 3,  
Elm Street Elementary School  
Teacher:  
Donna Murphy*



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Murphy



Pinkies



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Teacher:  
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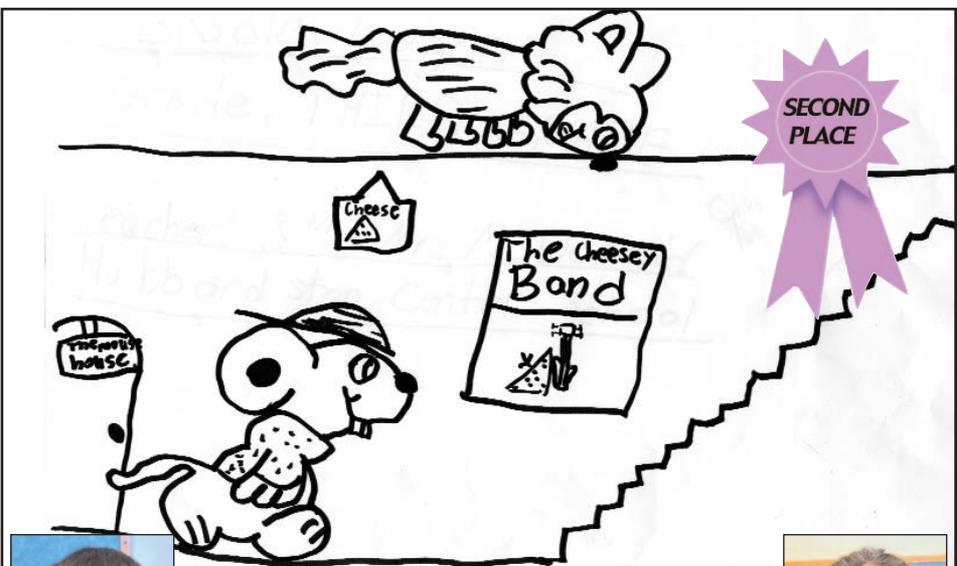
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**SECOND PLACE**



**SECOND PLACE**



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**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
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Hubbardston Center Street School  
Teacher:  
Kerry Bart-Raber

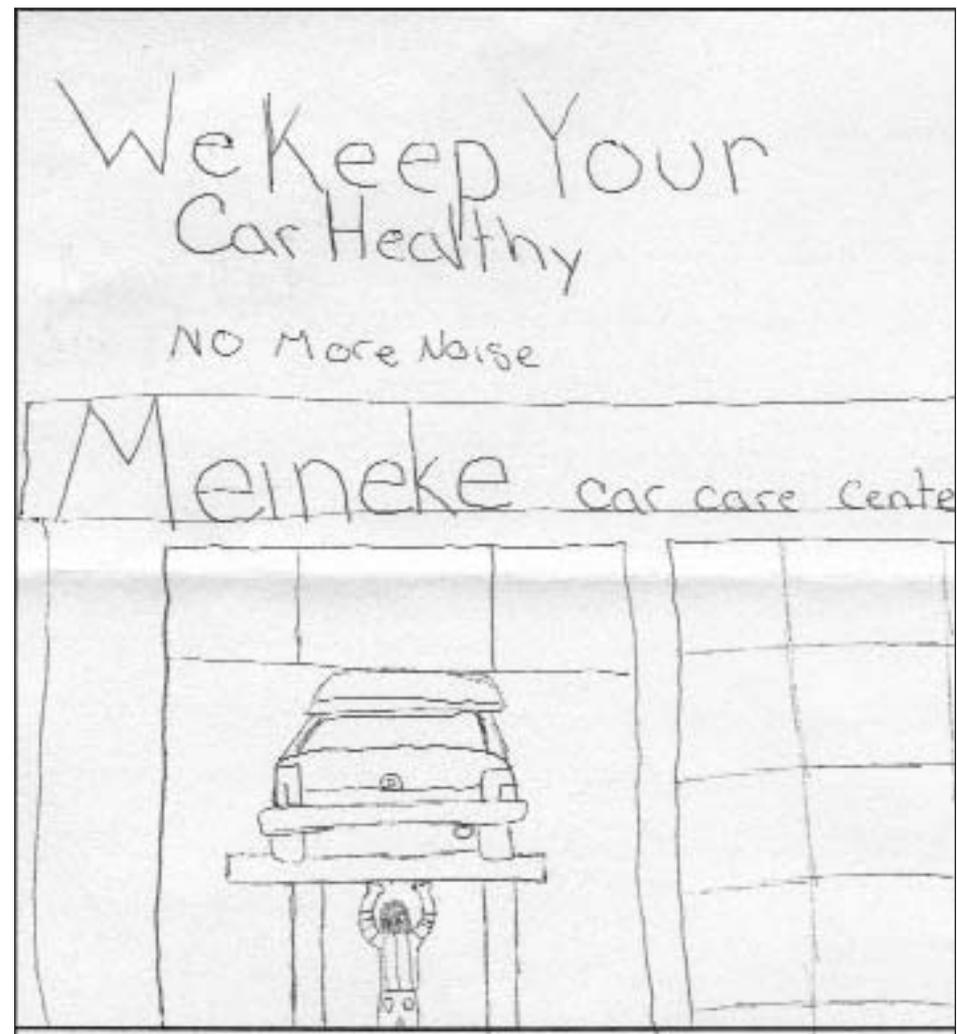


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**What makes the best pet?**

I think that the best pet would have to be a hamster. I used to have a hamster. His name was Cuddles. I named him that because he was very cute and cuddly. Cuddles always behaved very well, and I always enjoyed playing with him. I loved to watch him play on his little wheel. He looked so cute. But he always made a little squeaking noise. It was annoying, but he looked so adorable! I also loved to feed him. I would put water in his water bottle and he used to drink it. I had him for maybe a year. He got so big! I got to take him outside with all my friends, and we used to play with him.

Cuddles was a very small hamster. He was smaller than the normal size. But he looked so cute! He always ate a lot of food. He also enjoyed playing in his little wheel and walking through his tunnels in his cage. He was light brown with white spots on him. He also had two cute, black, beady little eyes.

One of the advantages of having a hamster over any other animal is that they are smaller and easier to take care of. You can also keep them in a cage, so you can keep track of them easier. Also, you won't get tired trying to play with them. Hamsters are also very soft and fluffy. They may nibble you, but it doesn't really hurt that much.

One day, I found that my hamster Cuddles was crippled. I knew that before I got him that he was very different from all the other hamsters. I didn't really care, though, because I loved him! A few days later after I found that he was crippled, he died. I was very sad. I always had so much fun playing with him. I still keep his cage in the room next to mine. I also still have his little toys that he used to play with.



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**Phelps**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
Veronica Phelps, Grade 6,  
Master's Christian Academy  
Teacher:  
Joanna Poirier



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**Poirier**



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**Starsia**

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Curtis Starsia, Grade 9,  
Gardner High School

Teacher:  
Cristie Dunn



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**Dunn**



## Should professional athletes be viewed as role models?



In sports there is a vibrant debate whether athletes are good role models or not.

There are athletes that make good role models and others that don't. I believe that athletes do make good role models for children, teenagers, and even young adults. If athletes were not viewed as role models there would not be many other options for people to look up to.

The competitors that stay out of trouble and do what they need to do are the ones that make great role models. Players that stay focused on their game show good "guidelines" for the people that look up to them. Staying out of trouble will keep their bigger fans out of trouble if they truly want to be like their role model. This allows them to see what it takes what it takes to be successful in the sports world.

Players that play their sport for the money alone do not make as good role models as the ones that play because they love to play. Doing it for the money alone isn't such a bad thing, but if you play just to play, it shows more passion for what you do. Playing for the money doesn't mean you try as hard; it just shows you are playing for something different. Playing for self satisfaction is sometimes good enough for many athletes.

Professional contestants aren't the only ones that people look up to as role models. In high school, many younger kids look up to varsity players as their role models.

I know when I was a kid I would go to the game and say "I wanna be like him." Many people also look up to college athletes. On ESPN there are always feel good stories of how a player who was once poor will soon be wealthy after getting drafted. Those players are the best role models in my opinion. They start with having nothing and go through the rough times, which forces them to give everything they have to be good at what they do to become wealthy and successful at their sport.

If athletes were not viewed as role models there would not be many other options for people to look up to. Yes, there are always your parents, but when you become a teenager I know that most people do not want to be anything like their parents. Actors and actresses have a much easier job than any athlete. They don't have to practice as much as an athlete and don't physically risk themselves.

Athletes give people hope for becoming great athletes. When a no-name player has a good game and becomes noticed, it gives hope to the less skilled players in local leagues. Knowing that you have hope will keep you working hard to strive towards your goals to succeed.

If athletes weren't viewed as role models many people would stop watching sports. They give people a chance to see their role models everyday on television. They get to see the ups and downs and get an inside look at the athlete's life. If athletes weren't seen as role models many people throughout the world would have nobody to look up to.



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
*Celia Shampine, Grade 1,*  
*Hubbardston Center Street School*  
**Teacher:**  
*Kerry Bart-Raber*



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**Bart-Raber**



**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Max Gutmans, Grade 11,*  
*Gardner High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Maria Murphy*



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**Murphy**

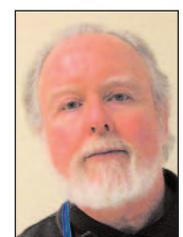


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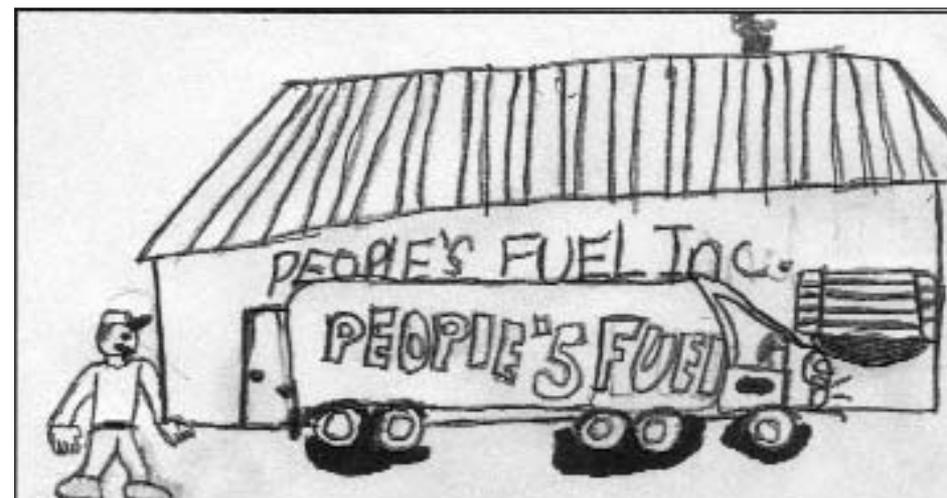


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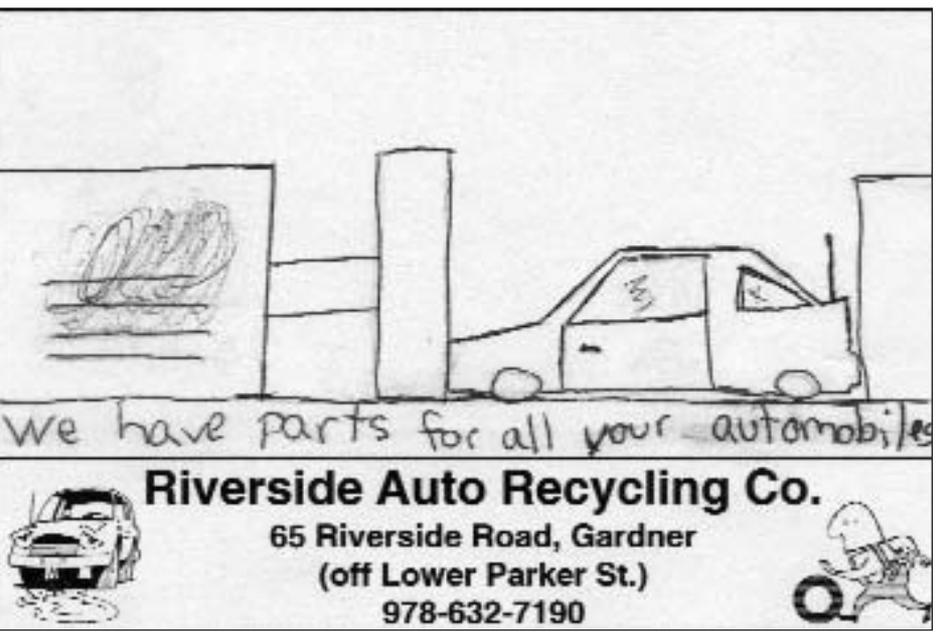
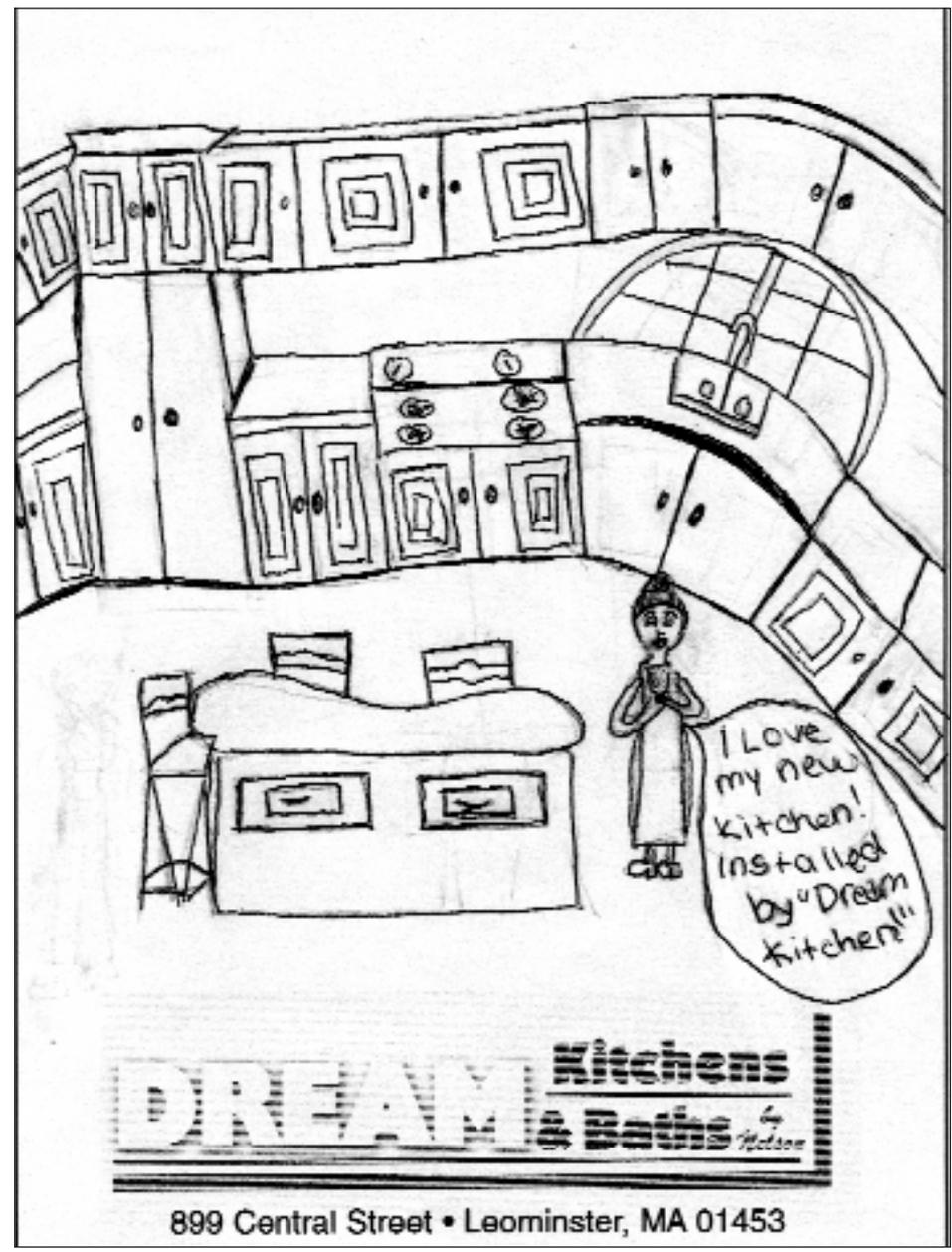


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**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Christopher Leonard, Grade 10,  
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*Teacher:  
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**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
 Patrick Ashline, Grade 12,  
 Narragansett Regional High School  
 Teacher:  
 Kate Belko



TGN photo Belko



## What is the biggest thing you want changed at your school?

One of the changes that Gardner High School has experienced this school year is the institution of the advisement period. In actuality, it is still homeroom. The students still talk, do homework, eat, or relax during this time, just as they always have. The only time this changes is on half days when they are all forced to write out random information that ranges from their future plans to how they rank their priorities in various areas of their learning habits.

This writer knows that this is a new requirement implemented by NEASC and the Department of Education, but the way it was unloaded onto the students was all wrong. First of all, it was dumped on all the students, including the seniors. As the material deals with future school plans, a vast majority, if not all, of the senior class regards the activities as a joke and do not take them seriously. The seniors have already applied to college. Most have been accepted by now, are ready to join the work force, or already know what their future plans are.

Secondly, it confuses many others. There are students, I am sure, who sit at their desk, staring at the paper in front of them, and are way beyond the point of confusion. Sure, the principal is giving instructions over the intercom, but there are still numerous teens who are left frustrated when they lag behind or do not understand the instructions. This leaves the teacher in a predicament and makes them just as overwhelmed as the kids.

Overall, advisement period places undue stress on the students and the staff alike. As unfair as it is to the kids, they at least get to leave after either advisement or at ten o'clock. The teachers are stuck in meetings or workshops until two o'clock and do not have much time to relieve their minds from any stress they endured after advisement. This may make them a bit unsympathetic towards students they have in their last class.

One of the teachers, and a very wise woman at that, has commented that advisement could work if it had been implemented well. If it had been phased in with the freshmen, then continued with them as sophomores and also implemented on the next class of freshmen and beyond it would have worked much better. Also, if the students had a teacher who really knew them and could give them good advice pertaining to their future, that would help tremendously. However, the sad truth is, that is not the case.

Altogether, students loathe and ridicule advisement, advisement teachers are dealing with large numbers of students (25 or more) and are largely untrained to give advice, and the manner in which advisement was foisted onto the entire student body was quite dreadful. Personally, this writer finds the advisement block to be absolutely pointless and hopes that it will either be reformed or done away with for good. The day students don't have to face advisement will be one greatly anticipated and widely celebrated. Or perhaps if the advisement program could be revised and done well, it could actually serve its intended purpose. However, that statement falls under the realm of uncertainty and speculation. Most likely, advisement is

here to stay and students and staff alike will continue to dislike it and suffer under it until they graduate or retire.



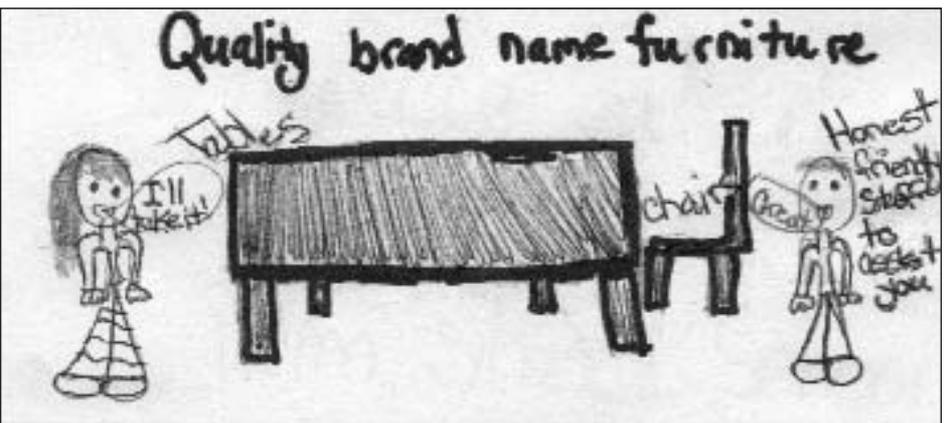
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**STUDENT ESSAY**  
 Jessica Thomas, Grade 12,  
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Teacher:  
 Mandy Shirley



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SECOND PLACE



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EDITORIAL CARTOON  
Haley Martin, Grade 6,  
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Teacher:  
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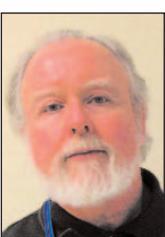
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DESIGN-AN-AD  
Issac Marchant, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School

Teacher:  
Robert Myette



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# What is your favorite season of the year?



You ask me what my favorite season is, and I must first define what a season is to even begin to answer that question. A season is a portion of a year with recognizable weather conditions due to the area's position on Earth and the Earth's position, relative to its rotation around the sun. A season for me isn't the pre-stated definition or varying weather conditions, it isn't even the activities exclusive to it. Sure, there's sledding in the winter, leaf jumping in the fall, summer swimming and springtime garden planting, but none of these things influenced my decision on what my favorite season is.

A season is a state of mind, a feeling or emotion, but most important a season is memories, memories of seasons' past events that have gone by. It is with this information that I am prepared to make a decision. My favorite season is winter. Winter is not only the only season that comes twice a year, but also the only season in which I feel warm, secure and remember Christmases that have passed. (To avoid giving you my life story, I'll just tell you those Christmases were some of the best days of my life.) Winter more than any other season, causes me to remember the days the weather didn't matter, neither did what was happening in the world those days, all that really mattered was how I felt at the end of the day, and the warmth I would enjoy that night.



TGN photo  
Divoll

## STUDENT ESSAY

**Christian Divoll, Grade 8,**  
Gardner Middle School  
Teacher: Elizabeth McGann



TGN photo  
McGann

# What makes the best pet?



My favorite pet is my dog, because I had her since I was three-years-old, but died when I was eight-years-old.

She was the best pet I ever had, and always will be the best pet, because we did almost everything together and we would sit under the tree together on Christmas time. She was part every breed.

On Easter, I would put bunny ears on her and then would play fetch in the front yard. In the summer, we would go to my Gramma's house, and go swimming in the lake. Then, we would eat with my family. After we would go home and go four-wheeling with my dad and little brother.

On her birthday, I'd get her tons of toys and bones. One time, I got her a bone two feet long, and it took her a week to eat it.

I know she is watching over me right now. She is always with me in my heart. I hope one day we meet again and never lose her again, and I look forward to seeing her again.

Dogs are the best pets because they are always active and they bring your newspaper to you and they can be pretty funny sometimes. They are great at protecting you and they are great playmates. That's why dogs are the best pets in the world.



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O'Toole

## STUDENT ESSAY

**Patrick O'Toole, Grade 3,**  
Hubbardston Center Street School  
Teacher: Jane Appleton



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Wedemeyer

## ORIGINAL ARTWORK

**Trisha Wedemeyer, Grade 8,**  
Narragansett Middle School  
Teacher: Katie Moody



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## FEATURE PHOTO

**Jess Valera, Grade 8,**  
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Teacher: Bill Marsh



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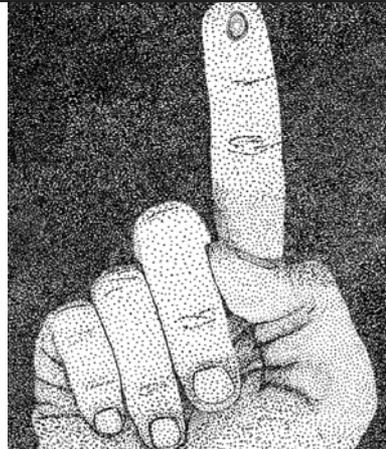
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Fletcher

## FEATURE PHOTO

**Trevor Fletcher, Grade 7,**  
Holy Rosary School  
Teacher: Bill Hulette



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Hulette



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Dembek

## ORIGINAL ARTWORK

**Ross Dembek, Grade 10,**  
Gardner High School  
Teacher: Sue Gallagher



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Gallagher



THIRD PLACE



TGN photo  
**Murphy**

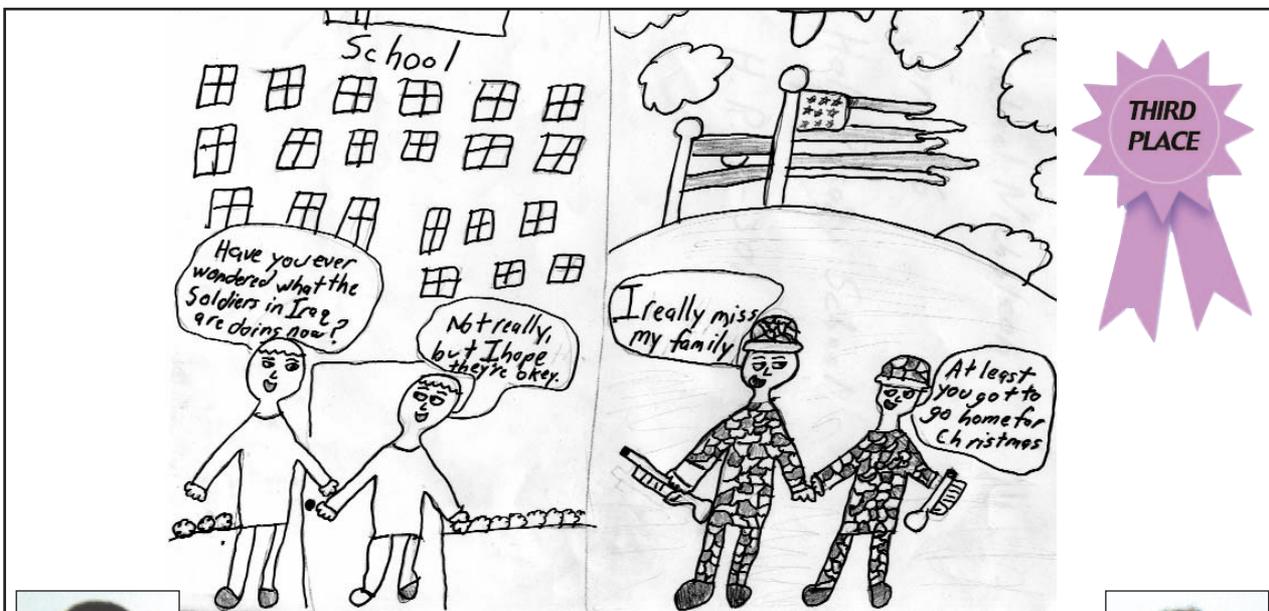


TGN photo  
**Murphy**

**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

**Kristen Murphy, Grade 3,  
Elm Street Elementary School**

**Teacher:  
Donna Murphy**



THIRD PLACE



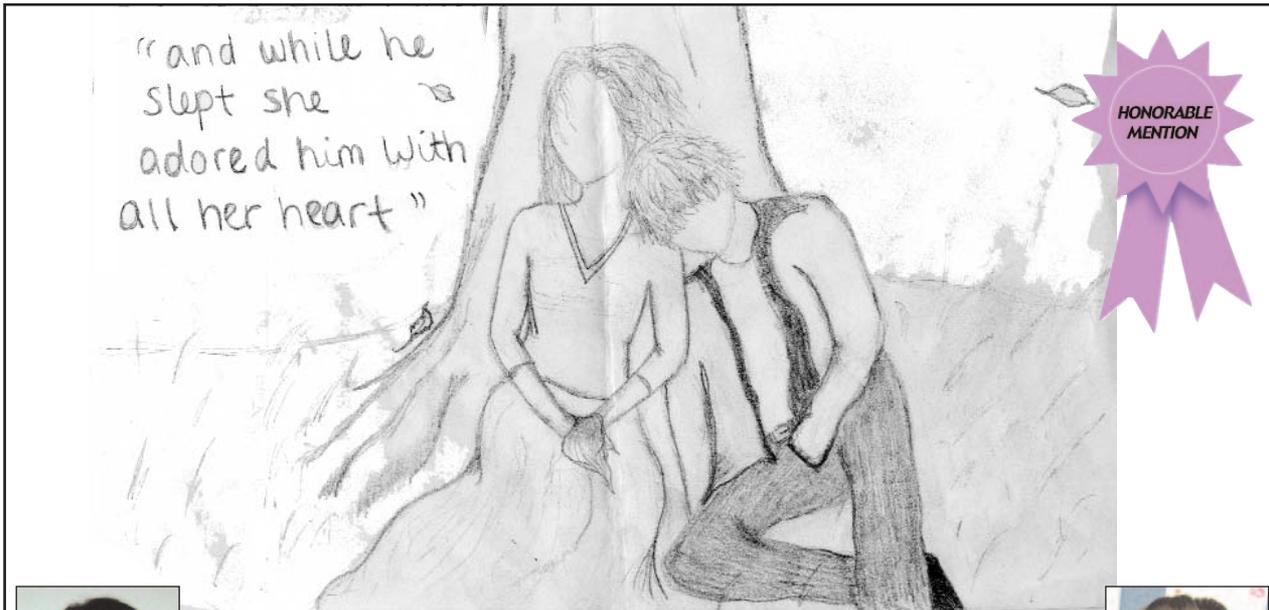
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**Nicholson**

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Michael Nicholson, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School**

**Teacher:  
Joyce LaBonte**



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**LaBonte**



HONORABLE MENTION



TGN photo  
**Agnir**

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
**Kayla Agnir, Grade 10,  
Narragansett Regional High School**

**Teacher:  
Mandy Shirley**



TGN photo  
**Shirley**



THIRD PLACE

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
**Maria DeMalia, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School**

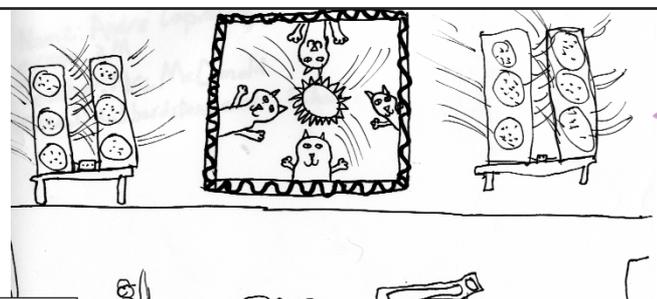
**Teacher:  
Joyce LaBonte**



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**DeMalia**



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**LaBonte**



THIRD PLACE



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**Lapierre**

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
**André Lapierre, Grade 3,  
Hubbardston Center Street School**

**Teacher:  
Kerry Bart-Raber**



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**Bart-Raber**



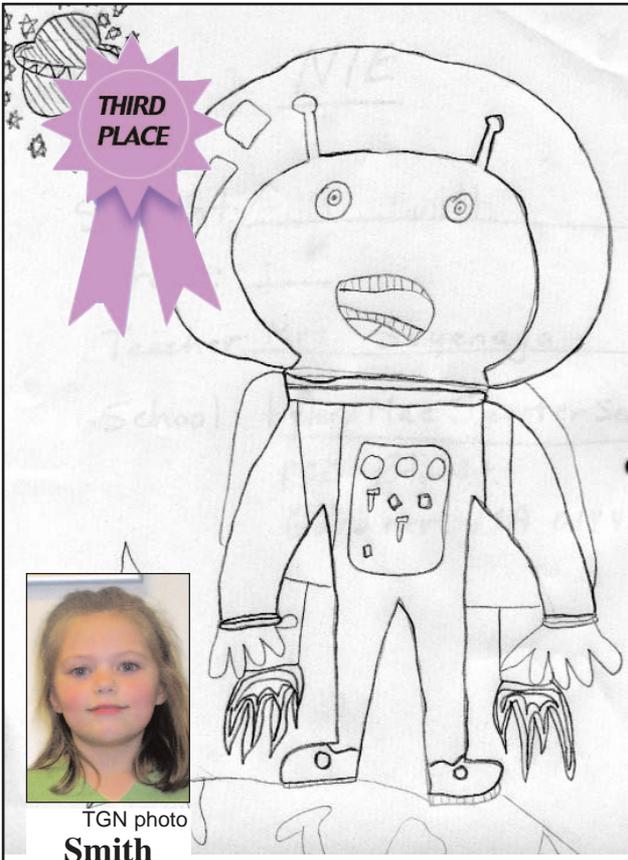
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TGN photo  
**Beattie**

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Sarah Wilson, Grade 8,  
Gardner Middle School

**Teacher:**  
Chuck Beattie



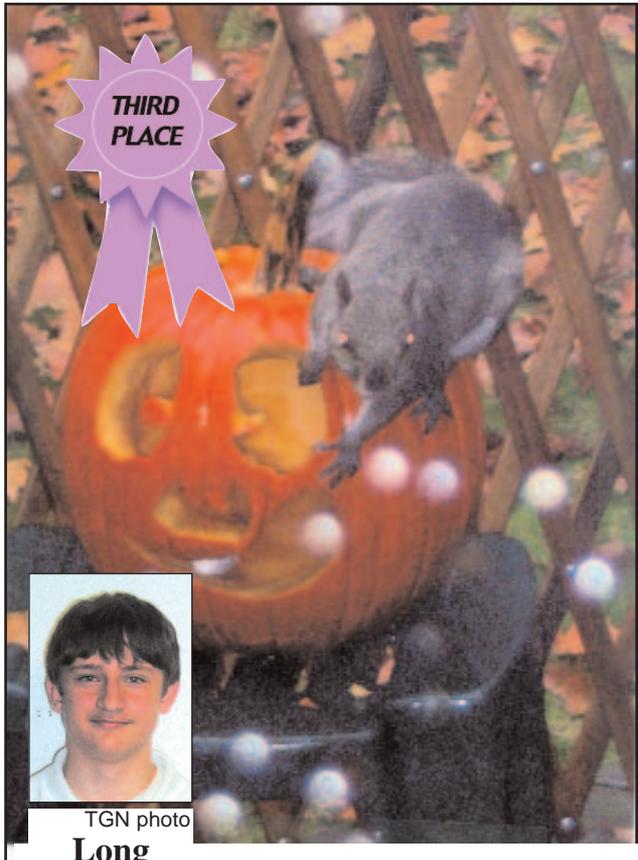
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**Smith**



TGN photo  
**Suyenaga**

**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
Julia Smith, Grade 1,  
Helen Mae Sauter  
Elementary School

**Teacher:**  
Ruth Suyenaga



TGN photo  
**Long**



TGN photo  
**Carrier**

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Nathaniel Long, Grade 7,  
Sacred Heart Academy

**Teacher:**  
Donna Carrier



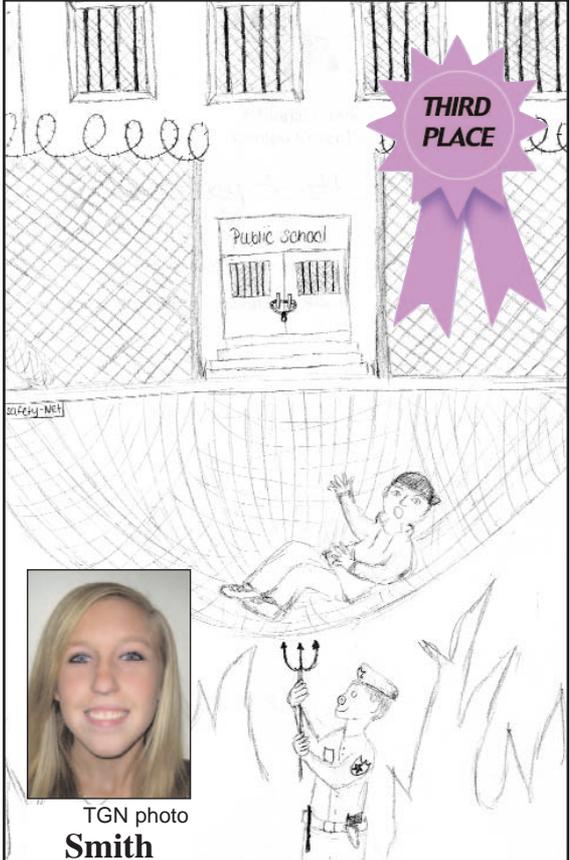
TGN photo  
**Perreault**



TGN photo  
**Lauer**

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Annie Perreault,  
Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School

**Teacher:**  
Suzanne Lauer



TGN photo  
**Smith**



TGN photo  
**Belko**

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
Stacy Smith, Grade 12,  
Narragansett Regional  
High School

**Teacher:**  
Kate Belko

**Should pro athletes be viewed as role models?**



Should professional athletes be viewed as role models? In the world today, they are. I believe that there are certain reasons for them to be viewed in this way. If you choose an athlete as your model, choose him/her wisely. I think this is a relevant topic of youth today.

Professional athletes are viewed as role models in our modern-day world. They have what many of us are looking for: money, fame and incredible talent. They create dissatisfaction about our own lives, though. Their talent is what many people try to live up to, but we have to realize something. They have been training for their whole lives to live up to professional sports standards, and still are working hard each day to live up to that standard. Even though they have more money and are more famous than you, that does not make them any better than the average American. Not many people realize this, and so sport figures are viewed to many people as heroes.

I do think that sports figures should be looked up to — but not for fame or money. They should be looked up to for amazing moral standards. It takes a lot of commitment to stay with an intense training program during the off-season of professional sports. Life is not always what you see on the television for athletes, and it takes perseverance to keep with it. Behind the muscle of many athletes, from professional to Little League, there is a heart of dedication to the sport they are playing. So, athletes are role models of dedication, not just talent.

If you are looking for a professional athlete as a role model, you must choose wisely. Even though it takes commitment to have this job, there are athletes who are only committed to the paycheck that they receive. Although it takes the perseverance when you hope to make the major league team, many sports players will cheat to get there by using things such as steroids. It is important that you choose someone that is an honest, true athlete as your influence, because if you choose a cheating, shallow role model, you may end up just like them.

Many sports figures are viewed as role models. They should be admired for amazing morality. Make sure that the role model you choose is a good one. So sports figures can be influential, if chosen for the right reasons!



TGN photo  
**Ervin**



TGN photo  
**Poirier**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
Samantha Ervin, Grade 7,  
Master's Christian Academy  
**Teacher:**  
Joanna Poirier

SIR,  
WE NEED  
YOUR OPINION,  
NOW!



O.K. HEADS  
WE KEEP EM' IN.  
TAILS WE BRING  
EM' HOME.



TGN photo  
**Cregg**



TGN photo  
**Hulette**

**EDITORIAL  
CARTOON**  
**Matt Cregg, Grade 7,  
Holy Rosary School**

**Teacher:  
Bill Hulette**

**What makes the best pet?**

What makes the best pet is a bunny. I'm writing about my bunny, Cocoa. I got Cocoa about two years ago for my birthday. She's a great bunny, and I love her so much, especially because she had babies but most of them died. We have five babies and their names are Obliow (oh-ble-oh), Tipi, Dusty and Thumper. I named my bunny Cocoa, because I couldn't think of a name, and my mom said her favorite cat's name was Cocoa, so I named her Cocoa. Cocoa is my first pet I've ever had, so that's what make her the best. My mom and dad said that I couldn't have a pet until I was eight-years-old. So on my eighth birthday, I asked my Uncle Steve, and on my birthday what do you know! There's my bunny.

What I play with Cocoa is a "carrot" game. How we play that is me holding a carrot, and I let Cocoa chase me. I also play 'catch Cocoa' and that's like the carrot game, but there's no carrot and I'm chasing Cocoa. I also play jump over the box and that's just jumping over a box.

Bunnies are the best pets because you can tell them your feelings and they listen. You can be sad and they'll cheer you up. It's really fun to have a bunny and that's why it's the best pet.



TGN photo  
**Stevens**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Brianna Stevens, Grade 3,  
Hubbardston  
Center Street  
School**

**Teacher:  
Jane Appleton**



TGN photo  
**Appleton**

**Your favorite season?**

Fall is my favorite season, because you get to see all of the beautiful leaves. Their colors are red, yellow, brown, and orange. My favorite color is the orange, because it is so bright. In fall, all of the leaves fall off of the trees. After that, your parents always make you rake them up, but then you just jump in them and make a mess again.

When the leaves fall off of the trees all of the animals know that it is time to get ready for winter. Squirrels are gathering nuts and acorns, bears are storing up on fat, and the birds are flying south for the winter. People are in stores buying all of that winter gear for their children. Everyone is getting ready.

Fall is also my favorite season because it is near my birthday. For my birthday, I never know what the weather will be like. One year it's rainy, the next year you would be sure that you are in Las Vegas. That is what fall is like. It's the season where you will never know what the weather will be.

When it is fall, Vermont has the most colorful leaves in New England. My family always tries to take a trip up to Vermont. In Vermont, we see lots of covered bridges. We will eat at a picnic area and have lunch. That is why I think fall is the best season.



TGN photo  
**Bibeau**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Megan Bibeau, Grade 5,  
Holy Rosary  
School**

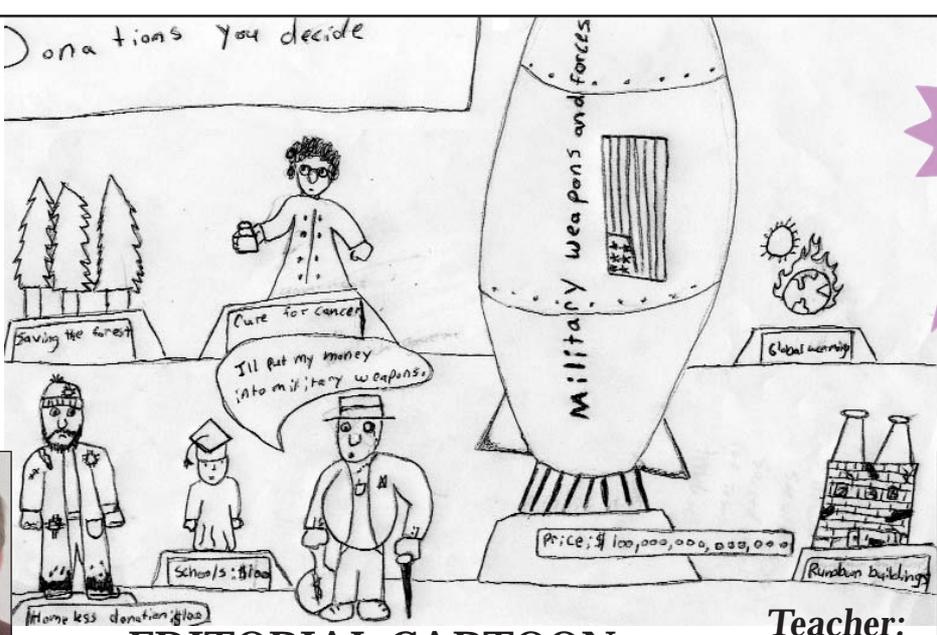
**Teacher:  
Nancy Barrieau**



TGN photo  
**Barrieau**



TGN photo  
**Dowse**



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Cole Dowse, Grade 8,  
Sacred Heart Academy**

**Teacher:  
Pat Feeley**



TGN photo  
**Feeley**



**Should professional athletes be viewed as role models?**

It has been a long-standing trait of Americans throughout history to view those with characteristics such as hard work, physical finesse, and determination, in an admirable light. It is therefore both correct and proper to look to professional athletes, most of whom possess these qualities, as adequate and substantial role models.

Ted Williams, Larry Bird, Bobby Orr — names that have rung out in society as symbols of the virtues all human beings strive toward. These athletes, and others like them, demonstrate a myriad of qualities favorable to someone in search of an idol. The work ethic and perseverance that comes with winning and the sportsmanship and loyalty associated with being averse to losing course through their veins. They are comprised of pride, passion, and knowledge of the importance of practice. The list of positive behaviors these people have developed, and could pass on to others, could span the diameter of their home field, court or arena innumerable times.

But how, one might ask, can the American people look to such athletes as role models when they have witnessed countless acts of their corrupt behavior on the evening news? Certainly people must have noticed that the stars of their favorite teams, if not having been recently convicted of assault, a DUI, or steroid use, have demonstrated excessive greed in arbitrary disputes, or thrown an irascible tantrum after striking out, or missing a shot. The Boston Red Sox' former hero, Johnny Damon, for example, abandoned the team and a city which worshiped him, simply for a larger paycheck, while in 2004, a hockey game between the Ottawa Senators and Philadelphia Flyers had nearly 420 penalty minutes. Instances like these have aroused much controversy in the role model dispute.

Clearly, however, it is not these actions, or even these particular athletes that one recognizes when honoring the ability to admire sports stars. Most fans realize that, like all humans, these athletes are flawed, and therefore should not be judged by their imperfections, but strong points. These stars, who are stereotypically labeled as greedy or hot-headed, do millions of dollars worth of charity work annually. They strive to do their hardest to achieve both personal and team goals in sports, setting both records and standards for their admirers. The same Johnny Damon noted as being a miser, shaved his famed beard in 2004 for a charity event designed to support the literary progress of Boston children. Likewise, both Ottawa's and Philadelphia's hockey clubs maintain some of the most prestigious records, and athletes in hockey history.

It is therefore no wonder, when you ask someone who their idol or role model is, they are almost certain to name a professional athlete. And it is rightfully so, as the athletes of both the past and present continue to attract respect and honor as America's heroes.



TGN photo  
**Perrett**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Kelsey Perrett, Grade 11,  
Oakmont Regional High School**

**Teacher:  
Mark Nevard**



TGN photo  
**Nevard**



## What is your favorite season of the year, and why?



The bell rings, the doors fly open, and hundreds of kids stam-pede out of the school like a herd of wild bulls. There's always that certain smell and gust of wind that hits your face and lets you know that summer is finally here.

I believe that every kid can concur with the fact that summer is one of the best times of the year. Sure, some kids like autumn and watching the leaves fall. Some enjoy the Christmas holiday by spending time with their loved ones and receiving gifts from one another. Others enjoy the sweet smell of flowers and love the beautiful colors of spring. Those who enjoy freedom and adventure, though, always look forward to summer.

Summer is that time of the year when you can extend your arms and reach for the clouds. It's a time to spend with your friends or in some cases make new friends. Summer is a time to forget about school, homework, those long dreadful days inside the classroom, and all the teachers that breathe down your back. Summer's a time for: late nights, getting into fights, watching movies, drinking smoothies, going to malls, jumping off small waterfalls, staying up until dawn, mowing lawns, making money and laughing at things that are funny.

I know that summer is a great time of the year for me because of a new group of friends I made. This group of kids and I always got together every Saturday throughout the year to put on a show for our own entertainment. We're all really big wrestling fans. We created our own world for wrestling right in my good friend Adam's backyard. We all made up wrestling names and types of personas for the show. Over this past summer was when the magic really came together. We all contributed in a group project to create a makeshift wrestling arena right in Adam's backyard. We built a ring, an entrance ramp and a small section with chairs and benches for people to watch us.

Hanging out with this new group of people made this past summer unforgettable. It was a time of learning and respect. I got to experience firsthand how it was to work with people I never knew before as a whole to make the project successful. Most importantly, over this past summer I became very close to some of those people and I started to build relationships that are still ongoing today. It was like we became one big family. Sure, some of treated it like a business or just a hobby we loved to do, but sooner rather than later, it became more than that. We started to gain fans each and every week. By holding the events for the public, we made money doing it and actually treated one event as a fundraiser to help raise money for the less fortunate kids in Haiti. We raised close to \$100 and gave it to our school to give to the Haiti medical clinic.

Having an organization or league can really enhance many skills that are crucial in the real world. Working as a team, making the project successful, knowing how to handle cash, hands on type of work, such as building the ring and entrance ramp were all keys or aspects of enhancing our skills.

These are the types of things that summer is all about for a kid. It's all about freedom, a sense of adventure, making new friends, rejoicing and having as much fun as humanly possible. Luckily for me, I got a taste of all these things this past summer, and that's why summer is my favorite season of all!



TGN photo  
Hartford

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Guthrie Hartford, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Maria Murphy*



TGN photo  
Murphy

## For the proposed 'megaproject' in Gardner, do you think it would be of benefit, or hurt it, and why?



The city of Gardner has the potential to thrive. The off the highway location, and proximity to Boston, is ideal for any Boston employee. The only issue Boston workers have with a city, such as Gardner, is the lack of housing. An idea like the Megaproject would fulfill what these people consider ideal. The big city employees would bring their families and their wealth. This would allow Gardner to be a more dynamic community. Not only would this project be useful to people from out of town, but it will also be useful to Gardner natives. There would be an increase in the price of real estate, thus helping anyone who is looking to sell their house. The market increase would also keep bad neighborhoods to a minimum, which seems to be a growing concern in the community.

The lack of activities in the Gardner community greatly impact the youth of the city. The idea of a good time for the average high school student in Gardner is hanging out in the Wendy's parking lot. Although this probably brings great business to the Wendy's conglomerate, it does not act as a positive influence on the average Gardner high school student. The caring residents of the community cannot understand why there is such a high percentage of teen drinking and drug use. The answer to this concern is that the teens have nothing better to do. The Megaproject will assist that percentage, considering it planned construction of social gathering places. The youth of Gardner is also the future of Gardner. This project will greatly impact the future of Gardner, positively. The social life of a young adult is one of the most important aspects of their life. This being said, it is necessary to positively influence their social life by giving them a place to have the ability to let it grow.

Every idea has its pros and cons, including this one. It has been argued that families will bring their children. The children will then overcrowd the schools. It is a potential problem, however, a solvable problem. There is always room to build a new school, or build additions onto old ones. The school system could potentially thrive from the wealth of the families who would want to contribute to their child's education. This would also expand the tax base of the school, allowing them to receive more funding.

Other major issues may be environmental problems and financing. The land off of Route 140 is flush with woods. The first step for this project would be to clear land for construction. In this case we have to realize what is more important. Most people would agree that debt is uglier than trees are pretty. Although this project could potentially put the city into debt, it will only be temporary. If everything goes as proposed, the money will be made back in no time. Considering the greatness of the idea, the designer of the project should have no problem receiving grants from the state.

Based on its ideas, the Megaproject can bring more good than bad. This project will need money. It may be a concern to some that the city does not have enough money to fund this project; however, the city will not be responsible for funding all of it. The funds that will be required from the city should be easily payable considering this project will take years to complete, allowing this city years to pay their contribution for the construction.

This project will cost millions. It seems like a lot until you really think about it. In Boston, billions were spent on the faulty "Big Dig" project. It's time for the state of Massachusetts to fund a functional, more logical project. The Megaproject will be successful during construction and upon completion. This will give Gardner, and the rest of Worcester County, the opportunity to live up to the potential of other areas in Massachusetts, such as Essex County. This may be the only opportunity Gardner has to be a thriving, highly contributing city to the state. Giving this up would be a great loss that we may never get back.



TGN photo  
Deveau

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Josh Deveau, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Maria Murphy*



TGN photo  
Murphy

## What is the best pet?



The best pet is a horse. It can do many things. It can trot, canter, walk, gallop, jump, barrel race, and horse race! Barrel racing is when you try to beat the other people's score.

My horse can trot very fast. My horse's name is Pumpkin. He is an Appaloosa. Appaloosa is a horse that has spots. I got Pumpkin at a farm in Orange from a man named Pete.

I ride my horse in my back trails and my mom's friend's trails with her and her horse Rocky. I have 13 acres in the back of my house.

I feed my horse hay, grain, water and treats. Sometimes in the summer, I give my horse grass. I have three horses at my house. They have two pens and three stalls. I love horses a lot! That's why horses make the best pets.



TGN photo  
Power

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Shayne Power, Grade 3,  
Hubbardston Center Street School*

**Teacher:**  
*Jane Appleton*



TGN photo  
Appleton

## What is the best pet?



What I think is the best pet is a fish.

I like fish because they never chew things up. They also don't need to be walked. They always are moving around. They are always there for you. I think that it is so cool how God made them able to breathe underwater. Fish are very colorful.

Fish can be any shape or size. Fish also don't eat a lot, so you don't have to buy a lot of food at a time. Fish food is cheap. I think it is cool when they go under the tunnels in the fish tank. Fish look so cool in the light. Fish can have a lot of fins.



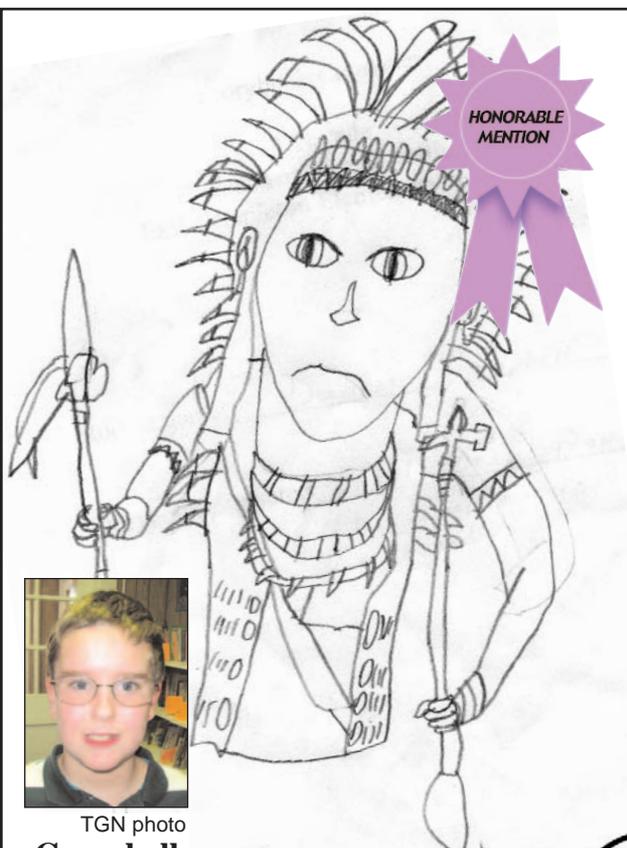
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Proulx

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Joshua Proulx, Grade 4,  
Master's Christian Academy*

**Teacher:**  
*Karen Casker*



TGN photo  
Casker



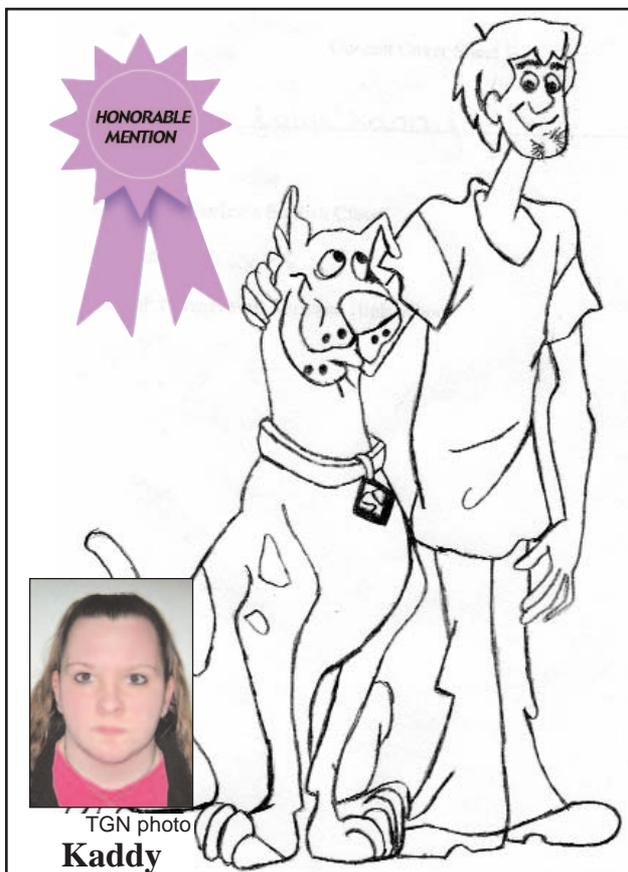
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**Campbell**

**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

**Daniel Campbell, Grade 3, East Templeton Elementary School**  
**Teacher: Kathy Carruth**



TGN photo  
**Carruth**



TGN photo  
**Kaddy**

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

**Laura Kaddy, Grade 10, Narragansett Regional High School**  
**Teacher: Mandy Shirley**



TGN photo  
**Shirley**



TGN photo  
**Davis**

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
**Joe Davis, Grade 12, Gardner High School**



TGN photo  
**Kobel**

**Teacher: Mark Kobel**



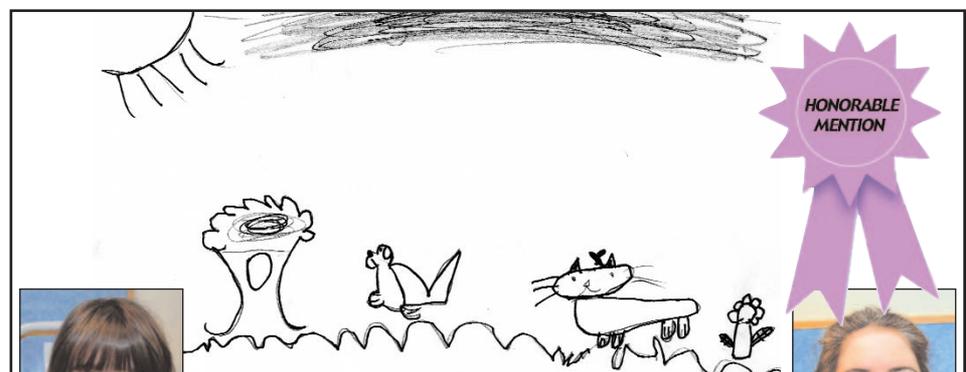
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**Nickerson**

**FEATURE PHOTO**

**Nathan Nickerson, Grade 5, Master's Christian Academy**  
**Teacher: Joanna Poirier**



TGN photo  
**Poirier**



TGN photo  
**Burkle**

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

**Sarah Burkle, Grade K, Hubbardston Center Street School**  
**Teacher: Kerry Bart-Raber**



TGN photo  
**Bart-Raber**



TGN photo  
**Hoyt**

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

**Jeffrey Hoyt, Grade 6, Holy Rosary School**  
**Teacher: Joyce LaBonte**



TGN photo  
**LaBonte**

**What is your favorite season of the year, and why?**

My favorite season is summer. Summer is my favorite season, because it is the most relaxing season. It is the only season where you actually have time to enjoy the sky, and the trees, and the sights and sounds of nature. During the summer, you can just lie on your lawn and gaze into the sky and daydream. You can feel the softness of the grass and noticed what you were too busy to notice beforehand. You can chase a butterfly, and learn to appreciate it. You can sway on a hammock and fall asleep. When you wake up, you feel very relaxed. When you go to the beach, you can sit on your towel, and feel the breeze in your face, and smell the ocean. During the summer, you feel like a new person, you don't feel stressed, or rushed, you feel like time has never existed, and work is a thing of the past (I wish!). This is why summer is my favorite season.



TGN photo  
**Martin**

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Danielle Martin, Grade 5, Holy Rosary School**  
**Teacher: Donna Bresnahan**



TGN photo  
**Bresnahan**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Ashley Young, Grade 8,  
Gardner Middle School*

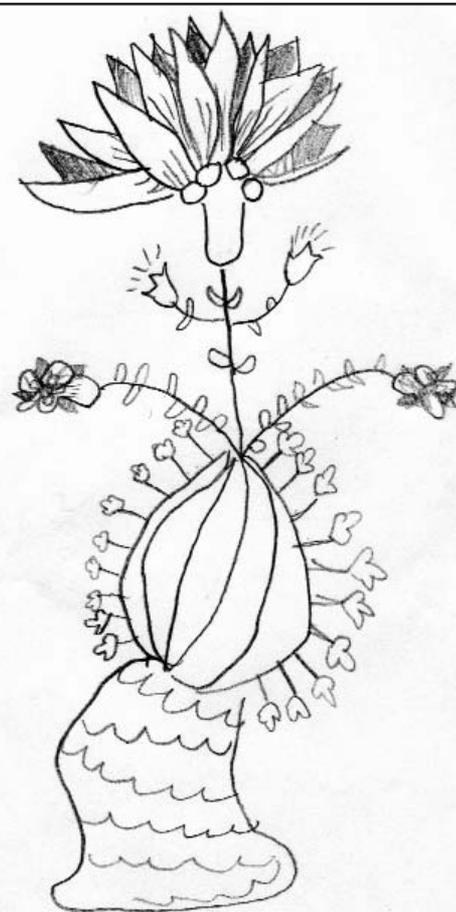
**Teacher:  
Jodyee Payne**



TGN photo  
**Young**



TGN photo  
**Payne**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Marlee Tremdle, Grade 2,  
Waterford Elementary School*

**Teacher:  
Ruth Suyenaga**



TGN photo  
**Tremdle**



TGN photo  
**Suyenaga**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Rebecca Toledo, Grade 5,  
Elm Street Elementary School*

**Teacher:  
Donna Murphy**



TGN photo  
**Toledo**



TGN photo  
**Murphy**



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Kendra Keenan, Grade 3,  
Elm Street Elementary School*

**Teacher:  
Donna Murphy**

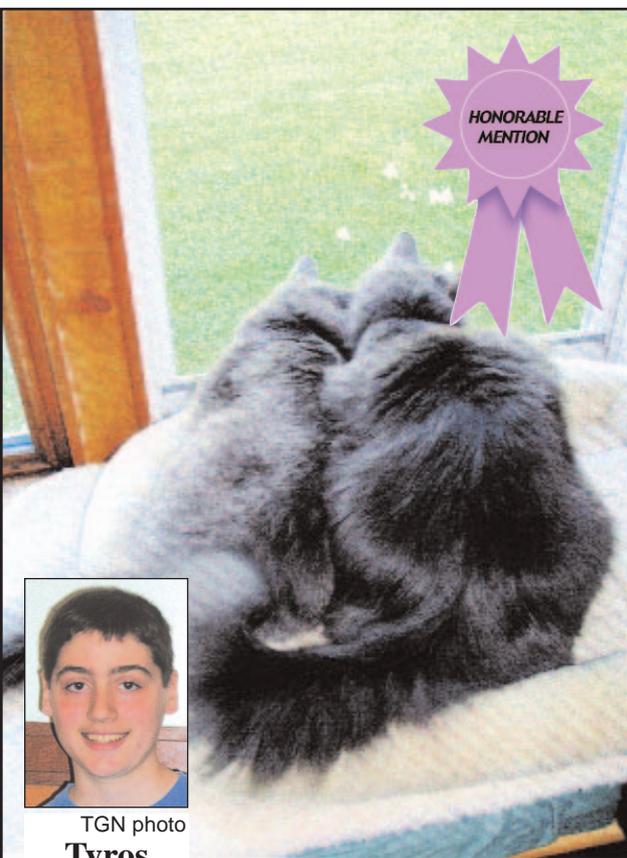


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**Keenan**



TGN photo  
**Murphy**





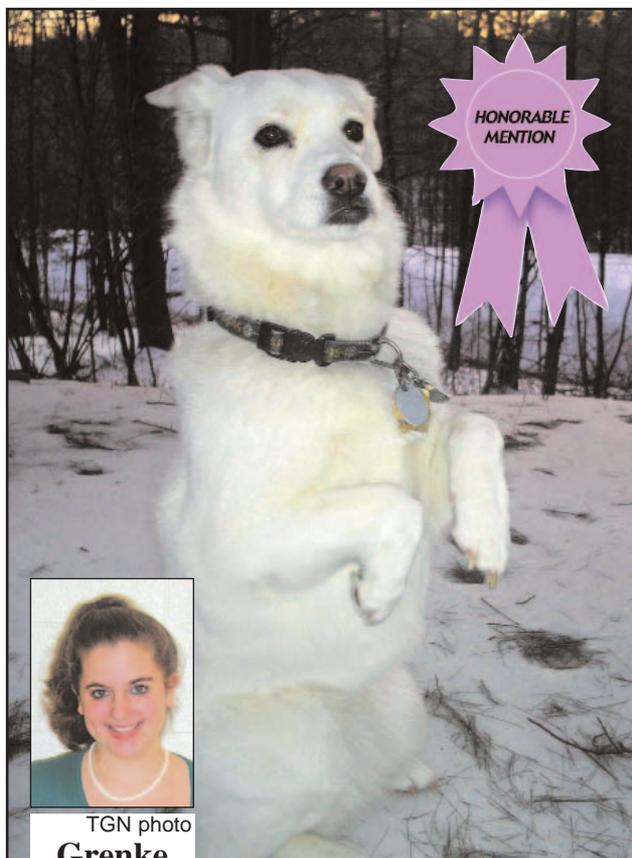
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**Tyros**

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*George Tyros, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School*



TGN photo  
**Marsh**

**Teacher:**  
*Bill Marsh*



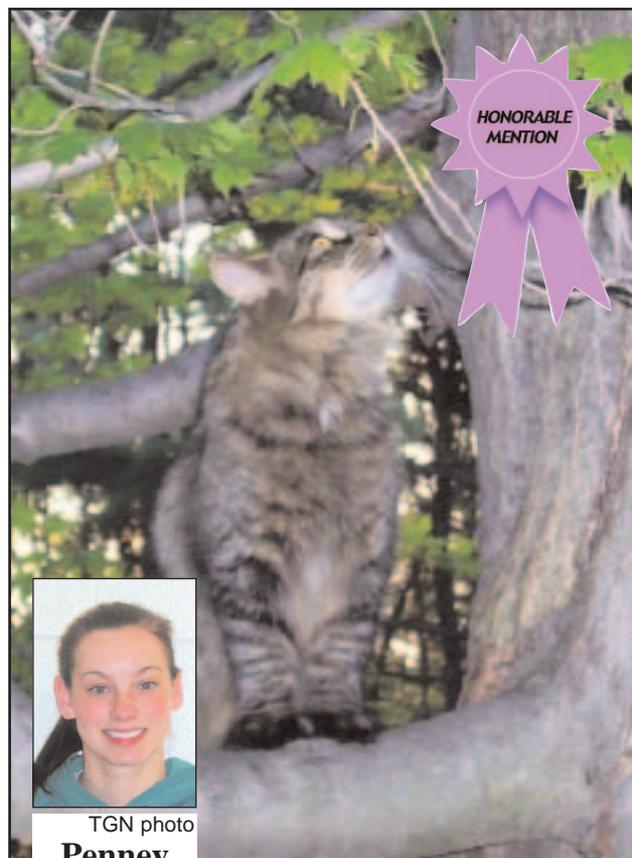
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**Grenke**

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Renee Grenke, Grade 10,  
Gardner High School*



TGN photo  
**Kobel**

**Teacher:**  
*Mark Kobel*



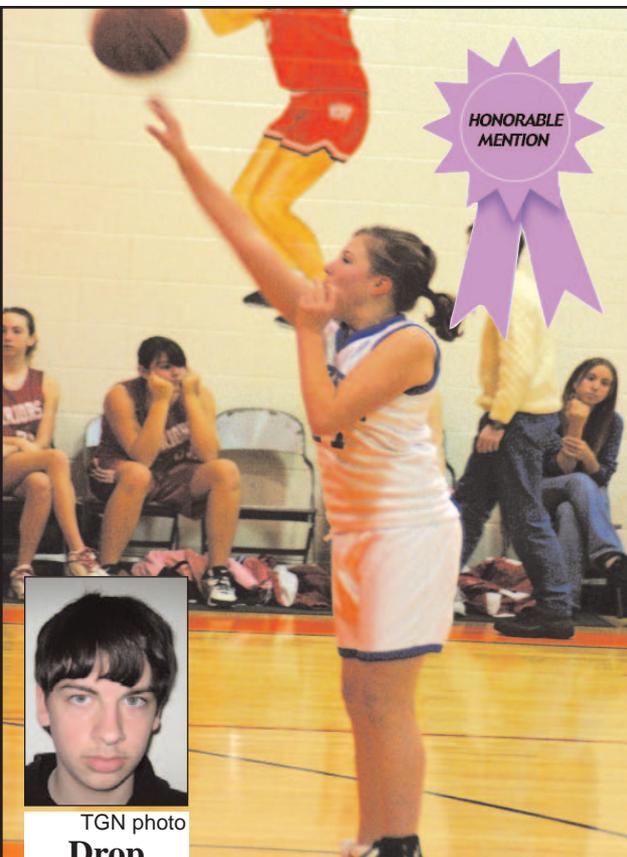
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**Penney**

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Carissa Penney, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*



TGN photo  
**Kobel**

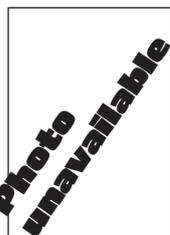
**Teacher:**  
*Mark Kobel*



TGN photo  
**Drop**

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Jayson Drop, Grade 10,  
Narragansett Regional  
High School*

**Teacher:**  
*Gary McEwen*



TGN photo  
**McEwen**



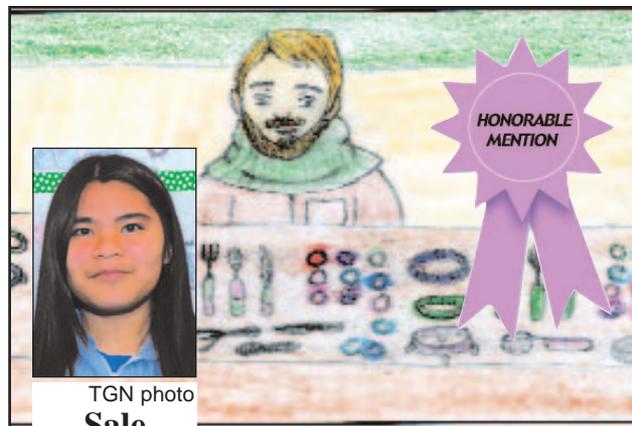
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**Perreault**

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Annie Perreault, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School*



TGN photo  
**Lauer**

**Teacher:**  
*Suzanne Lauer*



TGN photo  
**Sale**

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Noreen Sale, Grade 5,  
Silver Lake Elementary  
School*



TGN photo  
**Snell**

**Teacher:**  
*Brian Snell*



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