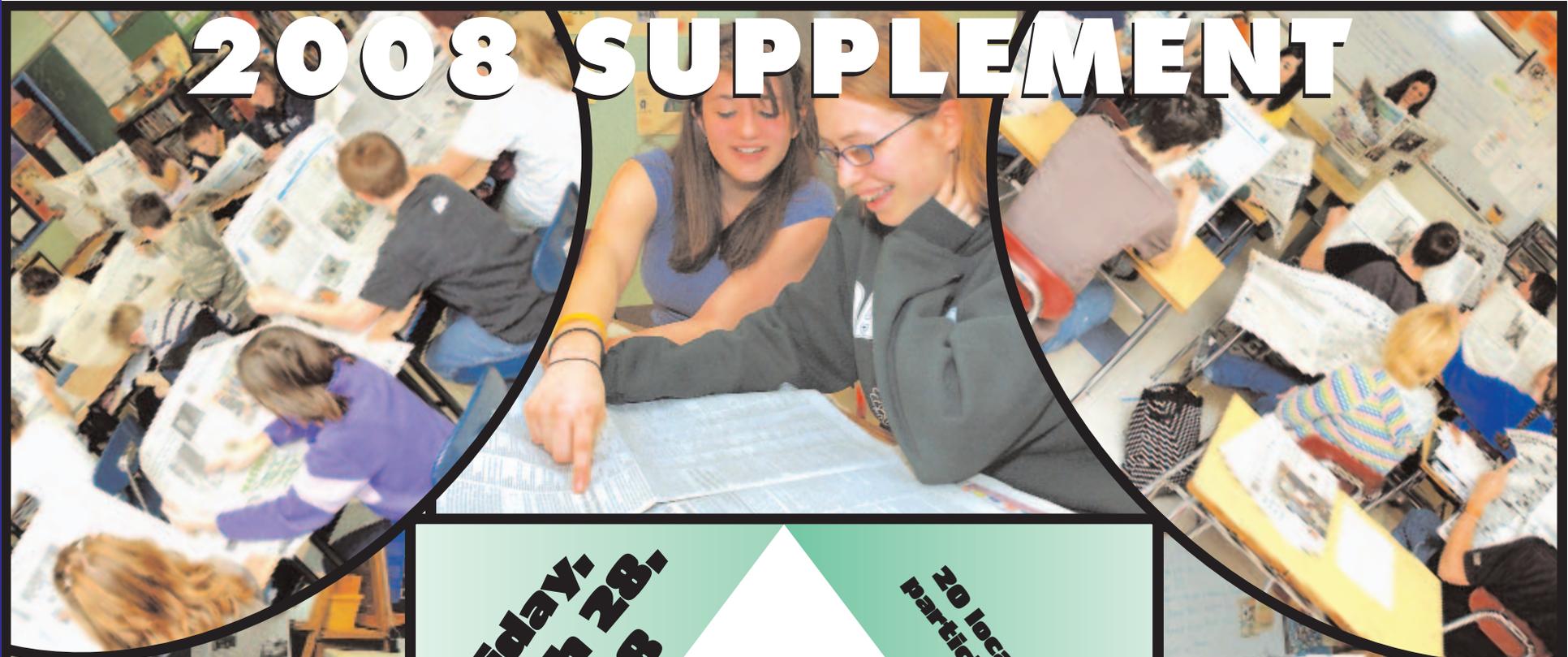


2008 SUPPLEMENT



**Friday,
March 28,
2008**

**20 local schools
participated this
year!**

NIE



The Gardner News

**132 students
recognized in
all!**

**Design-An-Ad, Editorial
Cartoon, Feature Photo,
My Favorite Storybook
Character, Original
Artwork and Student
Essay**



NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

Teachers of NIE winners



Mandy Shirley
Narragansett Regional High
8 winners
p10a, Zisk; p10a, Emond; p12a, Hammond; p22a, Lyons; p26a, MacFee; p28a, Brown; p28a, Wheeler; p28a, Greenan.



Joyce LaBonte
Holy Rosary School
6 winners
p6a, Wong; p15a, Wong; p16a, Bonneau; p18a, Bibeau; p20, Moschetti; p26a, O'Neill.



Kirstie Spring
The Master's Christian Acad.
6 winners
p9a, L.McDonald; p9, Potts; p16a, Monroe; p17a, Potts; p19, Ervin; p26a, S.McDonald.



Kate Belko
Narragansett Reg. High
5 winners
p6a, Cassano; p12a, Churchill; p13a, Doyle; p21a, Zarozinski; p21a, DeCosmo.



Pat Feeley
Sacred Heart School
5 winners
p7a, Seward; p10a, Johnson; p13a, McGuire; p15a, Murphy; p28a, Long.



Suzanne Lauer
Holy Rosary School
5 winners
p15a, Hoyt; p22a, Gallant; p22a, Curran; p26a, Perreault; p28a, Alger III.



Jane Appleton
Hubbardston Center School
4 winners
p11a, McHugh; p20a, Cybulski; p23a, Burke; p26a, Labombard.



Nancy Barrieau
Holy Rosary School
4 winners
p15a, Cassanho; p20, Valera; p25a, Ciampa; p28a, Flagg.



Kerry Bart-Raber
Hubbardston Center School
4 winners
p13a, Bates; p14a, Shampine; p19a, Farrell; p25a, Shaveet.



Eva Eaton
Murdock Middle High School
4 winners
p8a, Santonastaso; p13a, Goodwin; p21a, Newton; p25a, Bailey.



William Hulette
Holy Rosary School
4 winners
p4a, Tonet; p7a, Tonet; p23a, Gendron; p28a, MacKinnon.



Mark Kobel
Gardner High School
4 winners
p5a, Minns; p13a, LaBrecque; p14a, Potter; p28a, Seneff.



Lynn Murray
Toy Town Elementary
4 winners
p9a, Jinn; p19a, Caouette; p25a, Susman; p26a, Richard.



Barbara Wade
Holy Rosary School
4 winners
p6a, Hamel; p9a, Johnson; p12a, Bruce; p14a, Evans.



Greg Barry
Oakmont Reg. High School
3 winners
p5a, Baril; p15a, Maguy; p19a, Laserte.



Lori Sweet
Gardner Middle School
3 winners
p6a, Espinoza; p7a, Wolf; p23a, Holm.



Theresa Barry
Oakmont Reg. High School
2 winners
p14a, Barrows; p28a, Fortier.



Kerry Bettez
Elm Street Elementary
2 winners
p11a, Kimball; p12a, Iannuzzi.



Donna Bresnahan
Holy Rosary School
2 winners
p11a, Duval; p16a, Johnson.



Donna Carrier
Sacred Heart School
2 winners
p24a, Romero; p26a, Surette.



Sue Gallagher
Gardner High School
2 winners
p17a, Blanchard; p18a, Seneff.



Kathie Huhtala
East Templeton Elementary
2 winners
p20a, Flecher; p22a, Nelsen.



Lynne LaRoche
J.R. Briggs Elementary
2 winners
p20a, Comeau; p23a, Johnson.



William Marsh
Holy Rosary School
2 winners
p20a, Mackenzie; p24a, Morris.



Ann-Marie Ouellet
Elm Street Elementary
2 winners
p8a, Moyen; p17a, Shea.



Suzanne Walker
Phillipston Memorial
2 winners
p10a, Rose; p20a, Bond.



Lisa Barbaro
Memorial School (Win.)
1 winner
p22a, Lemire.



Chris Bruso
Memorial School (Win.)
1 winner
p23a, Kotoch.



Heather Boylan
Helen Mae Sauter School
1 winner
p23a, Gagne.



Kathy Carruth
East Templeton Elementary
1 winner
p22a, Thompson.



Mike Fitzgerald
Westminster Elementary
1 winner
p14a, Cole.



Mike Fontaine
Murdock Middle High School
1 winner
p15a, Provost.



Jan Gleason
Sacred Heart School
1 winner
p20a, Buckler.



Caron Goodwin
Westminster Elementary
1 winner
p10a, Parker.



Allison Graichen
Toy Town Elementary
1 winner
p23a, Bishop.



Robin Janhunen
Waterford Street School
1 winner
p5a, Burchstead.



Claire Karge
Waterford Street School
1 winner
p19a, Boudreau.



Sue LaRose
Hubbardston Center School
1 winner
p24a, Gillon.

Cover photos:
(starting from upper left, left to right):
Students in Anne McDonald's fifth grade class read the newspaper (News photo by STEVE NYBERG); Two students read the newspaper in Mark Nevard's Writing Class at Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham (News photo by STEVE NYBERG); Mandy Shirley leads an exercise with her tenth grade honors class at Narragansett Regional High in Baldwinville (News photo by STEVE NYBERG); Claire Karge works with her students at Waterford Street School in Gardner in a reading exercise (News photo by STEVE NYBERG); a student reads the Editorial page in Julie Gordon's English class at Murdock Middle High School in Winchendon (News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO); Two students work on Julie Gordon's exercise together at Murdock (News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO); Eleventh grade student David Gambone in Mark Nevard's class points out what catches his eye on the front page (News photo by STEVE NYBERG); Mike Fitzgerald points out a certain headline on the sports page to students at Westminster Elementary School (News photo by STEVE NYBERG); Fifth graders at Toy Town Elementary in Winchendon look over some headlines during an exercise (News photo by STEVE NYBERG); Students in Peter Pianka's class at Waterford Street School pay close attention to their reading exercise (News photo by STEVE NYBERG).



Anne McDonald
Toy Town Elementary
1 winner
p15a, Dexter.



Donna Murphy
Elm Street Elementary
1 winner
p27a, Nguyen.



Mark Nevard
Oakmont Reg. High School
1 winner
p21a, D'Onfro.



Linda Savoy
Narragansett Middle School
1 winner
p18a, Robichaud.



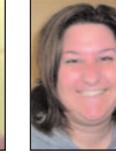
Mary Beth Sekurski
Holy Rosary School
1 winner
p20a, Polcari.



Eric Sifert
Westminster Elementary
1 winner
p26a, Dewey.



Barbara Slattery
J.R. Briggs Elementary
1 winner
p11a, Rittberg.



Julie Waskiewicz
Templeton Center School
1 winner
p26a, Williams.



Maryann Zlotnik
Waterford Street School
1 winner
p25a, Sargent.

Other participating teachers

Westminster Elementary
Robert Myette
Susan Alario

Toy Town Elementary
Susan Marshall

Gardner Middle School
Cathy Lazotte
Anniello Albero
Elizabeth McGann
Heidi Collins

Hubbardston Center Street School
Jan St. Jean
Eileen Bohigan
Wendy Castriotta

Tricia Anderson
Ted Newton
Denise Ducharme
Tracey McDonald
Barbara Dietrich
Jane Gregoriou
Carla Medeiros

Helen Mae Sauter School
Ruth Suyenaga

Murdock High School
Julie Gordon
Mark Nardini

Waterford Elementary School
Elizabeth Ervin
Ruth Suyenaga

Sacred Heart School
Leonne Perreault
Nicole Keney

J.R. Briggs Elementary School
Cynthia Whittington

Narragansett Middle School
Angela Everhart
Lisa Parker
Ken Knowlton
Steve LaFountain
Charles Crook
Lisa Corby
Lisa Damon
Matt Despres
Janet Dupuis
Jennifer McNamara



News photo by STEVE NYBERG



News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO

Dear readers,

For a third consecutive year, I am proud to announce that participation in the *Newspaper In Education* supplement has increased dramatically. Historically, NIE is considered something solely for elementary schools to participate in, but in the past three years, there has been an increased recognition from the local middle and high schools.

Two 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 that year in the supplement. This year, students from Gardner High, along with Oakmont Regional High School and Murdock High School each participated, along with 17 other schools this year.

By turning page after page of this supplement, you will see the writing and drawing and photographic talents of many talented young people in Greater Gardner. As the *Newspaper In Education* program at *The Gardner News* grows, 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 82 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 submission in this supplement included, along with their teacher, but also listing each and every teacher that submitted an entry to *The Gardner News* for this supplement, as listed on the previous page. This is just a glimpse at what is possible when newspapers are used in the classroom, of which there have been 49 thus far that 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. 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 2008 Newspaper In Education Supplement*.

Sincerely,



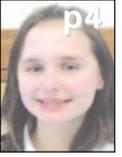
Andrés Caamaño
NIE Coordinator

NIE Contest Winners

First Place

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
|  p8 Emily Moyen Elm Street Elementary Original Artwork K-3 |  p6 Calvin Wong Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6 |  p7 Angela Tonet Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p5 Jocelyn Baril Oakmont Regional High School Original Artwork 10-12 |  p6 Daniel Espinoza Gardner Middle School Editorial Cartoon 4-6 |  p7 Erin Seward Waterford Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9 |  p6 Mike Cassano Narragansett Regional High School Editorial Cartoon 10-12 |  p11 Nichole Kimball Elm Street Elementary Student Essay K-3 |  p11 Elizabeth Duval Holy Rosary School Student Essay 4-6 |  p9 Lindsey McDonald The Master's Christian Acad. Student Essay 7-9 |
|  p8 Nicole Santonastaso Murdock Middle High School Student Essay 10-12 |  p15 Calvin Wong Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6 |  p15 Jeffrey Hoyt Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9 |  p5 Emily Minns Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12 |  p10 Johnny Rose Phillipston Memorial Storybook Character K-1 |  p5 Christian Burchstead Waterford Street School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p10 Hannah Parker Westminster Elementary Design-An-Ad K-3 |  p27 Joshua Nguyen Elm Street Elementary Design-An-Ad 4-6 |  p6 Brigette Hamel Holy Rosary School Design-An-Ad 7-9 |  p12 E.J. Hammond Narragansett Regional High School Design-An-Ad 10-12 |

Second Place

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|  p14 Celia Shampine Hubbardston Center School Original Artwork K-3 |  p15 Raymond Dexter Toy Town Elementary Original Artwork 4-6 |  p10 Isabelle Johnson Sacred Heart School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p14 Julie Barrows Oakmont Regional High School Original Artwork 10-12 |  p9 Brandon Jinn Toy Town Elementary Editorial Cartoon 4-6 |  p9 Ben Johnson Holy Rosary School Editorial Cartoon 7-9 |  p10 Hayley Zisk Narragansett Regional High School Editorial Cartoon 10-12 |  p12 Anthony Iannuzzi Elm Street School Student Essay K-3 |  p16 Alexander Johnson Holy Rosary School Student Essay 4-6 |  p9 Alexandra Potts The Master's Christian Acad. Student Essay 7-9 |
|  p12 Barbara Churchill Narragansett Regional High School Student Essay 10-12 |  p14 Danelle Cassarino Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6 |  p14 Daniel Evans Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9 |  p14 Mettaya Potter Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12 |  p12 Dominic Marinelli Hubbardston Center School Storybook Character K-1 |  p11 Shannon McHugh Hubbardston Center School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p18 Elise Robichaud Narragansett Middle School Design-An-Ad 4-6 |  p4 Angela Tonet Holy Rosary School Design-An-Ad 7-9 |  p13 Anthony LaBrecque Gardner High School Design-An-Ad 10-12 | |

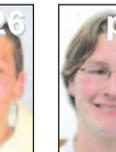
Third Place

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|  p17 Rose Shea Elm Street Elementary Original Artwork K-3 |  p16 Matt Bonneau Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6 |  p15 Melissa Murphy Sacred Heart School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p17 Brandon Blanchard Gardner High School Original Artwork 10-12 |  p20 Franklin Moschetti Holy Rosary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6 |  p13 Amelia McGuire Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9 |  p13 Sheena Doyle Narragansett Regional High School Editorial Cartoon 10-12 |  p26 Gabe Labombard Hubbardston Center School Student Essay K-3 |  p26 Sara McDonald The Master's Christian Acad. Student Essay 4-6 |  p16 Benjamin Monroe The Master's Christian Acad. Student Essay 7-9 |
|  p13 Cody Goodwin Murdock Middle High School Student Essay 10-12 |  p14 Madison Cole Westminster Elementary Feature Photo 4-6 |  p12 Meaghan Bruce Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9 |  p15 Cameron Provost Murdock Middle High School Feature Photo 10-12 |  p11 Alexandra Rittberg J.R. Briggs Elementary Storybook Character K-1 |  p13 Cassie Bates Hubbardston Center School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p7 Peter Wolf Gardner Middle School Design-An-Ad 4-6 |  p17 Alexandra Potts The Master's Christian Acad. Design-An-Ad 7-9 | | |

Turn to next page for
Honorable mentions

NIE Contest Winners

Honorable Mentions

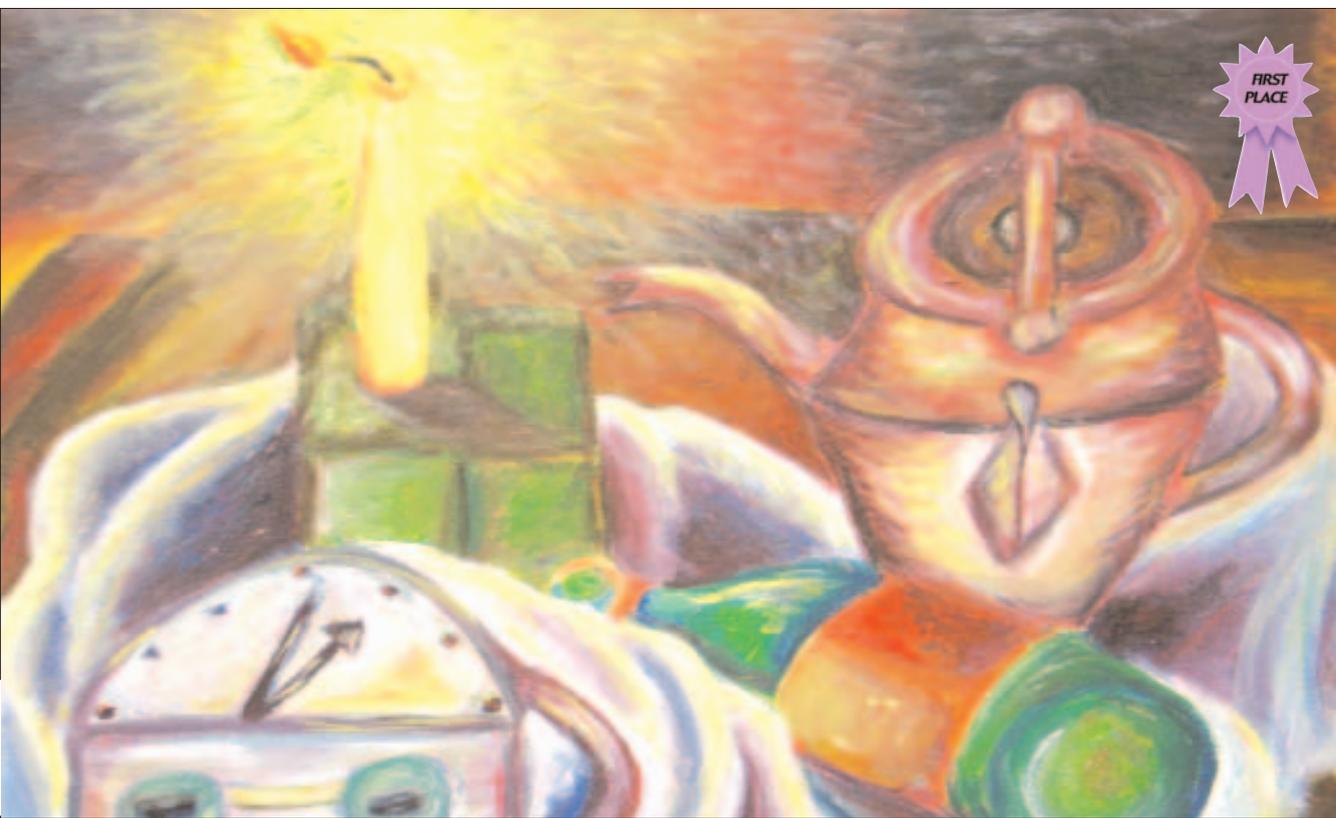
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|  p23 Carly Burke Hubbardston Center School Original Artwork K-3 |  p19 Paul Farrell Hubbardston Center School Original Artwork K-3 |  p22 Abigail Gagne Helen Mae Sauter Elem. School Original Artwork K-3 |  p22 Jessica Kotoch Memorial School (Win.) Original Artwork K-3 |  p22 Myranda Bishop Toy Town Elementary Original Artwork 4-6 |  p25 Natasha Ciampa Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6 |  p26 Jake Dewey Westminster Elementary Original Artwork 4-6 |  p23 Erika Holm Gardner Middle School Original Artwork 4-6 |  p26 Laura O'Neill Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6 |  p24 Edenmarie Shaveet Hubbardston Center School Original Artwork 4-6 |  p28 Ronnie Alger III Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p28 Justin Brown Narragansett Regional High School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p26 Shane MacFee Narragansett Regional High School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p20 Anthony Mackenzie Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9 |
|  p28 John McKinnon Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p26 Annie Perreault Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9 |  p28 Katie Fortier Oakmont Regional High School Original Artwork 10-12 |  p19 Linsey Laserte Oakmont Regional High School Original Artwork 10-12 |  p15 Kim Maguy Oakmont Regional High School Original Artwork 10-12 |  p18 Bobby Seneff Gardner High School Original Artwork 10-12 |  p18 Megan Bibeau Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6 |  p28 Kaleigh Flagg Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6 |  p20 Jason Valera Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6 |  p22 Daniel Curran Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9 |  p28 Nate Long Sacred Heart School Feature Photo 7-9 |  p23 Katlyn Gallant Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9 |  p25 Chloe Gendron Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9 |  p10 Alicia Emond Narragansett Reg. High School Feature Photo 10-12 |
|  p22 Nichole Lyons Narragansett Reg. High School Feature Photo 10-12 |  p28 Karyssa Greenan Narragansett Reg. High School Feature Photo 10-12 |  p28 Bobby Seneff Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12 |  p28 Kellie Wheeler Narragansett Reg. High School Feature Photo 10-12 |  p20 Story Bond Phillipston Memorial School Storybook Character K-1 |  p24 Bria Gillon Hubbardston Center School Storybook Character K-1 |  p25 Arianna Sargent Waterford Street School Storybook Character K-1 |  p20 Elizabeth Comeau J.R. Briggs Elementary School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p20 Alex Fletcher East Templeton Elementary School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p22 Mick Johnson J.R. Briggs Elementary School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p23 Emma Nelsen East Templeton Elementary School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p23 Isabell Thompson East Templeton Elementary School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p26 Leah Williams Templeton Center School Storybook Character 2-3 |  p20 Samantha Buckler Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 4-6 |
|  p26 Jordan Richard Toy Town Elementary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6 |  p24 Josh Morris Holy Rosary School Editorial Cartoon 7-9 |  p24 Daniel Romero Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9 |  p26 Gabby Surette Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9 |  p19 Dylan Boudreau Waterford Street School Student Essay K-3 |  p20 Teagan Cybulski Hubbardston Center School Student Essay K-3 |  p23 Victoria Lemire Memorial Elem. School (Win.) Student Essay K-3 |  p20 Maria Polcari Holy Rosary School Student Essay K-3 | | | | | | |
|  p19 Kylie Caouette Toy Town Elementary School Student Essay 4-6 |  p25 Deryn Susman Toy Town Elementary School Student Essay 4-6 |  p19 Samantha Ervin The Master's Christian Acad. Student Essay 7-9 |  p25 Jaime Bailey Murdock Middle High School Student Essay 10-12 |  p21 Ariel DeCosmo Narragansett Regional High School Student Essay 10-12 |  p21 Sara Newton Murdock Middle High School Student Essay 10-12 |  p21 Jillian D'Onfro Oakmont Reg. High School Student Essay 10-12 |  p21 Brittany Zaroinski Narragansett Regional High School Student Essay 10-12 | | | | | | |



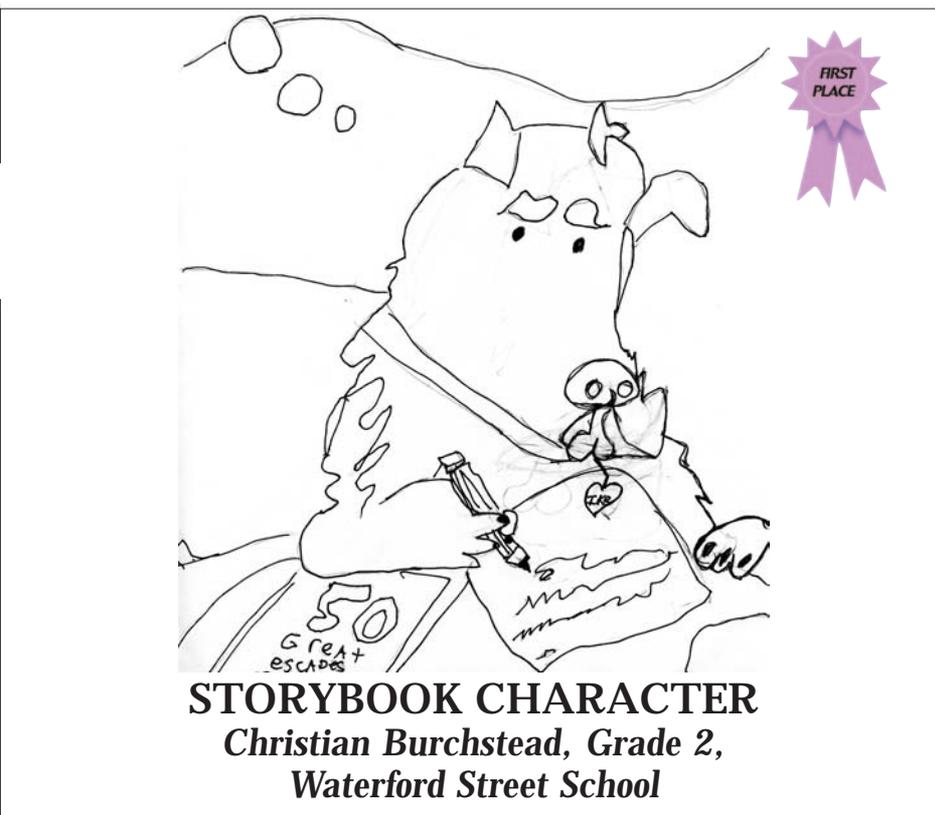
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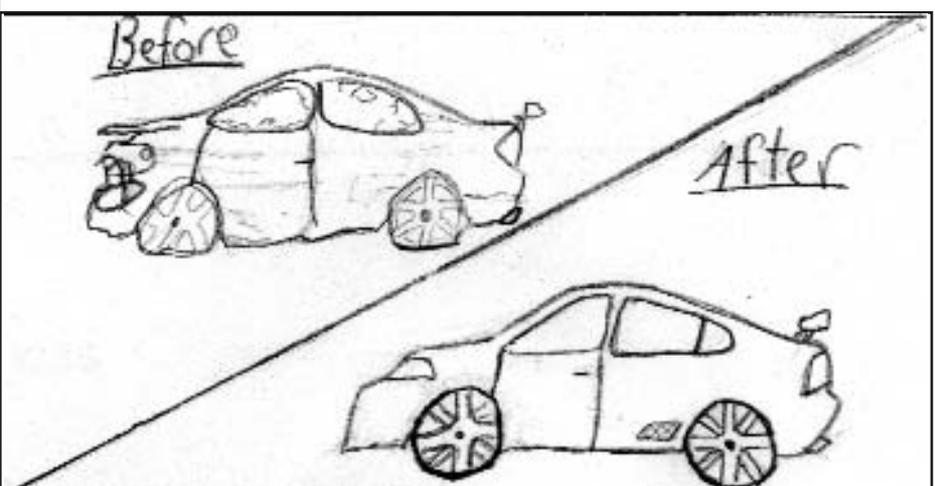
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Jocelyn Baril, Grade 12,
Oakmont Regional High School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Christian Burchstead, Grade 2,
Waterford Street School

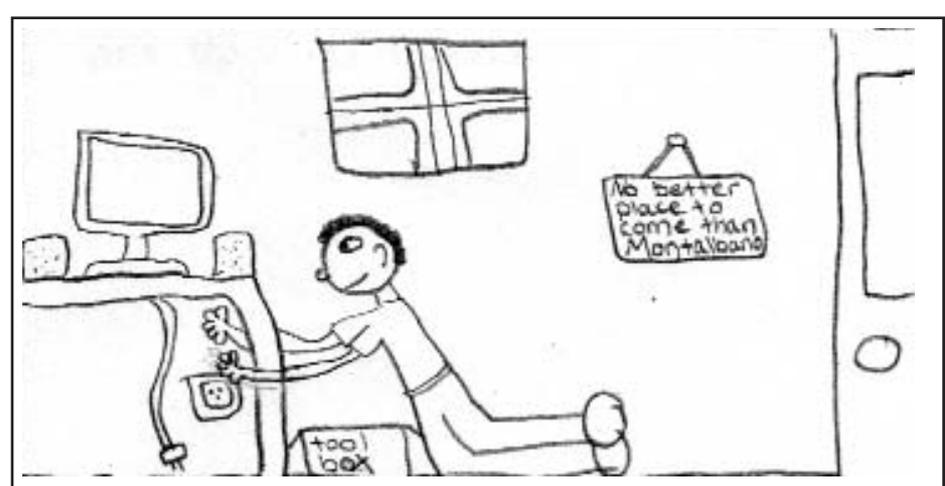


FEATURE PHOTO
Emily Minns, Grade 11,
Gardner High School



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DESIGN-AN-AD
Kyle Wilson, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



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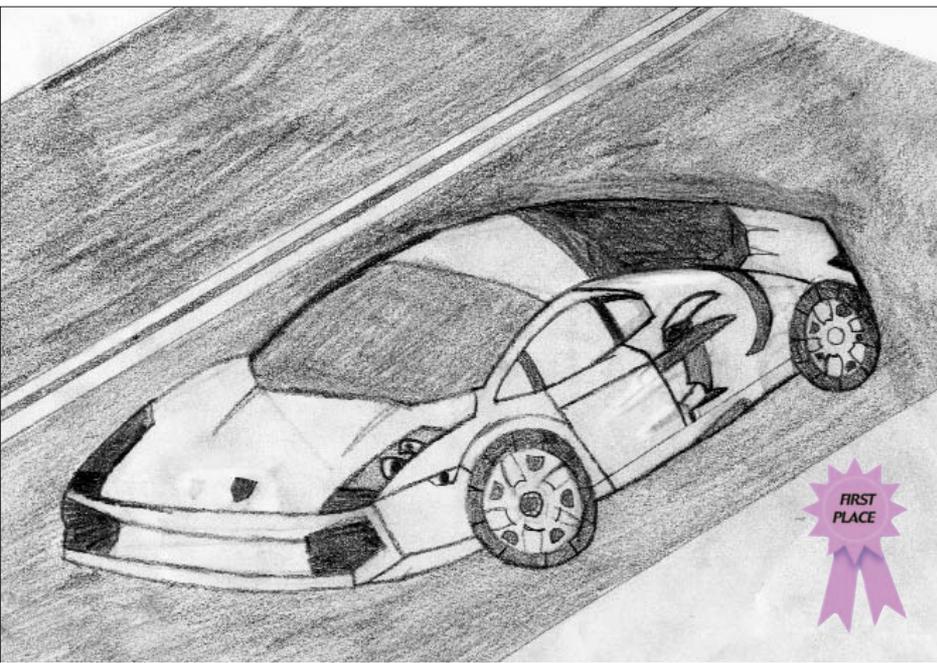
DESIGN-AN-AD
Kaitlin Mann, Grade 6,
Narragansett Middle School

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EDITORIAL CARTOON
Daniel Espinoza, Grade 6,
Gardner Middle School

How would you look to help eliminate the homelessness problem that exists in the area?



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Calvin Wong, Grade 6,
Holy Rosary School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Mike Cassano, Grade 12,
Narragansett Regional High School



DESIGN-AN-AD
Brigitte Hamel, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School



109 Main Street, Westminster
978-874-1705

DESIGN-AN-AD
Jill Aalto, Grade 6,
Sacred Heart School

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EDITORIAL CARTOON
 Erin Seward, Grade 8,
 Sacred Heart School

Do you think your town government addresses issues for students your age, and what could they do to address those issues?



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Angela Tonet, Grade 8,
 Holy Rosary School



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DESIGN-AN-AD
 Peter Frusbell, Grade 6,
 Holy Rosary School



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DESIGN-AN-AD
 Peter Wolf, Grade 6,
 Gardner Middle School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Emily Moyen, Grade 3,
 Elm Street Elementary School

Should professional athletes be viewed as role models?



When you ask a child who their hero or role model is, chances are they will answer with the name of a magnificent athlete of our time, backing it up with statistics and extraordinary stories of their talent displayed on the playing field, ice rink or basketball court. These sport heroes are put on pedestals by these children, but are not always the ideal figures to hold the position. The media sometimes creates an image for these athletes that children admire, but when they unexpectedly make mistakes children are suddenly let down. Are children looking for guidance in the wrong places? America's youth is fooled by the glamorous lives of these athletes, which are not so as stupendous as they are made out to be. Too many children are being misled, and in turn let down when their "hero" is exposed.

Being put under a spotlight can change who you truly are. The media puts such a large spotlight on sport heroes, much of the youth see these people as incredible individuals who can do no wrong. Lately there have been many cases where these athletes are exposed as the people they truly are; kids are let down. Cases such as steroid use, domestic cases, murder cases, animal cruelty and drug use are becoming present in the news more often each and every day. How can we expect children to accept these people as their heroes when they are committing unforgivable crimes?

All throughout America's history there have been remarkable people who have contributed to the community in many different ways. Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Ronald Reagan, George Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. are all examples of true American heroes. The soldiers fighting for our freedom and the police protecting our streets are everyday heroes that deserve respect and honor so much more than a famous sports hero. Perhaps the media should put the spotlight on the father, brother, nephew and son that is fighting overseas that holds almost no recognition. Should the man catching the football be recognized before the soldier who left his family to fight for everyone's freedom? The sports heroes seem to shove off the honor they are given by America's youth by setting such a bad example.

If someone were to ask me who my heroes or role models were, I would say: my mom, my older brother, and my aunt. These people are such a big part of my life, and I never take them for granted. My mother has remained strong through everything she has been through, trying to set a good example for her children all along the way. My older brother is an airborne medic in the United States Army who works hard every day never expecting special treatment for who he is, or what he does. My aunt is someone that no matter what will drop everything for the people she loves. She has been through difficult times but uses each experience to make her stronger. She has dreams, and she never lets anyone interfere with them; she teaches me the same lessons every day. Does the youth of this country realize that there are role models surrounding them in their own home?

Idolizing sports figures can be nothing but a letdown. Drug use, abuse and cheating are not values we need to be installing into the youths' minds. Instead of teaching children to look up to these people, families should encourage children to look for the deeper meaning of "role model" or "hero." Look for the soldier that had to leave home, and use their stamps to send them a letter; visit a memorial for a great leader of the past. We should all try to steer the youth away from the idea that athletes are what the media makes them out to be; help America's youth find a true role model, one they can depend on.

STUDENT ESSAY

Nicole Santonastaso, Grade 10,
 Murdock Middle High School



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DESIGN-AN-AD
 Noah Castle, Grade 6,
 Narragansett Middle School



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DESIGN-AN-AD
 Jake Lenthall, Grade 8,
 Sacred Heart School

Should cell phones use in automobiles be banned?



There are many people right now wanting cell phones banned from cars because they are very distracting when you are driving. There have been many accidents in the past caused by cell phones. People in the world are constantly talking on cell phones and sometimes even trying to do other things and that could be very dangerous when driving a car.

Many states have already outlawed cell phones in cars. Also, not only talking on the phone but sending and receiving text messages have caused many accidents. When you text, you need to look at your screen to see what you're typing and it takes your eyes off the road. Just talking on the phone is safer than text messaging while driving, but it is still distracting.

I do agree with the fact that you should have a cell phone in the car for safety reasons. For example, if someone crashed or got a flat tire and no one was around, then they would need some way to get help. I think if the phone rings while you are in the car you should not pick it up and call them later, or you could pull over to the side of the road.

Lots of people think that they can do many things while driving. People even put on makeup, read the newspaper and take care of their children while driving down the road. These things along with using a cell phone have caused many accidents and even deaths. For this reason, I think there should be a law that prevents people from using a cell phone or doing other distracting things while driving. This law would let them use their cell phone if they are pulled over or stopped, such as in case of an emergency.

STUDENT ESSAY
Lindsey McDonald, Grade 7,
The Master's Christian Academy



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Brandon Jinn, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School

Should pro athletes be viewed as role models?



Athletes are often viewed as role models to kids and teenagers. This can be a good or bad thing depending on the athlete. Sometimes the athlete is a good person and a good role model. Other times, the athlete may not demonstrate good qualities and therefore may not be a good person to strive to be like. It is not about the fact that they are athletes, but that all may not be qualified to be role models.

Athletes work extremely hard to get where they are. They train all their lives to become a professional. It is good for kids to want to work hard doing a sport and to want to achieve something. If an athlete plays clean and has good sportsmanship, he is setting a good example. If an athlete is influencing his admirers in a positive way, then he is a good role model.

Athletes can also set a bad example for their admirers. Some have bad sportsmanship and play dirty. If this is the case, that athlete would not be a good role model. Kids will copy the way the athlete is playing. If an athlete influences kids in a negative way, then the athlete will not be a good role model.

Athletes work so hard and it is good to aspire to work like them. It is OK for kids to have an athlete as a role model. It depends on the person. They need someone who will set a good example for the admirer. It does not matter that someone has an athlete for a role model. It depends on how an athlete acts.

STUDENT ESSAY
Alexandra Potts, Grade 8,
The Master's Christian Academy

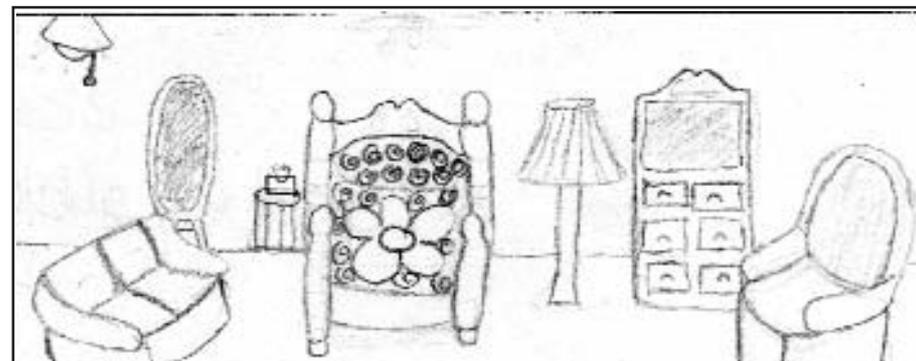


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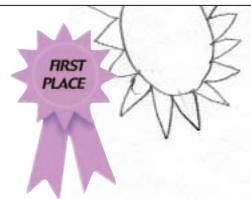
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DESIGN-AN-AD
Hannah Parker, Grade 3,
Westminster Elementary School

Should pro athletes be viewed as role models?



Some athletes should be viewed as role models, but others should not be. I think if athletes do good work and stay away from drugs they should be viewed as better role models than ones that do not. If athletes have been doing unacceptable things they should not only be punished, but they should not be able to play their sport for a certain amount of time.

There are many athletes that do things for people less fortunate than themselves. Some of them give money to charities while other athletes will help raise money for organizations. Sometimes may athletes volunteer their time. They may go to a hospital and see a child that really looks up to them and has a wish to meet them. Athletes that are viewed as role models and do good works should be appreciated more than they are in my opinion.

It is our responsibility to make good choices for our role models. Parents should have a part in choosing their child's role model because parents are also responsible for setting and teaching values for their children.

We can look up to teachers, doctors and police officers for example. The most important people that we have to listen to are our parents. Our parents help us the most along with our teachers. They help us with homework, and they want us to make the best choices in our life and even when we are older. The best people that are role models to me are my teachers and my mom. They always lead me to the right choices. When I have done something wrong, they will always correct me but no matter what happens they will love me. I think that not only kids make wrong choices, but parents and teachers do also.

I do not think athletes are bad examples of role models but I do think not all people make good choices in life. We must choose the right role models to follow. Athletes are like everybody else. They can make the right or wrong choices.

The reason why I chose this essay was because I want people to understand that nobody is perfect. We are all going to make right and wrong choices throughout life. It is important that we try not to make the same mistakes over and over again. Athletes need to know what they are doing to themselves and what they are doing to their fans when they do wrong things. I love football and baseball players and I like to see them do positive things. I don't want to see them make the wrong choices and then get kicked out of a sport they love.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Elizabeth Duval, Grade 5,
Holy Rosary School*

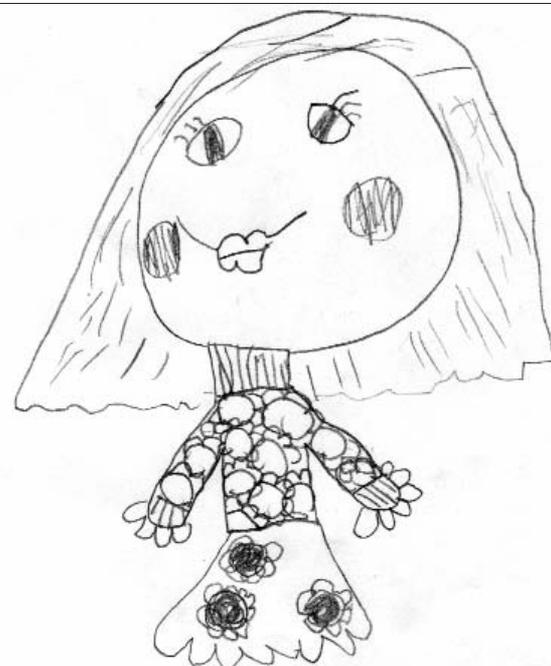
What makes the best pet?



In my opinion a pig makes the best pet. Pigs are playful animals. I play with mine all the time. They are cutie pies! I wish that I could get another one but I can't because if I did I would be broke because she costs too much. Anyway, I already got one for Christmas. A pig is so cute because she has a wrinkly nose and scrunchy ears and you just want to grab her and hug her so tight that she falls apart. That is my opinion on what makes the best pet.

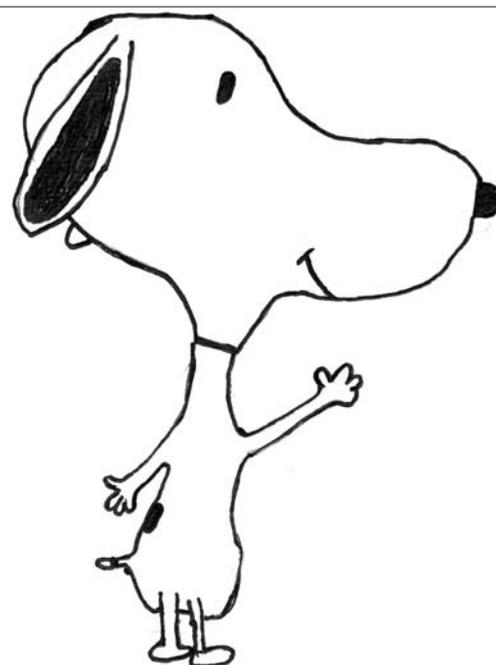
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*Nichole Kimball, Grade 3,
Elm Street Elementary School*



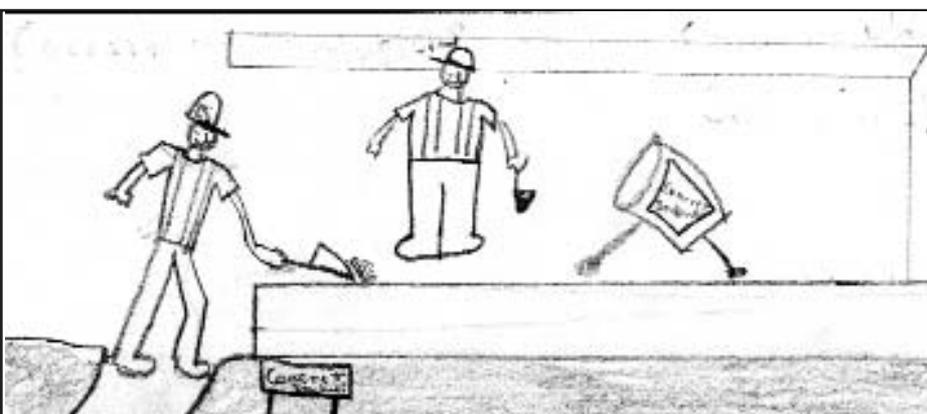
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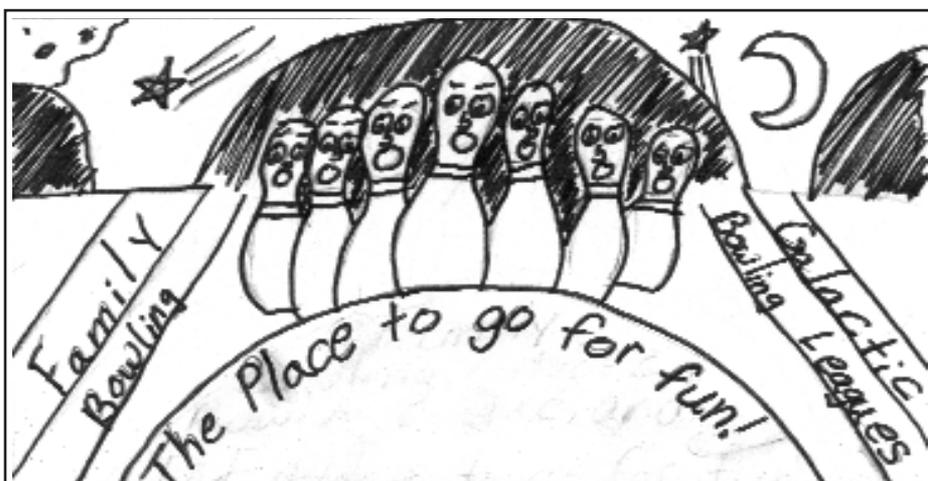
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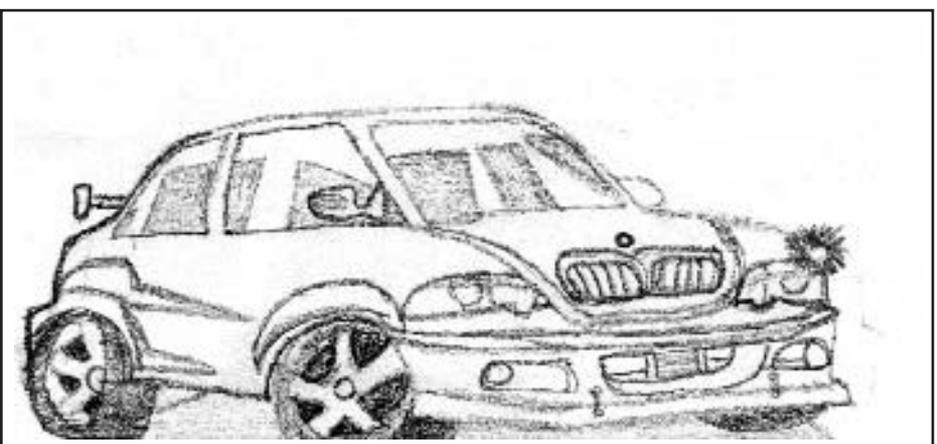
*Sarah Robertson, Grade 7,
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DESIGN-AN-AD
 Nic LeBlanc, Grade 11,
 Murdock Middle High School

Should religion hold an important role in the '08 presidential election?



I don't think religion should be considered at all when it comes to a presidential campaign. Religion doesn't show how well a person can lead the country. All religion does is allow the people to get judged, ridiculed, or praised for following a certain belief. Religion and politics shouldn't mix because not every person follows the same belief. A soon to be president's religion should be pushed aside and they should remain neutral in their beliefs of a higher power until they are on their own time.

To become president, the candidate should be judged on how well he or she can take the prominent role in power. Religion has nothing to do with great leadership skills and the power to change what needs to be. A presidential candidate needs to know how to take control, work under pressure and make decisions for the good of society. They need to persuade every person that they will do the right thing and follow through on their promises. They have to push their own beliefs aside and help the country as a whole, instead of certain religious groups. The people who vote should also push their beliefs aside and focus on the real problems that the candidates will try and fix or make better. The presidential candidates aren't just going to focus on a religious group; they are going to focus on everybody's needs and wants. Religion has nothing to do with politics and the needs of a society.

Religion usually ends in ridicule, judgment or praise. It can prevent a great candidate from winning an election or it could make a horrible candidate win an election.

Religion usually persuades voters to either turn the other way or follow the candidate to the end. Religion also allows other candidates to persuade voters to turn their backs on another candidate by starting petty, childish fights and making up stories to make the candidate look bad. I personally find it funny how consumed people get on the religious aspects of presidential candidates that they don't see how immature or childish the candidates are acting by ridiculing each other.

Religion and politics shouldn't mix at all. Not every person believes the same thing. The United States is a melting pot of different religions, not everybody just follows one. Politics really has nothing to do with religion anyways so there is no reason to include it within a presidential election for the same reason it isn't allowed in school districts. Certain religions may offend some people and it is unfair to elect someone if a person is bias against the candidate's religion.

In conclusion, religion should not be considered in the 2008 presidential campaign. It is bias to choose someone based on their religion and not the quality of their leadership. There are too many religions for one to be the basis of a state, and even though religion isn't going to be a main dilemma, people act as if it were.

STUDENT ESSAY
 Barbara Churchill, Grade 12,
 Narragansett Regional High School

How do you think the U.S. should proceed in Iraq?



On March 19, 2003 our troops were sent to Iraq. It was the beginning of the war that we are fighting in today. Many families were so sad to see their loved ones go away. More than five years have passed and hundreds of soldiers have died. When Sept. 11 occurred, President Bush started the war. Some people were mad at President Bush and did not agree with the war. Other people agreed that we should fight back. I agree with President Bush because we should not let Iraq destroy our country with terrorism. I think President Bush did a great job. I also think we should end the war now because I think we have done all we can and it is time to let our troops come home to their families.

STUDENT ESSAY
 Anthony Iannuzzi, Grade 3,
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DESIGN-AN-AD
 E.J. Hammond, Grade 10,
 Narragansett Regional High School

Should pro athletes be viewed as role models?



"I never thought a role model should be negative." These words were spoken by what some consider the greatest player in the game of basketball, Michael Jordan. Jordan made this statement as though from the moment he was taught the meaning of the words role model, he knew they were something great. What really is a role model? Should someone be a role model just because they were on the latest cover of Sports Illustrated? Or scored the winning basket in the last game of the season? People everyday struggle to find a true role model, how can we really find one?

"Someone who you can look up to." "Someone who sets an example." There must be numerous definitions for a role model. Can we pin one definition to these words? I believe a role model is someone you can trust, someone that you can have faith in to lead you to the right path. Many young Americans can lose sight of their goals because they have been led in the wrong direction. Everyone needs someone to help him or her become everything they potentially can be. So should a professional athlete be considered a role model because they can run faster than everyone else?

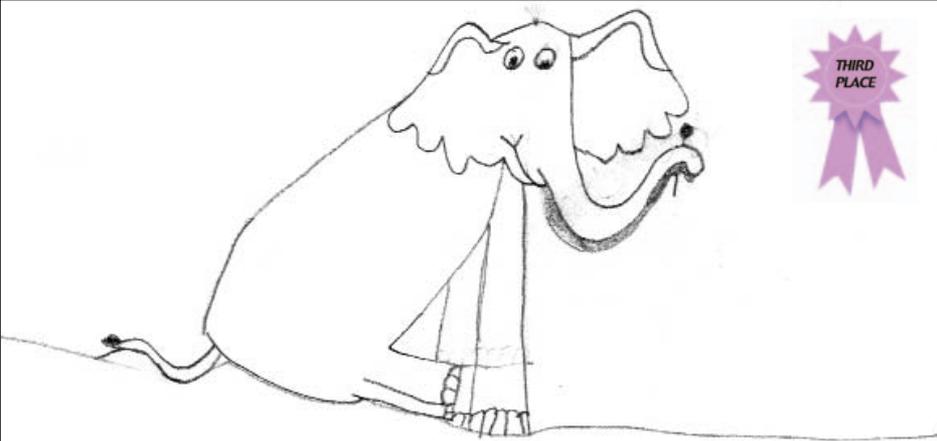
If you really contemplate this, you can come to the conclusion that breaking track records and scoring touchdowns does not make a person a role model. A person that does good acts on and off the field does make an excellent role model. This is where many people can be misled when they choose a role model to try to be like. As we have all seen in the media lately, some of the most famous athletes have been involved in activities no one should wish to take part in. This is why you should not just admire and want to be like someone because of athletic achievements.

On the contrary, I could spend all day listing athletes that do make a contribution to society and our communities. Many athletes donate to charities, take part in helping campaigns and other ovation worthy acts. Just last year, Everson Walls, the former defensive back for the Dallas Cowboys, donated a kidney to his former teammate, Ron Springs, which in return saved his life. He is the type of athlete that we should aspire to be, thus being a great role model.

Records and points do not make a role model. Athletes make excellent role models for everyone from childhood to the geriatric ward. Not because of how they play their sport, but how they play their life. A role model is something we all need in our lives. We must choose carefully because a real role model is part of us forever. Working hard, believing in yourself and accomplishing the right things can potentially make you a role model someday. Michael Jordan also said: "Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."

STUDENT ESSAY

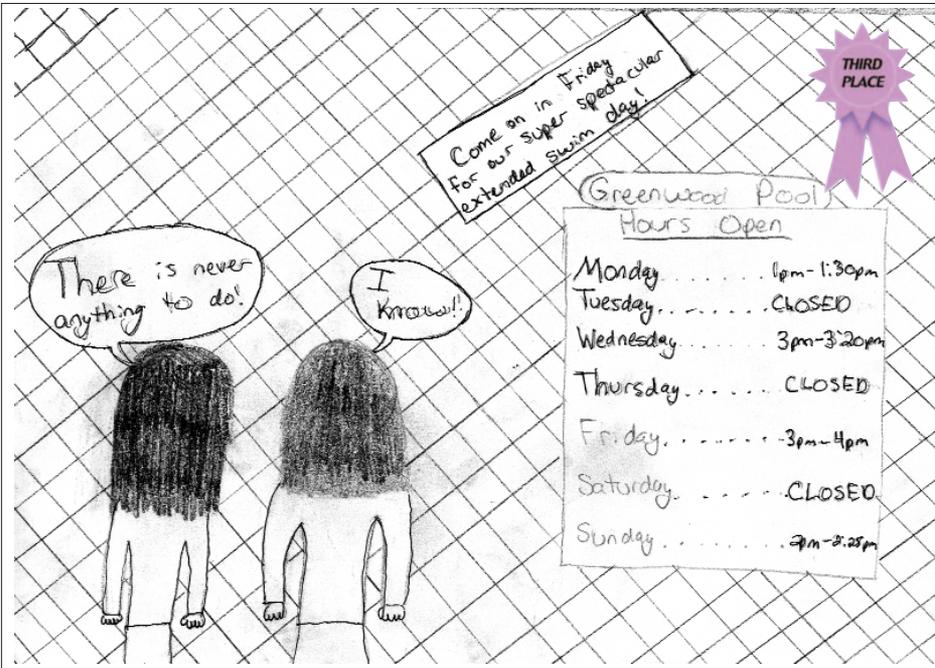
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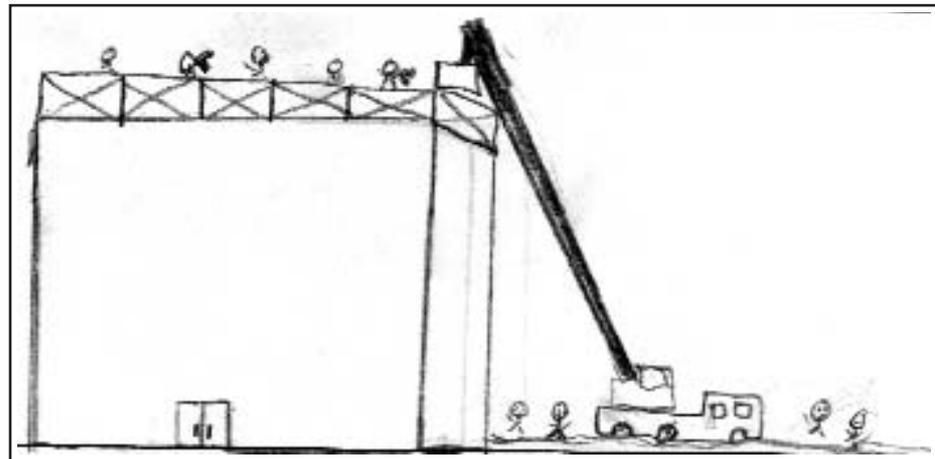
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**Sheena Doyle, Grade 12,
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SECOND PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Julie Barrows, Grade 12,
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THIRD PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

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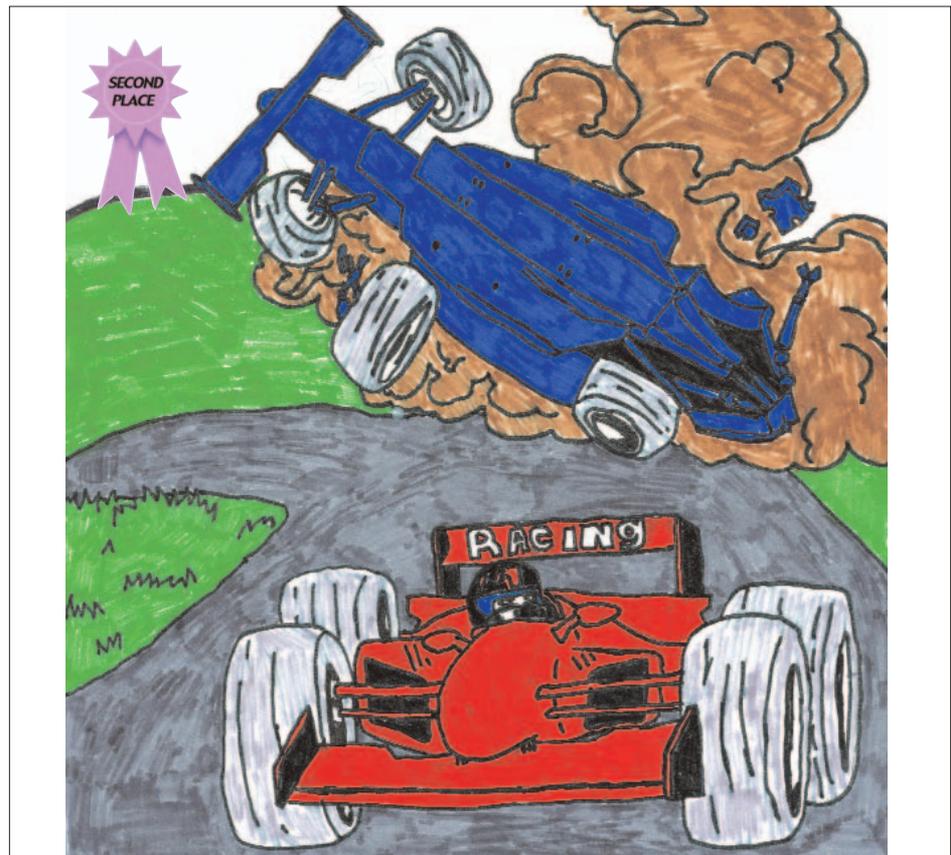
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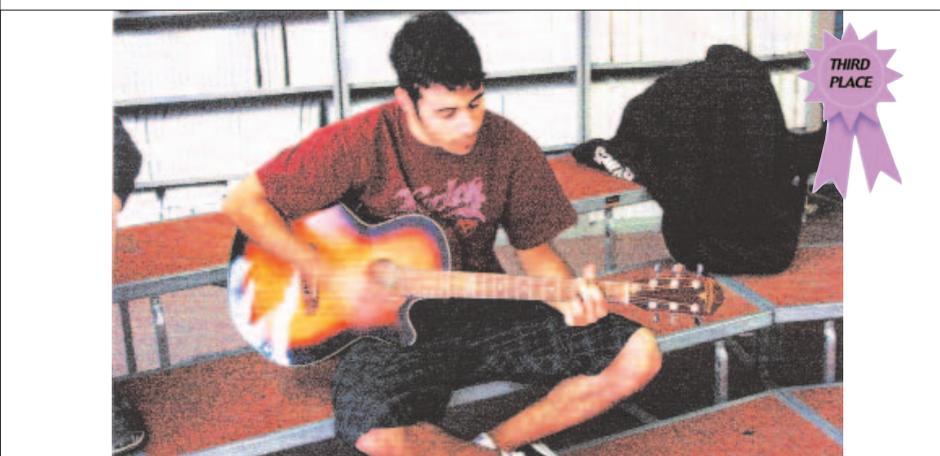
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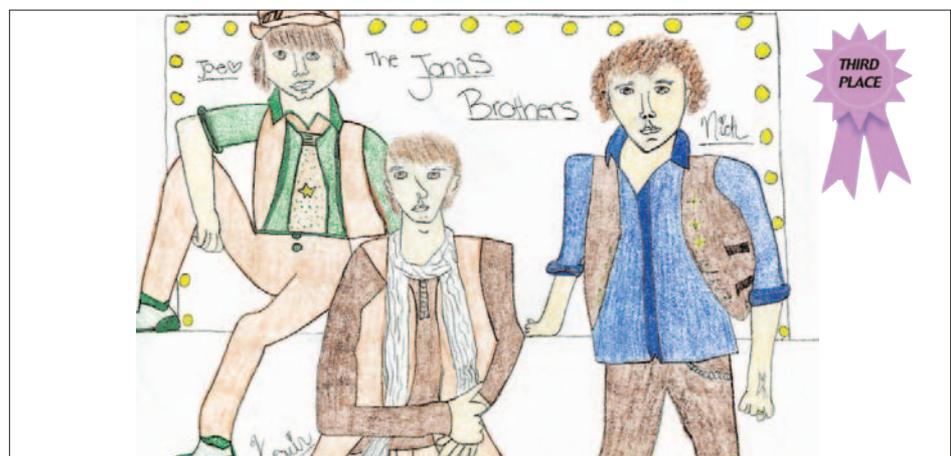
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Cameron Provost, Grade 12,
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ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Melissa Murphy, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School

How do you think the U.S. should proceed in Iraq?



There is a huge debate on the war in Iraq. We went to Iraq in 2003 and we are still there in 2008. I believe that we should begin to move soldiers out of Iraq and start bringing them home. I would have started to move the soldiers out two to three years ago. If I were the president, I would have captured the leaders in the country and have gotten out of there. Another issue in Iraq is gas prices. Gas prices get higher and higher because we are participating in a war. We should bargain with the Iraqis and the Arabs to lower the gas prices. If they don't want to, we should use force. I am not saying we should kill them because many of them are innocent, but use force as economic sanctions. Since we are in Iraq, we should go ahead and plant oil and gas plants there. If we did that, we could definitely have lower oil prices.

Another thing is the people over there. We also should do that because a lot of the money that we are paying for oil is going to the Iraqi military and will be used against us. We need to try as hard as we possibly can to make peace with that nation so that we can pull out of Iraq and we will not have to be afraid of them always trying to attack us. We should also strive to make peace with the surrounding countries that help Iraq so we can worry less about them too. Also, we need to help the people establish a better government. Our leaders need to raise up good leaders to govern the nation and try our best to make that country stand on its own two feet. It is time that America stops worrying about its own government and starts worrying about the government that we are attacking.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Benjamin Monroe, Grade 8,
The Master's Christian Academy*

Michael Jordan



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

*Matt Bonneau, Grade 6,
Holy Rosary School*

How do you think the U.S. should proceed in Iraq?



Should the United States stay at war in Iraq? That's a good question. I feel the United States should leave Iraq. My three main reasons are simple. There have been many deaths, the United States has spent way too much money on this war and Iraq is not the only terrorist threat.

Many families are sad because they lost an important member of their family. There have been almost 4,000 United States troops killed and more than 60,000 wounded. We should pull out our troops because a lot of people have died and more are going to.

The war is very expensive too. Did you know that it costs the United States 275 million dollars a day for this war? So far, it has cost the United States about 500 billion dollars total. We could have used that money to help the poor or help protect our country from terrorists. If my math is correct, with 500 billion dollars we could give 500,000 poor people \$1,000,000 dollars each.

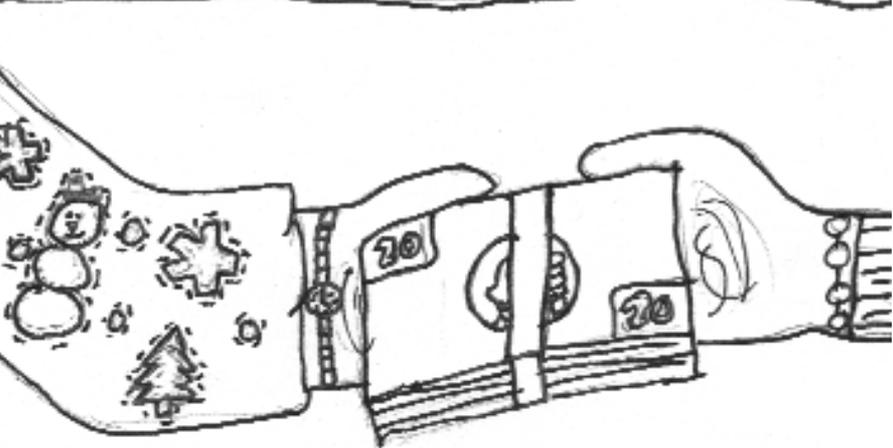
I also think we should pull our troops out so we can protect our country. Other countries also have terrorists. If the war goes on long enough, other countries will notice most of our troops are in Iraq and start to bomb us. But if we take out our troops, we can protect the country and other countries will notice that we have our troops there before they might decide not to bomb us.

Those are my three simple reasons why the United States should end the war in Iraq.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Alexander Johnson, Grade 5,
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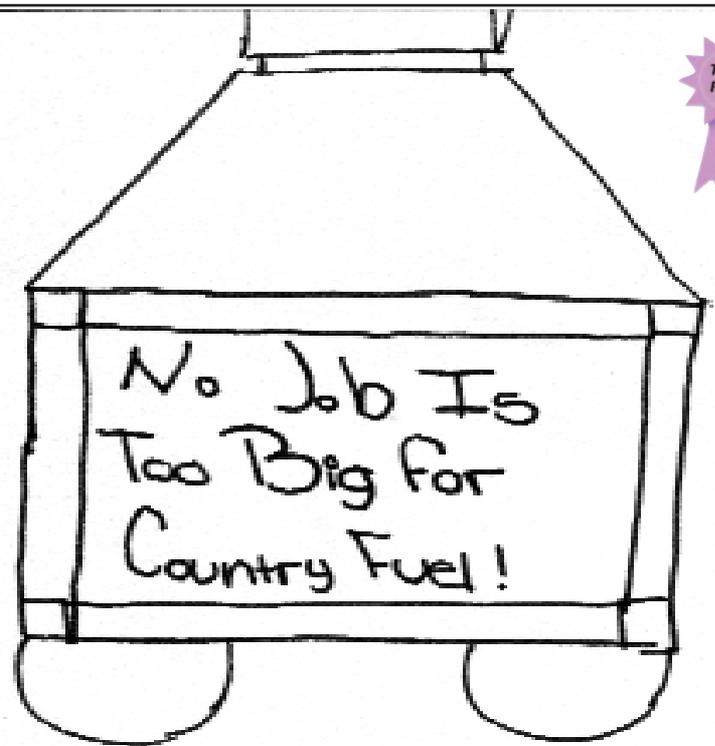
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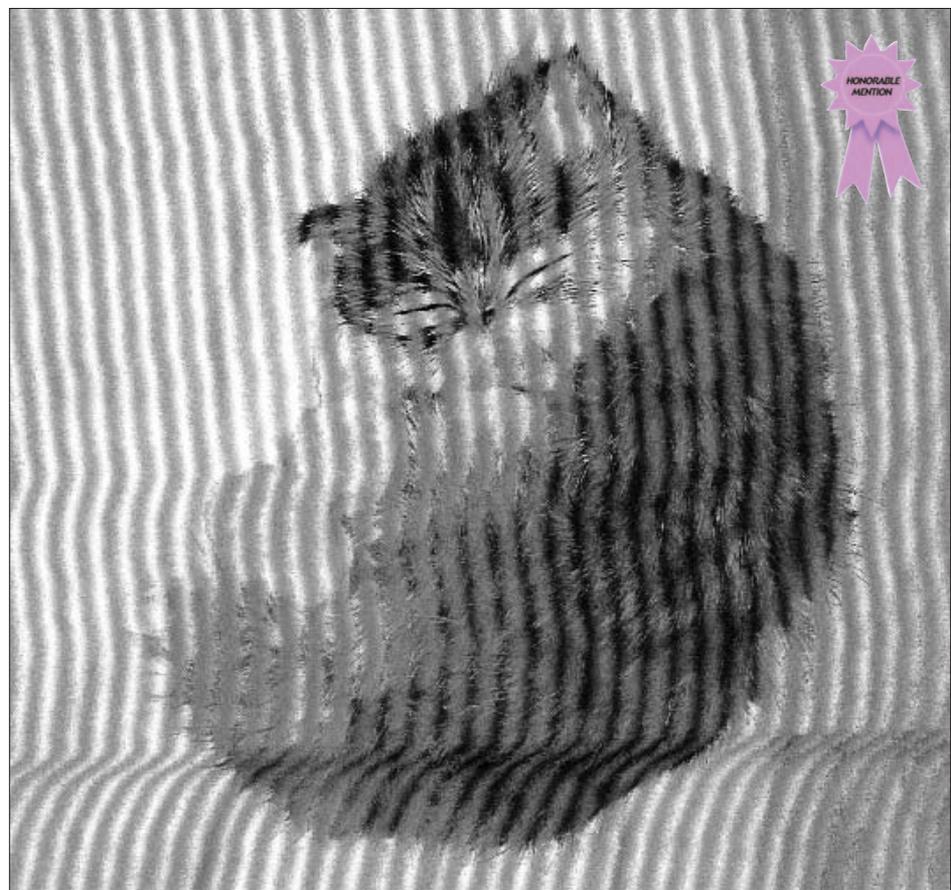
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ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Linsey Laserte, Grade 12,
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What makes the best pet?

I think a dog makes the best pet. Here are the reasons why I think a dog makes the best pet. First, a dog plays games with you. Next, if you're sad a dog always cheers you up. Then they are easy to care for and to clean. If a stranger comes in, the dog will bark. If you need a pal, count on the dog. If you want to go on a walk and no one wants to go, take your dog. The dog is the best friend to take.

A dog can make you laugh. A dog does not complain about anything. A dog is always in a good mood. A dog is helpful to people. A dog is soft and cuddly. A dog is easy to name. There are many names to choose. A dog is a man's best pet. You don't have to buy a cage for a dog. They are loveable. If you want to read a book and no one wants to hear, read it to the dog, it is always there. A dog doesn't go to the bathroom everywhere. It scratches the door. I have a dog. His name is Keno. He is 12 years old. I love him the most. My opinion is my dog is the best dog in the world.

I say my dog is very calm. I love feeding my dog. I am grateful to my dog. All in all these are the reasons why dogs make the best pets.

STUDENT ESSAY
 Dylan Boudreau, Grade 2,
 Waterford Street School

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?

There has been a large debate in recent years about "under God" being a part of our Pledge of Allegiance. Some people think that it is forcing faith on people who just want to be patriotic. Others say it is tradition and the pledge should be left alone. I think that this is a very relevant debate, and I am surprised it has stayed a minor issue for so long. It is important that we make our decision wisely.

On one side are those who do not want Christianity forced on them. Not everyone, in fact is a Christian, and they want to be left to decide whom America is under. Some of those opposed to the words are of different faiths and do not want to say America is "under God" when that is not what they believe. In short, these people want a difference between patriotism and religion. In other words, they wish for "separation of church and state."

On the other side are the ones who believe that "under God" needs to stay in the pledge. This country was based on Christian beliefs. Why should this change? They find it important that we stay true to our roots. Not all of the people with this opinion are Christian. Some of them simply find it as a part of their morals to have respect for the Deity. To them, this includes admitting that we are "one Nation under God."

I believe that these two words should stay in the pledge. Even though we need separation of church and state, I don't find "under God" being in the Pledge of Allegiance to be imposing. But there is more than that. In these crazy times, it is important that we remember who is over America. God has been an important part of American living for a number of years. He is still over us now even if we refuse to admit it.

STUDENT ESSAY
 Samantha Ervin, Grade 8,
 The Master's Christian Academy



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Paul Farrell, Grade 1,
 Hubbardston Center School

Should pro athletes be viewed as role models?

How should "pro" athletes be portrayed as role models? You asked and I've replied. I feel very strongly about this topic. I don't think all athletes are being treated fairly. This is why.

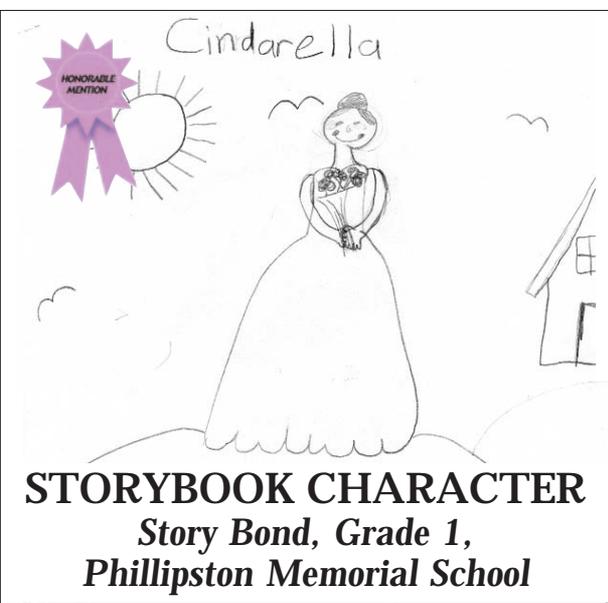
Pro athletes need to realize that there's more to being a pro athlete than just hitting home runs and signing balls! There is a cruel world outside the court or the stadium and they need to step up and help out. Some, but definitely not all athletes realize the issue of kids as young as 10 getting into serious danger, trouble at school and even worse, drugs.

So how can pro athletes help? Get rid of that disgusting tobacco. Stop trying to look cool by taking drugs. Your actions count and your decisions matter. You can really and truly make a big influence, bigger than you think. So stop doing drugs. Spit the tobacco out and make a difference.

It seems as though the athletes not taking drugs aren't getting the recognition they deserve. How can that be changed? Well, that's for you to decide. So think about it carefully and you make a difference, you enforce a positive influence, you help, you change and you make this world a better and safer place or environment for our friends, family, young ones and our posterity.

How should pro athletes be portrayed as role models? By their actions, decisions and choices.

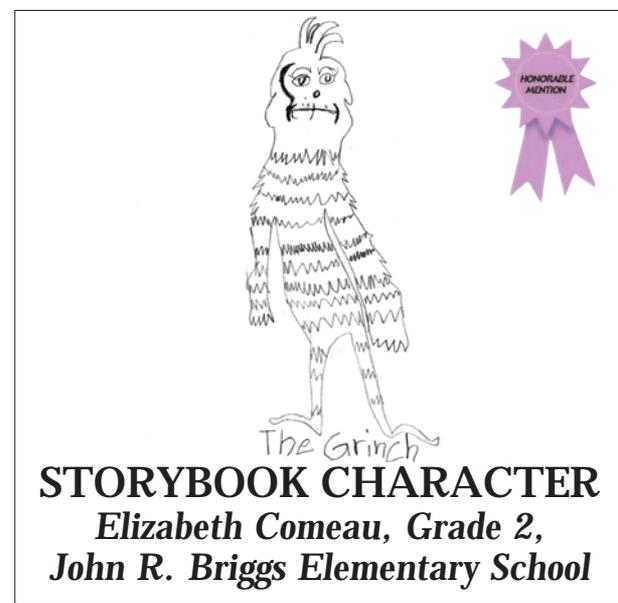
STUDENT ESSAY
 Kylie Caouette, Grade 5,
 Toy Town Elementary School



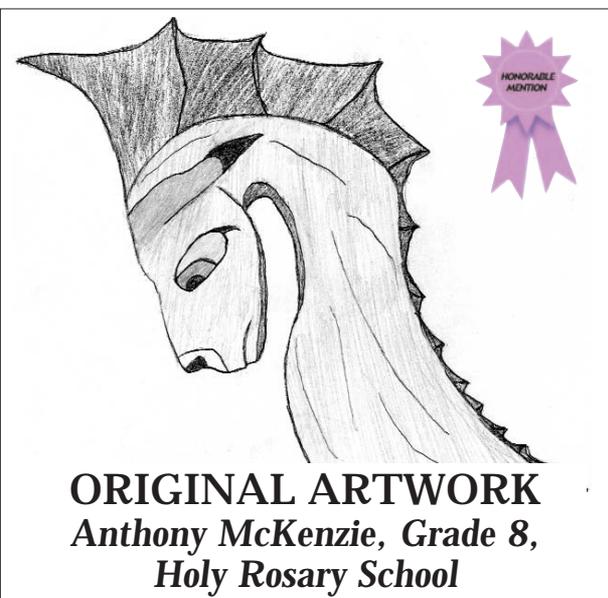
STORYBOOK CHARACTER
 Story Bond, Grade 1,
 Phillipston Memorial School



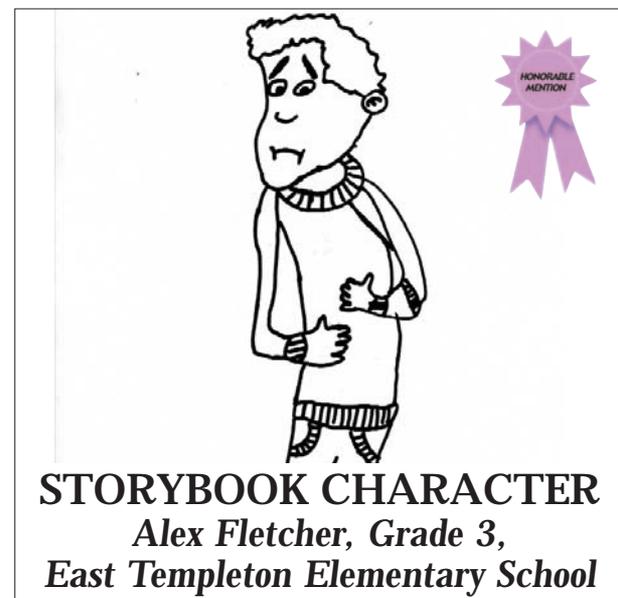
FEATURE PHOTO
 Jason Valera, Grade 6,
 Holy Rosary School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
 Elizabeth Comeau, Grade 2,
 John R. Briggs Elementary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Anthony McKenzie, Grade 8,
 Holy Rosary School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
 Alex Fletcher, Grade 3,
 East Templeton Elementary School

What's your favorite season?

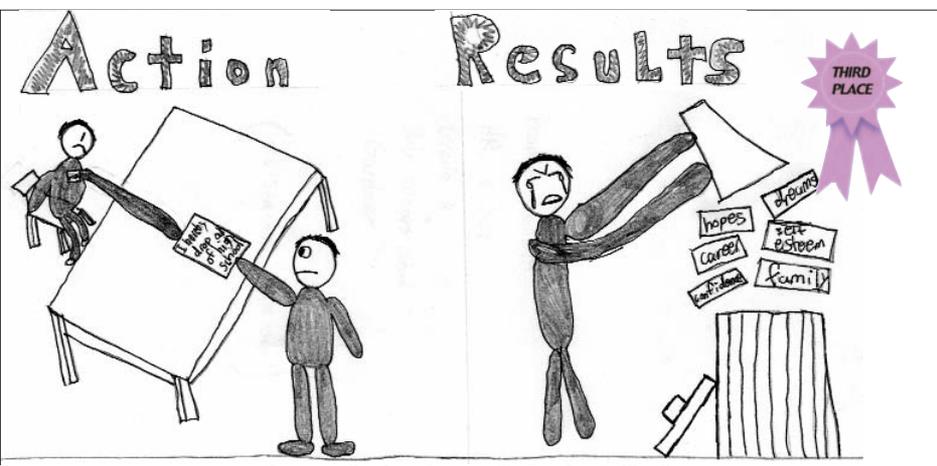
My favorite season is summer because the flowers start to bloom and the sun shines in the sky. My favorite part of the summer is that I get to go camping. I love to spend time with my family and friends in the summer. I like to swim in the pool. I love to play with my brother in the summer. In the summer I really want to play with my friend Riley. I love when the Macanes come over. I love to play with their dog Molly. I love to play with my cat, Peanut, outside in the summer. I play with him with the tree branches.

STUDENT ESSAY
 Maria Polcari, Grade 1,
 Holy Rosary School

What is your favorite pet?

I have a pet of my own. My pet is a hamster. Her name is Mable. Mable is so cuddly, sometimes I will take her up to bed and she will snuggle with me. Mable loves to run around in her wheel.
 I got Mable on Nov. 11, 2007. Sometimes she will crawl up my sleeve and it tickles. Mable gets a little scared when the cats come around.
 My cat knocked over the cage the first day she was at our house. One time my cat got Mable in his mouth, but she was OK.
 Mable is a one of a kind hamster. What inspired me to get a hamster was my friend Kate. She had one and it was so cute. Her name is London. I have to take good care of Mable. I have to clean her cage and feed her. I also have to give her water.
 I think a hamster is a one of a kind pet because hamsters like to cuddle.

STUDENT ESSAY
 Teagan Cybulski, Grade 3,
 Hubbardston Center School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
 Franklin Moschetti, Grade 6,
 Holy Rosary School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
 Samantha Buckler, Grade 5,
 Sacred Heart School

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?



"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." The Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone had to say it in grade school and up through the high school, but rarely do students think about the inaccuracy of what they are stating every morning. To understand the Pledge, one must look at the history and the controversy around it.

The original Pledge of Allegiance ("I pledge allegiance to the flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,") was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy. Bellamy wrote the pledge so that it would be short, to the point and so that it would not be controversial. However, since the time that the original was written, organizations such as the National Flag Conference and the Knights of Columbus have found it necessary to alter the promise, some of the alterations being controversial. The National Flag Conference's alteration was to change "my flag" to "the flag of the United States." The Knights of Columbus made the addition of the phrase "under God." The Knights of Columbus felt that the promise would be incomplete without any reference to a deity.

The National Flag Conference's alteration was certainly less controversial and the Knights of Columbus' addition was more controversial. As the United States of America is "the melting pot," it is most conceivable that the people of the nation would be of different religions and that some may be atheist and therefore not believe in God at all. How could you physically be under something that does not exist?

As an atheist myself, I believe that the phrase "under God" should not be included in the Pledge of Allegiance. I believe that the Pledge is inaccurate and was most accurate the way it was originally written. Bellamy clearly wanted to avoid controversy when he wrote the Pledge of Allegiance. His wishes have been denied. Why not respect his wishes? Why not go back to the original? Why not stop the controversy? I personally feel that we should respect Bellamy. I feel that we should go back to the original and henceforth stop the controversy.

In conclusion, the Pledge of Allegiance has been changed many times over history and with each alteration came more controversy. If the United States of America is supposed to be a "melting pot" and diversity is great and if there is something that all Americans must say then the message that must be said should respect everyone that is compelled to say it.

STUDENT ESSAY

Sara Newton, Grade 10,
Murdock Middle High School

Should cell phones use in automobiles be banned?



Should cell phones be allowed in cars? Ha! That's like asking if flash photography should be allowed during performances or if formula sheets should be allowed on math tests. *Of course!*

I mean I love talking on my cell phone while driving on long, boring car rides where there's nothing to do except maybe dance crazy to your favorite song when it comes on the radio or try to dodge little children (who always tend to scamper out in front of you at the last possible second). These are the perfect places to get a little socializing in. Honestly, if cell phones were banned in cars, I never would have gotten the text from Bobby saying that he sort of wanted to hang out with me later! Of course, if I hadn't then I probably wouldn't have sort of crashed into that telephone pole. (I was overcome with joy and so then I probably wouldn't have had to sort of lie to my parents about what happened to the front of the car, but quite frankly is that really the point here? Is the fact that Mrs. Henderson's schnauzer sort of got his paw somewhat squished a little because I backed up too fast when my phone rang at that point? No. These trivial matters are not the point. The point is that cell phones should be allowed everywhere. From crowded elevators, libraries, math class to supermarket counters and airplanes, cell phones are pretty much a necessity. How else would you be able to stay connected with all of your many friends?

Now, I know there are some people who would disagree with me. They would say that constant chatting on a cell phone is rude and that texting and talking while driving is dangerous. These people, however, must not speak from experience. Personally, I find it perfectly easy to text on my cell phone, change the radio station, and reach for my bag of chips all at the same time while simultaneously executing flawless driving skills (give or take a stoplight or two.) I've only been pulled over once and that was only for speeding, and I can even count the number of shrubbery that I've mauled on a single hand. Clearly, the issue here shouldn't be if cell phones should be allowed in cars or not, it should be what else can be added to the car to make driving more enjoyable. If I'm going to be stuck on the road, I should at least be able to check my Facebook or at the very least my MySpace account (even though MySpace is so last year). Those who want to ban cell phones from cars in the name of "safety" have obviously lost track of what it means to have fun. Of course, this isn't surprising because most of the people against phoning on the freeway are adults and everyone knows what that means: They've always got to ruin the party!

STUDENT ESSAY

Jillian D'Onfro, Grade 11,
Oakmont Regional High School

What makes the best pet?



I believe that cats are the best pets. There are many reasons cats are such great pets. Among the reasons are their independence, individuality, and the affection they give. The patience from cats is amazing and perfect for younger kids. I base my opinion on cats from the love I have for my own cat, Sally, who I have had for 12 years.

Cats are possibly the most independent pets. If given food, water and a clean litter box then they can survive alone for several days. Unlike dogs, they don't need to have the constant attention of people to be happy. But when they do get attention, they show their joy by closing their eyes until they are barely open and purring. Another thing that makes them better than dogs is they don't slobber all over with horrendous breath.

The personalities of cats are very much like humans. Some cats prefer to be alone, while others like to be around people and other cats. Most kittens and young cats are playful and energetic and remain so throughout their lives. Cats are low maintenance since they bathe themselves. That saves a lot of time and effort of trying to force them into taking a bath.

Cats are perfect for little kids because of their patience and tolerance. When little kids pull their tails and such, cats usually don't bite or scratch unless the kid deserved it, in which case it's their own fault. Kittens are good pets for kids because they can grow up together and unlike goldfish cats live for a long time. For example, I got Sally when I was about 5 years old and she was just a kitten. She was a great friend to me for years and it made me sad when she died last month. The hardest part of having any pet is losing them.

Cats make the best pets for various reasons. They're independent and affectionate. They are patient and tolerant. Also, the love from one cat is incredible and worth anything bad that comes with owning one.

STUDENT ESSAY

Ariel DeCosmo, Grade 10,
Narragansett Regional High School

Should cell phones use in automobiles be banned?



Should cell phones in automobiles be banned, particularly text messaging? That is hard to answer for some. Some say, "Let's ban them and our teens will be safer drivers." But, then you have those who are saying, "No, what if something happens in the car while you are driving." For example, emergencies. For me, it is clear. I am against the use of hand-held cell phones in the car. Teens already have too many distractions. Cell phones take the focus off the road.

The argument goes that teens and people who drive have too many distractions to be worrying about their cell phones. If you remember, we are taught in driving school to let the passenger of our car handle things like the cell phone and the radio and other distractions. But when you are alone in your car, just let the phone ring. Now, how many of us actually do that? Very few. Now imagine your teen has gotten into a car accident. You got that heart wrenching call that your teen was driving and lost control of his vehicle. And when the police looked into what caused the accident, they found that your child was talking on the cell phone while driving, badly injured a person in another car and is being brought up on charges. Your teen has now become a **statistic**. This is a horrible situation to be in especially because your teen was on a cell phone and got into an accident that could have been avoided if they were paying attention and not talking on a phone. People who drive and talk are four times more likely to get into a car accident and injure themselves and the other drivers.

New York was one of the first states to ban the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. They now have to have a hands-free device while driving. This device takes the place of taking your hands off the wheel and endangering other drivers. Alone, without cell phone use, there are an estimated 3,571 people between the ages of 16 and 20 years old who died in accidents alone. (Accident car statistics teens). This is a large number of deaths without the use of cell phones.

In the world of a teen, text messaging is extremely popular. But does your teen know that text messaging while driving isn't? This type of communication while driving is extremely dangerous. This is because people are taking both their hands and their eyes along with their focus off the road to see the letter they are typing. Many states are now banning the use of text messaging while driving. Just last year alone, Washington became the first state to ban the practice of text messaging while driving. Washington joined states like New York, Connecticut and California with outlawing the use of a hand-held cell phone, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

In a recent survey taken by teenagers, 37 percent stated that text messaging from their cell phone is distracting while only 19 percent have stated that having their friends in the car was the biggest distraction. Their emotional state takes the remaining 20 percent of teens who took the survey.

If the law was to change, maybe not banning cell phones but making people use headsets or hand-free sets if they absolutely needed, a phone should be done. Yes, the state of Massachusetts should ban the use of text messaging while driving for teens because we as teens have too many distractions already in the car. We need to pay more attention to the road instead of what party we are going to or where to meet friends. That can wait, but other people's lives can't. When you text message and drive, you are putting everyone that is in your car, or the cars around you, or even on the side of the road, in the way of danger. You do not want to be responsible for a death at the age of 17 or 18.

Granted we cannot stop every person from using a hand-held cell phone but we can try to make this state a safer state by at least banning the use of text messaging and hand-held phone use in the car. This is why I believe that handsets for cell phones should be banned and why I believe that text messaging should be banned also for teens that drive in Massachusetts.

STUDENT ESSAY

Brittany Zarozinski, Grade 12,
Narragansett Regional High School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Abigail Gagne, Grade 3,
Helen Mae Sauter School



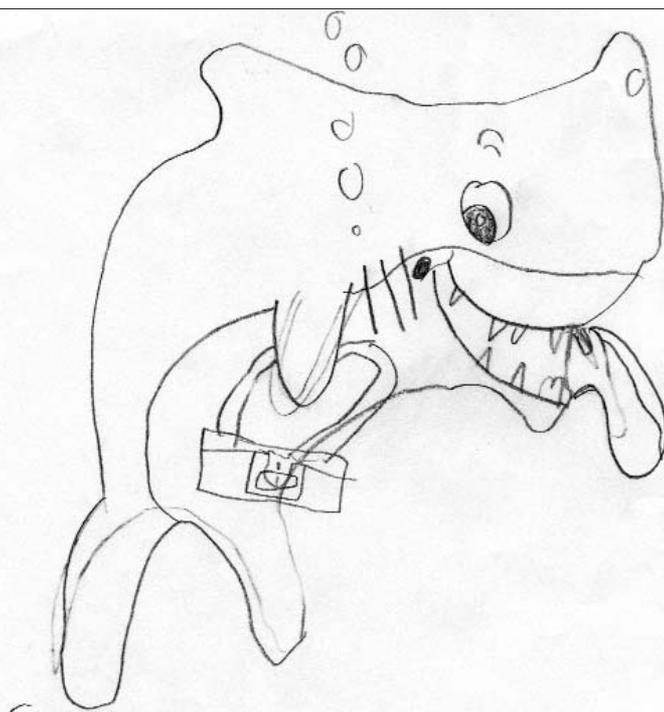
FEATURE PHOTO
Daniel Curran, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School



FEATURE PHOTO
Nichole Lyons, Grade 10,
Narragansett Regional High School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Jessica Kotoch, Grade 3,
Memorial Elementary School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Mick Johnson, Grade 2
John R. Briggs Elementary



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Myranda Bishop, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School



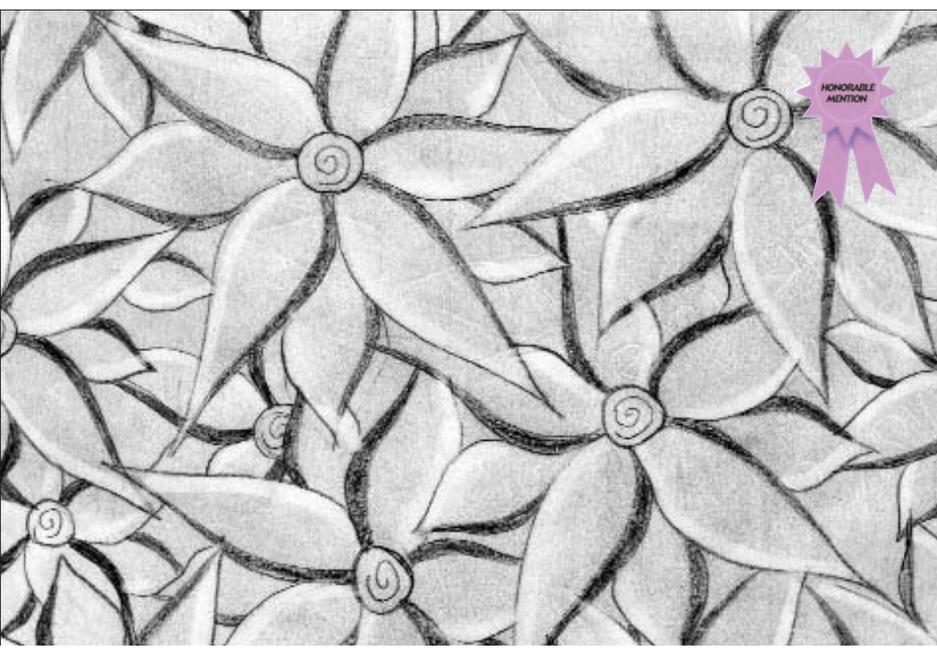
FEATURE PHOTO
Katlyn Gallant, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School

What makes the best pet?

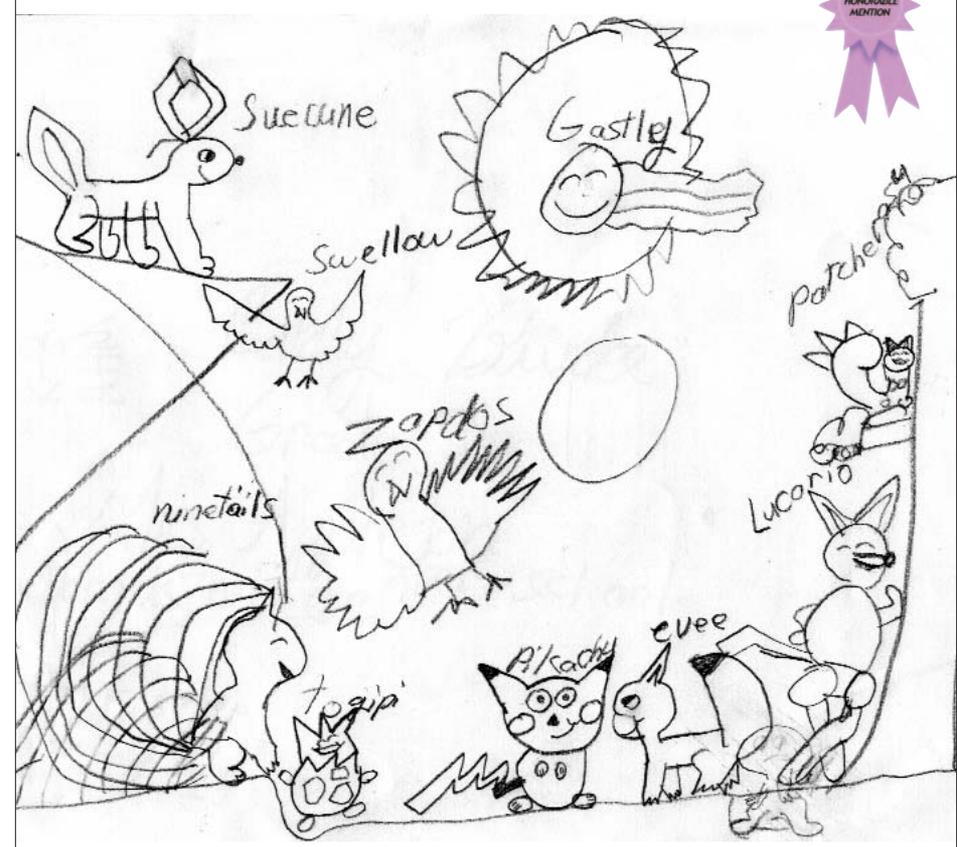
I think that the best pet would be a dog. You would have to walk it, feed it, wash it and clean it, but despite all the work, there's a cute, cuddly dog that you have to love.

Even when it's freezing cold out you have to walk your dog. If you love your dog, you would walk it. Dogs are not as messy as cats because you don't have to clean a litter box. Most dogs are good around children. Dogs are kinder, cuter than cats and more loveable.

STUDENT ESSAY
Victoria Lemire, Grade 3,
Memorial Elementary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Erika Holm, Grade 6,
Gardner Middle School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Carly Burke, Grade 3,
Hubbardston Center School



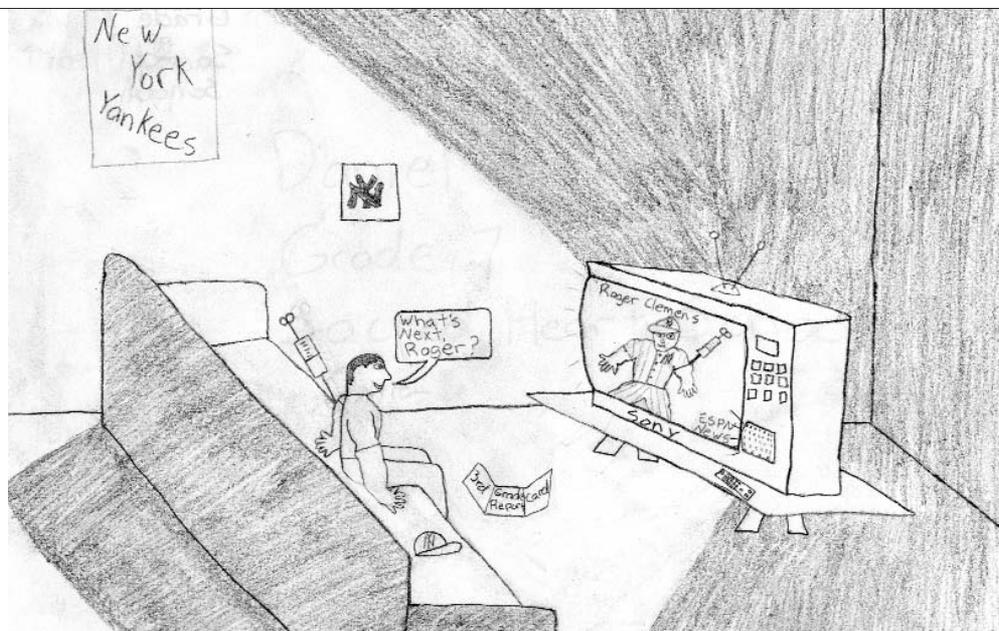
STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Emma Nelsen, Grade 3
East Templeton Elementary School



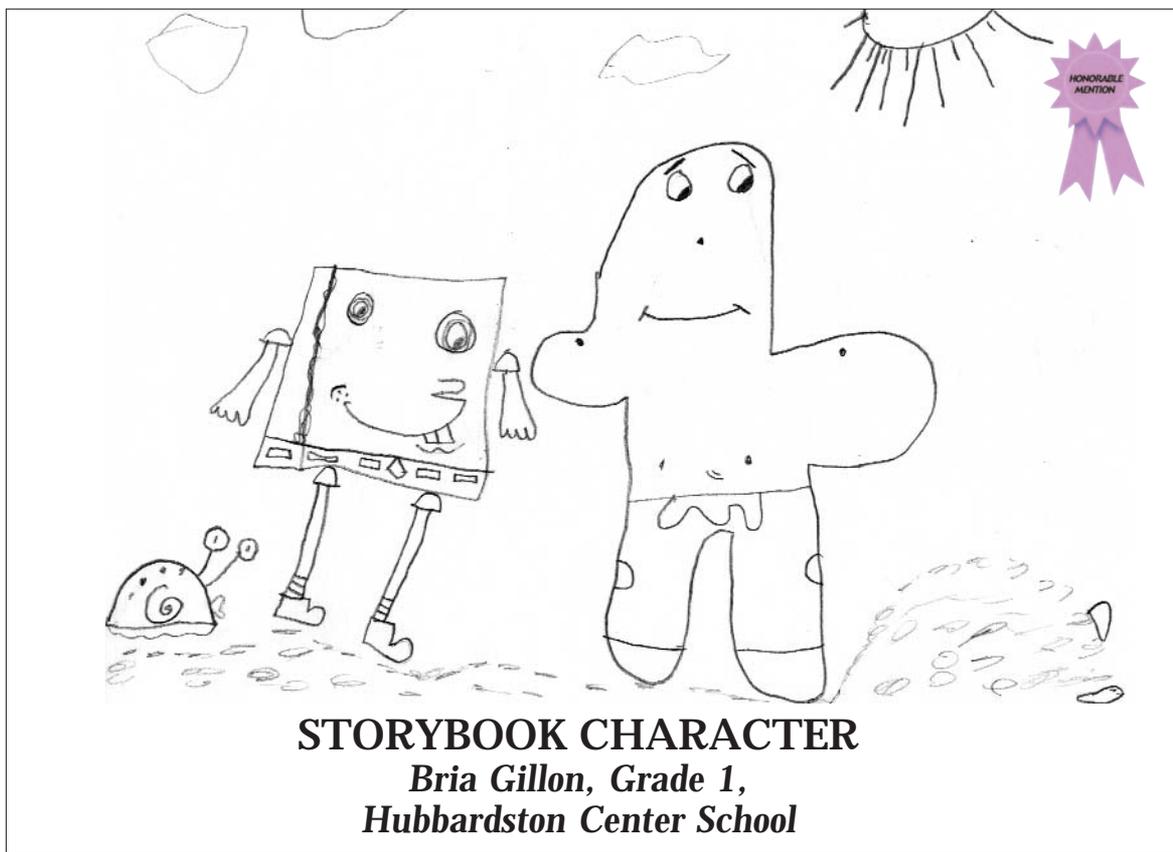
STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Isabell Thompson, Grade 3,
East Templeton Elementary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Edenmarie Shaveet, Grade 4,
Hubbardston Center School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Daniel Romero, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Bria Gillon, Grade 1,
Hubbardston Center School



News photo by STEVE NYBERG



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Josh Morris, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School

How do you think the U.S. should proceed in Iraq?



Lately I'm sure you have heard a lot about the war in Iraq. Our government is borrowing money to pay for this "war." All we are doing is adding to our \$9 trillion dollar debt. So far since this has started there have been more than 3,000 soldiers killed. What is the real reason that our troops are still there and why won't President Bush let them come home?

Our country is more than \$9 trillion dollars in debt. Why should we add to that by spending money for this war and we aren't even accomplishing what we originally went there for, which was to capture Osama Bin Laden. Yeah, we captured Saddam Hussein and killed him but by now Osama Bin Laden has most likely fled to another country! If we were accomplishing what we went to war with Iraq for originally, then I would understand why we have to spend so much. Hopefully the right president gets into office and feels the same about bringing the troops home. Personally, I think it is a waste of our money.

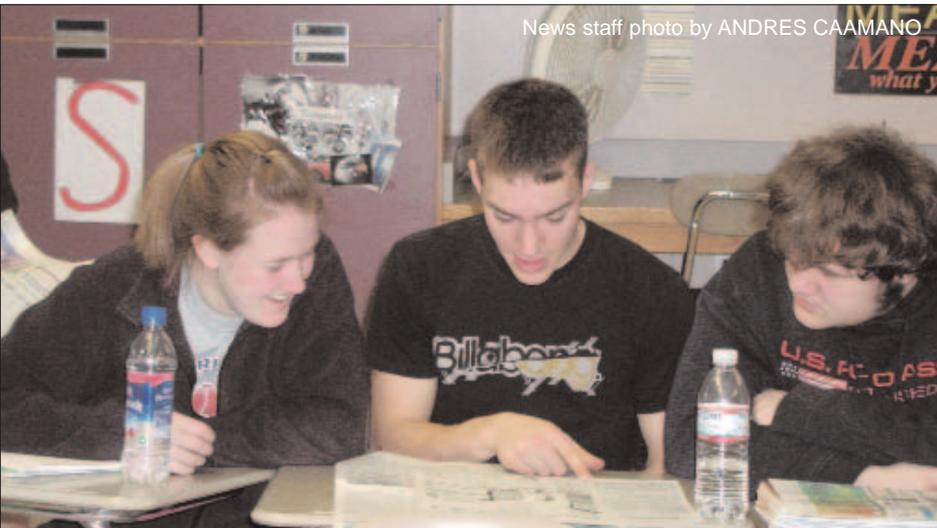
By March 12, 2008, we have had 3,967 soldiers lose their lives. I don't think that it is very fair that people have had someone come to their door to tell them that their son or daughter or close friend has been killed in combat. The longer that we stay in Iraq the more people we are going to lose.

What is the actual reason for keeping our troops there? I've heard from so many people that we're staying now because there's an oil field that we need oil from. Why should we have to stay at war for their oil? This war started off as us going to fight because of what they did to hurt this country on Sept. 11. We started this war five years ago. To me it seems as though the reason why we went to Iraq is completely in the back of everyone's minds. Ever since we started fighting we have had problems with more countries, with no intention of trying. We wanted to make peace for the Iraqi people and to capture Osama and Saddam. Now Iraq has even more problems then they started off with! I don't understand why the government would say that we are there for a good reason when everybody knows it's not true.

The war in Iraq is a very complicated thing. It's so hard to believe what's going on and what is actually going to happen with us. I'm just a regular 15-year-old girl who's trying to put things together. This war is like a giant puzzle that's never going to end. We will lose people, we will be even more in debt than we started off and apparently it's hard for people to tell the truth too. And even when things seem like they fit together, there's always going to be that one piece that messes it up. I want this war to be over. I want to stop worrying about what's going to happen to this country when I'm older. But for now, I guess we just have to take what we see into consideration.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Jaime Bailey, Grade 10,
Murdock Middle High School*



News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO

How do you think the U.S. should proceed in Iraq?



I personally believe that religion should not be important in the 2008 Presidential Primaries. However, it has influenced people's voting despite the Bill of Rights' guarantee of freedom of religion.

Questions have come up about Sen. Obama's connections to Islam. His stepfather was Muslim and he received an early education with his father. Although Sen. Obama claims he is Christian, his political opponents point to his background to worry voters.

Former Gov. Mitt Romney was questioned constantly about being Mormon. This is possibly the reason why he did not receive as many votes.

Former Gov. Mike Huckabee relied in part on being a Baptist minister in order to get more votes from religious people. However, that scared off some people who are not as religious.

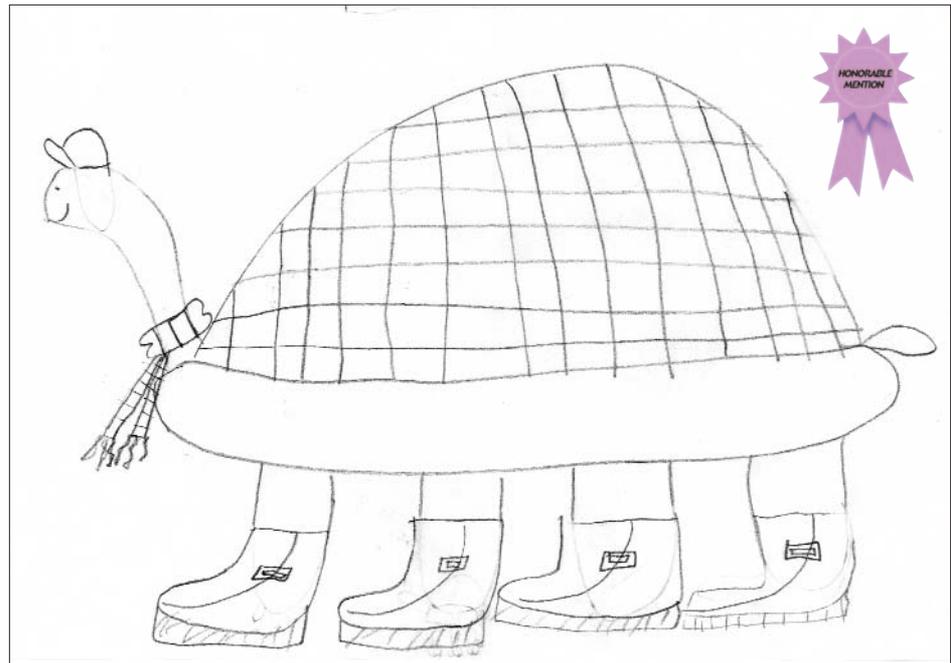
Although religion has played an important part in the primaries, I believe it should not. You should not judge a person by their race, religion, or gender. None of these can tell you if someone is good and just or if they will be a good president.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Deryn Susman, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
*Natasha Crampa, Grade 6,
Holy Rosary School*



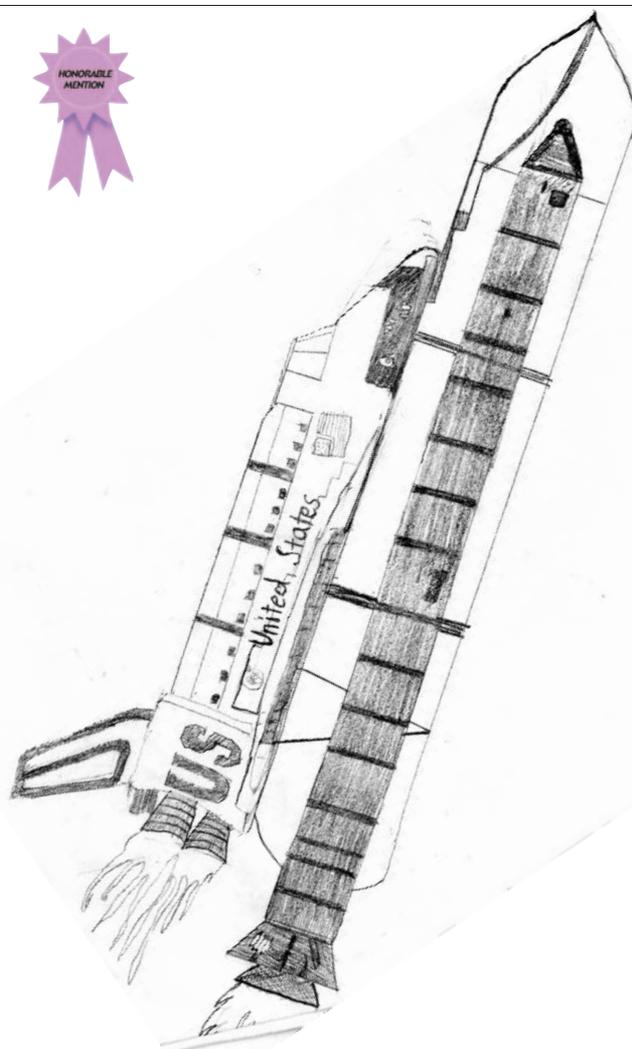
STORYBOOK CHARACTER
*Arianna Sargent, Grade 1,
Waterford Street School*



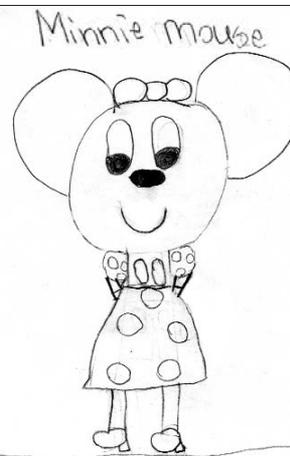
FEATURE PHOTO
*Chloe Gendron, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School*



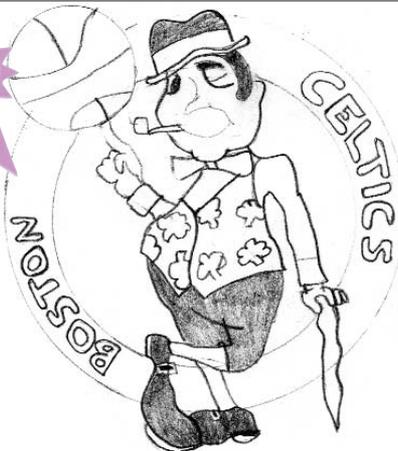
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Annie Perreault, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Jake Dewey, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Leah Williams, Grade 2,
Templeton Center School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Shane MacFee, Grade 9,
Narragansett Regional High School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Laura O'Neill, Grade 6,
Holy Rosary School

What makes the best pet?



I'm getting a new pet, and I would like you to know about her. Yes, she's a girl, but she was probably the best one there. I bet you're wondering where I got her. Well I got her at someone's house and don't ask what their address is because I have no idea. I think a dog is a great pet because they are popular. They obey and do tricks.

My dog is a girl, yah! You already know that, but look at the title "My New Pet" so I'm just telling you about it. My dog is a Weimeriener. My dog's dad is a champion. That's why I'm going to train my dog really well.

My dog looks brownish-grayish. She has short hair with blue eyes. Her name is Summit. The weird thing is she might be afraid of heights.

She is a good dog because she likes to walk around. She's so cute. I mean she's really cute. I was so excited when I finally got her. She is great!

STUDENT ESSAY
Gabe Labombard, Grade 3,
Hubbardston Center School

How would you aim to eliminate homelessness?



If I were to help end homelessness, I would ask to make more buildings or houses for them. This is mostly for their safety and protection. I truly believe that we can help these people by helping and loving them. Come on people, this is reality. How would you like it if you lost all you had and no one cared about you? If we can love these people and care for them, they will think of us as the only ones who actually care about them. You don't have to like them to help them. They need your help. If we leave these people out there, they will either starve or die. Give all you can to make these people feel loved even if all you can give is a bag of food each week. I think these people want very much to feel "alive." How would you feel if you were all alone in an empty world with no one to even think about you? I look at the hearts of these empty people. We should at least give food to them or have a warm place for them to sleep every night. We should especially care for these poor little children that have lost homes, have no parents or don't even know where to go for help. Please help these unloved, poor, starved, or even dying people. We need your help. If you can help, please don't hesitate to let these people have a chance.

STUDENT ESSAY
Sara McDonald, Grade 6,
The Master's Christian Academy

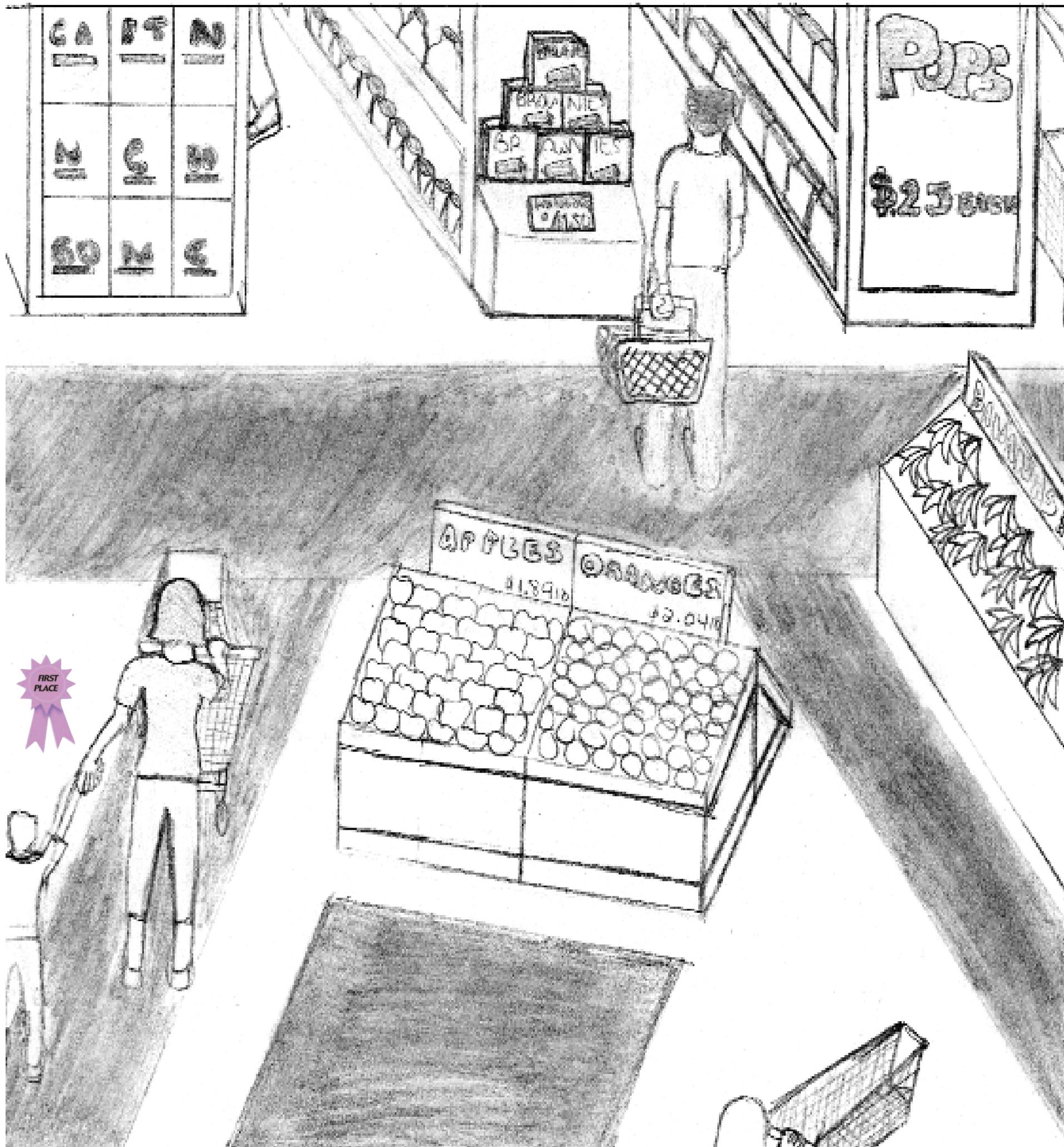


EDITORIAL CARTOON
Jordan Richard, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School

How do you think residents should perceive the turning off of most of the streetlights in Winchendon, based on trying to stay within the limits of its budget?

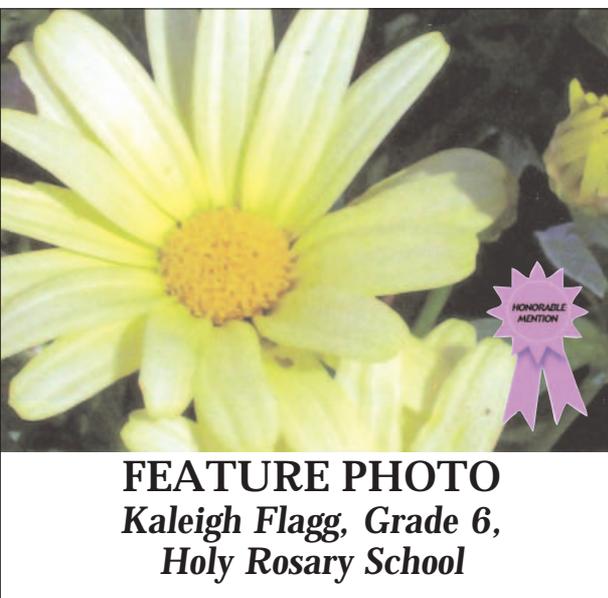
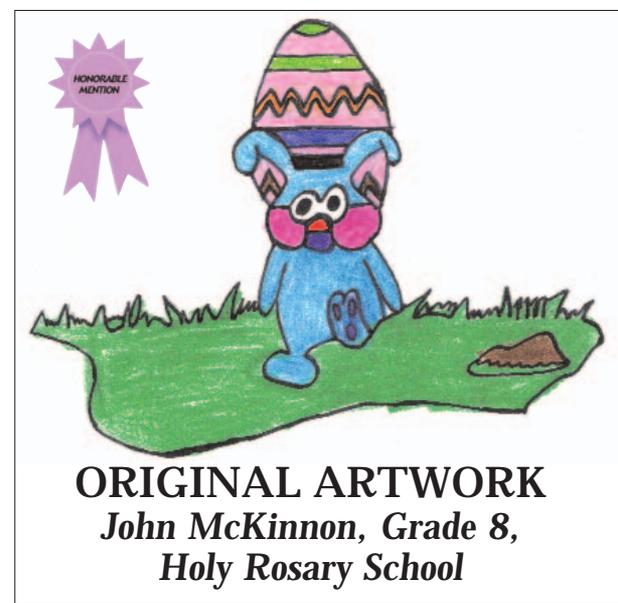


EDITORIAL CARTOON
Gabby Surette, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School



Route 202 • Rindge, NH
603-899-2110

DESIGN-AN-AD
Joshua Nguyen, Grade 5,
Elm Street Elementary School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Katie Fortier, Grade 10,
Oakmont Regional High School

