

2009 SUPPLEMENT

WIVE



32 local schools participated this year!

133 students recognized in all!



NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

Friday, March 27, 2009

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



# Teachers of NIE winners

 <b>Mandy Flis</b> Narragansett Regional High School 8 winners p8a, Stancombe; p13a, MacFee; p16a, MacFee; p18a, Connors; p23a, Twohey; p25a, Favreau; p28a, Drury; p28a, Vazdak.	 <b>William Marsh</b> Holy Rosary School 7 winners p11a, Nicholson; p14a, Goguen; p14a, Alger III; p22a, Lucas; p26a, DeMalia; p27a, Leger; p28a, Gallant.	 <b>Janet Dupuis</b> Narragansett Middle School 7 winners p7a, Campbell; p9a, Farrell; p16a, Dowse; p18a, Gilman; p18a, Reid; p18a, Regan; p19a, LaJoie.	 <b>Henry Richard</b> Gardner High School 6 winners p6a, Cormier; p7a, Bacigalupo; p10a, Butler; p11a, Sicard; p17a, Palma; p19a, Niell.	 <b>Allen Dernalowicz</b> Gardner Middle School 6 winners p5a, Bushee; p6a, Herrera; p12a, Rodriguez; p19a, Scott; p26a, Dorais; p28a, Renaud.	 <b>Mark Kobel</b> Gardner High School 5 winners p5a, Minns; p10a, Santana; p12a, Craft; p26a, Courtney; p27a, Marshall.	 <b>Linda Ganson</b> Mahar Regional School 5 winners p6a, A.McHale; p7a, Coffin; p18a, Reed; p23a, S.McHale; p27a, Robichaud.	 <b>Patricia Feeley</b> Sacred Heart School 4 winners p9a, Romero; p17a, Romero; p22a, Carrier; p24a, Harasimowicz.	 <b>Joyce LaBonte</b> Holy Rosary School 3 winners p6a, Johnson; p20a, Cregg; p21a, Nicholson.	 <b>Sue Lauer</b> Holy Rosary School 3 winners p15a, Bonneau; p21a, J.O'Neill; p22a, J.O'Neill.	 <b>Donna Carrier</b> Sacred Heart School 3 winners p17a, Gallant; p20a, Gallant; p25a, Webb.	 <b>Greg Barry</b> Oakmont Reg. High School 3 winners p14a, Ruble; p20a, Daigle; p21a, Farrell.	 <b>Brian Beaudoin</b> Overlook Middle School 3 winners p7a, Reed; p13a, Dewey; p21a, Gorrell.	 <b>Kirstie Spring</b> The Master's Christian Acad. 3 winners p21a, Moore; p22a, Kajjala; p26a, Johnson.	 <b>Stephanie Rondeau</b> Murdock Middle High School 3 winners p10a, Huff; p11a, Bresnahan; p17a, Clinkscale.	 <b>Brian Snell</b> Royalston Community Sch. 3 winners p15a, Chase; p28a, Fortwengler; p28a, Sanderson.	 <b>Dan Starr</b> Montachusett Reg. Vocational 3 winners p8a, Poma; p14, Wiitala; p18, Wilbur.	 <b>Jane Appleton</b> Hubbardston Center School 3 winners p9a, Perez; p10a, Bush; p25a, Hill.	 <b>Donna Bresnahan</b> Holy Rosary School 2 winners p14a, Wong; p24a, Mackinnon.	 <b>Barbara Wade</b> Holy Rosary School 2 winners p20a, Ambrosy; p27a, S.Frushell.	 <b>William Hulette</b> Holy Rosary School 2 winners p9a, P.Frushell; p22a, L.O'Neill.	 <b>Susan Guartafierro</b> Sacred Heart School 2 winners p8a, Croes; p13a, White.	 <b>Jan Gleason</b> Sacred Heart School 2 winners p9a, Thornton; p15, Vachon.	 <b>Jean DeMeo</b> Elm Street School 2 winners p6a, Oberg; p16a, Jaillet.	 <b>Robert Myette</b> Westminster Elementary Sch. 2 winners p12a, Girard; p28a, Sugar.	 <b>Ruth Suyenaga</b> Helen Mae Sauter School 2 winners p16a, Fluet; p26a, Davis.	 <b>Heather Boylan</b> Helen Mae Sauter School 2 winners p20a, Holsington; p26, Quick.	 <b>Suzanne Walker</b> Phillipston Memorial Elem. 2 winners p12a, Perkins; p26a, Jordan.						
 <b>Morgan Watkins</b> Quabbin Reg. High School 2 winners p5a, Colorio; p15a, Hanson.	 <b>Nancy Barrieau</b> Holy Rosary School 1 winner p25a, Boudreau.	 <b>Lisa Arsenault</b> Holy Rosary School 1 winner p28a, Richard.	 <b>Mary Beth Sekurski</b> Holy Rosary School 1 winner p17a, LeBlanc.	 <b>Kim Brillon</b> Sacred Heart School 1 winner p20a, Neveu.	 <b>Elizabeth Paradis</b> Sacred Heart School 1 winner p5a, Colcord.	 <b>Stephanie Scherr</b> Narragansett Regional High 1 winner p26a, Soar.	 <b>Lisa Parker</b> Narragansett Middle School 1 winner p10a, Schober.	 <b>Ann Marie Ouellet</b> Elm Street School 1 winner p6a, Lore.	 <b>Sharon Kerr</b> Elm Street School 1 winner p18a, Malboeuf.	 <b>Kerry Bettez</b> Elm Street School 1 winner p23a, Hall.	 <b>Theresa Barry</b> Oakmont Reg. High School 1 winner p23a, Gardner.	 <b>Mark Nevard</b> Oakmont Reg. High School 1 winner p7a, Falconer.	 <b>Eric Sifert</b> Westminster Elementary Sch. 1 winner p19a, Schlier.	 <b>Mike Fitzgerald</b> Westminster Elementary Sch. 1 winner p14a, Bartkus.	 <b>Corinne Ruggiero</b> Cottage Hill Academy 1 winner p25a, Amber B.	 <b>Hope Rideout</b> Cottage Hill Academy 1 winner p13a, Sam D.	 <b>Nancy Harrington</b> Cottage Hill Academy 1 winner p27a, Nicole Di.	 <b>Kathie Moody</b> Phillipston Memorial 1 winner p12a, Geyster.	 <b>Lynne LaRoche</b> J.R. Briggs Elementary 1 winner p13a, Rameau.	 <b>Linda Jengo</b> J.R. Briggs Elementary 1 winner p12a, Scarborough.	 <b>Gita Haddad</b> Hubbardston Center School 1 winner p28a, Shaveet.	 <b>Kerry Bart-Raber</b> Hubbardston Center School 1 winner p5a, Wheeler.	 <b>Tom Telicki</b> Athol High School 1 winner p24a, Kingsley.	 <b>Ottar Draugsvold</b> The Winchendon School 1 winner p25a, Yu.	 <b>Julie Waskiewicz</b> Templeton Center School 1 winner p26a, Drozdowski.	 <b>Ruth Suyenaga</b> Waterford Elementary Sch. 1 winner px27a, Kennedy.	 <b>Kathy Carruth</b> East Templeton Elem. School 1 winner p27a, Robichaud.	 <b>Jean Twohey</b> Baldwinville Elem. School 1 winner p27a, Roy.	 <b>Charlotte Moran</b> Meetinghouse Elem. School 1 winner p27a, Ghilardi.	 <b>Jamie Furr</b> First Year's Academy 1 winner p26a, Swenson.	 <b>Rhonda Robichaud</b> Memorial Elem. School 1 winner p27a, Souza.	 <b>Dena Hengst</b> Quabbin Reg. Middle School 1 winner p23a, Taylor.	 <b>Lynn Murray</b> Toy Town Elementary Sch. 1 winner p13a, Eyles.

**Cover photos:**  
(starting from upper left, left to right):  
Desiree Richard-Everett reads the newspaper in Alan Dernalowicz's class at Gardner Middle School last week; Sarah Bairos, left, Sarah Furrell, rear, and Danny Rodriguez each look over the day's paper in Valerie Spar's class at Narragansett Regional High School in Baldwinville last week; Emily Parmenter glances over the newspaper in Claire Karge's class at Waterford Elementary School in Gardner last week; Oakmont Regional High School student Stephen Reilly reads the newspaper last week in Mark Nevard's class; Gardner Middle School student Ryan Oglivie takes a closer look at the front page last week in Alan Dernalowicz's class; Narragansett Regional High School student Brittany Stewart sits with her paper last week in Valerie Spar's class; Theodore Baptiste, left, and Anthony Haimila, right, sit with their papers in Claire Karge's class at Waterford Elementary last week; Oakmont student Jeremy Wood-Gilbert sits in the front of Mark Nevard's class with his paper; Erick Lafferty scans the paper in Mark Nevard's class at Oakmont last week; Waterford students Marcus Lawrence, left, Tyler Sprague, center, and Alexis McGivern, right, scan the newspaper last week in Claire Karge's class.  
All news staff photos by ANDRES CAAMANO

## Other participating teachers

<b>Cottage Hill Academy</b> Kathleen Williams Susan Zink	<b>Holy Rosary School</b> Maureen Sandos	<b>Steve LaFountain</b> Charles Crook Jennifer McNamara Michelle Smith	<b>Toy Town Elementary School</b> Allison Graichen
<b>East Templeton Elementary School</b> Lauren Ethier Danielle Lynch	<b>Hubbardston Center Street School</b> Eileen Bohigan Barbara Dietrich Kim Doyle Jan St. Jean Tricia Anderson Sue LaRose Tracey MacDonald Shannon Ortolino Jen Churchill Chris Carlson	<b>Quabbin Regional High School</b> Sean DuBois Linda Spencer	<b>Waterford Elementary School</b> Claire Karge Mary Burpee
<b>Elm Street School</b> Donna Murphy Ian Flaherty	<b>J.R. Briggs Elementary School</b> Barbara Slattery Cynthia Whittington	<b>Ralph C. Mahar Regional School</b> Nina Belanger Ellen Softic	<b>Westminster Elementary</b> Susan Alario Nancy Morgan
<b>First Year's Academy</b> Julie Roberts	<b>Murdock High School</b> Mike Fontaine	<b>Royalston Community School</b> Cindy Stimson	
<b>Gardner High School</b> Elizabeth McGann	<b>Narragansett Middle School</b> Angela Everhart	<b>Sacred Heart School</b> Tracy Salem	News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO
<b>Gardner Middle School</b> Lori Sweet Deborah Fairbanks		<b>Templeton Center School</b> Kathie Huhtala	
<b>Helen Mae Sauter School</b> Heather Michaud		<b>The Master's Christian Academy</b> Karen Casker	

Dear readers,

For a fifth 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 four years, there has been an increased recognition from middle and high schools in the Greater Gardner area.

Three years ago was the first year where there was any high school participation in the supplement, as Gardner High School participated in the Feature Photo contest, which was added to five other contests in that year's supplement. This year, students from Gardner High, along with Oakmont Regional High School, Murdock Middle High School, Quabbin Regional High School and Mahar Regional School participated, along with 27 other schools this year — 32 in all.

By turning page after page of this supplement, you will see the writing, drawing and photographic talents of many talented young people in Greater Gardner. As the *Newspaper In Education* program at *The Gardner News* grows, to where more than 1,000 students each week during the school year benefit, it becomes ever more apparent that our area schools are filled with exceptional young minds ready to lead us into tomorrow.

This year's winners and honorable mentions were, as usual, difficult to judge. All of the students should be commended for a job well done. A special thank you goes out to **every single** teacher and administrator, of which there were 105 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 has a submission in this supplement, but also of each and every one of their corresponding teachers that submitted an entry to *The Gardner News* for this supplement. This is just a glimpse at what is possible when newspapers are used in the classroom, of which there have been 54 teachers thus far who have utilized *The Gardner News* this year.

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

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

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

Once again, congratulations to each of our 133 winners and a hearty thank you to everyone who participated in *The Gardner News 2009 Newspaper In Education Supplement*.

Sincerely,



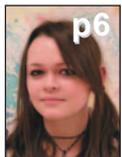
Andrés Caamaño  
NIE Coordinator

# NIE Contest Winners

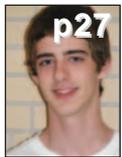
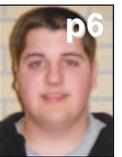
## First Place

 p6 Tony Lore Elm Street Elementary Original Artwork K-3	 p7 Taylor Reed Overlook Middle School Original Artwork 4-6	 p13 Emily Dewey Overlook Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 p5 Anthony Colorio Quabbin Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p8 Mark Croes Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p9 Daniel Romero Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p8 Kelvyn Poma Montachusett Reg. Vocational Editorial Cartoon 10-12	 p10 Jordan Bush Hubbardston Center School Student Essay K-3	 p10 Saffron Schober Narragansett Middle School Student Essay 4-6	 p10 Sarah Huff Murdock Middle High School Student Essay 7-9
 p7 Emily Falconer Oakmont Regional High School Student Essay 10-12	 p6 Alexander Johnson Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6	 p5 Koral Bush Gardner Middle School Feature Photo 7-9	 p5 Emily Minns Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12	 p13 Abbi Rameau J.R. Briggs Elementary Storybook Character K-1	 p6 Alina Oberg Elm Street Elementary Storybook Character 2-3	 p5 Andrew Colcord Sacred Heart School Design-An-Ad K-3	 p5 Hayden Wheeler Hubbardston Center School Design-An-Ad 4-6	 p7 Hannah Campbell Narragansett Middle School Design-An-Ad 7-9	 p11 Zachary Sicard Gardner High School Design-An-Ad 10-12

## Second Place

 p9 Kya Perez Hubbardston Center School Original Artwork K-3	 p18 Paytan Malboeuf Elm Street Elementary Original Artwork 4-6	 p13 Sam D. Cottage Hill Academy Original Artwork 7-9	 p6 Amber McHale Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 10-12	 p19 Abigail Schlier Westminster Elementary Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p19 Nicholas Scott Gardner Middle School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p16 Lauren MacFee Narragansett Regional High School Editorial Cartoon 10-12	 p12 Jacob Geyster Phillipston Memorial School Student Essay K-3	 p12 Jessi Girard Westminster Elementary Student Essay 4-6	 p19 Michael Nicholson Holy Rosary School Student Essay 7-9
 p11 Jordan Bresnahan Murdock Middle High School Student Essay 10-12	 p14 K.C. Bartkus Westminster Elementary Feature Photo 4-6	 p9 Peter Frushell Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p14 Chris Ruble Oakmont Regional High School Feature Photo 10-12	 p12 Rose Perkins Phillipston Memorial School Storybook Character K-1	 p12 Olivia Scaborough J.R. Briggs Elementary Storybook Character 2-3	 p28 Brianna Richard Holy Rosary School Design-An-Ad 4-6	 p12 Elba Rodriguez Gardner Middle School Design-An-Ad 7-9	 p7 Corey Bacigalupo Gardner High School Design-An-Ad 10-12	

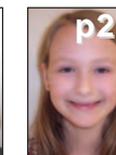
## Third Place

 p16 Danielle Jailet Elm Street Elementary Original Artwork K-3	 p20 Rachel Ambrosy Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6	 p21 Jennie O'Neill Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9	 p15 Samantha Hanson Quabbin Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p21 Jaclyn Nicholson Holy Rosary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p22 Meredith Carrier Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p25 Amber B. Cottage Hill Academy Editorial Cartoon 10-12	 p20 Max Hosington Helen Mae Sauter School Student Essay K-3	 p21 Melissa Moore The Master's Christian Acad. Student Essay 4-6	 p17 Peter Gallant Sacred Heart School Student Essay 7-9
 p17 Cayla Clinkscale Murdock Middle High School Student Essay 10-12	 p15 Tobey Chase Royalston Community Sch. Feature Photo 4-6	 p15 Matt Bonneau Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p27 Jonathan Marshall Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12	 p20 Kalin Neveu Sacred Heart School Storybook Character K-1	 p16 Emily Fluet Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 p28 Chelsea Sanderson Royalston Community Sch. Design-An-Ad 4-6	 p6 Josh Herrera Gardner Middle School Design-An-Ad 7-9	 p6 Colby Cormier Gardner High School Design-An-Ad 10-12	

Turn to next page for  
Honorable mentions

# NIE Contest Winners

## Honorable Mentions

 p27 Zachary Roy Baldwinville Elementary Sch. Original Artwork K-3	 p27 Macy Ghilardi Meetinghouse Elementary Original Artwork K-3	 p27 Camryn Souza Memorial Elementary Sch. Original Artwork K-3	 p26 Melissa Swenson First Year's Academy Original Artwork 4-6	 p28 Eden Shaveet Hubbardston Center School Original Artwork 4-6	 p26 Holly Johnson The Master's Christian Acad. Original Artwork 4-6	 p28 Clarisse Sugar Westminster Elementary Sch. Original Artwork 4-6	 p15 Curtis Vachon Sacred Heart School Original Artwork 4-6	 p25 Natasha Boudreau Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6	 p20 Erin Cregg Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6	 p14 Brody Goguen Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9	 p21 Dakodah Gorrell Overlook Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 p27 Dylan Robichaud Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 7-9	 p18 Zachary Connors Narragansett Regional High Original Artwork 7-9
 p26 Cameo Dorais Gardner Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 p23 Derek Taylor Quabbin Reg. Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 p22 Laura O'Neill Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9	 p14 Ronnie Alger III Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9	 p18 Alana Reed Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 10-12	 p23 Sean McHale Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 10-12	 p7 Abigail Coffin Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 10-12	 p21 Erin Farrell Oakmont Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p23 Keri Gardner Oakmont Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p20 Amanda Daigle Oakmont Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p27 Nicole Di. Collage Hill Academy Original Artwork 10-12	 p14 Alan Wong Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6	 p27 Sophie Frushell Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6	 p28 Candice Renaud Gardner Middle School Feature Photo 7-9
 p26 Maria DeMalia Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p28 Kayla Drury Narragansett Regional High Feature Photo 7-9	 p27 Tommy Leger Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p28 Abbie Vadzak Narragansett Regional High Feature Photo 7-9	 p28 Katlyn Gallant Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p26 Danielle Soar Narragansett Regional High Feature Photo 10-12	 p14 Melissa Wiitala Montachusett Reg. Vocational Feature Photo 10-12	 p18 Matt Wilbur Montachusett Reg. Vocational Feature Photo 10-12	 p26 Kayla Courtney Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12	 p26 Emily Jordan Phillipston Memorial School Storybook Character K-1	 p26 Cameron Davis Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 p26 Sara Drozdowski Templeton Center School Storybook Character 2-3	 p26 Kyle Quick Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 p27 Sadie Kennedy Waterford Elementary Sch. Storybook Character 2-3
 p27 Owen Robichaud East Templeton Elementary Storybook Character 2-3	 p13 Courtney White Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p28 Skyler Fortwengler Royalston Community Sch. Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p25 Anthony Webb Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p24 Jack Harasimowicz Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p25 Tiffany Favreau Narragansett Regional High Editorial Cartoon 10-12	 p23 Andrew Hall Elm Street Elementary Student Essay K-3	 p25 Gia Hill Hubbardston Center School Student Essay K-3	 p17 Avery LeBlanc Holy Rosary School Student Essay K-3	 p24 Alyssa Mackinnon Holy Rosary School Student Essay 4-6	 p22 Joel Kajjala The Master's Christian Acad. Student Essay 4-6	 p22 Nathan Lucas Holy Rosary School Student Essay 7-9	 p22 O'Neill Holy Rosary School Student Essay 7-9	 p23 Ryan Twohey Narragansett Regional High Student Essay 10-12



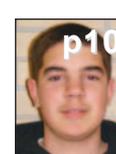
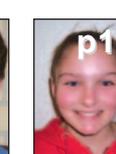
**Annie Kingsley**  
Athol High School  
Student Essay 10-12



**Zeying Yu**  
The Winchendon School  
Student Essay 10-12

**Congratulations to the 133 students that appear in the 2009 Newspapers in Education Supplement!**

## Other Design-An-Ad winners

 p20 Peter Gallant Sacred Heart School	 p17 Daniel Romero Sacred Heart School	 p9 Anna Thornton Sacred Heart School	 p13 Lauren MacFee Narragansett Regional High	 p8 Sam Stancombe Narragansett Regional High	 p9 Gaelin Farrell Narragansett Middle School
 p16 Brianna Dowse Narragansett Middle School	 p18 Miranda Gilman Narragansett Middle School	 p16 Keith Reid Narragansett Middle School	 p19 Nicole LaJoie Narragansett Middle School	 p18 Kelsey Regan Narragansett Middle School	 p10 Franklin Santana Gardner High School
 p10 Nathan Butler Gardner High School	 p8 Tyler Craft Gardner High School	 p17 Camilo Palma Gardner High School	 p19 David Niell Gardner High School	 p13 Taylor Eyles Toy Town Elementary	

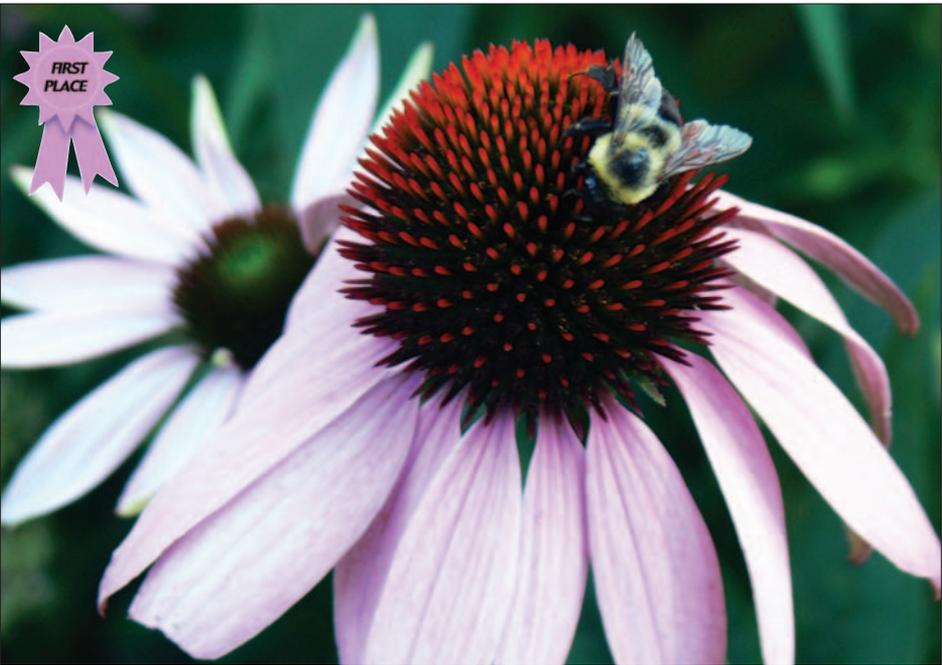


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FIRST PLACE

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Koral Bushee, Grade 8,  
Gardner Middle School



FIRST PLACE

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Emily Minns, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School



FIRST PLACE

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Anthony Colorio, Grade 12,  
Quabbin Regional High School



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Andrew Colcord, Grade 3,  
Sacred Heart School



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Hayden Wheeler, Grade 5,  
Hubbardston Center School



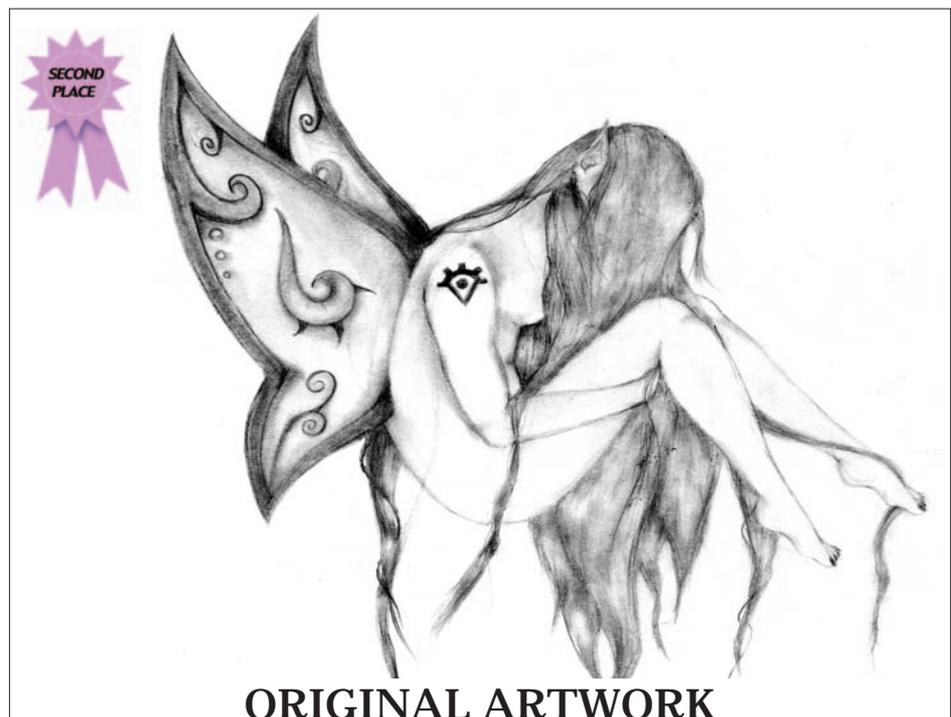
**FEATURE PHOTO**  
*Alexander Johnson, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School*



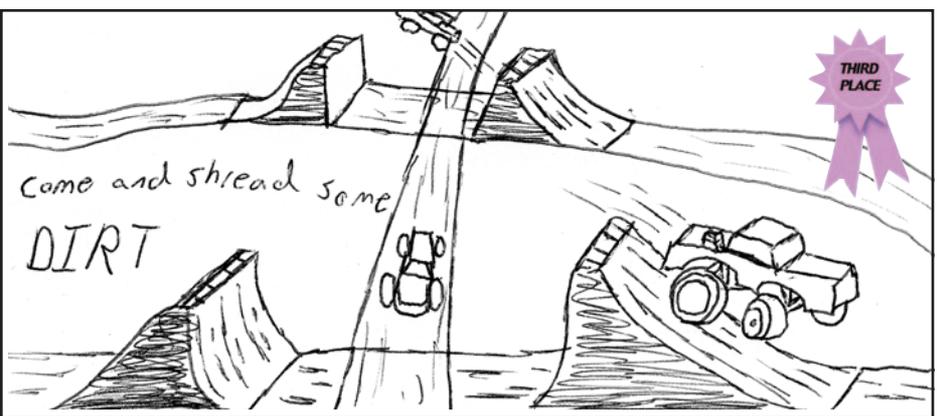
**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Tony Lore, Grade 3,  
Elm Street Elementary School*



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
*Alina Oberg, Grade 3,  
Elm Street School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Amber McHale, Grade 10,  
Mahar Regional School*



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Colby Cormier, Grade 11,  
Gardner High School*

Ma. Reg.  
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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Jose Herrera, Grade 8,  
Gardner Middle School*

# How much did young voters play a role in the past presidential election?



"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress." – Barack Obama

Progress in the participation of younger voters in the presidential election may have been the deciding factor that won Barack Obama the United States presidency. With 2.2 million more young voters turning out in 2008 than the estimated 20 million that turned out in 2004, the numbers say it all. It's true; traditionally the younger generation tends to favor one candidate, but what is it about the 2008 election that resulted in more informed voters under the age of 30?

Media and technology basically threw the contenders out in the open, allowing anyone who was willing to learn more about the issues at hand and each candidate's stand. With weekly skits chronicling the comical phrases of Sarah Palin and the size of Obama's ears on NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, all of America was well aware of who might be the future leaders of our country. Popular television stations like MTV broadcasted election facts and encouraged voting registration during commercial breaks. They even devoted programming time to broadcast live from presidential debates and dedicated portions of their website to coverage of the election.

Websites like Facebook, MySpace and YouTube advertised campaign footage and offered membership in support groups and political forums for young people to discuss their views. Barack Obama is on Twitter, a website that allows others to keep tabs on what members are doing, and supporters can start their own blog on his website. Obama understands how young people communicate and his use of the internet has peaked interest in some young people who in the past have been apathetic in the political world.

Young people came in droves to the polls to cast their vote for Barack Obama and this newfound voting trend is not a passing fad. Thanks to outlets like the media and internet, voters can actually become well-versed in the stances of their presidential candidates. If they use the resources available, young voters and even those who may be too young to vote, can help make the right decision now that could change our country for the better in the future.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Emily Falconer, Grade 12,*  
*Oakmont Regional High School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Taylor Reed, Grade 6,*  
*Overlook Middle School*



News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Abigail Coffin, Grade 10,*  
*Mahar Regional School*



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Hannah Campbell, Grade 7*  
*Narragansett Middle School*



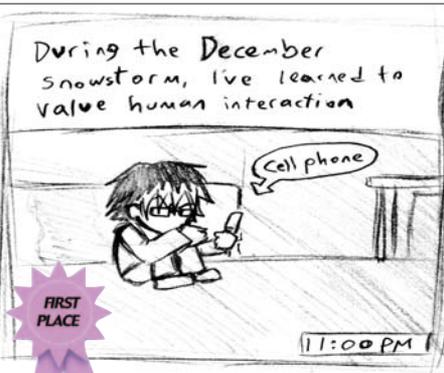
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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Corey Bacigalupo, Grade 10,*  
*Gardner High School*



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Mark Croes, Grade 6,**  
**Sacred Heart School**

*What choices will Americans have if the Big Three automakers fail and disappear?*

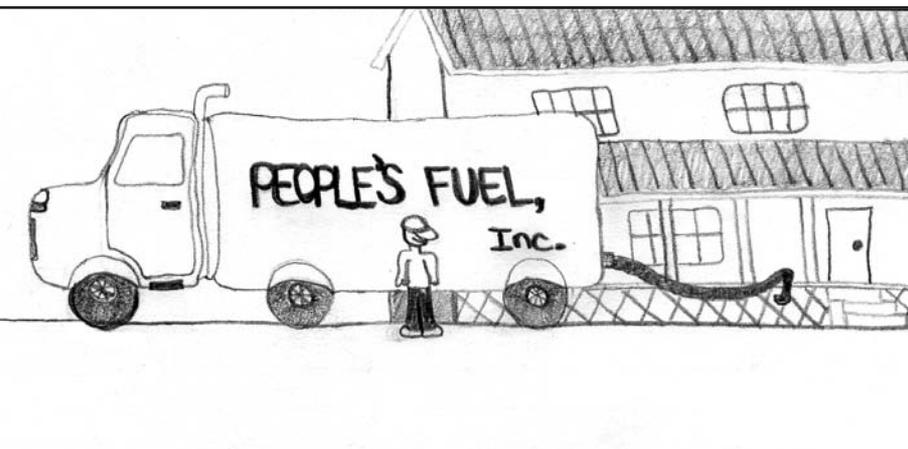


**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Kelvyn Poma, Grade 12,**  
**Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School**

*During the December ice storm, thousands in the region lost power. What did you learn during that time, without having the usual comforts that one is usually accustomed to?*

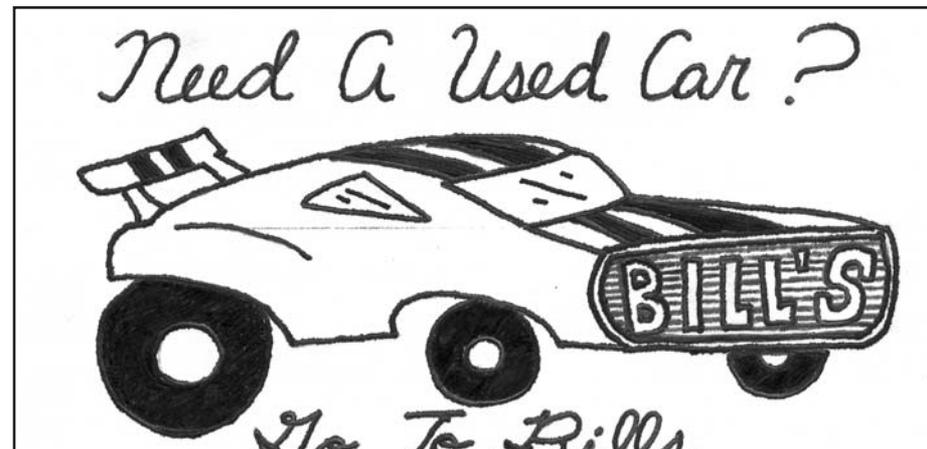


By Kelvyn Poma



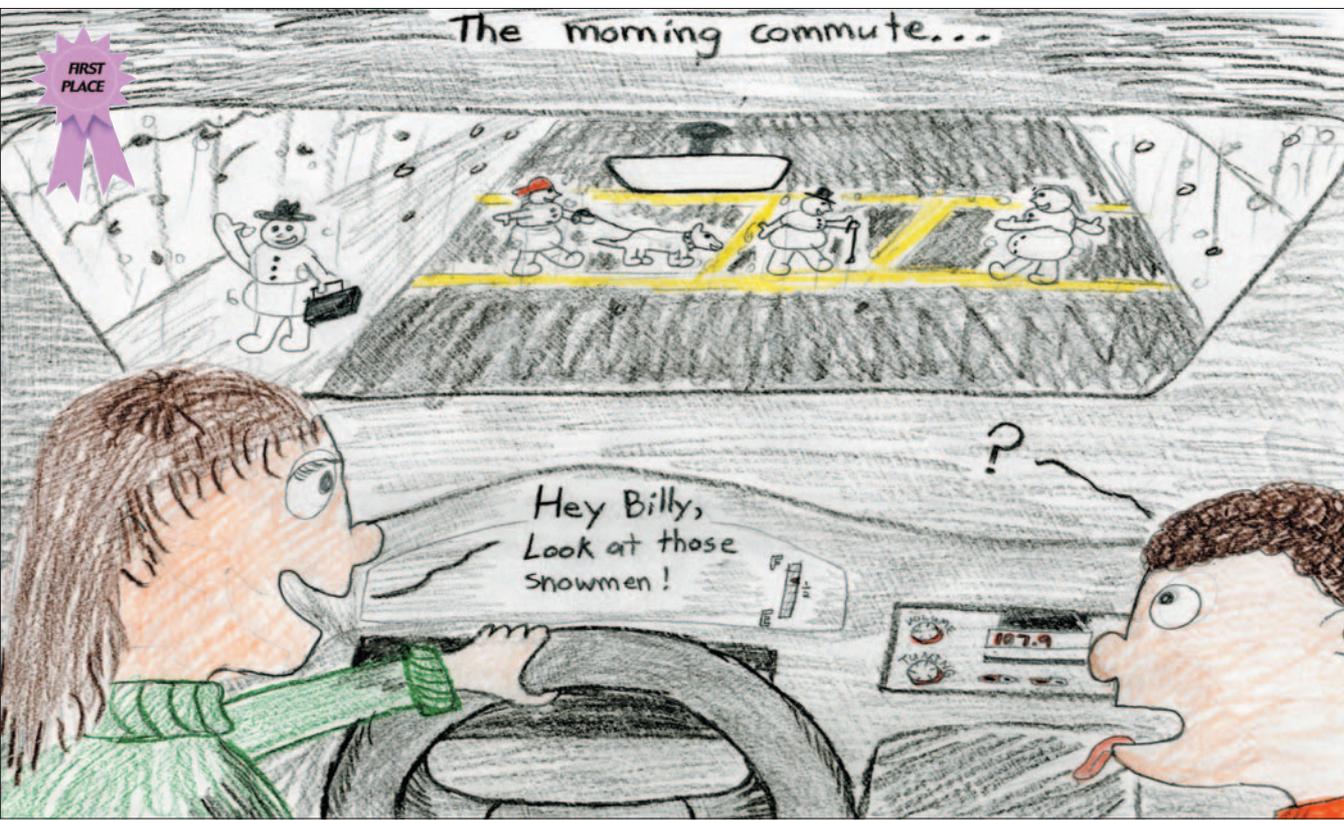
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FIRST PLACE

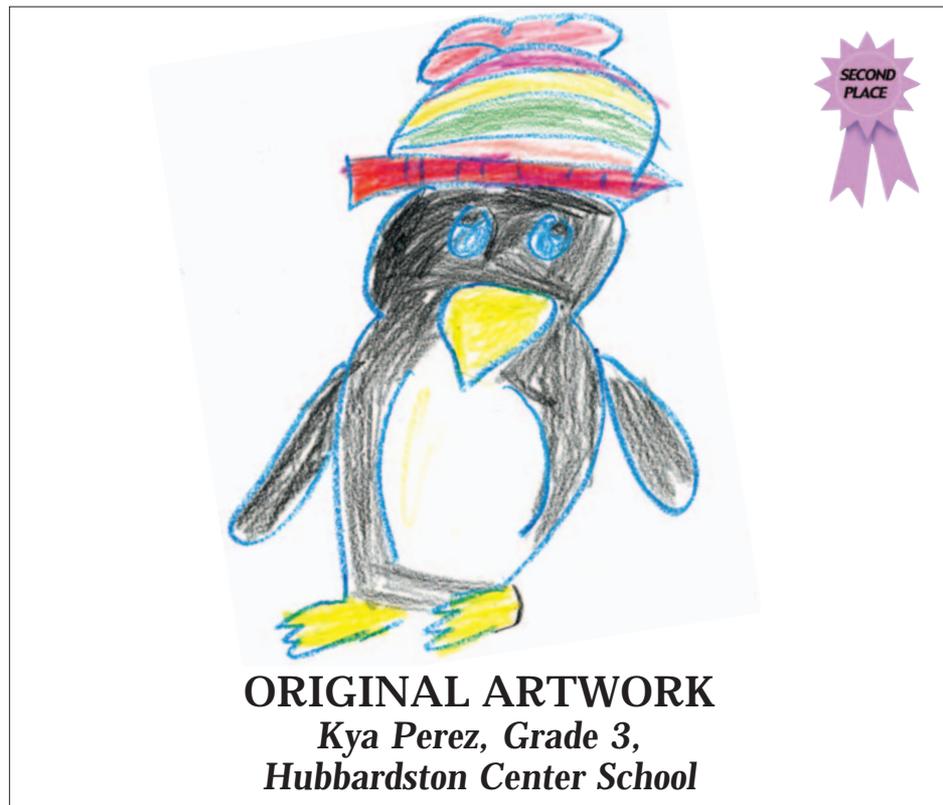
**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
 Daniel Romero, Grade 8,  
 Sacred Heart School

*What should cities and towns do to try to improve the cleaning of snow from sidewalks to keep pedestrians safe during the winter?*



SECOND PLACE

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
 Peter Frushell, Grade 7,  
 Holy Rosary School



SECOND PLACE

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
 Kya Perez, Grade 3,  
 Hubbardston Center School



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
 Gaelin Farrell, Grade 7,  
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## What is your favorite season, and why?



The best season of the year is definitely Fall. The colors of the leaves change to yellow, red, orange, green, brown, and all of them change from year to year. A tree that was on fire with orange and yellow one year will turn to the deepest red the next. Families gather the leaves up into huge piles, and the children quickly jump in.

But even better than the colors is the smell of fall. That earthy smell of rotting leaves mixed with the crispness of the approaching cold. Go into the forest and take a deep breath, and feel like a part of the earth as our ancestors did so long ago. The smell is intoxicating, drawing you deeper into the enchantment of the season. The golden leaves fall around you, making you believe in fairytales again.

Look around at the trees as they shed their vibrant garments for the year. Let the modern world go and retreat into child-like innocence. I swear you will feel as though you have been transported through space and time into another world, depending on how deep you've traveled into the woods. Breathe deeply as the magic surrounds you and you can taste the scent on your tongue.

The cooling of the season will pinch your cheeks, and nip at your nose, depending on how far along autumn is. Make sure to dress warmly or the bitter wind that will strip the trees of their coats will give you a pretty bad cold. Your cheeks will turn a rosy pink and your nose will feel cold.

At your feet the dry brown leaves will swirl in tiny twisters thanks to the wind, and you'll feel the charm of the season. The suns light will filter through the leaves in a pale, buttery yellow. Unable to warm, yet still very bright the sun will rise and set on the horizon, each setting bringing the world closer to the world of white frost and snow.

Then there are all the holidays of the season to bring even greater joy to people. Halloween: the time when small children dress up as princesses and ghosts and go from house to house gathering candy and treats. Adults dress up and are able to be someone else for a night, someone with no cares or worries. There's candy and indulgences and you do not have to be accountable to anyone.

Then there is my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Heaps of mashed potatoes are drowned in turkey gravy. Thick slices of turkey are piled on the plate, also smothered in gravy, corn, squash, celery sticks with cream cheese, and steamed baby carrots make up the vegetable portion. Then there's dessert. Pumpkin pie, chocolate banana cream, berry pies, chocolate cake, pudding, pudding cake, and pumpkin rolls are all the sweets anyone would ever need.

Winter is fine with its white purity, and crisp beauty. So is spring with its rich fragrance and new beginnings. Summer has nothing wrong with its warm heat, complete freedom, and laziness. But I would rather have fall, even though it means that school will return with its tedious schedules, and complete lack of freedom.

Even school isn't so bad. I get to see my friends more, and get a new wardrobe. I get new classes, sometimes new teachers. Of course, I still have to worry about things, things any sane person probably wouldn't even notice. But I do worry about them, and it all starts in the fall. But I still love the season the best.

The trees shed their lovely leaves, bringing the warm fragrance to sense of smell. The wind is bringing winter, but I care not as I jump in the pile of leaves and scream with my little brother and sister. My friends throw leaves in my hair, making it smell of earth, and I don't even want to wash it out, wanting to keep that smell.

There's a tree in the backyard near my window, and I love to watch the leaves turn. Not caring about the cold, I will usually open my window to inhale the perfect, earthy aroma. Then it passes, and I have to close the door to keep the winter cold out. My dad starts a fire in the fireplace, and my mom makes me warm tea. As the darkness descends around the house I sip my tea, sitting by the warm fire, and read a good book.

Another reason I love the season is that with the dying of the year, fall, I get to witness the birth of a new, in the winter. Christmas passes, then New Year's, and then it's my birthday. But soon winter passes again, then spring with its new life. Summer passes in long, hot, lazy days, and soon it's fall again.

I watch as the trees bring in different shades than the year previous. I walk in the woods as the leaves dance around my feet, and the breeze bites my face. I could stay there for hours. Finally, the apples are ripe, and I pick bushels of them with my family. The apples are still tart, and make your lips pucker, but they are too good to pass up.

My mom starts making apple cobbler and apple pie, and I have an apple every day. We roast apples on the fire, and eat them slowly, savoring the taste. The house is warm and outside the air is becoming chilled. We roast marshmallows and drink hot chocolate. These moments are fleeting, as I have said before, and soon frost makes its delicate designs on our windows. Autumn: the most beautiful of the four seasons.

### STUDENT ESSAY

**Sarah Huff, Grade 9,  
Murdock Middle High School**

## On the Pledge, should "Under God" be a part of it, and why or why not?



I don't believe that the words "under God" should be a part of the Pledge of Allegiance. Our country was founded partly to guarantee its citizens their freedom to believe whatever they wanted when it came to religion. This is called the "separation of church and state." Even our constitution doesn't mention God, except to say that not believing in God wouldn't disqualify you from holding public office.

The original Pledge was written in 1892 and didn't mention God at all. The original words were, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

It wasn't until 1954 that President Eisenhower made it a law to have the words "under God" added to the Pledge. He did this because at that time many Americans were afraid of Russian communism and most communists were Atheists, which meant they didn't believe in God.

The problem today is that the words "under God" mean a belief in one God and many Americans have different religions that believe in more than one God, like Buddhists. Also, many Americans are Atheists, but this doesn't mean that they are less patriotic than somebody who believes in God.

In conclusion, I think the Pledge of Allegiance should go back to its original version. It would make it more of a patriotic statement that shows people's support of the United States and not a public prayer, which is a violation of the separation of the church and state and freedom of speech.

### STUDENT ESSAY

**Saffron Schober, Grade 6,  
Narragansett Middle School**

## What makes the best pet?



I'm going to tell you a long story about my kittens, Blue and Cala. I got my kitten Cala at the beginning of 2008 and got my kitten Blue around the middle of 2008. That's why I was so happy during 2008.

One thing I love about my kittens is they are not sloppy like dogs and they can't eat your homework. Also, they're good when you don't have brothers and sisters to play with because they can get into small places for expert hide and go seek playing.

Another thing I like about kittens is they can be a lot of different colors or they can be a whole color. Cala is orange, white, black, gray, and yellow, and Blue is a whole color of dark blue.

My kitten Blue nibbles on my fingers and it is so cute. My kitten Cala sleeps all day long. Blue is a very, very hyper kitten. The first night I spent with my kitten Blue he snuggled in bed with me. I like the feeling of their little paws on your hands. They like kisses too. Kittens are so cute to have. They hate having a bath. My kittens love getting brushed and petted too. I feed my kittens 3 times a day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. My kittens sometimes have vanilla ice cream for desert. That's why kittens are the best pets.

### STUDENT ESSAY

**Jordan Bush, Grade 3,  
Hubbardston Center School**

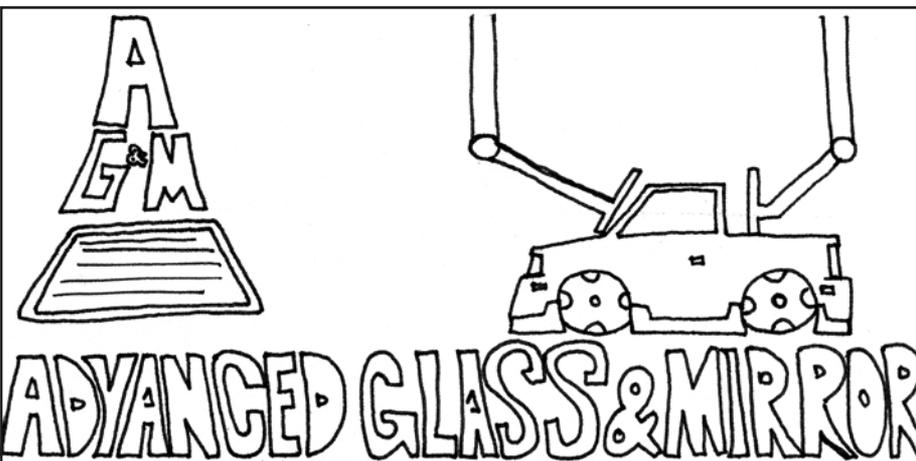


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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
**Franklin Santana, Grade 10,  
Gardner High School**

# On the Pledge, should "Under God" be a part of it, and why or why not?



Yes, I think the words; "Under God" should be kept in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Constitution says that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," So why should they make laws that hold back those who believe in God. The United States is open to all religions, and no matter which way you look at it, that statement shows why it should stay in the pledge even more. Yes, the Jews believe in Yahweh, the Muslims believe in Allah, Christians believe in the Holy trinity, Buddhists believe in Buddha, and the Hindus believe in many gods, in all no matter who is reciting the pledge, is stating their own beliefs. Because no matter which way you look at it, God is God, no matter what you call him.

There have been MANY other official documents and speeches that use God's name, such as the Magna Carta, the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Seneca Falls Declaration, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Speech, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I have a Dream.." speech. People don't complain that they have God's name in them; instead they went down in history as the greatest speeches and documents of all time. There is no difference with those documents and speeches containing God's name and the pledge contain his name. Congress did want to impeach Lincoln for putting God in the proclamation that freed the slaves in the south. Or did England want to go back under the rule of King James, just because they but God in the Magna Carta? So why should they take God's name out of the Pledge of Allegiance, just because it says, "One nation under God..."

This country was founded under the beliefs of the Founding Fathers, that God is the true leader of our Nation, and he decides how our country is run. Just because there are some people who do not believe in God, 85 percent of the United States does believe in some type of God, whether it be the God that Christians adore, or that the Muslims worship, they all believe in a God who is the ruler and creator of the universe. Yes this may offend people, but for many people, it is a type of creed that asks God to protect their country that they love and care for. People had to fight just to even learn how to say that pledge, and they should thank God for giving them the freedom to say it proudly.

We are Americans; we live in a country that gives its citizens the freedoms of speech, of the press, and most of all, of religion. People don't seem to realize how many people have lost their live trying to keep those freedoms alive for us. I say that they should keep "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, because he is the one who gave the blessings of liberty to this country, and we should acknowledge him as our guide.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
 Michael Nicholson, Grade 8,  
 Holy Rosary School

# With college costs rising, how has that changed plans after high school?



The cost of college tuition and other costs are increasing every year. State schools are increasing in price, and the private schools are completely out of the question. Regardless of my academic abilities, I know that it is completely pointless for me to even apply to a school whose tuition is over \$30,000. That doesn't even include dorming and books. It is unfortunate that my middle-class standing isn't enough, and never will be enough, to help me get through many of the schools I'd like to attend.

The current costs have affected me especially when I actually applied to college. I only applied to one private school, and the rest were state schools. The private school is my top choice, but I would be in debt a lot longer than I would ever want. Also, with private schools being so much money and our economy being terrible, state schools are looking better everyday. People who are well-off, who could have paid for the private schools maybe five years ago, are now applying to schools like Umass Amherst, Westfield State, and other good schools. They are more competitive and have less likely of a chance to get in now. More people are going to community colleges now and it's becoming more popular to go to school closer to home and not paying for dorms.

When I finally make my decision I will base it mostly on cost. There isn't a very big difference in academics at the schools I have applied to. They all have a criminal justice program, or some legal study program. I can get essentially the same education at all of the schools I hope to attend. Logically I will look at all the aspects of whichever college I choose to attend, but the money is on the top of the list for me.

Everybody else that is graduating and trying to make their college decisions goes through the same thought process. Everybody is thinking about where it is smartest for them to go. A lot of people who are unsure about what they want to do who used to go to a school like Fitchburg State or Framingham State are now going to community colleges. In turn, the people who can't afford to go to the more expensive and prestigious state schools are now going to the smaller ones. The economy has an incredible influence on everybody's decision.

In the long run, however, if you go to an expensive college and you become successful, then you can make enough to manage your debt. You can pay it off faster, and have a better education. My decision will be based on cost, only because I feel like you can get a good education wherever. It doesn't matter to me if I can say that I'm going to an expensive private school, or a reasonably priced state school.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
 Jordan Bresnahan, Grade 12,  
 Murdock Middle High School

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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
 Zachary Sicard, Grade 10,  
 Gardner High School

## What makes the best pet?



I think I have the best pet in the whole world. She is my dog Ellie, a mutt with a snaggle tooth. She was abandoned when she was a baby by a truck driver who just threw her out while he was driving. My mom's friend found her and brought her to our house for a sleepover. Well, we fell in love with her right away and now Ellie is eleven years old. She is the best because she stands by the door and waits for me when I get home from school. She gives me kisses and gets so excited to see me. She sleeps at the foot of my bed and I can feel her through the blankets with my feet. She makes me feel safe because she hears every little noise and I know she will protect me all the time. When we play I can do almost anything to her, like hug her, roll over her, chase her and she just loves it. When she sleeps she looks so cute because she puts her head on her toy stuffed pig that we call her "baby." Ellie is the best pet I will ever have. It was very mean for the man to throw her away, but I am so thankful because I got to love her and she loves me. And that is what makes the best pet.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Jessi Girard, Grade 4,**  
**Westminster Elementary School**

## What is your favorite toy, and what makes it so fun to play with?



Out of all my toys, I have one favorite. It is my Webkinz frog. It is small, green, cute, and cuddly. It is about five inches long, three inches wide, and four inches tall. I named it Hopper. He is really special to me. I don't remember the exact day I got him, but it feels as if I have always had him. I bought him with my own money, but I had to do some chores for my mom and dad before I could buy him. When I earned the money, my mom, my brother Josh, and I went to The Paper Store in Leominster. When we got there, we saw so many Webkinz to choose from. I searched and searched and finally I found one I wanted. I found Hopper. When I went to the cash register, it felt really good to buy him with my own money. I left the store. My mom drove us home and I held him all the way home. Playing with him is so much fun! I play with him with my brother Josh and my sister Jordan; we are triplets. I think he is so special because he was the last frog in the store. I love to make forts with Josh and bring Hopper in with me. We have a great time playing with Hopper.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Jacob Geyster, Grade 3,**  
**Phillipston Memorial School**



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
**Rose Perkins, Grade 1,**  
**Phillipston Memorial School**



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
**Olivia Scaborough, Grade 2,**  
**J.R. Briggs Elementary School**



**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
**Elba Rodriguez, Grade 8,**  
**Gardner Middle School**



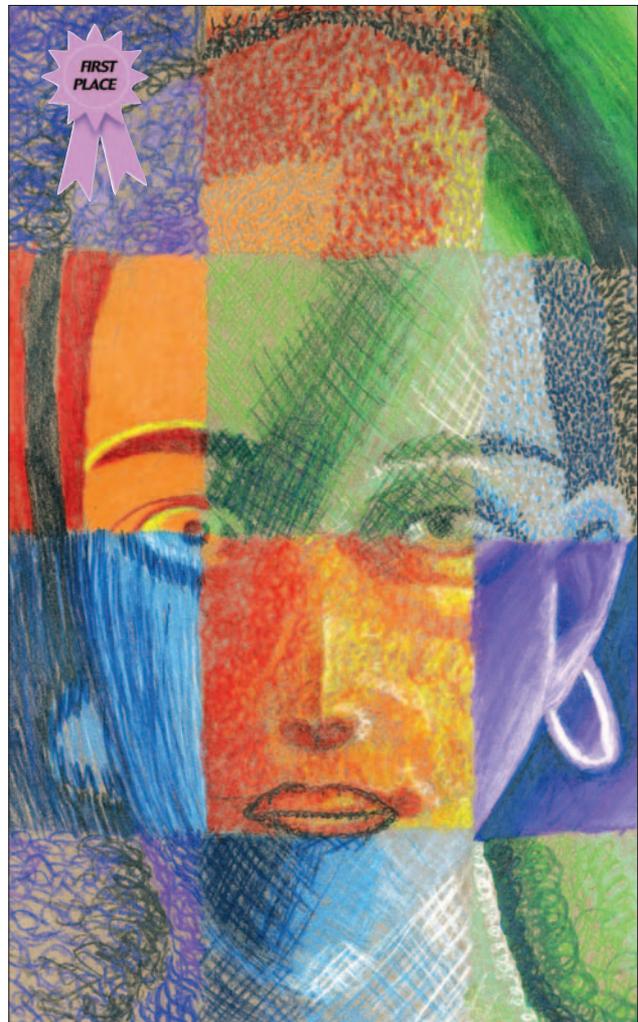
By Samantha Davis 3/11/09

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Sam D., Grade 8,  
Cottage Hill Academy



cat in the hat

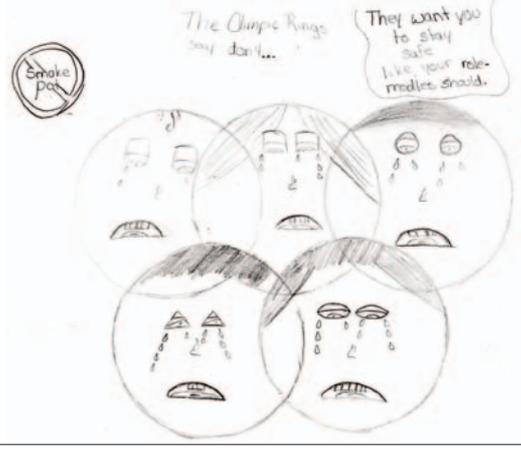
**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
Abbi Rameau, Grade 1,  
J.R. Briggs Elementary



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Emily Dewey, Grade 8,  
Overlook Middle School

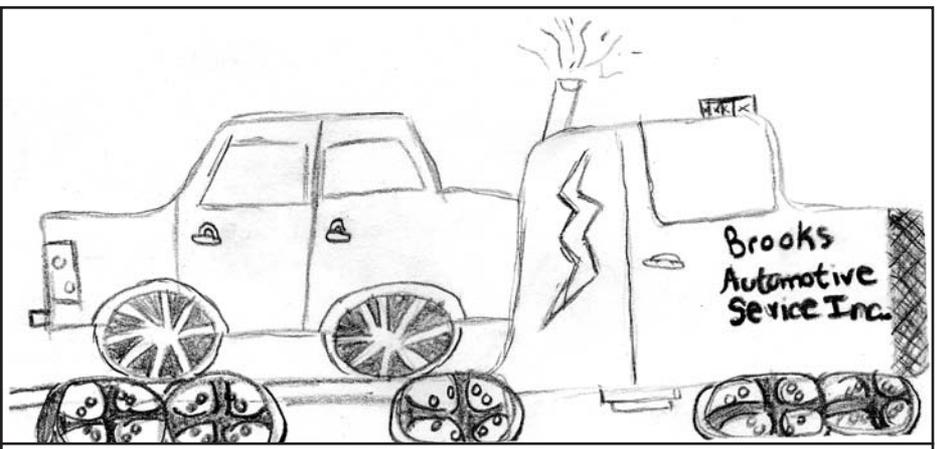


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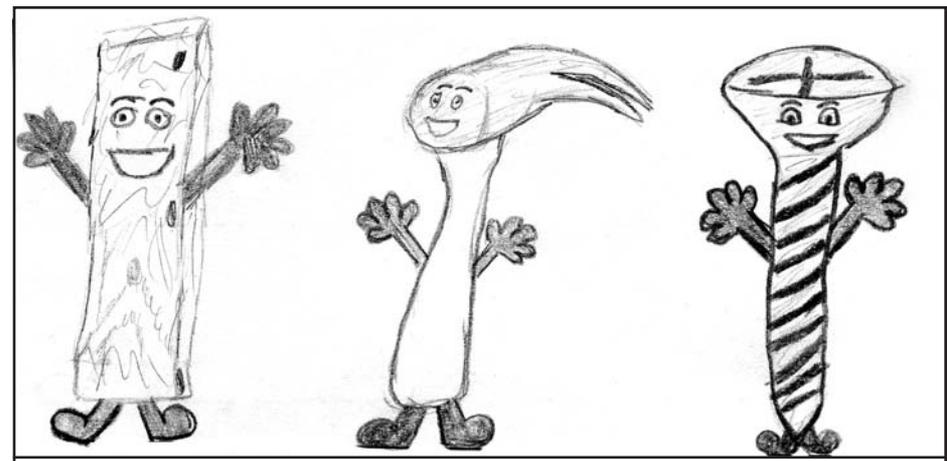
**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
Courtney White, Grade 6,  
Sacred Heart School

*How should professional athletes expect to be portrayed, as role models?*



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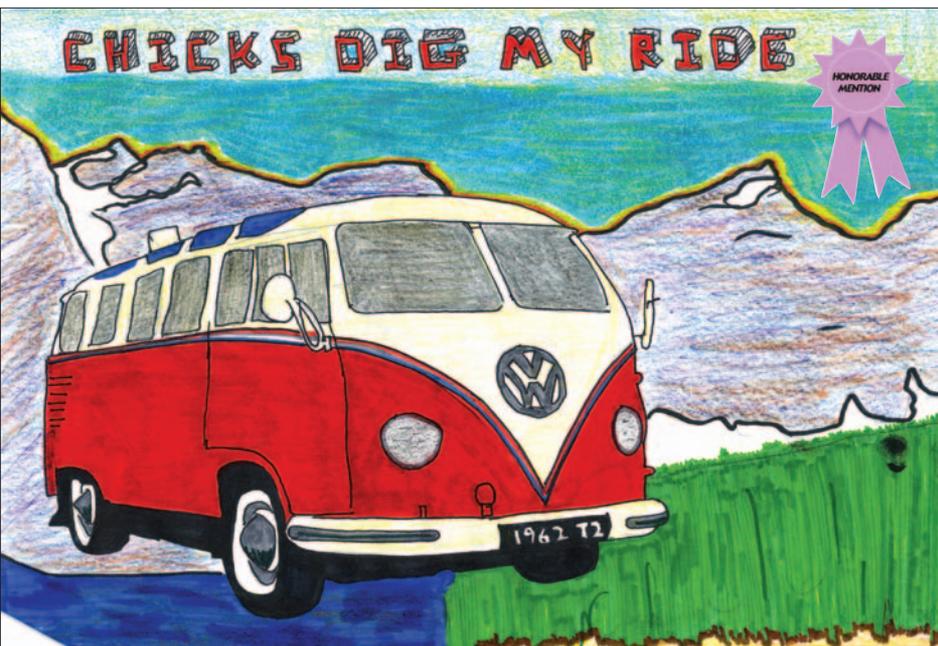
**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Lauren MacFee, Grade 12,  
Narragansett Regional High School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
K.C. Bartkus, Grade 5,  
Westminster Elementary School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Chris Ruble, Grade 12,  
Oakmont Regional High School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Brody Goguen, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Ronnie Alger III, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Alan Wong, Grade 5,  
Holy Rosary School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Melissa Wiitala, Grade 12,  
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



THIRD PLACE

**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Matt Bonneau, Grade 7,  
Holy Rosary School



HONORABLE MENTION

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Curtis Vachon, Grade 5,  
Sacred Heart School



THIRD PLACE

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Samantha Hanson, Grade 11,  
Quabbin Regional High School



THIRD PLACE

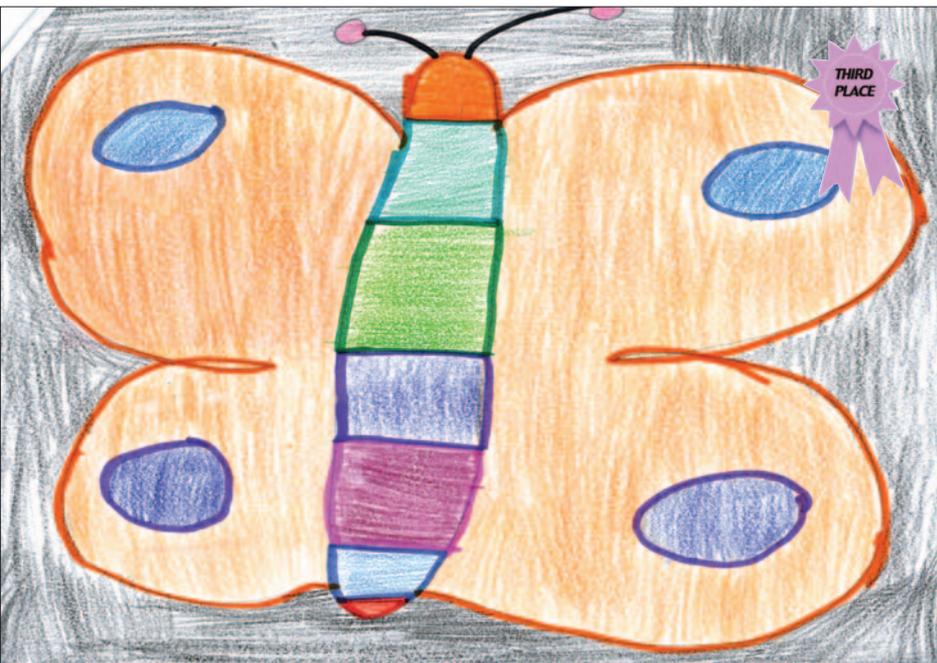
**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Tobey Chase, Grade 6,  
Royalston Community School



SECOND PLACE

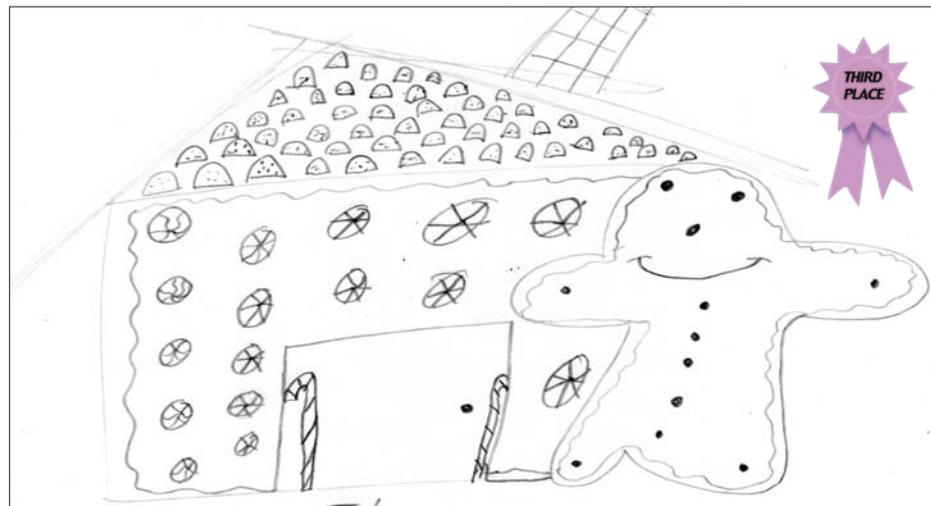
**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
 Lauren MacFee, Grade 12,  
 Narragansett Regional High  
 School

*How do you stop a bully?*



THIRD PLACE

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
 Danielle Jaillet, Grade 3,  
 Elm Street Elementary School



THIRD PLACE

*The  
 Gingerbread  
 man*

**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
 Emily Fluet, Grade 2,  
 Helen Mae Sauter Elementary School



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
 Keith Reid, Grade 7,  
 Narragansett Middle School

# With college costs rising, how has that changed plans after high school?



In this past year, costs of college tuition have gone up; the only way you can get into a decent college is if you are exceptionally wealthy or have academic or athletic scholarships. My goal when I started high school was to get good grades and to go to Palm Beach Atlantic University. But now with tuition so high I have had to rethink my plans for after high school. In this economic turmoil I have come up with three new alternatives for what I am going to be doing post-graduation.

With school and sports it's hard to get a good job to earn money for college. I've considered taking a year off from school after graduating in order to get a job and earn some money to make a dent in the cost of tuition. Taking a year off could be beneficial but it could also have its detriments. My brother took a year off to earn money for a car and college, but with the economy being in such bad condition he has not been able to find a well-paying job. If I do decide to take a year off from school I would make an intense effort to get a job over the summer.

Getting a loan can be very difficult with the condition of the economy. Loans are not always a good idea; having a debt to pay off after you get out of college is sometimes difficult. If I choose to get a student loan it would be for a lot of money because of how expensive Palm Beach Atlantic University is and in such a case, if I would be unable to go to PBAU, I would still go to a private school.

There are so many possible scholarships to get, and it is always good to apply for as many scholarships as possible. One of my friends went to school on a sports scholarship to PBAU. She also had many academic scholarships and she is paying a very minimal amount of money. I could get a lot of scholarships because my parents went to PBAU and my dad taught Religions of the World and Bible classes and just with knowing people who graduated from the school, you can get a scholarship.

With the prices of almost everything rising and finding a job difficult, it is very important to go to school. People with college degrees are more than likely going to get a job over someone who does not have a degree. So even if prices have gone up substantially, going to college after high school is still top of my list. Whether or not I go right after high school or a year later I am not sure, but what I do know is I am going.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Cayla Clinkscale, Grade 11,**  
**Murdock Middle High School**

# What makes the best pet?



I think what makes the best pet is whether that pet is fun or not. For instance, a bear would be fun. I mean you could ride it around the house instead of walking! It could scare your family to lay of about not taking out the trash or washing the dishes for months. The bear could even be a nice fluffy pillow, that is if you give it a bathe every now and then.

Another reason, which supports my theory, is that a opossum would be an awful pet. It would sleep all day and make noise all night when you were trying to sleep. It would probably have rabies if you found it outside and would play dead if you ever pet it. So to sum it up some pets are just boring while others are awesome.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Peter Gallant, Grade 7,**  
**Sacred Heart School**

# What is your favorite season, and why?

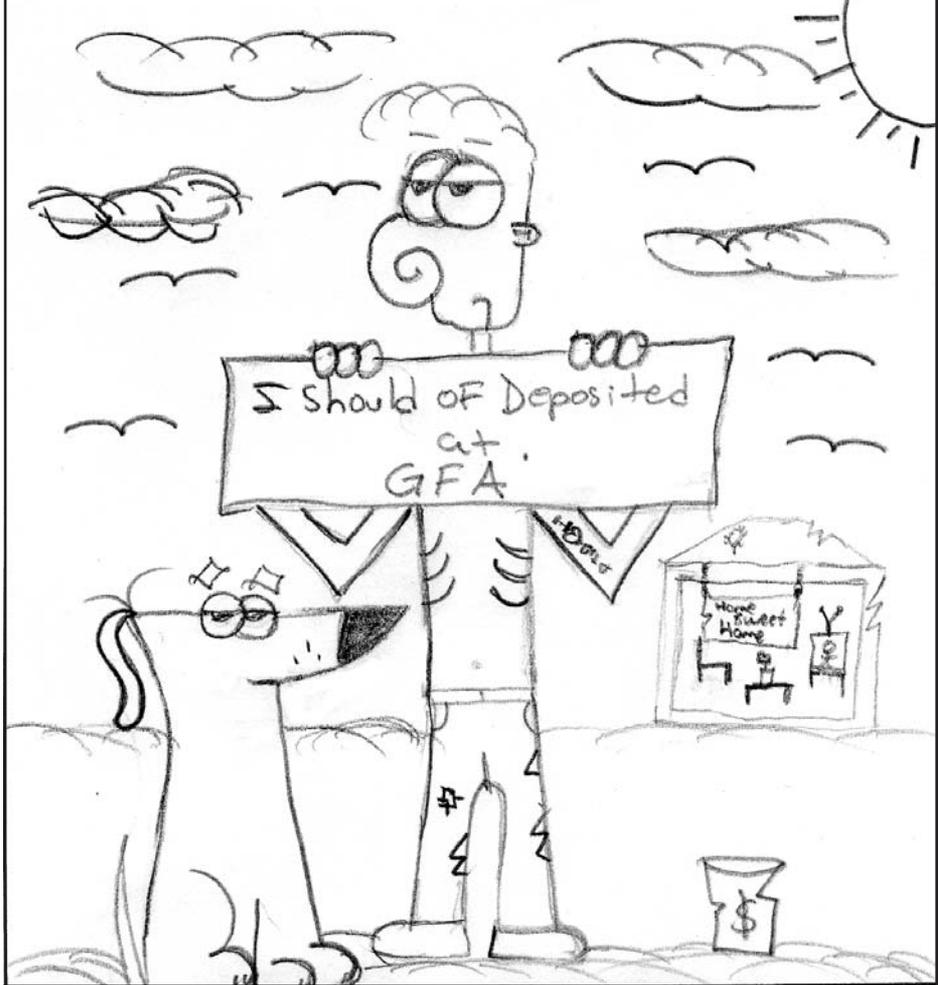


My favorite season is summer because it is the season of my birthday. I also like it because you can swim and because there is no school. My family has a lot of fun in the summer.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Avery LeBlanc, Grade 1,**  
**Holy Rosary School**



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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
**Camilo Palma, Grade 11,**  
**Gardner High School**



Satasha



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Paytan Malbeouf, Grade 5,  
Elm Street Elementary School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Alana Reed, Grade 12,  
Mahar Regional School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Zachary Connors, Grade 9,  
Narragansett Regional High School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Matt Wilbur, Grade 12,  
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



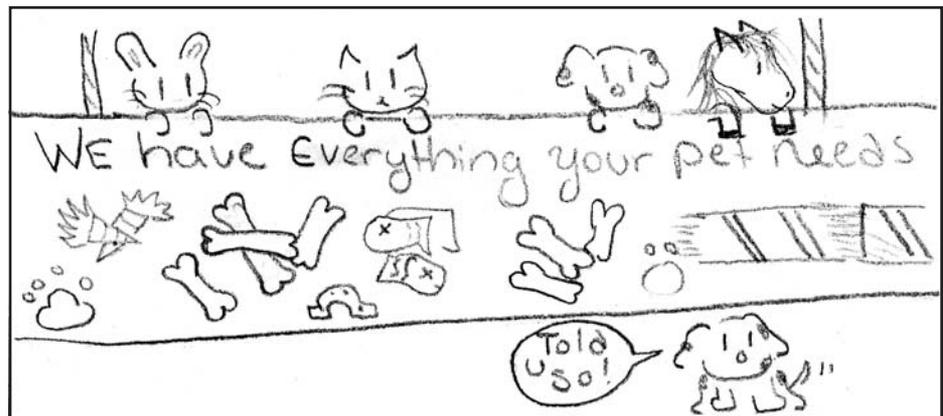
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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
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**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Miranda Gilman, Grade 8,  
Narragansett Middle School

SECOND PLACE



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Nicholas Scott, Grade 8,**  
**Gardner Middle School**

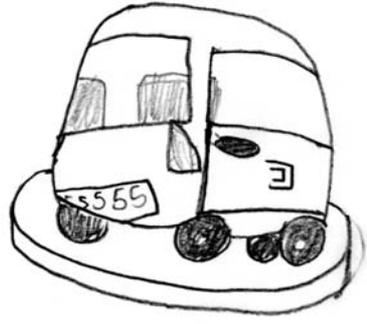
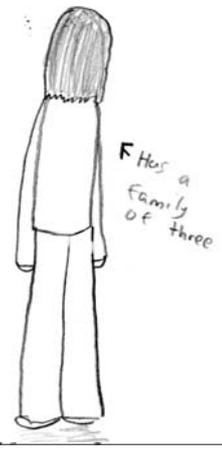
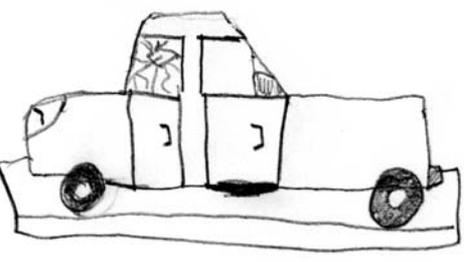
*How do you think the busing issue has been handled in Gardner over the past three years?*

SECOND PLACE

The choice Americans will have if the Big Three automakers fail...

USED

IMPORTS



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Abigail Schlier, Grade 5,**  
**Westminster Elementary School**

*What choices will Americans have if the Big Three automakers fail and disappear?*



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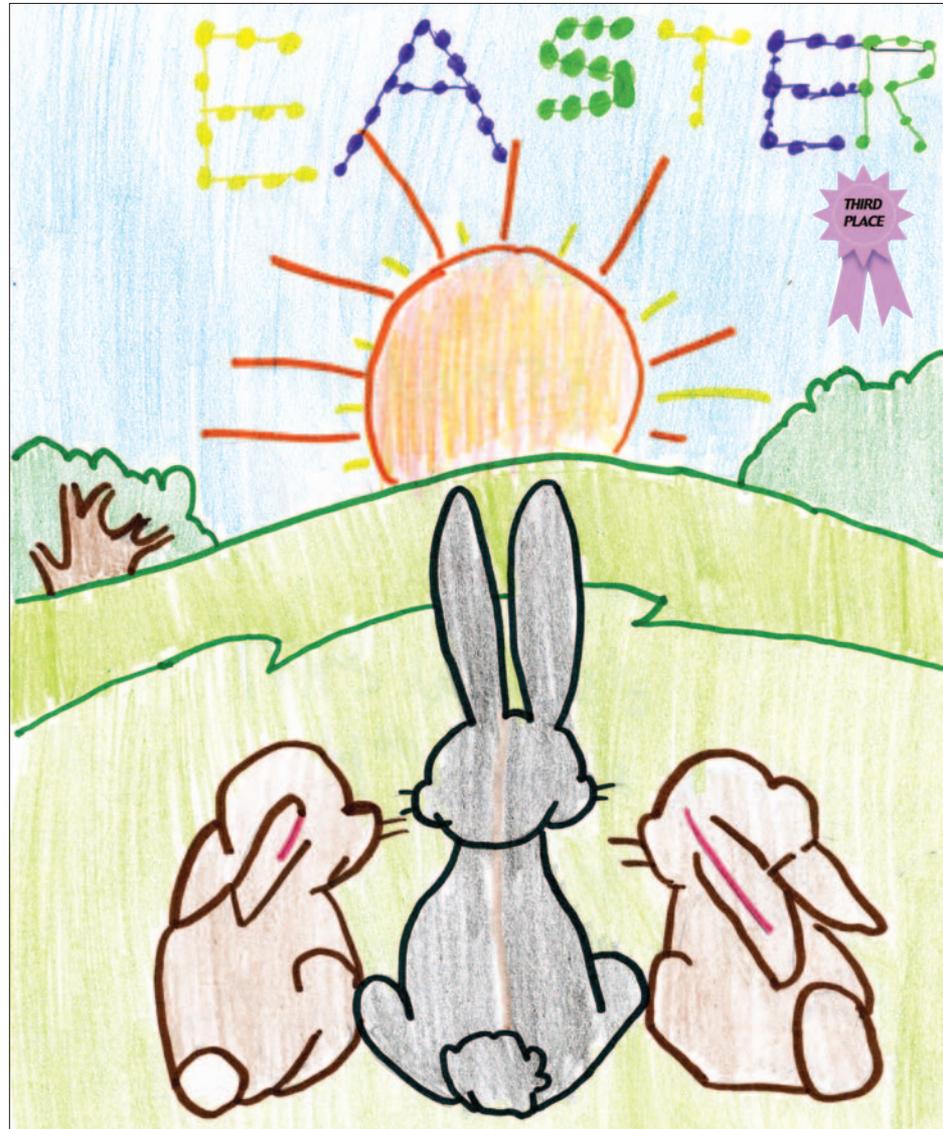
**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
*Kalin Neveu, Grade K,  
Sacred Heart School*

**What is your favorite season, and why?**

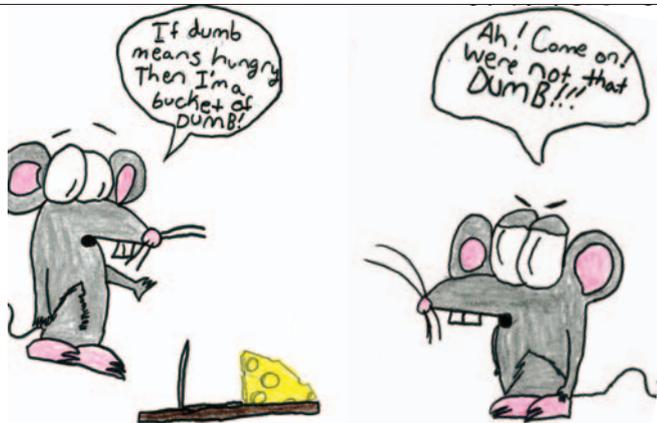


Can you guess what my favorite season is? It's winter! Winter is awesome! It is so fun to ice skate! My birthday is in winter! Christmas is the best part because it's a time of giving and family. I love to make snowmen and snow forts! Sledding is cool. I ski and snowboard at Mt. Wachusett really fast! I like to have snowball fights! Winter is a rockin' season!

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Max Hoisington, Grade 3,  
Helen Mae Sauter Elementary School*



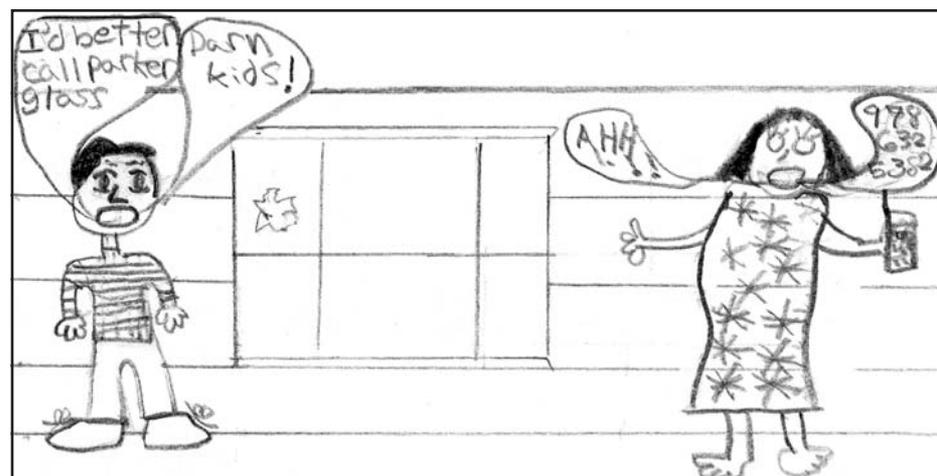
**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Rachel Ambrosy, Grade 4,  
Holy Rosary School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Erin Cregg, Grade 6,  
Holy Rosary School*



News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO



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**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Amanda Daigle, Grade 11,  
Oakmont Regional High School*

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
*Peter Gallant, Grade 7,  
Sacred Heart School*



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

*How do you think the busing issue has been handled in Gardner over the past three years?*

**Classes during February break or on Saturday to make up for lost days?**



During the ice storm kids missed a lot of school days. In January there were some school days missed too, because of the snow. Some of the kids did not even get February vacation because they had to make up many days of school. I think they should skip February vacation instead of doing Saturday classes because people do not want to go to school on Saturday. That is probably the best option. I do not think I would like getting up on Saturday and going to school.

If I went to school on Saturdays, I would not be able to have Friday night sleepovers, or get to spend time with my family and friends. I would not like to have school on February vacation either because I would not have time off from school and work. I would get bored having school six days in a row if I had to do school on Saturday. Be prepared to have a lot of school work the next time we have an ice storm! Even though school is fun, you still need a little time off!

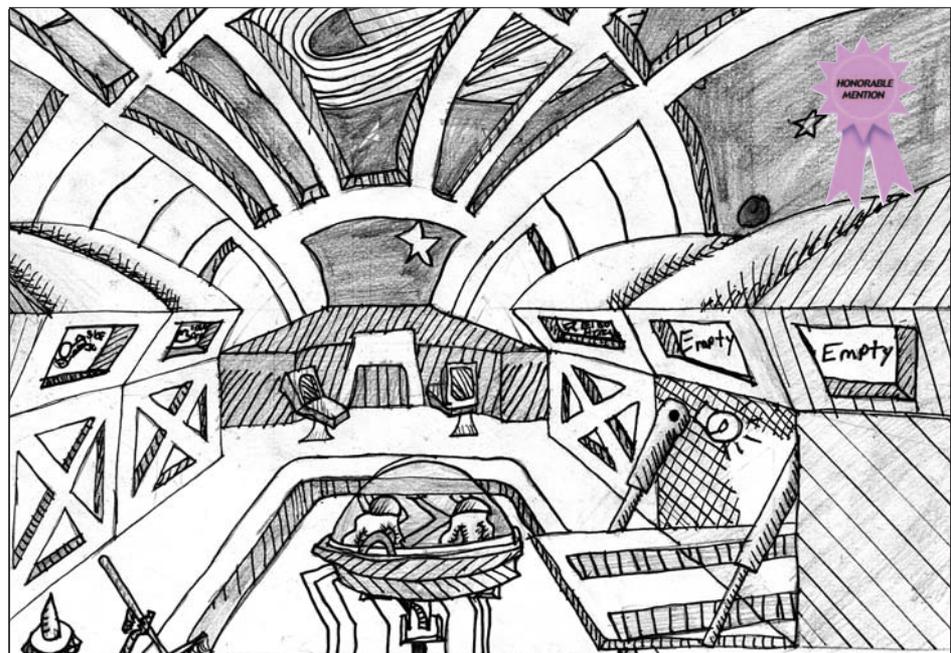
**STUDENT ESSAY**  
 Melissa Moore, Grade 6,  
 The Master's Christian Academy



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
 Erin Farrell, Grade 12,  
 Oakmont Regional High School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
 Jennie O'Neill, Grade 7,  
 Holy Rosary School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
 Dakodah Gorrell, Grade 8,  
 Overlook Middle School



**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Meredith Carrier, Grade 8,**  
**Sacred Heart School**

*How do you stop a bully?*

**Do you think cities and towns should find new ways to utilize energy?**



I agree that we should find ways to make and conserve energy. We can recycle more or find a better way to get rid of garbage without burning it. We could have more waterwheels in rivers and streams. Some people should put up wind turbines. When one does not use electricity the right way, they waste money and we don't want that to happen. Water is just as important as electricity. Do not leave your lights on or the water on because that is wasteful. You can recycle by using rain water and by keeping your packing peanuts. You could make a giant treadmill to run on and make power or electricity to store. We all love our own power the way it is, but we can make it cleaner for the planet.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Joel Kaijala, Grade 5,**  
**The Master's Christian Academy**

**Do you think cities and towns should find new ways to utilize energy?**



The Red Apple Farm is doing a great thing by putting up a wind turbine. Wind power is one of the best ways to produce energy. This one wind turbine is producing a large amount of electricity that is needed to power the farm. Imagine how much oil it took to keep the Red Apple Farm going before they erected their windmill!

Wind power is one of the cleanest ways to produce energy. Using wind turbines can help clean up the environment. Instead of using coal and oil, which produce gases that pollute the air, cities and towns should use wind turbines. Wind turbines are already being used widely throughout Northern Europe where they were first developed. Wind turbines are becoming more popular in our area as well.

Right here in Massachusetts they are trying to build windmills in the Atlantic Ocean off of Cape Cod. This is called the Cape Cod Wind Project and if it gets done this will generate electricity for the residents of Cape Cod. There is a lot of opposition to this project. Many people fear that it will take away the beauty of the ocean, and that it will cause problems for the sea life. Even though there are many negatives to this, the benefits of the windmills will outweigh them and be much better for the environment.

Solar power is another very clean and effective way to produce energy. If towns and cities don't want to put up wind turbines than they could put up solar panels instead. These solar panels can be expensive but once you purchase them they are worth it.

We get solar power directly from the sun's rays. Solar panels collect the light from these rays and convert it into energy. You can place these solar panels on your roof or support them on the ground. Some people even have roof shingles that are solar panels, but no matter where you place them you will get good results. Another benefit from converting to solar power is that we will create more jobs for people, which we all really need right now.

I think many more cities and towns should find better, cleaner ways to produce energy for their citizens and businesses. If these towns and cities continue to use coal and oil they are going to pollute our earth more and more. Polluting the environment is a big problem for our earth today. We need to start using cleaner resources like wind, water, and sunlight to produce energy.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Nathan Lucas, Grade 8,**  
**Holy Rosary School**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
**Laura O'Neill, Grade 7,**  
**Holy Rosary School**

**What needs to be done to combat global warming?**



Our country needs to take immediate action to combat global warming. Global warming is a serious issue that needs to be dealt with now. Not only are temperatures rising, but so are the sea levels. Hundreds to thousands of Artic animals are left homeless each month. If we don't take action soon, our Earth is bound for serious consequences.

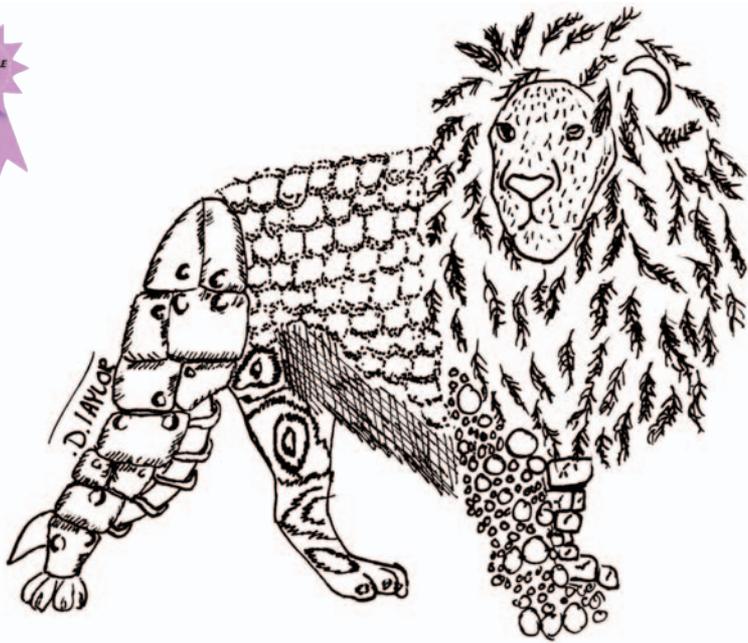
Recycling is one way we can fight global warming. The more we reuse, the less factories will have to make, which means less polluted air and environment. Recycling paper also means fewer trees are cut down every day, which means fewer animals lose their homes.

Finding more "eco-friendly" energy sources is another way to fight global warming. By using solar, wind and hydroelectric power, we can save more than enough energy for the future. Not only will this save energy, but you can also take pride in knowing that your country is doing its part to "go green".

My final idea to fight global warming is by finding a substitute to fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are very harmful to the environment and pollute the air. If we can find another energy source such as ethanol; an energy source made out of vegetable oils and corn; we can stop air pollution once and for all.

As you can see, we have a lot of work cut out for us. We need to recycle, find more "green" energy sources, and replace fossil fuels with natural substances. Although this may seem like a lot, I believe if all Americans pitch in to help with this global crisis we can save the animals of our Earth, and the future to come.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Jennie O'Neill, Grade 7,**  
**Holy Rosary School**



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Derek Taylor, Grade 8,*  
*Quabbin Regional Middle School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Keri Gardner, Grade 10,*  
*Oakmont Regional High School*

**Do you find the emphasis on testing as harmful to student development?**



Standardized testing has always been a subject of controversy in educational circles. Some will state that standardized testing allows all students to be equal, whereas others will state that the immense emphasis on standardized testing takes away from the overall educational experience that a student could be receiving. I personally tend to agree with the latter argument, and it is for that reason that I'm saddened to hear of the Narragansett Regional School District's decision to cut back on many elective courses and replace them with specific MCAS and SAT courses.

Over the years I've witnessed the increased emphasis on "MCAS Material" and the stricter standards that have been implemented. I've seen how teachers have had less time to focus on the material that they want to, and instead have to focus on material that the state has mandated; much of it quite pointless in my opinion. For example, the last time I took the MCAS test, I had to answer questions, and then write an essay on how to make clam chowder. The state forced teachers and school districts to completely revamp their curriculum, so kids could learn how to make clam chowder? Now that's just insane.

Elective courses fulfill man needs for the student, the most obvious being that they teach students valuable skills for their post-high school life. For example, let us say that Economics was cut. In Economics, students not only learn about the United States and its economic system, but they also learn how to manage their finances and build a foundation for post-college success. I'd rather learn that than learn "MCAS Material." Another example that I've spoken of before is the class "Problem Solving & Statistics." Some students think the class is not valuable because it's not an AP or Honors class; in reality, I've used the things I learned from that class much more than I've used from other classes.

Examples such as the aforementioned reinforce my belief that school districts (and the state) should place much less emphasis on standardized testing, and concentrate more on areas of study that will serve to benefit the student after they graduate. For example, electives should exist that prepare students for the workplace, not how to make clam chowder. For example, a Woodshop elective, or possibly an elective with more emphasis on technology would serve to benefit students. Instead of investing in an MCAS preparation class, invest in a Personal Finances class. The purpose of education is to provide the individual with a solid foundation for future success, and if the institution is not providing that foundation, then it is not living up to its own standards.

Now, some may cite that students are underachieving in the SAT and MCAS tests, and it is imperative that we find ways to increase those test scores, as they are very influential when it comes to applying to colleges (sadly). I agree with this opinion, though I have my own views on how it can be carried out. Many programs exist for SAT tutoring or extra help, as well as programs for the MCAS. If the student truly desires to succeed, he or she will go the extra distance to find the appropriate programs. Many of these tutoring or extra help classes are extremely cheap; many will waive the fee if the student is not financially able to afford the program. These programs are offered in the community as well, many at Mount Wachusett Community College, and even an SAT English Prep class at NRHS, so it is not as if the distance to these classes is a problem. All in all, it comes down to desire; if one is willing to work, he or she will succeed.

In closing, I truly hope that the Narragansett Regional School District reconsiders its decision to cut many electives and replace them with courses designed to improve scores on standardized testing. In the world we live in today, it is imperative that individuals enter the working world with the knowledge and skills to succeed. The classes that offer these "everyday life skills" are sadly disappearing and becoming increasingly looked down upon, which is truly unfortunate. Success can only be achieved if one has the tools to achieve it.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Ryan Twohey, Grade 12,*  
*Narragansett Regional High School*

**During the ice storm, what did you learn, without the usual comforts?**



I had no heat or electricity. It was very dark and scary. I had to go to my Aunt's house because they had a generator. I had to carry a flashlight wherever I went. It was quite the adventure. There was a couch that I used as a bed. It was fun over their house; we could spend a lot of family time together.

They could cook with a portable grill. We could watch movies but not television. I spent a lot of time reading. I read Harry Potter at his first year. I liked spending time with my family.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
*Andrew Hall, Grade 3,*  
*Elm Street Elementary School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
*Sean McHale, Grade 12,*  
*Mahar Regional School*



O.K. we're under the limit so we're safe.

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
**Jack Harasimowicz, Grade 8,**  
**Sacred Heart School**

*Do the recent changes to the laws regarding marijuana muddy the waters in respect to the message that drugs are bad for you?*



**What makes the best pet?**



I would say that the best pet is a black lab because they are loyal, trustworthy, obedient, good listeners, playful, and careful around children under the age of 7. I think that any black lab would fit any family. Buying a dog is a big decision because puppies and dogs cost a lot of money, so if you want a dog, you need to get a black lab. This dog will take any stress you have away and do it out of play.

If you have lost any dog in your lifetime, then a black lab will help cheer you up for sure. I have experienced this sort of situation with my black lab, named Jake, last year. He was dear to my heart and my best friend that I could always hug when I was sad. He was 9 years old when we put him down. He had the case of cancer and did not act like himself. He became less playful. He could barely move off of the stairs and was limping everywhere he went. It was very sad letting him go. I saw his very last move and smile that Saturday. Every time he smiled at me, I laughed. Those moments were the best moments of my life. After we put him down, we brought him home and made a special tombstone for him outside in my backyard. Every morning, I can look out my window and stare right at him. That was the only good part of letting him go. He is the best pet anyone could ever have. I'll never forget him.

Black labs are not only active and playful, but they are very helpful too. A black lab can do many things. These things are things like being a rescue dog, and an excellent guide for blind people too. These dogs can also be on the police force. When you train these dogs, you have to let it outside every once and a while because the dog can learn faster that way and it would be more fun for the dog as well. When my dad trained Jake, Jake learned very fast. My dad entered Jake in contests too and he won a certificate for hunting. Jake was a very good hunter. Everybody can teach their dogs how to hunt if they want to. It would teach them obedience. If you take your dog hunting, he or she should learn as quickly as Jake did. To make your dog a good hunter, you would have to teach them the basics first, like fetching, and then teach them to only go when you say go. If you do this, your dog will become an excellent hunter.

Since dogs and puppies cost so much money, you can adopt one from an animal shelter so that the dog will have a good home and you can save your money and not spend over \$1,000 on a dog. If you do adopt a dog then you need to take the best care of it because that dog just got out of the animal shelter and it is expecting the best time of its life. If you have kids, then this dog will teach those kids a huge amount of responsibility. When adopting a dog, you need to know everything about that dog because this dog might like a certain kind of dog food and if you spend money on the wrong dog food, you will be wasting your money. It would be best to make up a schedule of when you take the dog out to do his or her business and of the right amount of food that dog takes once a day. Each day, you should take your dog out to play for at least a full hour. It is good to do this because your dog will get some time to run around and have fun. You should also take your dogs out for a daily walk around the park or your street for at least a full hour, so that the dog will get some exercise. It is very good to do this because your dog will stay healthy by doing this. Some dogs get overweight because their owners are over-feeding them and then not taking them out for a walk afterwards. I know that no one wants that to happen to their dogs. You also need to give it the right amount of water. It's very important that you keep track of your dog's health, and weight. It is also very important that you keep track of your dog's eating habits and that you are not over-feeding them.

This concludes my reason of why black labs are the best pet. I have told you many reasons on this topic, but now it's your time to choose and remember, black labs are the best!

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Alyssa Mackinnon, Grade 5,**  
**Holy Rosary School**

**Classes during February break or on Saturday to make up for lost days?**



Meeting the state minimum of 180 days of school has been a worry for many during this current school year, 2008-2009. Because of the excessive amount of snow days we've already had so early into the winter, there are worries that snow days will exceed 10 after the winter is over. Options that were being considered to meet the state minimum of 180 days of school, in order of popularity, were taking away April vacation, taking away February vacation, or going to school on Saturdays.

Billy Caldwell, a member of the School Committee, informed me that it was decided on Feb. 12 that the first 2 days of April vacation are going to be turned into school days, but only if needed. There are still 2 snow days before this plan must go into action, so at this point we still have a full April vacation. When asked how he felt about what was decided to do in order to meet the state minimum of 180 days of school, Billy responded, "I am pleased on what we did. I am adamantly opposed to taking vacations, but the way we did it is appropriate. Only take them if necessary."

As for senior graduation, it is still on schedule for June 7 and it will stay that way. At the moment, the last school day for students is June 25 and the last day for teachers is June 26.

Seniors, like Lindsay Irons, do not have to make up snow days after senior graduation unless they exceed 10. When asked how she felt about the number of snow days we've had so far, Lindsay Irons said, "I do like having snow days because it's nice to be able to wake up and go back to sleep because we have no school, however, I do know that there's a risk of our graduation being pushed back, which I hate because I don't want graduation to be moved." Out of the options that were considered to meet the state minimum of 180 days of school, Lindsay said she would prefer going to school on Saturdays "because April vacation is nice and the weather is nice. I wouldn't mind going on a couple Saturdays."

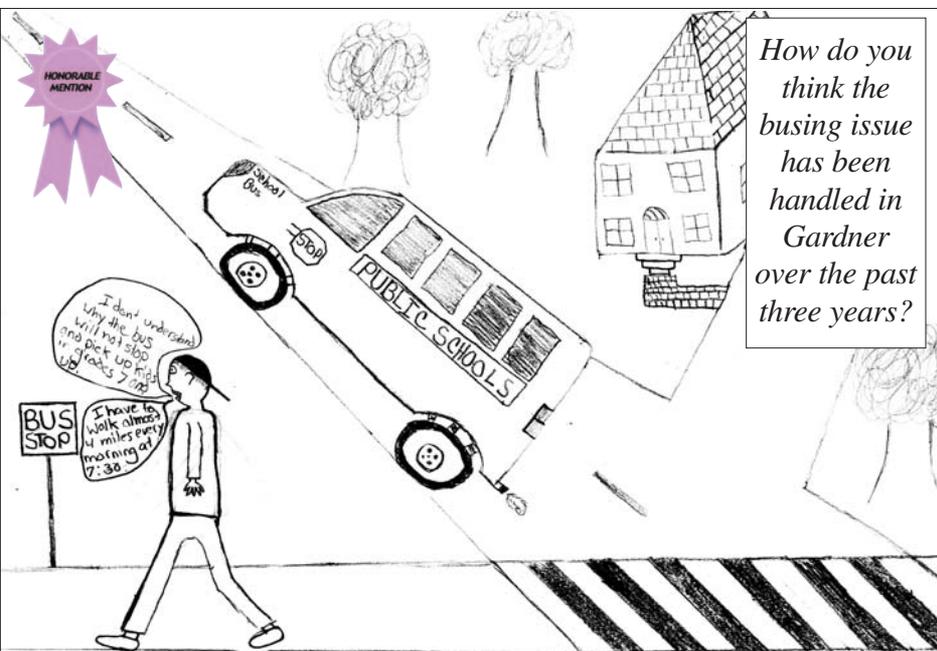
Underclassmen, like a junior, Vicky Kramarenko, do have to make up every snow day that we have, making their last school day extremely close to the month of July. When asked how she felt about the number of snow days we've had so far, Vicky Kramarenko said, "I like the snow days at the moment, but the fact that I have to spend the entire month of June in school stinks." Out of the options that were considered to meet the state minimum of 180 days of school, Vicky said she would prefer going to school on Saturdays because "we need our vacations."

I think it's safe to say that many people are hoping it doesn't snow hard for the rest of the winter. That way, our vacation stays full as scheduled.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
**Annie Kingsley, Grade 12,**  
**Athol High School**



News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO



How do you think the busing issue has been handled in Gardner over the past three years?

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
Anthony Webb, Grade 7,  
Sacred Heart School



"Your son stopped passing notes to his friends in class. Now he's text messaging them."

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
Tiffany Favreau, Grade 12,  
Narragansett Regional High School



What choices will Americans have if the Big Three automakers fail and disappear?

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**  
Amber B., Grade 10,  
Cottage Hill Academy

**What is your favorite season, and why?**

My favorite season is summer because I can do fun activities with my friends and family. Also, another reason I like summer is that I can see my cousin Alice. I can only see her in the summer because she lives in California. I like Alice because she likes art like me and she doesn't pick on me like my other cousins. I like going to friends' houses I can only go sometimes. Mostly I go to Ruby's house because she is my neighbor. Also, I like going on vacations, sometimes friends come too. In 2008 the Caron's family came along. We had so much fun. We went to a movie, shopping, and played at the playground. I like to go camping. Last year I picked blueberries, used my Aunt's canoe, caught fish and newts. I caught two fish, and six newts. When I go to my grandparents sometimes I get to sleep over their house. When I go to friends' houses I can sleepover their house, or they sleepover my house. At Ruby's house we put on the disco and party. Then, we clean up and sleep down stairs. At Kya's house we watch some TV, play DC, and go to bed at 9:00 p.m. That's why summer is my favorite season.

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
Gia Hill, Grade 3,  
Hubbardston Center School

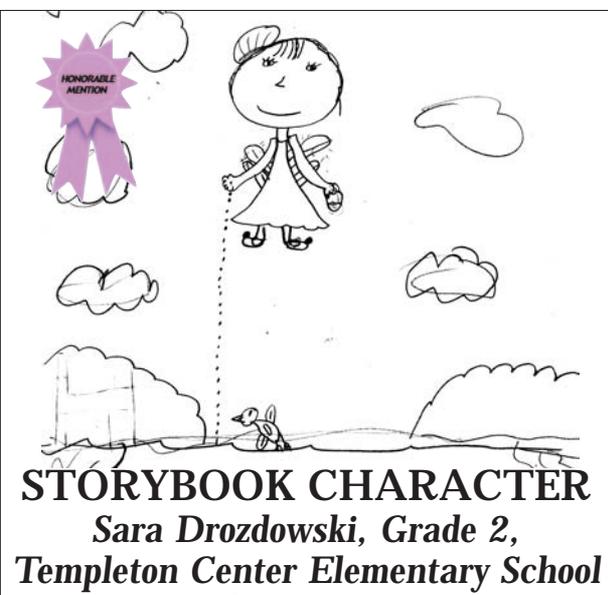
**Are we honest when...**

Suppose you got your test back, and then you realized there was one obvious mistake that your teacher had overlooked. What would you do? You might say, "Oh, I am going to tell the teacher of my mistake and let him correct my mistake." Well, would you? As seniors we are no longer kids. A perfect score on a test is not a good enough incentive to compromise our integrity; however, a substantial income, or a house, or a prestigious position are soon to be the stakes. Are you going to stay honest in front of these temptations? Too much cheating in schools and society is one of the reasons I left China in great disappointment. I felt a total release in the United States for some time, enjoying the sky I seemed to hold up with my own hands. After three years of carefully observing this country, it is not hard to see that the U.S. is not a perfectly honest place either. Cheating on SAT tests takes place all around me; lies are numerous; unwarranted financial declarations kill the economy. What is wrong with the world? The other day I had all the daily feedback slips from my teacher in my hand, and I saw his note, "Not permitted to leave your dorm room after nine o'clock as a punishment for not handing in homework on time." "Throw the slip away!" my friend suggested automatically. I hesitated, but then I chose to stay in my dorm room instead of going to McDonald's. "Can you give me your test and let me copy it real quick?" are frequent inquiries from peers. I guess my friend had been mad at me for quite some time after I refused. "So you dated that boy, didn't you?" my mom asked. My parents do not like my boyfriend very much. "Yes," I answered. It hurt to admit, but I guessed that telling my parents the truth might be a better way for them to understand their daughter, even if they weren't pleased with my response. I really like that president-elect Obama ended one of his speeches during his presidential campaign earlier this year, "One person can fire up a room. A room can fire up a city. A city can fire up a state, and a state can fire up a country!" Although all I do is as little as warning the people I talk to of how cheating will never cover up one's own shortages, and that graces and capacities have to be personally earned, without shortcuts, I truly believe that my influence can help spread the light of honesty. Just as how tobacco chewers spitting on the ground is no longer accepted, dishonesty will become more and more despised in my lifetime. It is reasonably possible that people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be more honest than they are today as we see what is possible through smart leaders with scruples like the United States' future president, Mr. Obama. After all, each person lives only once. Knowing that you can never fool yourself, why waste time on fooling others?

**STUDENT ESSAY**  
Zeying Yu, Grade 12,  
The Winchendon School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Natasha Boudreau, Grade 5,  
Holy Rosary School



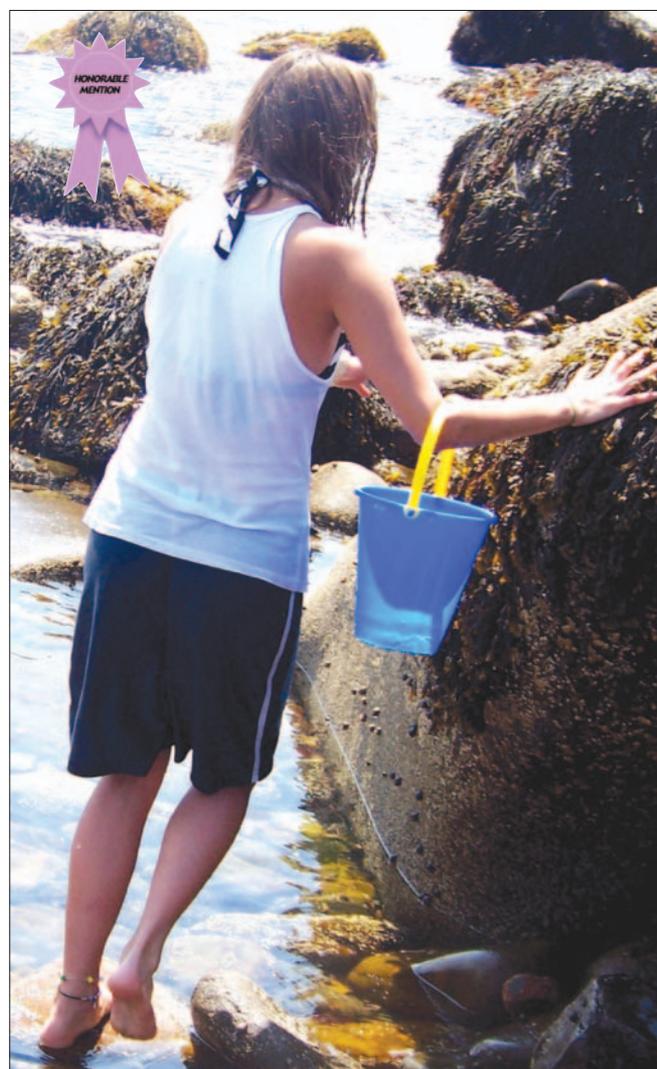
**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Sara Drozdowski, Grade 2,  
Templeton Center Elementary School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Cameo Dorais, Grade 8,  
Gardner Middle School*



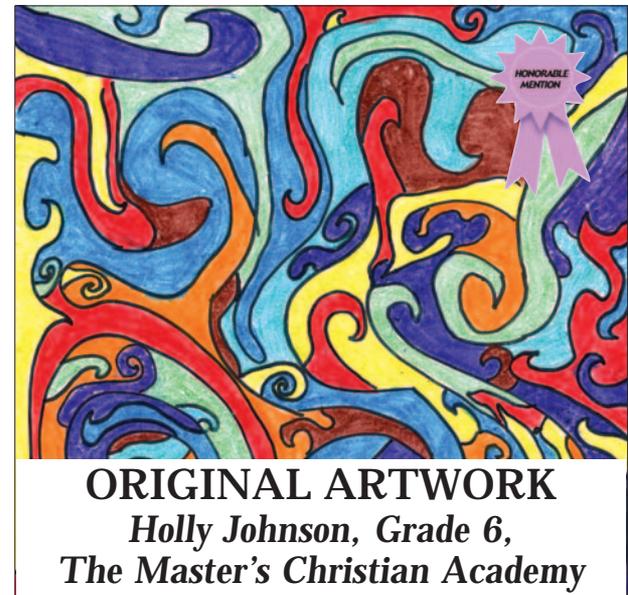
**FEATURE PHOTO**

*Danielle Soar, Grade 10,  
Narragansett Regional High School*



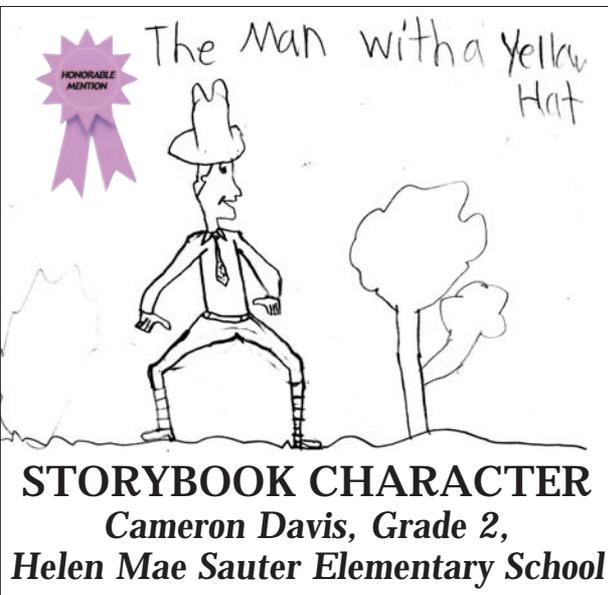
**FEATURE PHOTO**

*Maria DeMalia, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Holly Johnson, Grade 6,  
The Master's Christian Academy*



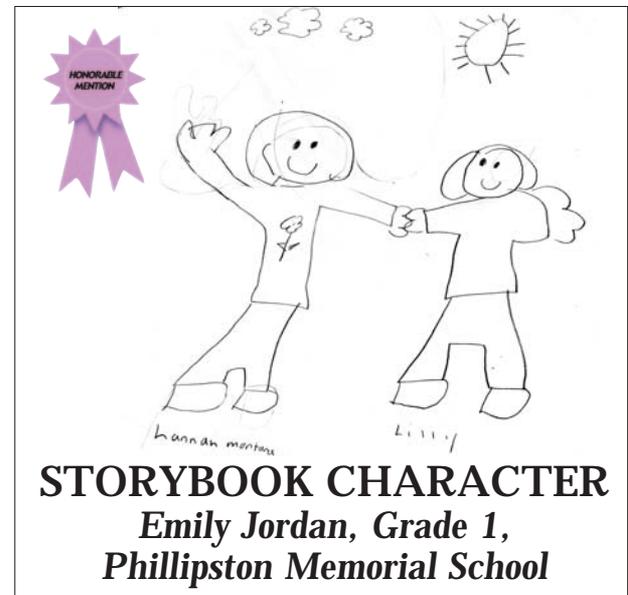
**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Cameron Davis, Grade 2,  
Helen Mae Sauter Elementary School*



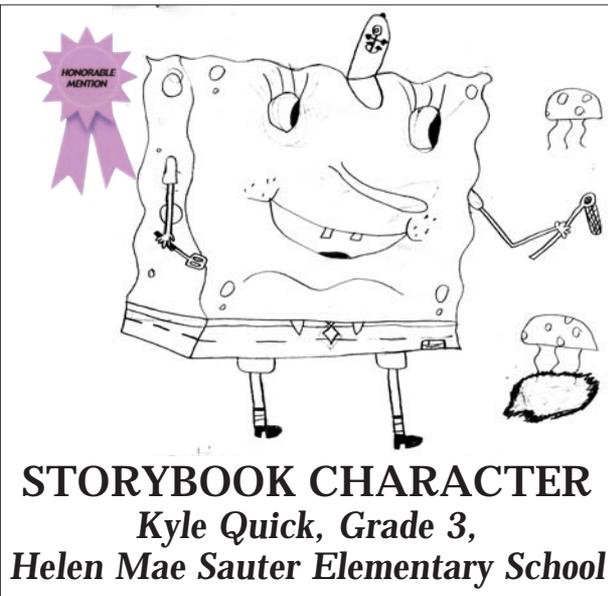
**FEATURE PHOTO**

*Kayla Courtney, Grade 12,  
Gardner High School*



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Emily Jordan, Grade 1,  
Phillipston Memorial School*



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**

*Kyle Quick, Grade 3,  
Helen Mae Sauter Elementary School*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

*Melissa Swenson, Grade 6,  
First Year's Academy*



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Nicole Di., Grade 11,  
Cottage Hill Academy



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Jonathan Marshall, Grade 10,  
Gardner High School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Zachary Roy, Grade 3,  
Baldwinville Elementary School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Sophie Frushell, Grade 4,  
Holy Rosary School



**FEATURE PHOTO**  
Tommy Leger, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
Owen Robichaud, Grade 3,  
East Templeton Elementary School



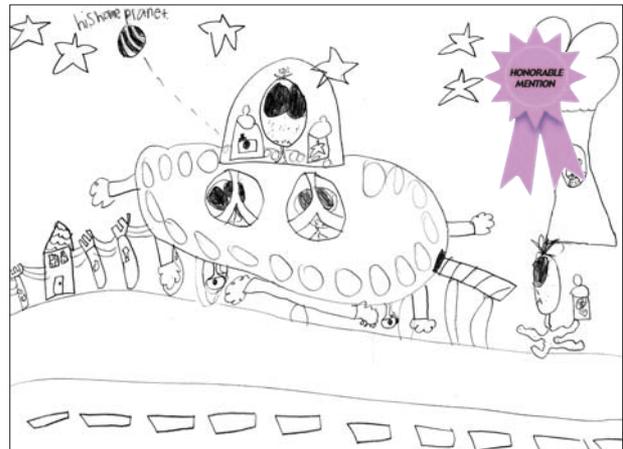
**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Dylan Robichaud, Grade 9,  
Mahar Regional School



**STORYBOOK CHARACTER**  
Sadie Kennedy, Grade 2,  
Waterford Elementary School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Camryn Souza, Grade 2,  
Memorial Elementary School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**  
Macy Ghilardi, Grade 1,  
Meetinghouse Elementary School



**FEATURE PHOTO**

Abbie Vazdak, Grade 9,  
Narragansett Regional High School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

Clarisse Sugar, Grade 4,  
Westminster Elementary School



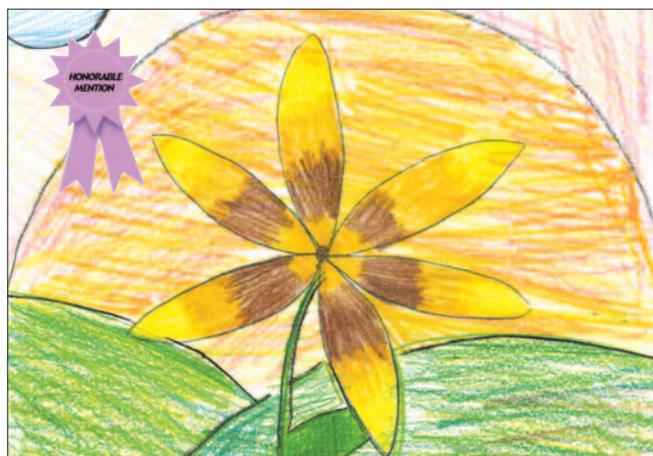
**FEATURE PHOTO**

Katlyn Gallant, Grade 8,  
Holy Rosary School



**FEATURE PHOTO**

Candice Renaud, Grade 8,  
Gardner Middle School



**ORIGINAL ARTWORK**

Eden Shaveet, Grade 5,  
Hubbardston Center School



**FEATURE PHOTO**

Kayla Drury, Grade 9,  
Narragansett Regional High School



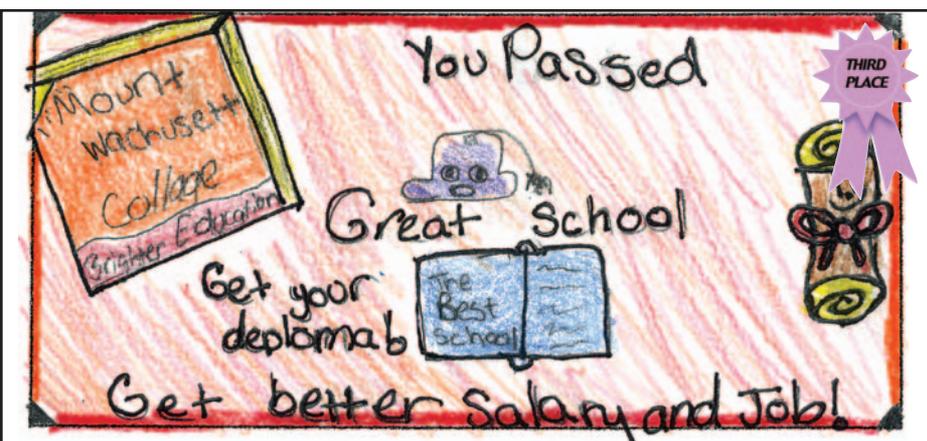
**EDITORIAL CARTOON**

Skyler Fortwengler, Grade 6,  
Royalston Community School

During the ice storm, what did you learn, without the usual comforts?

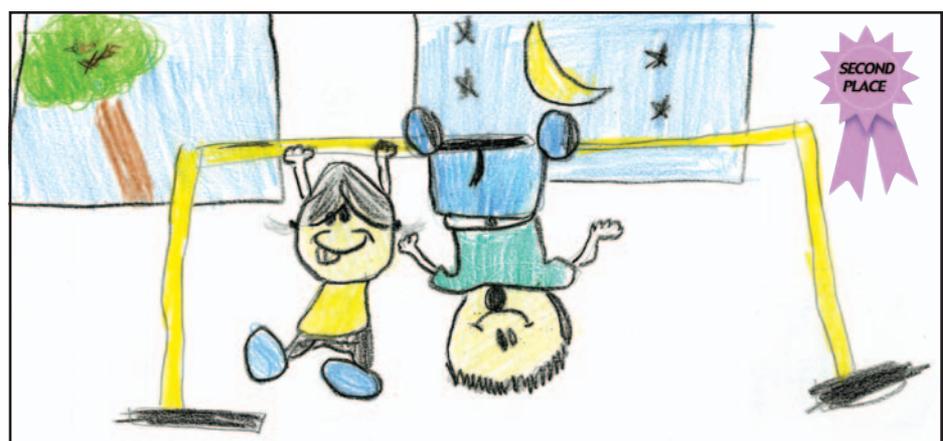


News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO



Mount Wachusett  
Community College

**DESIGN-AN-AD**  
Chelsea Sanderson, Grade 6,  
Royalston Community School



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