

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

NIE



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

2011 SUPPLEMENT

152 students recognized in all!

**Friday,
March 25, 2011**

36 local schools participated this year!

Teachers of NIE winners



Janet Dupuis
Narragansett Middle School
14 winners
p2a, McMilleon; p8a, Clair; p8a, S.Schober; p9a, Graves; p12a, Schultz; p17a, Lavindy; p19a, Branderberry; p21a, Parillo; p22a, Strom; p23a, Moulton; p24a, Waystack; p26a, A.Richard; p27a, Langlois; p28a, A.Schober.



William Hulette
Holy Rosary School
11 winners
p13a, Johnson; p14a, Begin; p14a, Davis; p15a, Cunningham; p15a, Cunningham; p16a, Funa; p21a, Funa; p23a, Kosakowski; p24a, Davis; p28a, Arsenault; p24a, Cunningham.



Lynn Murray
Toy Town Elementary Sch.
10 winners
p6a, Young; p6a, Gaunt; p11a, Nolette; p12a, Knowlton; p13a, Stevenson; p13a, Gaunt; p16a, Manca; p20a, Duffy; p20a, Clinkscale; p21a, Semenza.



Mike Fontaine
Murdock Middle High School
9 winners
p7a, Botko; p8a, Provincial; p10a, Brazawski; p11a, Courtemanche; p19a, Clayton; p13a, Gaunt; p24a, Morse; p26a, Dorais; p28a, White.



Jackey Antonian
Holy Rosary School
8 winners
p6a, Wong; p7a, Frushell; p8a, Kosakowski; p11a, Walsh; p20a, Nicholson; p21a, Gonzalez; p25a, Boudreau; p25a, Bradshaw.



Donna Carrier
Sacred Heart School
7 winners
p10a, Vachon; p16a, Fay; p18a, Muzyk; p18a, Gallant; p18a, Vachon; p20a, Raymond; p20a, Croes.



Heather Boylan
Helen Mae Sauter School
4 winners
p6a, Lison; p9a, Lago-Williams; p20a, McLean; p26a, Boutwell.



Mark Kobel
Gardner High School
4 winners
p12a, Bouchard; p14a, J.Richard; p16a, Wilson; p28a, Hayes.



Joyce LaBonte
Holy Rosary School
4 winners
p13a, Lee; p21a, Dornig; p22a, Parks; p28a, Lee.



Robert Myette
Westminster Elementary Sch.
4 winners
p12a, Lin; p15a, Lin; p17a, Kelleher; p21a, Martin.



Dan Starr
Montachusett Reg. Vocational
4 winners
p5a, Woodward; p9a, Woodward; p13a, Handy; p17a, James.



Ruth Suyenaga
Helen Mae Sauter School
4 winners
p9a, Celona; p17a, Conant; p26a, Porter; p27a, Hoisington.



Susan Alario
Westminster Elementary Sch.
3 winners
p8a, Marsh; p18a, Cole; p25a, Curran.



Whitney Archambeault
Riverbend Elementary Sch.
3 winners
p7a, Farnsworth; p13a, Bishop; p27a, Blaser.



Eileen Bohigan
Hubbardston Center School
3 winners
p8a, Marchand; p8a, M.Gillon; p18a, LeBlanc.



Alan Dernalowicz
Gardner Middle School
3 winners
p8a, Wiseman; p17a, Piermarini; p18a, Fairman.



Mike Fitzgerald
Westminster Elementary Sch.
3 winners
p15a, Wyson; p15a, Caisse; p22a, Walter.



Mark Nevard
Oakmont Reg. High School
3 winners
p7a, Brown III; p10a, Munnis; p10a, Dupuis.



Anne Diaz
Ruggles Lane Elementary
2 winners
p12a, Linnar; p18a, Glidden.



Nancy Barrieau
Holy Rosary School
2 winners
p16a, Dilling; p21a, O'Brien.



Greg Barry
Oakmont Reg. High School
2 winners
p6a, Wall; p19a, Phelps.



Kerry Bart-Raber
Hubbardston Center School
2 winners
p5a, Stevenson; p27a, Magoon.



Brian Beaudoin
Overlook Middle School
2 winners
p23a, Enright; p23a, Taylor.



Joanna Draugsvold
Homeschool
2 winners
p23a, Sanders; p28a, Leveillee.



Linda Ganson
Mahar Regional School
2 winners
p19a, Vitols; p22a, Waters.



Julie Mankowsky
Hubbardston Center School
2 winners
p12a, Leger; p26a, J.Gillon.



Helen Miller
Mahar Regional School
2 winners
p20a, McCarthy; p27a, Daly.



Lynn Morrissey
Holy Rosary School
2 winners
p18a, McMast-er; p27a, Rodriguez.



Michelle Sarkisian
Quabbin Reg. Middle School
2 winners
p5a, Bara-Kennedy; p26a, Brown.



Joanna Draugsvold
The Winchendon School
1 winner
p19a, He; p27a, Yin.



William Simons
Quabbin Reg. High School
2 winners
p5a, Roach; p11a, Zalneraitis.



Nina Belanger
Mahar Regional School
1 winner
p26a, Harty.



Kendra Bisson
Wachusett Hills Christian School
1 winner
p19a, Curran.



Leanne Bruen
Phillipston Memorial School
1 winner
p10a, Green.



Patricia Feeley
Sacred Heart School
1 winner
p9a, Buckler.



Beth Foster
Meetinghouse Elementary School
1 winner
p22a, Banning.



Dena Hengst
Quabbin Reg. High School
1 winner
p7a, Payne.



Danielle Higgins
Murdock Middle High School
1 winner
p15a, Desgros-elliers.



Bob Johnson
Cushing Academy
1 winner
p19a, Kim.



Lynn LaRoche
J.R. Briggs Elementary School
1 winner
p27a, Sibley.



Steven Latorre
Narragansett Regional High
1 winner
p22a, Hamel.



Rosemary McGee
Pleasant Street Elementary School
1 winner
p27a, McHugh.



Jessica McLaughlin
Narragansett Middle School
1 winner
p23a, Harding.



Debbie Miller
Baldwinville Elementary School
1 winner
p17a, Greco.



Lindsay Moran
Phillipston Memorial School
1 winner
p27a, Vaillancourt.



Donna Murphy
Elm Street School
1 winner
p22a, Hoisington.



Lisa Payne
New Braintree Christian School
1 winner
p26a, Tremblay.



Brent Robichaud
Gardner Middle School
1 winner
p13a, Hurst.



Mary Beth Sekurski
Holy Rosary School
1 winner
p24a, Cormier.



Greg Smith
Butterfield Elementary
1 winner
p25a, Engle.



Ruth Suyenaga
Waterford Elementary Sch.
1 winner
p16a, Koberg.



Lisa Topper
Hardwick Elementary School
1 winner
p16a, Santoro.



Bevin Tapply
Johnny Appleseed Sch.
1 winner
p10a, Nevard.



Lisa Topper
Oakham Center School
1 winner
p26a, Fletcher.



Suzanne Walker
Phillipston Memorial School
1 winner
p11a, Leano.



Susan Zink
Cottage Hill Academy
1 winner
p23a, Hoyt.

Other participating teachers

Baldwinville Elementary School
Kristine Boudreau

Elm Street School
Mandy Blackbird
Marisa Coviello

Gardner Middle School
Heidi Collins

Hubbardston Center School
Wendy Castriotta
Kristen Coons
Kim Doyle

Meetinghouse Elementary School
Kristin Burke
Sandy Fowke

Oakmont Regional High School
Theresa Barry

Phillipston Memorial School
Linda Qualters

Quabbin Regional High School
Terese Salvatore

Riverbend Elementary School
Kathy Steve

Ruggles Lane Elementary School
Christine Fauteux
Sherry McDonald
John Spooner

Sacred Heart School
Jan Gleason

Westminster Elementary School
Eric Sifert

Cover photos:

(starting from upper left, left to right):

Students in Susan Alario's class at Westminster Elementary School look over that day's paper (News photo by JUSTIN RICHARD); A student in Heather Boylan's class at Helen Mae Sauter School looks over that day's sport section (News photo by JUSTIN RICHARD); Students in Alan Dernalowicz's class review the newspaper at Gardner Middle School (News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO); Oakmont Regional High School teacher Mark Nevard looks over a section of a paper with a student in his class (News staff photo by STEVE MARCOTTE); Students in Alan Dernalowicz's class look over the day's paper (News staff photo by ANDRES CAAMANO); A student lays out while reading the paper in Heather Boylan's class at Helen Mae Sauter School (News photo by JUSTIN RICHARD); A student reads the newspaper in Mark Nevard's class at Oakmont Regional High School (News staff photo by STEVE MARCOTTE); Students in Claire Karge's class at Waterford Street School look over the newspaper (News photo by STEVE NYBERG).



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DESIGN-AN-AD
Lauren McMilleon, Grade 8,
Narragansett Middle School

Dear readers,

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

Five 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 31 other schools this year — 35 in all, along with two home-school students as well.

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

This year's winners and honorable mentions were, as usual, difficult to judge. All of the students should be commended for a job well done. A special thank you goes out to **every single** teacher and administrator, of which there were 75 this year, who helped make this year's supplement a success. In recognizing that detail, we not only are including a photo of every student that had a supplement-winning entry, but also of each and every one of their corresponding teachers that submitted an entry to *The Gardner News* for this supplement. This is just a glimpse at what is possible when newspapers are used in the classroom, of which there have been 85 teachers thus far who have utilized *The Gardner News* this year.

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

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

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

Once again, congratulations to each of our 152 winners and a hearty thank you to everyone who participated in *The Gardner News 2011 Newspaper In Education Supplement*.

Sincerely,



Andrés Caamaño
NIE Director

NIE Contest Winners

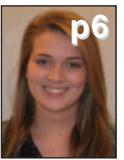
First Place

 p6 Cassidie Lison Helen Mae Sauter School Original Artwork K-3	 p15 Eric Desgroseillers Murdock Middle High School Original Artwork 4-6	 p5 Kalen Bara-Kennedy Quabbin Reg. Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 p5 Megan Roach Quabbin Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p6 Hannah Gaunt Toy Town Elementary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p9 Samantha Buckler Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p8 Jared Marchand Hubbardston Center School Student Essay K-3	 p8 Rachel Marsh Westminster Elementary School Student Essay 4-6	 p8 Arianna Kosakowski Holy Rosary School Student Essay 7-9	 p7 Stephen Brown III Oakmont Reg. High School Student Essay 10-12
 p14 Curtis Begin Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6	 p6 Alan Wong Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p14 Justin Richard Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12	 p5 Amelia Stevenson Hubbardston Center School Storybook Character K-1	 p9 Kai Lago-Williams Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 p15 Karen Lin Westminster Elementary School Design-An-Ad 4-6	 p14 Rachel Davis Holy Rosary School Design-An-Ad 7-9	 p5 Briana Woodward Montachusett Reg. Vocational Tech. Design-An-Ad 10-12		

Second Place

 p13 Larissa Bishop Riverbend Elementary School Original Artwork K-3	 p12 Karen Lin Westminster Elementary School Original Artwork 4-6	 p15 Tiffany Cunningham Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9	 p14 Emmitt Zalneraitis Quabbin Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p12 Hanna Knowlton Toy Town Elementary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p10 Curtiss Vachon Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p8 McKenzie Gillon Hubbardston Center School Student Essay K-3	 p10 Savannah Green Phillipston Memorial School Student Essay 4-6	 p13 Alexander Johnson Holy Rosary School Student Essay 7-9	 p10 Josh Munnis Oakmont Reg. High School Student Essay 10-12
 p15 Meagan Wyson Westminster Elementary School Feature Photo 4-6	 p14 Carley Walsh Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p9 Briana Woodward Montachusett Reg. Vocational Tech. Feature Photo 10-12	 p12 Hannah Leger Hubbardston Center School Storybook Character K-1	 p9 Dominic Celona Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 p28 Ameriah Schober Naragansett Middle School Design-An-Ad 4-6	 p15 Tiffany Cunningham Holy Rosary School Design-An-Ad 7-9	 p7 Connor Botko Murdock Middle-High School Design-An-Ad 10-12		

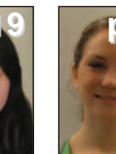
Third Place

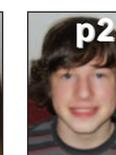
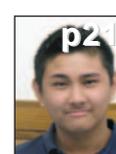
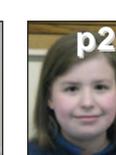
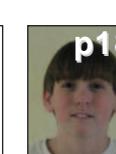
 p7 Zoe Farnsworth Riverbend Elementary School Original Artwork K-3	 p11 Jessie Nolette Toy Town Elementary School Original Artwork 4-6	 p7 Delaney Payne Quabbin Reg. High School Original Artwork 7-9	 p6 Taylor Wall Oakmont Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 p13 Lindsey Lee Holy Rosary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 p16 Jack Fay Sacred Heart School Editorial Cartoon 7-9	 p10 Chiara Nevard Johnny Appleseed School Student Essay K-3	 p12 Dana Linnan Ruggles Lane Elementary School Student Essay 4-6	 p20 Jackie Nicholson Holy Rosary School Student Essay 7-9	 p10 Danielle Dupuis Oakmont Reg. High School Student Essay 10-12
 p28 Lindsey Lee Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6	 p7 Emma Frushell Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 p12 Dylan Bouchard Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12	 p11 Chloe Leano Phillipston Memorial School Storybook Character K-1	 p17 Jillian Conant Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 p6 Tyler Young Toy Town Elementary School Design-An-Ad 4-6	 p28 Joseph Arsenault Holy Rosary School Design-An-Ad 7-9	 p28 Ben White Murdock Middle-High School Design-An-Ad 10-12		

Turn to next page for
Honorable mentions

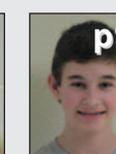
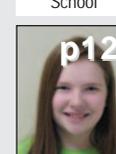
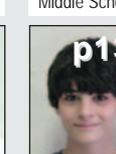
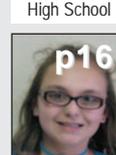
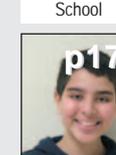
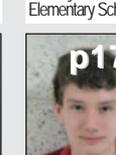
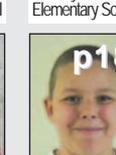
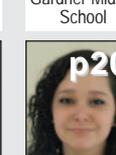
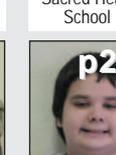
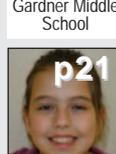
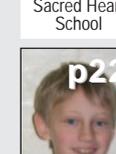
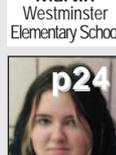
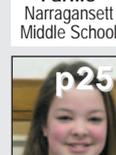
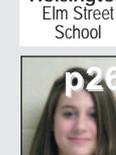
NIE Contest Winners

Honorable Mentions

 Lauren Komberg Waterford Street School Original Artwork K-3	 Emmarie Banning Meetinghouse Elementary School Original Artwork K-3	 Carmello Santoro Hardwick Elementary School Original Artwork K-3	 Michelle Tremblay New Braintree Elementary School Original Artwork K-3	 Ian Hosington Helen Mae Sauter School Original Artwork K-3	 Jada Sibley J.R. Briggs Elementary School Original Artwork K-3	 Jewelianna Vaillancourt Phillipston Memorial School Original Artwork K-3	 Madisyn Magoon Hubbardston Center School Original Artwork K-3	 Bradley Parks Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6	 Chad Walter Westminster Elementary School Original Artwork 4-6	 Devin Curran Westminster Elementary School Original Artwork 4-6	 Holland Engele Butterfield Elementary School Original Artwork 4-6	 Lauren Fletcher Oakham Center School Original Artwork 4-6	 Alyssa Blaser Riverbend Elementary School Original Artwork 4-6
 Dejia Rodriguez Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 4-6	 Kelsi McHugh Pleasant Street School Original Artwork 4-6	 Skye Curran Wachusett Hills Christian School Original Artwork 7-9	 Bailey Harding Narragansett Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 Julia Enright Overlook Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 Justin Taylor Overlook Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 Payton Hoyt Cottage Hill Academy Original Artwork 7-9	 Rachel Sanders Homeschool Original Artwork 7-9	 Nataша Boudreau Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9	 Paige Bradshaw Holy Rosary School Original Artwork 7-9	 Courtney Harty Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 7-9	 Sara Brown Quabbin Reg. Middle School Original Artwork 7-9	 Ashley Kim Cushing Academy Original Artwork 10-12	 Kaarin Phelps Oakmont Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12

 Kelsy Vitols Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 10-12	 Shen He The Winchendon School Original Artwork 10-12	 John Waters Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 10-12	 Koie Hamel Narragansett Reg. High School Original Artwork 10-12	 Kristina Daly Mahar Regional School Original Artwork 10-12	 Tian Yin The Winchendon School Original Artwork 10-12	 Sam Leveillee Homeschool Original Artwork 10-12	 Kelsey Dilling Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6
 C.J. Kelleher Westminster Elementary School Feature Photo 4-6	 Kenzi Cole Westminster Elementary School Feature Photo 4-6	 Bethany Dornig Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 4-6	 Timothy Funa Holy Rosary School Feature Photo 7-9	 Dillon Handy Montachusett Reg. Vocational Tech. Feature Photo 10-12	 Sarah Wilson Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12	 Tatjana James Montachusett Reg. Vocational Tech. Feature Photo 10-12	 Mallory Gonzalez Murdock Middle High School Feature Photo 10-12
 Nick Hayes Gardner High School Feature Photo 10-12	 Jordyn Gillon Hubbardston Center School Storybook Character K-1	 Julia Greco Baldwinville Elementary School Storybook Character 2-3	 Alicia Porter Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 Sarah Boutwell Helen Mae Sauter School Storybook Character 2-3	 Emily Semenza Toy Town Elementary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 Erin O'Brien Holy Rosary School Editorial Cartoon 4-6	 Arianna Kosakowski Holy Rosary School Editorial Cartoon 7-9
 Carley LeBlanc Holy Rosary School Student Essay K-3	 Bridie McLean Helen Mae Sauter School Student Essay K-3	 Damien Cormier Holy Rosary School Student Essay K-3	 Emily Glidden Ruggles Lane Elementary School Student Essay 4-6	 Morgan McMaster Holy Rosary School Student Essay 4-6	 Connor Clinkscale Toy Town Elementary School Student Essay 4-6	 Josh Muzyk Sacred Heart School Student Essay 7-9	 Sam Gallant Sacred Heart School Student Essay 7-9

Other Design-An-Ad winners

 Lauren McMillen Narragansett Middle School	 Emma Claur Narragansett Middle School	 Mark Wiseman Gardner Middle School	 Megan Provencal Murdock Middle High School	 Saffron Schober Narragansett Middle School	 Justice Graves Narragansett Middle School
 Dean Brazawskis Murdock Middle High School	 Randy Courtemanche Murdock Middle High School	 Krysta Schultz Narragansett Middle School	 Daniel Hurst Gardner Middle School	 Hannah Gaunt Toy Town Elementary School	 Michael Stevenson Toy Town Elementary School
 Danielle Caisse Westminster Elementary School	 Carissa Manca Toy Town Elementary School	 Timothy Funa Holy Rosary School	 Beshoy Lawindy Narragansett Middle School	 James Piermarini Gardner Middle School	 Curtiss Vachon Sacred Heart School
 Sydney Fairman Gardner Middle School	 Becky Brandeberry Narragansett Middle School	 Kris Clayton Murdock Middle High School	 Jon Raymond Sacred Heart School	 Kaitlyn McCarthy Mahar Regional School	 Michael Duffy Toy Town Elementary School
 Camryn Martin Westminster Elementary School	 Frank Parillo Narragansett Middle School	 Kyle Strom Narragansett Middle School	 Max Hoisington Elm Street School	 Raegan Moulton Narragansett Middle School	 Emily Waystack Narragansett Middle School
 Sara Morse Murdock Middle High School	 Emma Frushell Holy Rosary School	 Andy Dorais Murdock Middle High School	 Ashleigh Richard Narragansett Middle School	 Christopher Langlois Narragansett Middle School	

Congratulations to the 152 students that appear in the 2011 Newspapers In Education Supplement!



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
*Megan Roach, Grade 12,
Quabbin Regional High School*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
*Kalen Bara-Kennedy, Grade 8,
Quabbin Regional Middle School*

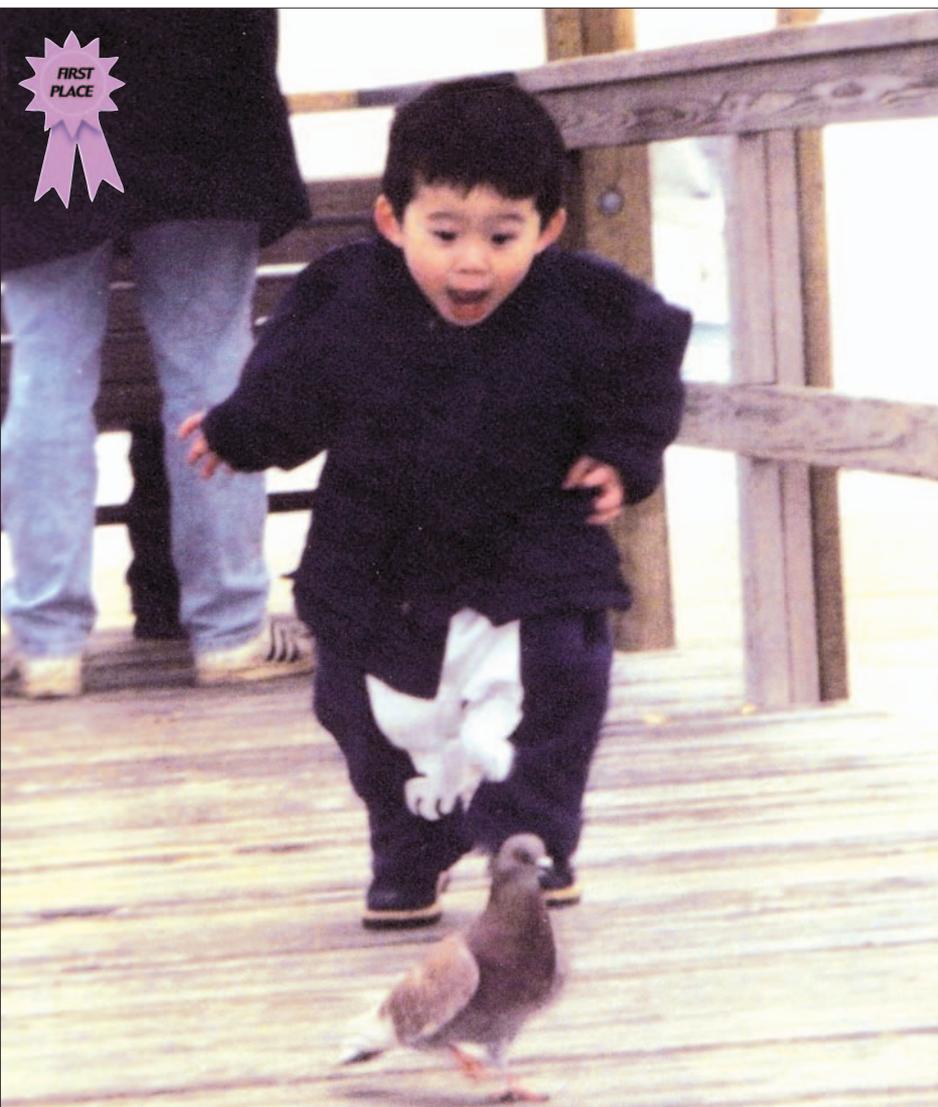


STORYBOOK CHARACTER
*Amelia Stevenson, Grade K,
Hubbardston Center School*



326 Timpany Boulevard
Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-8051

DESIGN-AN-AD
*Briana Woodward, Grade 12,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School*



FIRST PLACE

FEATURE PHOTO
 Alan Wong, Grade 7,
 Holy Rosary School



FIRST PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Cassidie Lison, Grade 3,
 Helen Mae Sauter School



THIRD PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Taylor Wall, Grade 12,
 Oakmont Regional High School



FIRST PLACE

EDITORIAL CARTOON
 Hannah Gaunt, Grade 5,
 Toy Town Elementary School



THIRD PLACE



978-582-9701

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

DESIGN-AN-AD
 Tyler Young, Grade 5
 Toy Town Elementary School

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?



In June 1954, Congress passed an act, changing the Pledge of Allegiance to what it is today. It added the phrase, "Under God," because we were then in the midst of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, who were seen as a bunch of "Godless Communists." "Under God," has caused much controversy over the years, and has led to some very major court cases, such as *Newdow v. Rio Linda Union School District* and *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*. In both cases, "Under God," was not removed. "Under God" in the pledge, for which I am against, has also resulted in a couple of controversies at my school in recent years.

Two years ago at Oakmont Regional High School, a young man, who will remain nameless, one day went on the air to say the announcements like he always did. The difference, though, was that he decided to omit the words, "Under God," when reciting the Pledge. Teachers and students throughout the school heard this unforgivable act. Everyone assumed that the speakers happened to cut out by accident that part of the Pledge. But he admitted to purposefully omit those sacred words. He was immediately fired from Oakmont Television and never announced for Oakmont again.

Two months ago, a week before Christmas vacation, I decided to do the same thing. The OTV studio was having technical difficulties, so as OTV's lead anchor, I did the announcements over the intercom every day. But on this day, I decided to omit those same words as well. But I did it differently from what was done previously. Instead of completely omitting the controversial phrase, I left a pause there, so that the people who still wanted to say it could do so. After I finished the announcements, a teacher and a few members of the administration asked me if I did it on purpose, and after responding with a "yes," they immediately fired me from OTV as well.

The reaction I got walking down the hall was mixed after the incident. Some students were complimenting me on my valor and decision to stand up for what I believed in. Many teachers, though, were giving me dirty looks. One teacher even walked by me and said, "No respect."

But why?

Why should the teachers be angry with me for expressing who I am and for what I believe? Isn't that what we are told to do in school? Be yourself and don't worry what others think? I'm not a perennial troublemaker and I don't make it a habit to earn detentions. Plus I get A's and B's in honors and AP classes. I'm also the baseball representative to the Oakmont athletic council and varsity baseball captain. So why would the biggest expression of who I am cause so many to be angry at me? Because I'm an atheist and they are Christian? Isn't treating me differently because of my religious views a direct violation of the establishment clause? Aren't those teachers, by glaring and telling me I have no respect, subconsciously pressuring me to join their religion? In my opinion, yes. It's fine to be angry, but to chastise a respectable student for his only major "slip up" in high school is a bit ridiculous. I was called in multiple times by the administration about the matter and every time, they tried to get me to admit I was wrong. But why is standing up for what I believe to be the right thing to do so wrong? After they realized that I wasn't going to admit that I was wrong, they tried to get me to show remorse, and even suggested I do a mea culpa, or a confession of guilt, on OTV. But I wasn't giving in. I did what I thought was right and would get my point across.

We are taught that throughout history, many men and women broke the law for what they thought was right. So why am I any different, except on a smaller scale? Why am I not in some small way like Gandhi, or Martin Luther King, Jr., or Rosa Parks, but instead at the local level? They went to jail for what they did, but we are taught that what they did was right because the laws were ridiculous. Well, I think that the rule that you have to say, "Under God," is ridiculous, but my act of civil disobedience is punished, rather than rewarded or commended?

In case it isn't evident by what I've noted, I do not think that "Under God," should be in the Pledge. I think that "Under God" promotes religion. By saying "Under God," you are saying that you believe in God, and whereas our country is predominantly Christian, you are admitting that you believe in a Christian God. However, our country is built on religious freedom and we have many other religions. There are Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Scientologists, Wiccans, Atheists, and many other religions practiced. And at my school, many kids are Atheists. I would venture to guess that around 30 percent are, so I would see that "Under God" is offensive to them. When asked in one of my classes, about 12 of the 28 students said they were Atheist. Therefore, "Under God" should not be allowed in the Pledge of Allegiance, however, maybe one could allow for a pause in that place, so that people can say what they want, based on what they believe.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Stephen Brown III, Grade 12,
Oakmont Regional High School**



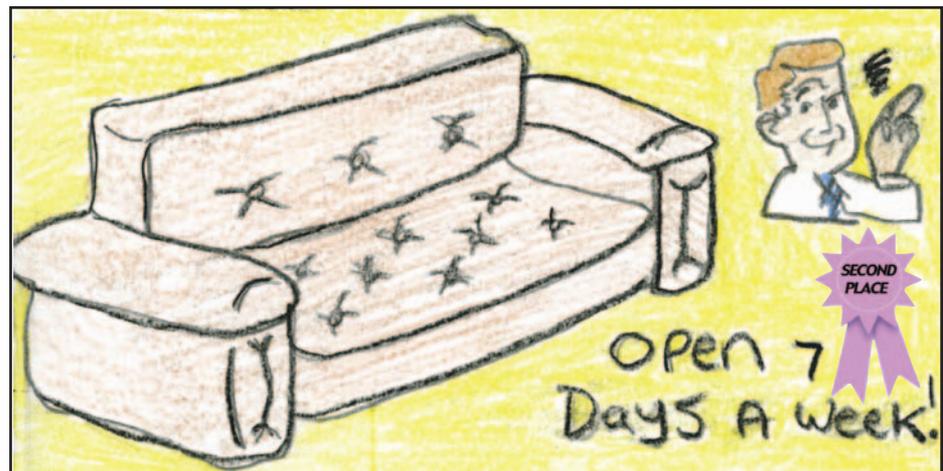
FEATURE PHOTO
**Emma Frushell, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
**Delaney Payne, Grade 9,
Quabbin Regional High School**



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
**Zoe Farnsworth, Kindergarten,
Riverbend Elementary School**



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DESIGN-AN-AD
**Connor Botko, Grade 11
Murdock Middle High School**

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?



I, personally, believe "Under God" should remain in the Pledge of Allegiance. As Americans, we follow many traditions and the Pledge of Allegiance is among them. "Under God" has been a part of the Pledge of Allegiance ever since 1954. It has been acknowledged for about 50 years and thousands say it each morning; and it should also continue to be recognized for thousands of more years. "Under God" is included in the Pledge of Allegiance because it honors our nation's heritage. Our nation was mostly founded by Christians, and the phrase "Under God" honors the Founding Fathers of our country. Our country wouldn't exist without our Founding Fathers.

"Under God" isn't requiring all Americans to believe in God. The phrase defines that God will watch over our country and each citizen. That phrase is not obliging anyone to disobey their own religion and also isn't compelling people to believe in God. Stating the Pledge of Allegiance with the words "under God" isn't affirming that you, personally, believe in God. The phrase "Under God" is saying as a nation we are under God. It isn't showing that people who believe in God are "better" than those who don't believe. It is simply a part of our Pledge of Allegiance and wasn't included to offend anyone of any religion.

However, I think for the small number, approximately 5 percent of Americans, that do not believe in God, there are still approximately 95 percent that do believe in God. Why change one part of the Pledge of Allegiance for just that 5 percent of the population? Many people say that "Under God" is unconstitutional, but that was overruled by the Supreme Court. American currency consists of the words, "In God we trust" on them. Also, when we take an oath in court we say, "So help me God" and even government officials take an oath of office, including the words. If "Under God" is declared unconstitutional, then American documentation will have to be changed to remove the phrase. All currency would become obsolete and new currency would have to be circulated. This would cost the government an enormous amount of money.

You aren't required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is optional. If you don't believe in God, you can omit that part. Although you may not include the part "Under God," it should still be included in the Pledge of Allegiance. It should also remain in the Pledge of Allegiance for centuries to come. There are many traditions in our country today, and the Pledge of Allegiance is one of them. Don't abolish this tradition of the pledge of Allegiance by removing the most vital part! Approve "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and say it with pride every morning. The Pledge of Allegiance represents the Founding Fathers' belief in our nation, a belief that our nation being, "Under God," will be a moral and just nation, leading the world in human rights and humanity.

STUDENT ESSAY

**Arianna Kosakowski, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School**

What is the best pet?



What makes the best pet? Everyone might be asking the same old question. Dogs make the best pets. They are as sweet as candy and are amazingly excellent life companions. You need to provide dogs with a lot of love, care and attention as well as months of training.

Dogs are loyal, intelligent and known as man's best friends. You'll be on cloud nine if you get a dog! Millions of people across the country and around the world have dogs, which just goes to show you how popular dogs really are.

If you train dogs every day, they'll be housebroken in a short period of time. They will also have a very bright future. Dogs are loveable, because they obviously cherish people no matter what! They are intelligent because if they get lost, they can find their way home by the shortest route without landmarks recognizable to humans. They can also understand certain commands such as sit, come, lie down, eat, go out, quiet and stop. They also know their names like humans do.

If you are under the weather or facing a wave of emotions, dogs will brighten your spirit and will make you feel much better. Dogs love you no matter what. If you adopt a dog they will basically become a family member.

If you're a very energetic person, a sporting dog or a very active dog will be good for you to have. This is because dogs just love to run in your backyard or wherever they possibly can whenever they possibly can. If you like laying low, a small dog or a mostly relaxed dog will be good for you because you and your dog won't need to run around a whole lot. But you will need to play with your dog for short bursts of time each day.

If you are looking for a friend or you just want a really good pet, then get a dog or at least give dogs a chance in your home. Dogs need friends just as much as people do. In life you need at least two really good friends and that goes for animals too.

Dogs make great pets, don't they? If you want a dog, then adopt one from the nearest or best animal care center or shelter you can find. There are a variety of dog breeds and groups to choose from. No matter what kind of dog you get, dogs make awesome pets.

Dogs are very fearless, extremely loveable, amazingly loyal, and unbelievably intelligent. If you want a pet like that, then get a dog. All animals are different. You probably won't be able to get a pet exactly like a dog, that's not a dog.

Don't believe all those tall tales about dogs being very vicious. Despite the fact some may be true, you have to admit, most dogs are as bright as day. They are also as sweet as candy too. Dogs really do make the best pets!

STUDENT ESSAY

**Rachel Marsh, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School**

What is your favorite season of the year?



My favorite season of the year is winter. I started skiing when I was four. My favorite trail is the Challenger, because there's lots of moguls. I ski with my dad mostly. We ski at Wachusett a lot. I turn when I ski sometimes.

When you go ice fishing, you drill the auger into the ice, then you scoop out the ice next. I like to catch the shiners in the bucket. Then we put the flags in, then you try to catch the fish.

Sometimes we look for animal tracks. We mostly find the deer tracks and squirrel tracks. Sometimes we see moose or raccoon tracks, or poop too. We follow the tracks and we find the animal sometimes.

We got new skates this year. We skated indoors and outdoors, even when we go ice fishing. When we go sledding, I make the sled go fast. Sometimes my dad makes a jump. I fly off the jump and still stay on.

I go with my brother and sister. I have to carry the sled because I'm the oldest. My birthday is Feb. 23. I turned seven this year. My favorite present was a Lego set, with it being the ninja set where the ninja goes flying and knocks down the skeleton.

I like winter a lot!

STUDENT ESSAY

**Jared Marchand, Grade 1,
Hubbardston Center School**

What's your favorite season?



My favorite season of the year is summer. Summer is fun because we have summer vacation. I love going to the beach, because I love playing in the waves and making sandcastles with my family.

When we go to Hampton Beach, we go on the boardwalk, and we play games at the arcade. We also go to Canobie Lake Park during the summer, but this summer is going to be better than last summer because we get to go with Nate, my best friend's dad. He's coming home from Afghanistan and that's going to make it the best summer ever.

Some days in summer we go in the pool and invite some friends over and have a cookout and play games and go back in the pool, also playing with water guns, and we chase each other around the yard. My dogs don't like when we squirt them with the water so they just run away from us.

Sometimes in the summer we have a yard sale. We sell stuff we don't want anymore, and we use the money for doing fun stuff. As the end of the summer, we go to the mall and buy new school clothes. That's when I know when it is the end of summer and that fall is just around the corner.

STUDENT ESSAY

**McKenzie Gillon, Grade 1,
Hubbardston Center School**

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**Emma Claur, Grade 7,
Narragansett Middle School**

DESIGN-AN-AD
**Mark Wiseman, Grade 8,
Gardner Middle School**

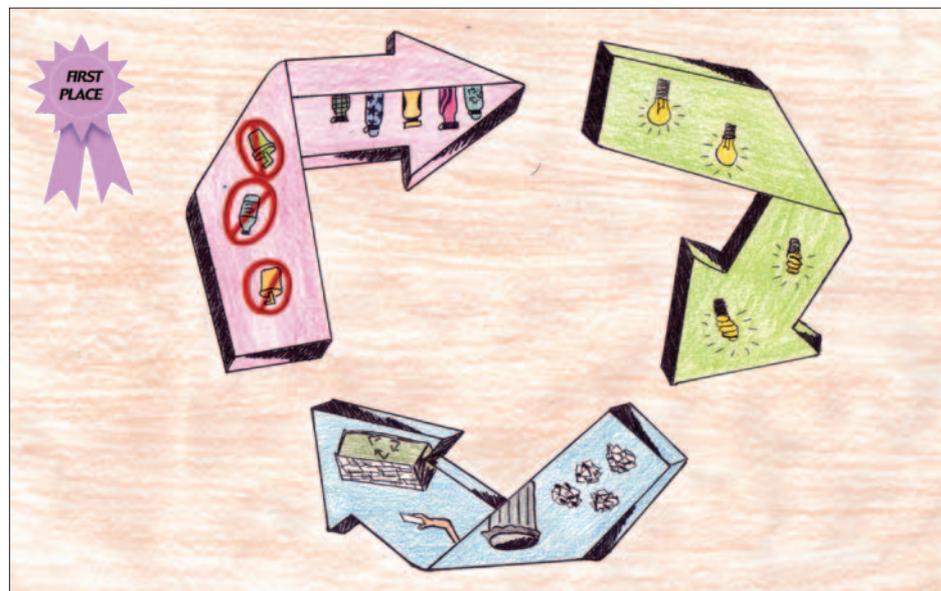
DESIGN-AN-AD
**Saffron Schober, Grade 8,
Narragansett Middle School**

DESIGN-AN-AD
**Megan Provencal, Grade 12,
Murdock Middle High School**



STORYBOOK CHARACTER

*Kai Lago-Williams, Grade 3,
Helen Mae Sauter School*



EDITORIAL CARTOON

*Samantha Buckler, Grade 8,
Sacred Heart School*



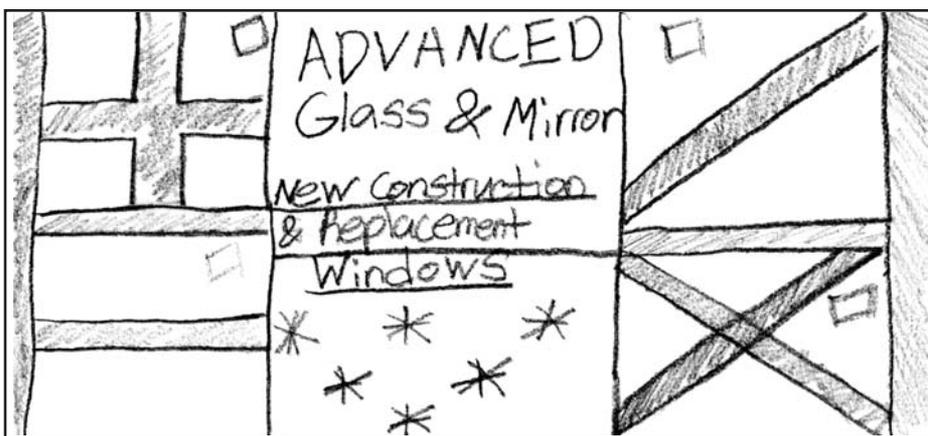
FEATURE PHOTO

*Briana Woodward, Grade 12,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School*



STORYBOOK CHARACTER

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DESIGN-AN-AD
*Justice Graves, Grade 7
Narragansett Middle School*

What is your favorite season of the year?



Do you have a favorite season? You don't? Well, I do. My favorite season is summer and here is why, I like it with a hot and sunny twist. A good smell to smell in the summer is the refreshing smell of chlorine water, as it sways against your waist and Popsicle sticks melting on your hand. You hear bike tires roaming the dry sidewalk. What do you taste in the sunny summer time? Oh I know, you taste the refreshing, melting and mouth watering taste of ice cream. Last but, not least, in the hot summer, one thing that you see is the sandy beaches off the coast. Oh yeah, I almost forgot to tell you (if you haven't noticed yet) these are the five senses that I thought of in the summer time. Here's what I smell, hear, taste, feel and see. This is what I mean by a hot and sunny twist. Finally, I'm done, maybe now this is a start for you to write a paragraph about your favorite season. I bet you can think of more things that you smell, hear, taste, feel and see in your favorite season.

STUDENT ESSAY
Chiara Nevard, Grade 2,
Johnny Appleseed School

What is your favorite season of the year?



Excruciating heat, ice cold water, tiny clothes, windows down, music blaring. Summer is my favorite season. If I had the chance to move anywhere I wanted, I would take that to move to anywhere that the weather is hot all year around. My whole family loves summer. My favorite thing about summer is no school. I also love the beach. I go to the beach as often as possible during the summer. Staying out late is another plus to this glorious season. The carnivals and amusement parks are definitely something that make summer amazing.

The beach is the most beautiful place in the world. The smell, the feel of the sand between your toes, the sound of the seagulls trying to steal your food, the sight across the horizon of the ocean, the taste of saltwater when the gigantic waves pull you under. Walking down the seashore, looking for sea shells, sand dollars and precious pebbles. Searching throughout the huge rocks for starfish and snails. Waiting until high-tide to leap off the bridge into the crab-infested waters. Playing in the puddles left in the sand from the moon pulling the tide back out to sea. Accidentally letting yourself doze off on your towel as the sun leaves you looking like a lobster. Wrestling the waves until your fingers are pruned and your lips are purple. Eating ice cream as fast as you can, so it doesn't drip down your arms. Taking the time to dig a humungous hole in the sand, just to fill it back up when the sun goes down. Running back and forth from your spot in the sand down to the water to fill a bucket to make a fantastic sand castle. Wandering all the way down the strip of beach to meet people and make new friends.

Looking for glowing jellyfish on the shoreline when night falls. Laying on the chilled sand looking at the pure, clear sky, filled with shining stars above. After a long day of walking the hard pavement along the downtown store fronts, slipping your shoes off and walking down the cool sand, maybe get your feet a little wet while you're at it. Dancing along the water to only the music of the sea with your love. Let flirtation take over your soul. Let go of yourself. Letting the world just spin around you like nothing else exists as you accept an enchanting touch of lips with your love. Finding a sturdy stick and writing your names inside a heart in the damp sand. Hiding under the boardwalk when the beach patrol is patrolling for scoundrels like you. Filling a bottle with sand to take home so you never forget that summer night.

Sticking the key in the door of your hotel room at three in the morning with a sleepy, lovey-dovey smile slapped across your face. Shutting the door behind you, falling back against the door. Finally realizing your whole family is staring at you like you have three heads, but secretly knowing exactly what's on your mind right then. Going to your bed, but never being able to fall asleep because that one person is all that's on your mind.

As soon as you wake, going to find that special someone. Roller coasters, ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds, cotton candy, candy apples, sodas, polish ice, ice cream, go-carts all day long. You've been staring at that one stuffed animal behind the arcade games every time you pass it. Your special friend tries his hardest and uses up all his money and time just to get that silly little stuffed animal, because it put not only the biggest, but prettiest smile on your face. Even your eyes were smiling. You think your night, let alone your summer, couldn't get better than this. Fireworks started shooting up from over the deep dark ocean. You found a quiet bench, away from everything, away from life itself, a moment to take it all in with him. To be thankful for this season because it allows all your wildest dreams and fantasies to come alive. It's your door to happiness. Sadly, it has to come to a halt soon enough for you to return to earth and watch your dreams fade away with your tan.

STUDENT ESSAY
Danielle Dupuis, Grade 10,
Oakmont Regional High School

What is your favorite toy?



My favorite toy that I own would have to be my blue speed demon, called the 200cc Yamaha Blaster. It is a 200cc air-cooled single-cylinder two-stroke, all-terrain vehicle, produced as an entry-level machine manufactured in Japan and sold in the United States from 1988 to 2006. Its two-stroke engine is easily modified by enthusiasts and a large aftermarket now exists for the quad. To me, it is my favorite toy, because I feel like nobody can catch me, I can drive fast up mountains through trails and off jumps. To me, it is a great thrill, especially driving on a lake, or through blizzards.

The first reason this toy gives me such a thrill, is because it has a two-stroke engine, which means that the takeoff when you click the throttle allows you to go fast enough to get it up in a wheelie without even trying. The quad goes about 65 to 70 mph with a six-speed clutch and its blue. For the 2003 model year, the Blaster was updated with a restyled front nose, and an all-around lighter machine for greater performance. The problematic mechanical rear and front drum brakes were replaced by dual hydraulic disc brakes in both the front and rear.

The most beneficial part of the entire speed machine is the power that it has and that it can tow the other four wheelers if they get stuck. It will always start, and it will pull them out of a bad situation fast. It also has a great suspension, a big gas tank and three brakes, in case you get into trouble. These all-terrain vehicles can go just about anywhere, without getting stuck in four-foot streams, snow covered hills, logs, trees and sticks, thin trails, or very rocky spots through the woods and even up mountains.

The last, but most important reason, why this toy is my favorite is because it's unique amount of power helps me live close to the edge by doing things that are crazy. Like high speed wheelies, going off jumps, and climbing treacherous rocky hills and ledges. To me, living close to the edge and doing crazy things is the most fun. I love the adrenaline rush and so that's one of the strongest reasons why the 200cc Blaster is my favorite toy.

I have decided that this machine is the best choice, because of the thrill of going at a high amount of speed close to 80 mph. Or because it has a great suspension, with a smooth ride and a big gas tank, so I can ride all day, along with it being safe with the three brakes. Lastly, I love the adrenaline rush, and for all these reasons, that is why I love this toy more than any other activity that I can do.

STUDENT ESSAY
Josh Munnis, Grade 12,
Oakmont Regional High School

How can Forward in Health best help Haiti?



I think that Gardner's Forward in Health Organization can help Haiti by taking money that we give to the state, and donate it to Haiti.

You could also do fundraisers, such as food drives, clothing drives and many more. Stores like Wal-Mart, and Stop and Shop are perfect places to collect donations.

The tragedy that happened was extremely hard on so many people. My school collected more than \$100 for Haiti.

I know that if I could do anything to help, believe me I would. Because I know if I was one of those people in Haiti, I would want them to help me too.

Also, people think that it doesn't matter how severe the damage really is. But truthfully you will never know how hard it is for them to lose their families, friends, homes and so much more. You would want them to help you if you were in their shoes. So why don't you help them?

After all, even one penny, can in some small way make a huge impact.

STUDENT ESSAY
Savannah Green, Grade 4,
Phillipston Memorial School



EDITORIAL CARTOON
Curtiss Vachon, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School



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DESIGN-AN-AD
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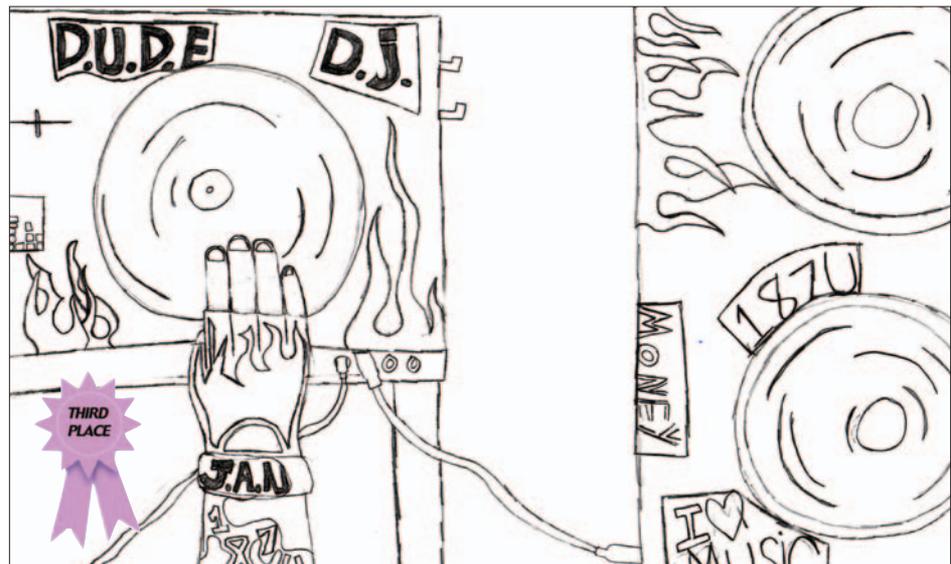
FEATURE PHOTO
Carley Walsh, Grade 7,
Holy Rosary School



STORYBOOK CHARACTER
Chloe Leano, Grade 1,
Phillipston Memorial School



ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Emmitt Zalneraitis, Grade 11,
Quabbin Regional High School

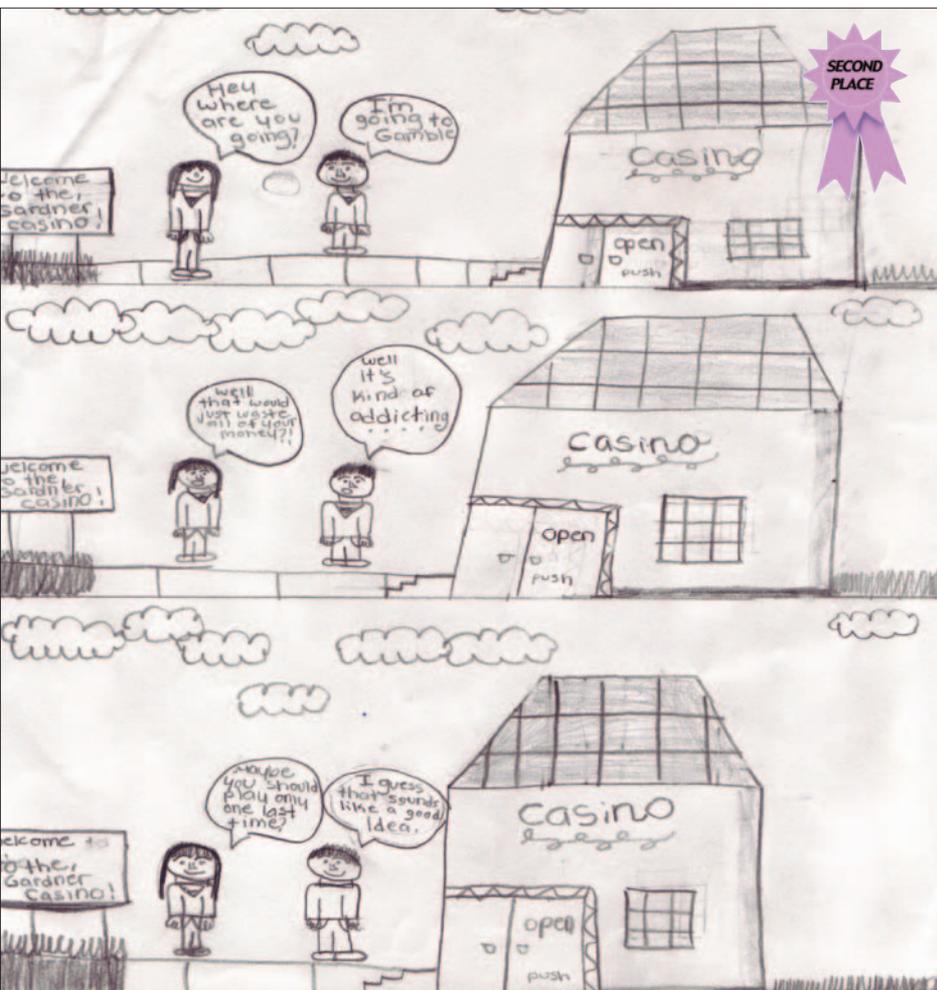


ORIGINAL ARTWORK
Jessie Nolette, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School



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DESIGN-AN-AD
Randy Courtemanche, Grade 12
Murdock Middle High School



SECOND PLACE

EDITORIAL CARTOON
 Hanna Knowlton, Grade 5,
 Toy Town Elementary School



SECOND PLACE

ORIGINAL ARTWORK
 Karen Lin, Grade 5,
 Westminster Elementary School

How would you help family or a friend find a job?

If my friend or family member was looking for a good paying job, I would be as supportive as possible. I would look in newspapers, Web sites, and I would look for help wanted signs outside of stores and other places. I would also want to find something enjoyable for my friend or family member. For example, if my friend was interested in music, then I might want to look at a music shop, or somewhere they could watch live performances for free. I would also put in a recommendation for them just to give the store a good idea of the person's experience and what I know of that person. And if they decide to get a different job, I would be completely supportive of any decision they make. I would want to try to make an agreement with them because I don't know how much money they need in a week and they need to know how much they would be paid at their job.

Throughout their job, I would give them advice on any problems they come across and I would congratulate them on anything good that happens, like a promotion, raise or bonus. I might also want to find a job that my friend or family member was good at. If my friend was good at building, I would want to look into a place that involves building. I would do this because if they are good at their job, then they will get paid more or get promoted. If they weren't good, they could get fired or demoted. Whatever decision they make, I would praise them and be supportive.

THIRD PLACE

STUDENT ESSAY
 Dana Linnan, Grade 5,
 Ruggles Lane Elementary School



THIRD PLACE

FEATURE PHOTO
 Dylan Bouchard, Grade 12,
 Gardner High School



SECOND PLACE

STORYBOOK CHARACTER
 Hannah Leger, Grade 1,
 Hubbardston Center School



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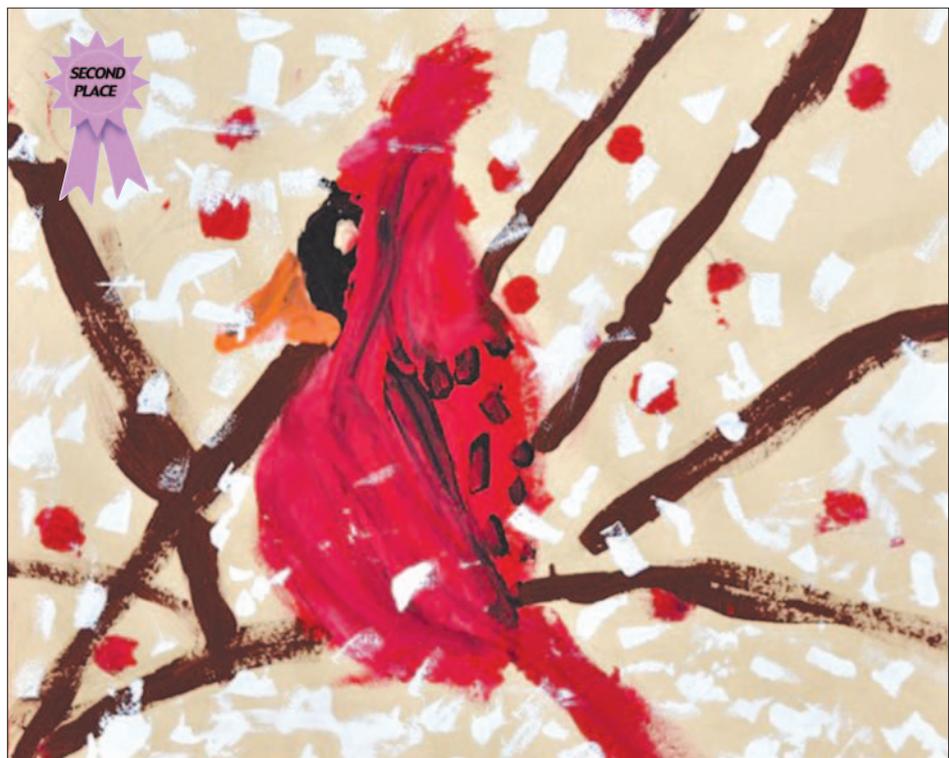
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DESIGN-AN-AD
 Krysta Schultz, Grade 6
 Narragansett Middle School



EDITORIAL CARTOON

*Lindsey Lee, Grade 6,
Holy Rosary School*



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

*Larissa Bishop, Grade 3,
Riverbend Elementary School*



FEATURE PHOTO

*Dillon Handy, Grade 12,
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School*

Would a Gardner casino be good or bad for the city?



Imagine having to drive hours away to get to a casino, and only stay there for a night or two. Instead of wasting time in your car driving there, you could be having fun in a casino that is very close to your hometown. There has been some talk about building a casino in Gardner, Massachusetts. Gardner would be a good place to put a casino because there is no place like a casino in the city, or reasonably close to it.

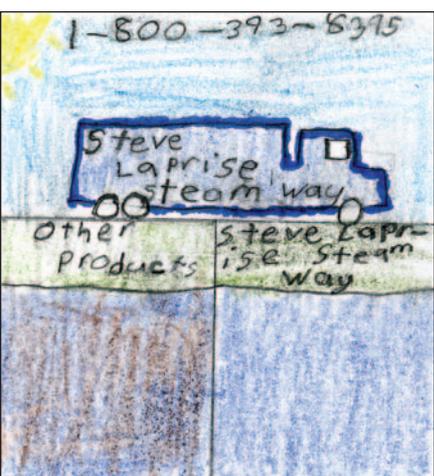
Having a casino in Gardner would provide more jobs for people in the area. Jobs are needed because there recently have been many people who have lost their job, because of the economy. There could be many job opportunities in a single casino building. Also, a casino would bring more people into Gardner, and the local businesses would make a bigger profit. Some of these local stores need that bigger profit to stay in business.

Even though casinos have benefits, the also have problems. One of these problems could be that some of the people that go to these casinos could fall into debt. Many people that gamble think, "I just need to try one more time!" That is not a good attitude, because if you keep thinking that way, the odds are you won't just try once more. People can become addicted to gambling, almost like nicotine. You can try it once and you get hooked, or you won't get hooked at all.

Gardner, Massachusetts would be a great place to put a casino, and I think it would be a great way to get more jobs in the city. Not only will the people of Gardner benefit from getting jobs, but people in neighboring cities and towns such as Winchendon and Ashburnham will benefit too. There will always be problems no matter what we do, but having a casino too close will have more people becoming addicted to gambling. That could be dangerous because too many people bet too much, and they don't even realize how much they wasted. A casino, though, is what will truly earn Gardner the name, "G-Vegas."

STUDENT ESSAY

*Alexander Johnson, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School*



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DESIGN-AN-AD
*Michael Stevenson, Grade 5
Toy Town Elementary*

DESIGN-AN-AD
*Daniel Hurst, Grade 8
Gardner Middle School*

DESIGN-AN-AD
*Hannah Gaunt, Grade 5
Toy Town Elementary School*



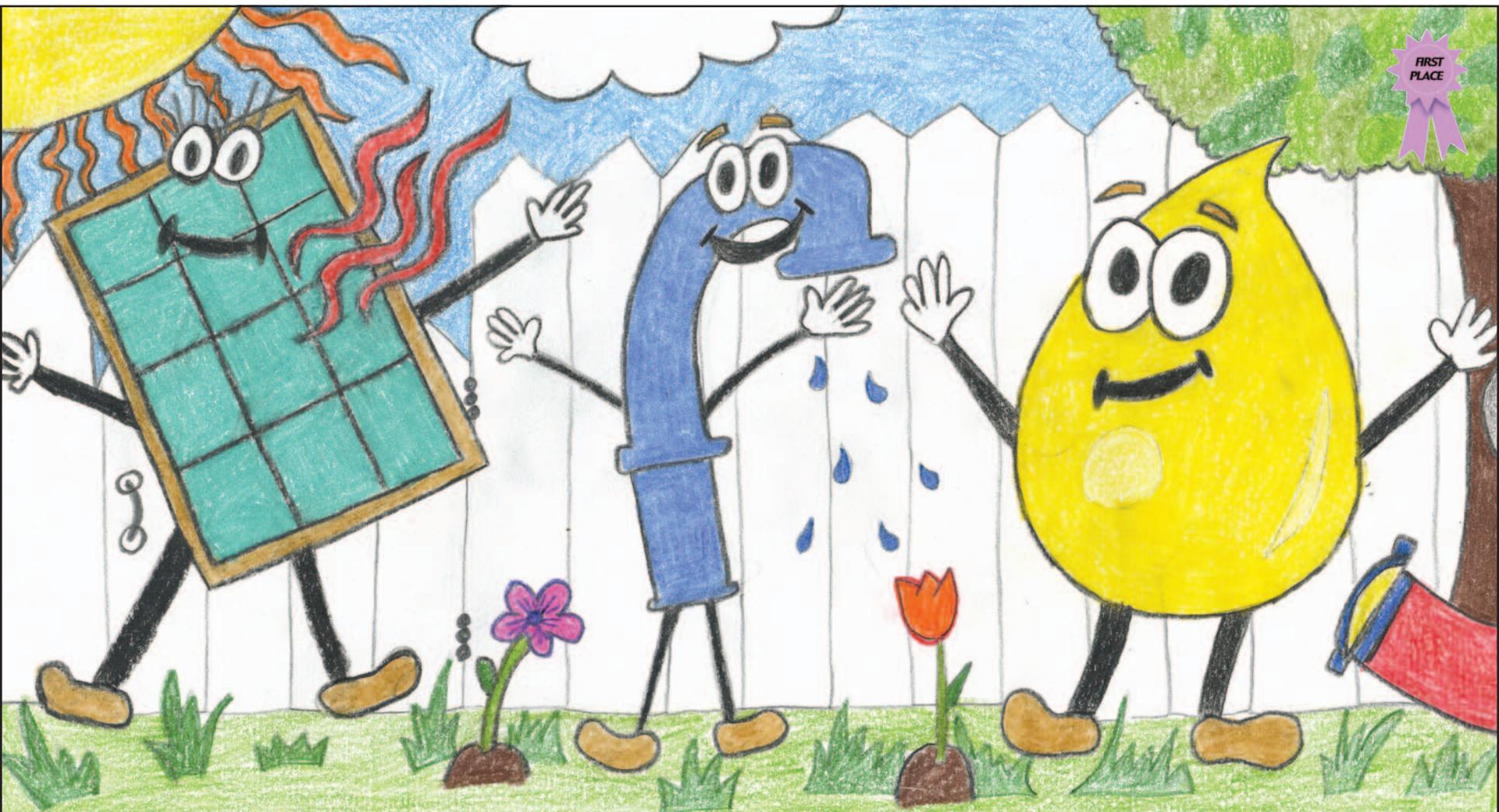
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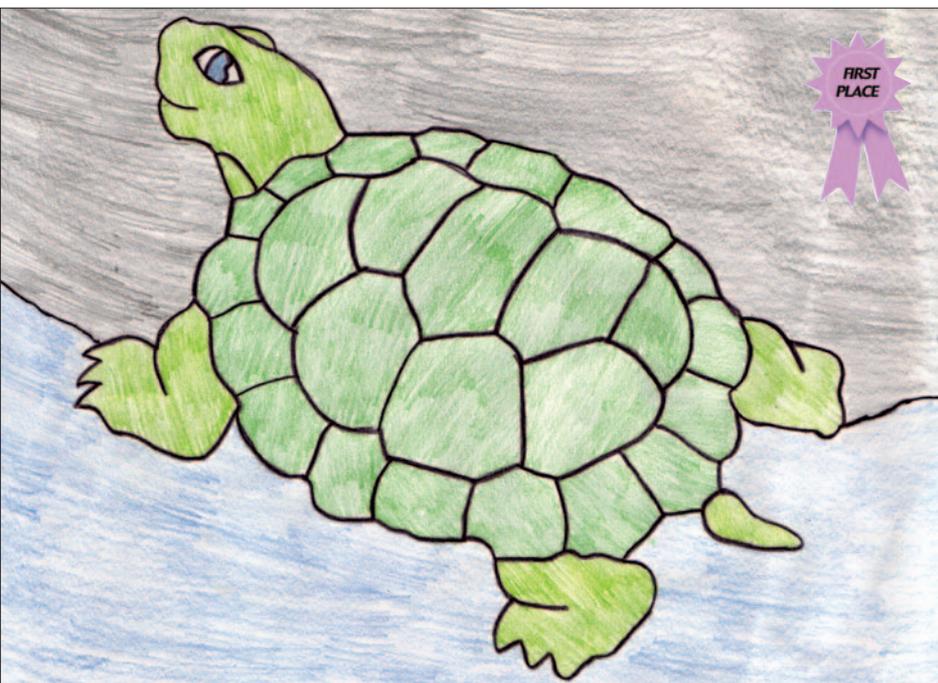
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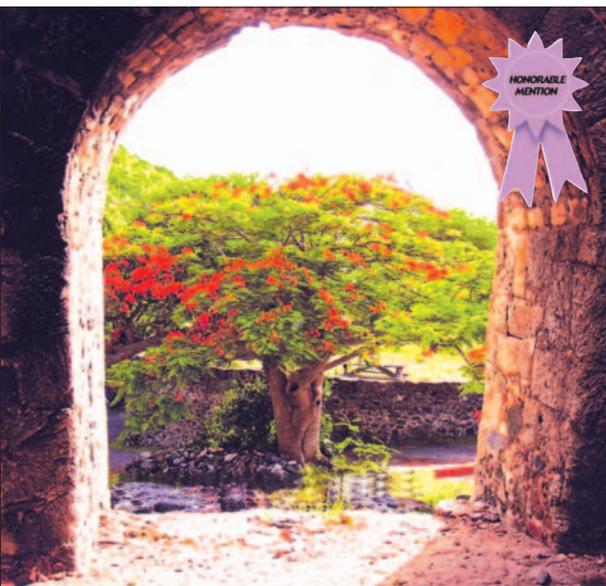
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Holy Rosary School



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 Sacred Heart School



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 Hardwick Elementary School



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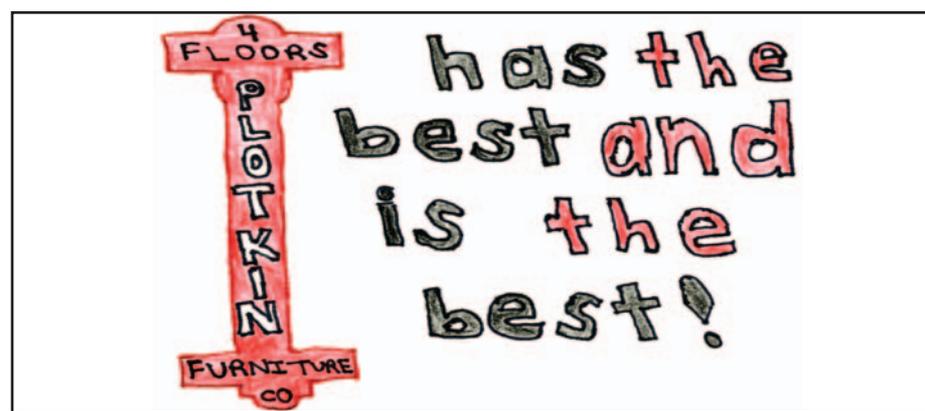


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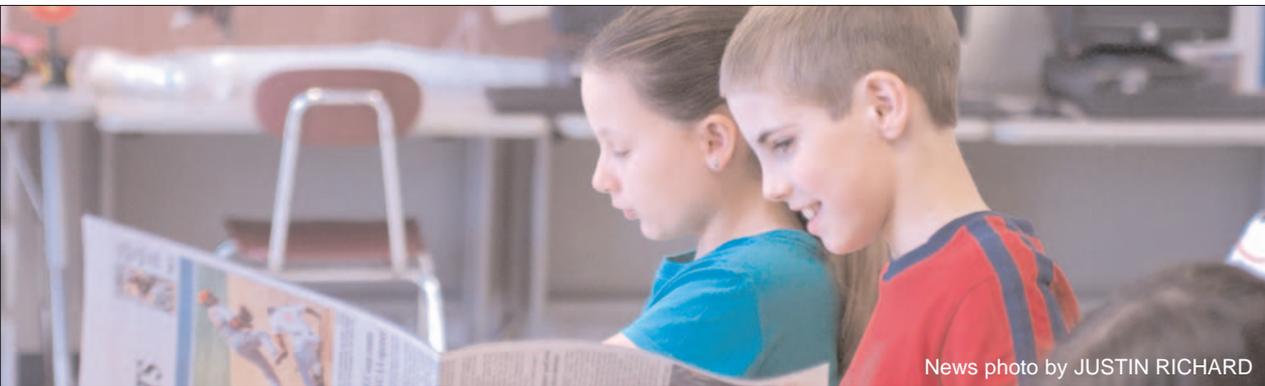
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DESIGN-AN-AD
James Piermarini, Grade 8
Gardner Middle School

What is the best pet?



What kind of pets do you like? My favorite pet is a horse, because I own one! My horse is named Splash and she is a Bay Leopard Appaloosa. I have had Splash ever since last summer when my parents bought her for me! Splash is very special to me and that was all I ever wanted for Christmas, "A horse," and I finally got my *biggest* dream when I got her! I think the best pet is a horse because they are friendly and you can ride them. If you have ever been to a fair or carnival there are always pony rides, so if you want to know why I think horses are the best pet for me, you should go to a fair to get a pony ride.

Do you own any pets? Owning pets are fun! I own one horse, two dogs, a fish and three bunnies. My horse's name is Splash, my dog's names are Smokey and Bandit, my fish's name is Goldie and my bunny's names are Longears, Nibbles and Thumper. All of my pets are very, very human friendly! My dogs especially love to get belly rubs too! I hope you get a pet if you don't already have one! Remember, they will be nice to you if you are nice to them.

STUDENT ESSAY
Emily Glidden, Grade 5,
Ruggles Lane Elementary School

What is the best pet?



I think the best pet is a polar bear. They eat almost the same thing as you, so when you go the supermarket, just buy three times the amount of normal steak you would buy. It is so much easier than taking 5 to 10 minutes in the pet supplies aisle figuring out what flavor your pet would like. Then when it is time to go to bed, just ask your big ball of fluff the polar bear to hop up on the bed and you don't have to buy blankets anymore. Instead of just leaving your blankets around the house, you could donate them to charity since you have your polar bear. Not only would you be helping your life, but since the ice caps are melting, you would be helping him. He would have a house that doesn't melt if it gets too hot. Also, if you have kids, then you could get a baby polar bear for your son and when the polar bear starts to grow up, so will your son. Then for all you hunters, Mr. Or Mrs. Polar bear can help you hunt. I guarantee he can catch an animal just as good as you. Baby polar bears are very playful, so they can entertain your kids when you need a little quiet time. Polar bears are very protective of things they love, so if anyone tries to rob your house, you have a full out defense system. What more could you ask for in a pet? He will be loving warm, playful, a good hunter, kids will love them, they will keep your family safe, and you will be saving him from drowning in the Arctic. So nature will owe you a favor like a snow day or a nice sunny day. That is why I think the polar bear is the best pet.

STUDENT ESSAY
Josh Muzyk, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School

How can the region become more 'green'?



I think recycling is a great idea. Everyone should have at least one recycling bin in their house. Every class in Holy Rosary School has a recycling bin, and I personally think that's great! Recycling helps the planet a lot! It's like doing chores, but for the earth. Everybody can help the earth in their own ways.

If you don't recycle, then you are making the wrong choice. What did the poor earth ever do to you? It's our home! Treat the earth like you would treat yourself. Then you're making the right choice.

STUDENT ESSAY
Morgan McMaster, Grade 5,
Holy Rosary School

What is your favorite toy?



My favorite toy is my America girl doll, because she is fun to dress up and I like to do her hair. My doll's name is Emily. I like to put her in her soccer uniform and she has a soccer ball and a trophy.

STUDENT ESSAY
Carley LeBlanc, Grade 1,
Hubbardston Center School

What is the best pet?



What I think makes the best pet would be lion. You could ride around town and around your house. It couldn't get stolen because no one would walk up to a lion. It is the pet where no one would mess with me, because I would just let it chase them. It also would be easy to feed. You could just live near the forest and it would eat the deer in the woods.

Also you would need a chain leash. I don't think a plain old dog leash would hold a lion. The only thing that would be hard to do with a lion is if you are going on vacation and you need to get it through security. Unlike Paris Hilton, I can't get a bag to fit a lion like her dog. Another thing, never bring a lion to a lion hunting competition. For one thing, it would be much better than any guard dog. It would also be a head turner on animal day.

STUDENT ESSAY
Sam Gallant, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School



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Kenzi Cole, Grade 5,
Westminster Elementary School



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ORIGINAL ARTWORK
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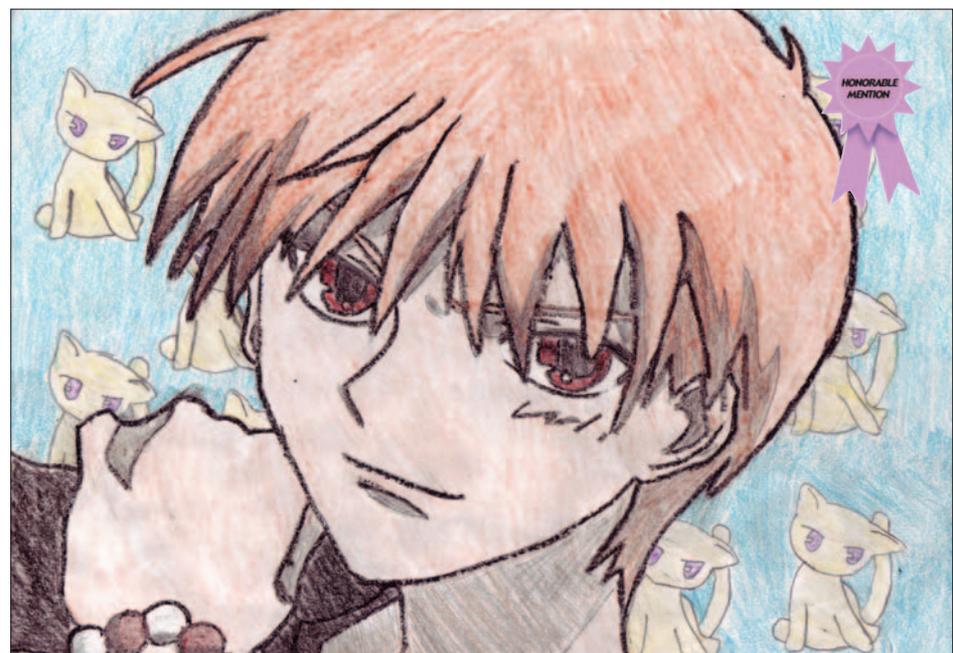
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
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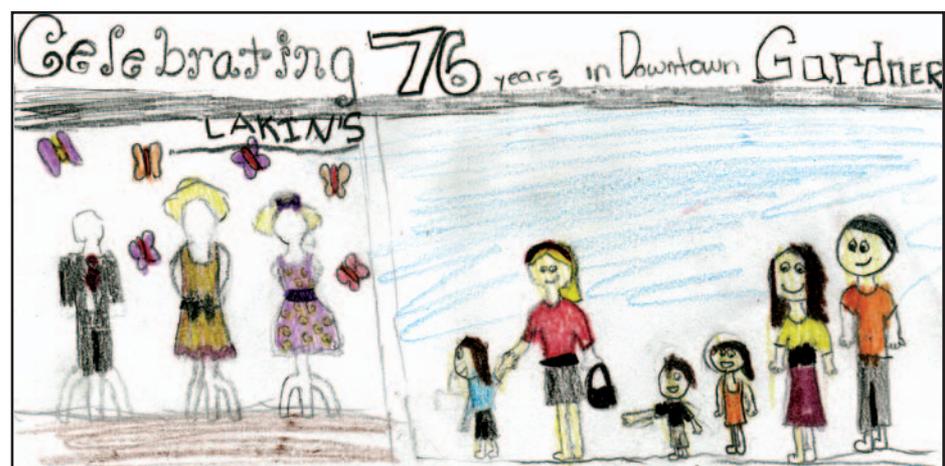
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Becky Brandeberry, Grade 7,
Narragansett Middle School



What is the best pet?



There are a lot of different types of crazy, furry, scaly, or feathery animals that people make as their lovable pets, but the one pet I would say is the best pet of all would have to be a dog. A dog is one of the most common pets in most households, but that's because dogs are so awesome.

If you are asking yourself why dogs are so awesome, you have probably never had a dog. One of the many amazing and helpful things they can do for us is protect you from strangers. Policemen and policewomen use canine units to bring criminals to justice or just to the ground so they can't hurt anyone. They don't always have to protect just cops, though. They can protect you at home if someone is trying to break into your house, apartment or even your car. It's kind of like their way of saying, "Hey, I care!"

Dogs don't only protect you, but they can also get you in shape. I don't mean dogs could be your personal trainers, I mean that if you want to take care of your wonderful pet, you need to take it for walks very frequently. Walking them means they are going to need water for re-hydration. If you do walk as much as your dog or dogs do, then you might need plenty of water for yourself too. Water is good for all living things, so you would be doing yourself and your pets a favor by walking them.

They do way more good than we expect them to do. For example, disabled people need dogs to help them see, stay safe, etc. Without them, I guess people could help other people who are disabled, but they aren't as loyal, honest or trustful as a dog could be. Regular, everyday people would want pay for the work they do, but a dog is OK with just a pat on the head, a "good job!" and a dog treat.

A dog or puppy can teach a very important lesson as well. They could teach a young child about how to care for a living creature. Sure, a hamster could do the same thing, but it teaches them in a different way than a dog. With a dog, you learn more because you have to clean up after them, constantly feed them, and just show them some attention. With little supplies, hamsters could live on their own in a cage. What fun is that?

As we all know, one of the teaching parts about having a dog is teaching them a few tricks. From this, you and your pet both learn something! They learn a trick and you can learn patience (unless you have children or other pets).

And after a long day of awesome dogs doing awesome dog things, we can show them that we care by petting them and loving them. Dogs are all-around great pets. That's why I love them.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Jenna Croes, Grade 7,
Sacred Heart School*

How can the region become more 'green'?



There are many ways to go green to help our environment. It is important to go green in order to cut down on pollution and save energy. Some ways our schools can help our environment is to recycle, install solar panels and build wind turbines.

Schools in our region should have water bottle recycling bins. The reasons why we should recycle are that students bring water bottles to school every day and just throw them away in garbage cans. It takes plastic a long time to decompose in a landfill. If you recycle the plastic bottles, they can be used to make other plastic items. We could have a contest in each classroom to see who can recycle the most water bottles, and the class that has the most gets a party or reward.

Solar panels are a more efficient way to save energy in our school region. We should have them installed on the roofs of schools. The solar panels will cut down on the electricity bill and save energy at the same time.

Wind turbines are the newest energy saving device in our area. Mount Wachusett Community College has just installed two wind turbines and Narragansett High School has installed one wind turbine. They are used to create energy by using the wind. We should install a wind turbine at all of our schools in order to save energy and help the environment. This is an excellent way to go green and their hugeness will always remind us of the importance of saving energy.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Connor Clinkscale, Grade 5,
Toy Town Elementary School*

How can Forward in Health best help Haiti?



I think that Gardner's Forward in Health is a very helpful and productive organization. It's a non-profit organization that helps people who are much less fortunate than us and tries to boost their confidence and help them keep their dignity in the country of Haiti. After the tragic earthquake that took the lives of so many people, Haiti needed our help more than ever. Hospitals, schools, and houses were destroyed. People were severely injured. The amount of damage that was caused was so great, it brings sadness and pity to almost everyone that hears the terrible news. Gardner showed everyone how we really do care by responding very quickly to the situation and sending doctors and other helpful people down to Haiti to try to help them recover and lend a helping hand. Fundraisers and other monemaking procedures were to raise money for the people who suffered and need all the help they can get.

More than a year later, Haiti is still suffering. They are lacking food and money and need medical assistance. The United Nations has even designated Haiti as a fourth world country! I think Forward in Health could continue to make visits down to Haiti and help where needed by donating money, food, and other items that people here, in America, may take for granted. They can also find more ways to get the youth of the community to help participate in donating their time and showing that they care about the people of the world. They can have more community fundraisers open to the public, like what is done at Gardner High School. This gets more people involved and helps them realize the massive destruction that has happened and to show them that we can make a difference and we have the potential to help bring Haiti to a higher standard of living. The reputation of America includes helping other countries whenever they need our help. Haiti is a perfect example of how America gives to other countries in any way we can.

Forward in Health can also try to help boost the self-esteem of the youth of Haiti. Children have hard lives, trying to figure out who they are and what the world wants them to do. The children of Haiti have it much worse, because they have to try to keep faith even at the lowest of times. This is very challenging and FIH could try to give toys, books, and other items that bring every child happiness to show them that there is light and life will get better.

Overall, Forward in Health is doing amazing things for Haiti and is trying as hard as they can. These are just suggestions of how we can make their country a better place to live and call their nation. Of course, one person can't do it all. We all should be very thankful for Dr. Mulqueen and what he has done. With him and his crew, they have made the reputation of Gardner great and have helped the Haitian people tremendously. Everyone needs to participate in order to make a well designed and working group that functions smoothly. Participation is the key to monumental success. Together, we can make the Haitian people proud of their land and keep them healthy and productive. Haiti is an important country to the world and we don't want to lose it. So, thanks to Forward in Health, Dr. Mulqueen and all volunteers who want to make a difference in the world we live in.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Jackie Nicholson, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School*

Should 'Under God' remain in the Pledge?

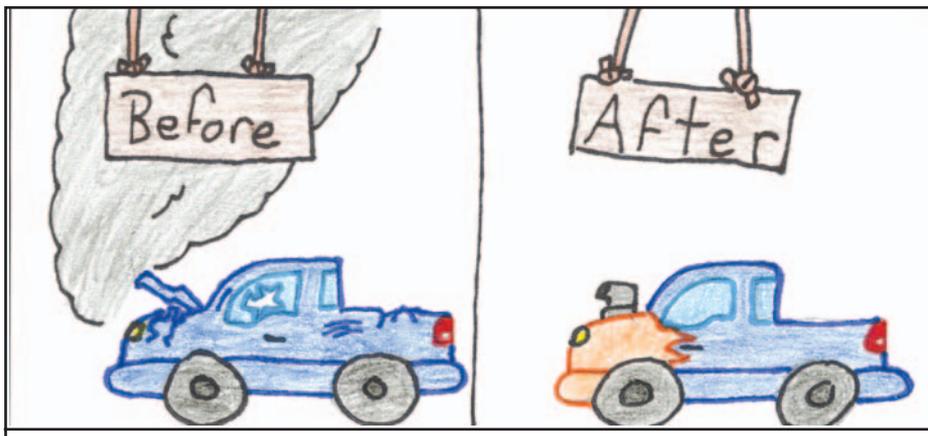
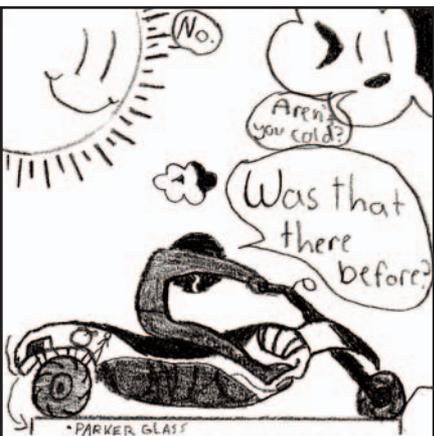


This is why "Under God" should be in the Pledge of Allegiance. "Under God" should be a part because we stand under God. It wouldn't make any sense if this phrase weren't a part of it.

What would they put there to replace it?
It would be too short. Everyone would need to learn it all over again, because everyone knows it by heart. You might mess up and say, "Under God." Everyone it expects it to be there, and that is why it should be.

STUDENT ESSAY

*Bridie McLean, Grade 3,
Helen Mae Sauter School*



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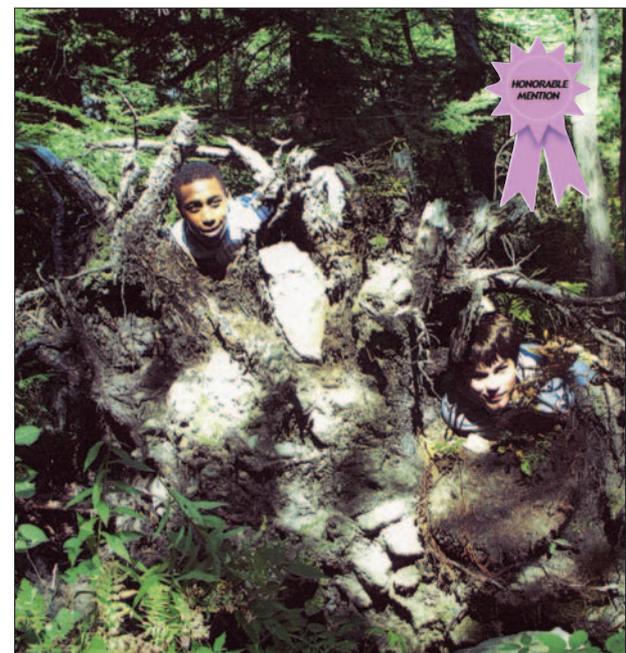
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Toy Town Elementary School



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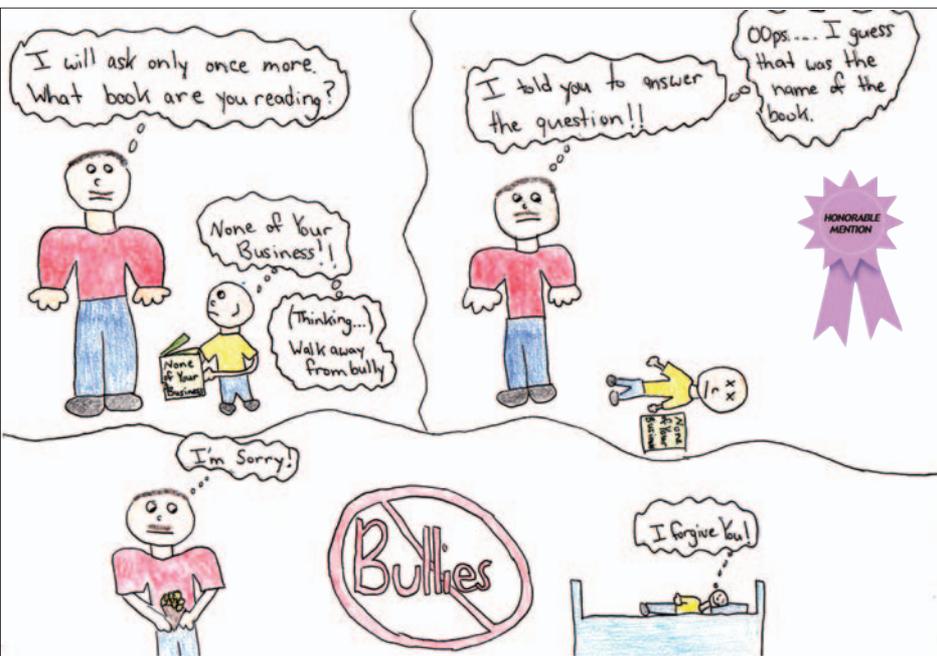
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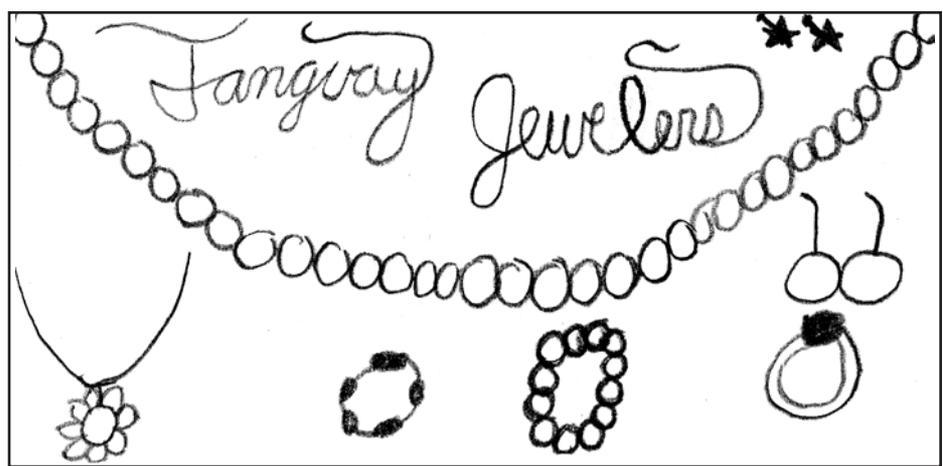
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Justin Taylor, Grade 8,
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DESIGN-AN-AD
Raegan Moulton, Grade 8,
Narragansett Middle School

What is your favorite season of the year?



The flow of cool air from the breeze blowing right at me; the hot, humid air lingering around me where there is no windy breeze; the sun light shining through the dark green leaves of the oak tree. I enjoy sitting on the dock and hanging my feet over the edge, so they dip into the cool water of the pond while sitting there reading my book. This is what I enjoy about the summer time.

I love the warm air, green grass, the shady trees to sit under, the fresh vegetables growing in the garden, going for boat rides, and much more. I used to spend much of my time at my grandma's and grandpa's house on the pond. But now it is different, I guess. I still spend a lot of time there visiting with my grandpa, because he seems lonely now that my grandma is gone.

I used to do lots of things with my grandma when I was younger; she was like my best friend. We loved spending quality time together in the summer months. We would pick blueberries and bake blueberry muffins, blueberry pie, blueberry pancakes, and even blueberry doughnuts. We would also pick raspberries from her little raspberry bush up on the shady hill and make a sweet raspberry sauce and pour it over vanilla ice cream. My grandma always had a wonderful garden full of fresh cucumbers, yellow squash, carrots, green beans, bright red tomatoes, potatoes and juicy strawberries. My whole family on my mom's side would come over to my grandparent's house and we would have a Sunday afternoon dinner that my grandma and I would cook together. We had roast beef, chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans or we would have lobster, scallops, corn on the cob, steak kabobs, garden salad, and baked potatoes.

On rainy days during the summer, my grandma and I would play cards, color pictures, and even watch game shows on television. My grandma loved watching game shows like Lingo, Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, and Deal or No Deal. She also loved watching the Cooking Channel. I remember watching Paula Deen with her Southern accent. I didn't mind staying inside when it was raining outside, because there were plenty of things to do like sit up in the loft and watch the lightning flash across the sky and see the rain splash when it hits the pond. Nature can be beautiful in a way; especially during the summer.

When it was sunny outside, my grandma and I loved to go fishing on the dock or out on the pond in her rowboat. She had a decoration on the wall that looked like a seaside harbor with a bait shop, seafood restaurant, beach, a dock with a man fishing, and some boats. It was really neat, because it had hand painted details and was made with real drift wood, rope netting, and carved wooden lobsters, crabs and fish. Next to it on a shelf was a stuffed cartoon looking frog that was dressed in a fisherman's clothes and it held a fishing pole and made ribbit and croaking noises. It always made me laugh. When I went on my grandma's old green rowboat with her, she would always take me to a little island on the pond and we would go fishing, then we would go to the beaver dams and watch the busy beavers swim by occasionally. We would also see birds like storks and loons, and other animals like turtles, catfish, butterflies and dragonflies.

Another reason that I love summer is because in July my cousin Sam from California would come and visit for a few weeks. We liked to sit on the old rope hammock swinging between two shady oak trees, right near the pond. We loved the summer time. I remember when we made tie-dye T-shirts on the front lawn and it was so messy, but we had fun. We would help my grandma water her flowers and help my grandpa hang the clothes on the clothesline. We would have campfires at night and make s'mores together and tell funny stories. It was nice to be able to spend some time together, catching up on things because we don't get to see each other that often. We knew when we would look up at the stars and the clouds that we would see grandma sitting on a fluffy cloud with her fishing pole in her hand and watching over us. She wanted us to enjoy the summer time, remember the cherished memories, and to live our lives to the fullest.

STUDENT ESSAY
Rachel Davis, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School

What is your favorite season of the year?



My favorite season of the year is winter. I truly love the winter, because it is absolutely the most beautiful season of all. All the trees are laced with perfect ice crystals that beautifully glimmer in the sunlight. I always love to catch this breathtaking sight as the morning arrives, bright and early. It is one of the most beautiful things about New England, that I constantly fall in love with over and over again.

The hoping and praying of a snowstorm is a simple joy that myself and children everywhere experience in the winter. Putting thousands of spoons under your pillow and wearing your pajamas inside out just hoping that you'll have a snow day. Just the thought of being able to go sledding all days with your friends, instead of being stuck in a classroom doing work, is any child's wish. I wish I could just spend my days outside enjoying the snow that winter brings. Just building a snowman or making a fort, or even having a snowball fight with friends.

And when I finally got so cold and wiped out, that my toes were about to fall off, I'd go inside and have a delicious cup of hot chocolate with, of course, marshmallows! Yum! Hot chocolate just isn't complete without marshmallows! I love drinking my hot chocolate while I curl up with a nice, warm blanket next to the crackling fire beside me. And when I'm done and warmed up again, I am ready to go outside and meet the snow once again. Life just doesn't get any better than that!

Winter constantly brings joy and happiness to so many kids and gives them the most beautiful gift of all; the gift of snow. A lot of people dread having to live in New England because of the constant cold weather and unexpected snowstorms, but in my eyes, I am so very fortunate. Some children never get to experience the winter and its precious gifts, because they live in other countries that, unfortunately, stay warm all the time. I am grateful for every moment that we have snow and a winter season. This is why winter will always and forever be my beloved season.

STUDENT ESSAY
Tiffany Cunningham, Grade 8,
Holy Rosary School

What is the best pet?



A dog is a good pet, because they are cute and fun to play with. They eat anything. They are fun to pet. They can do tricks. You give them treats when they are good. You give them walks.

STUDENT ESSAY
Damien Cormier, Grade 1,
Holy Rosary School

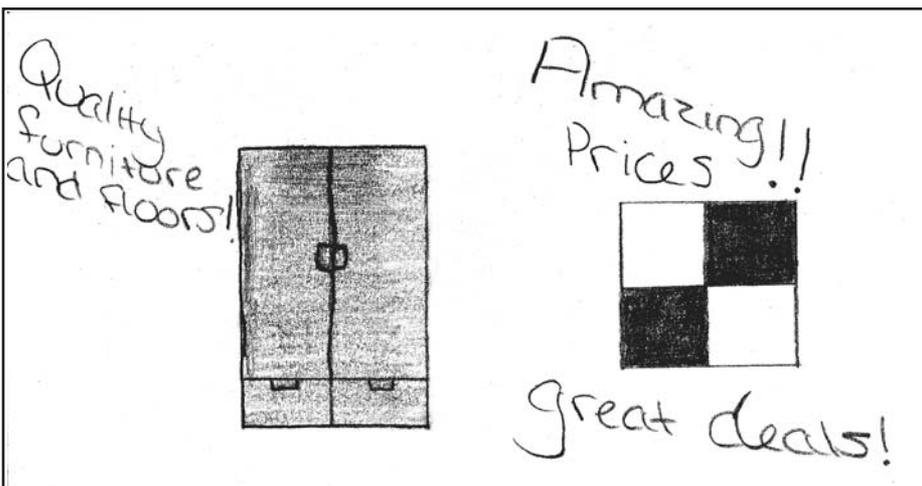


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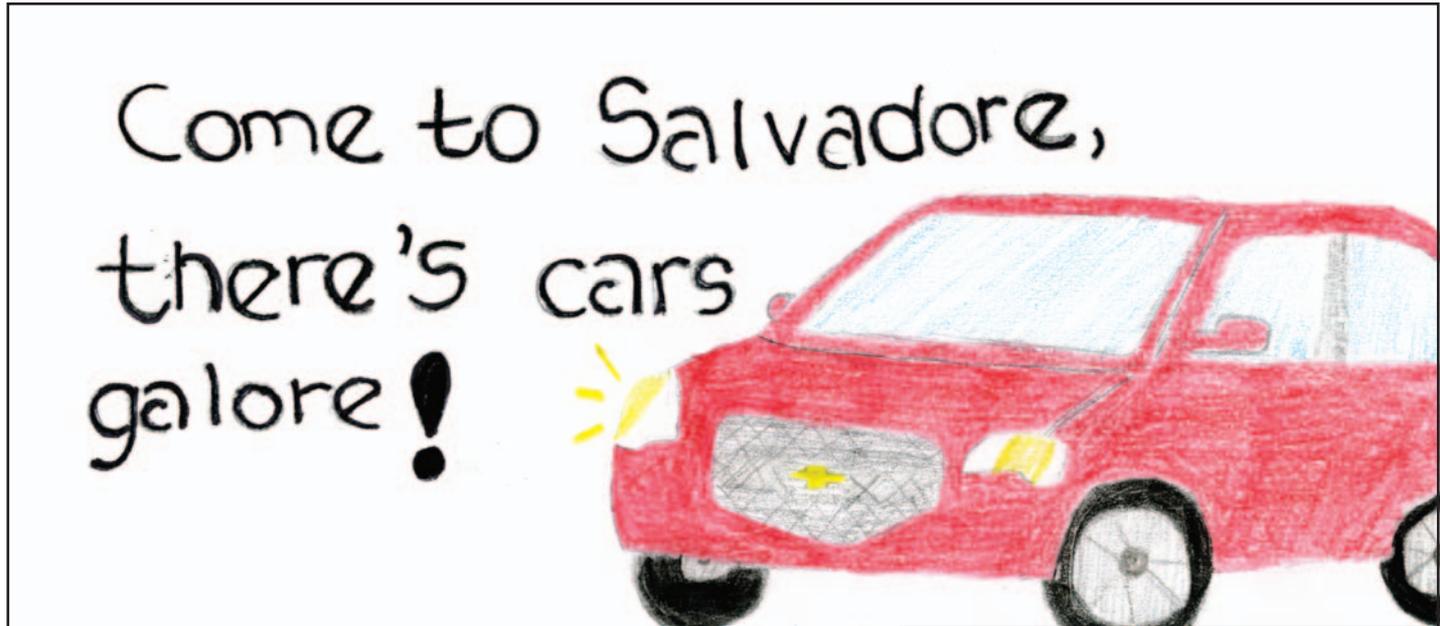
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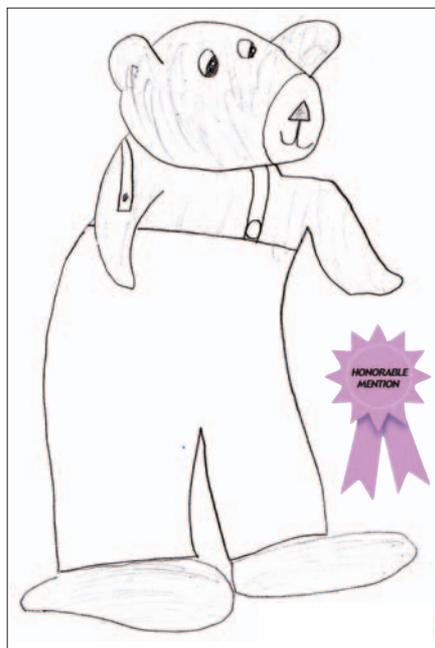


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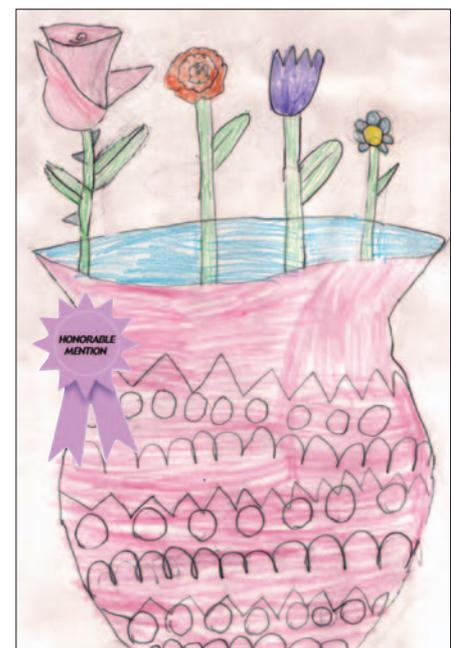
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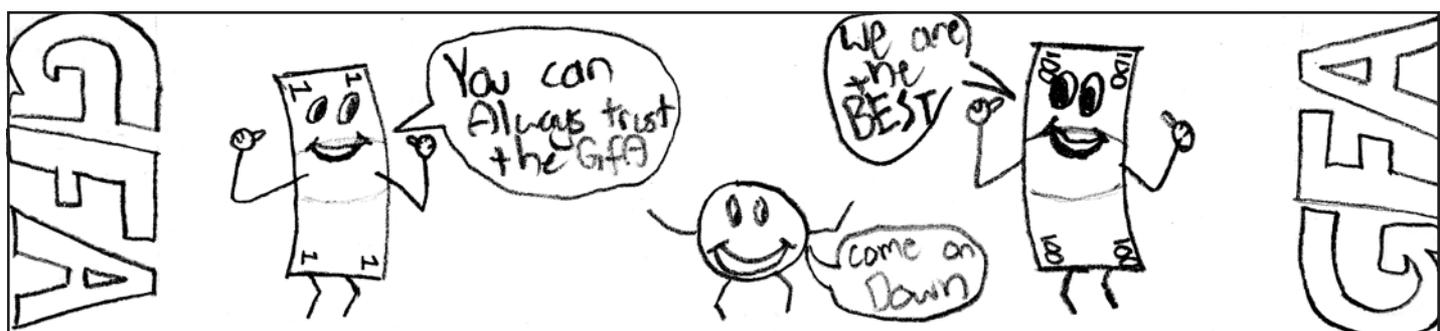
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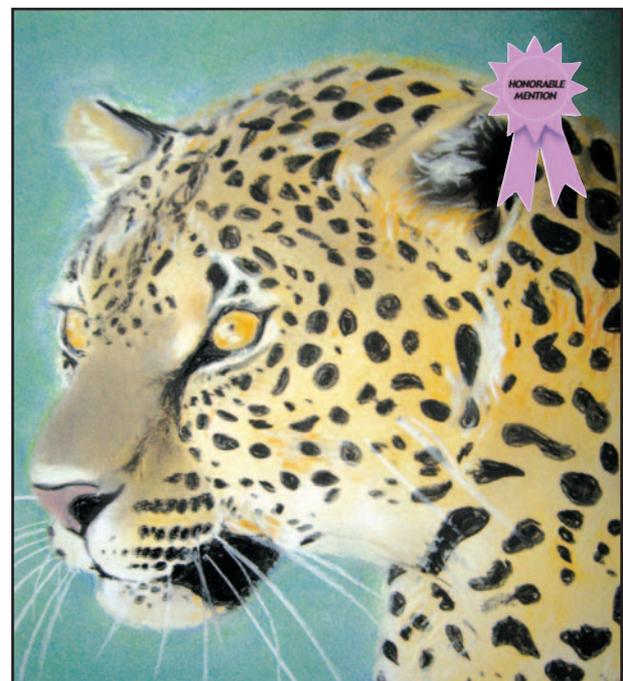
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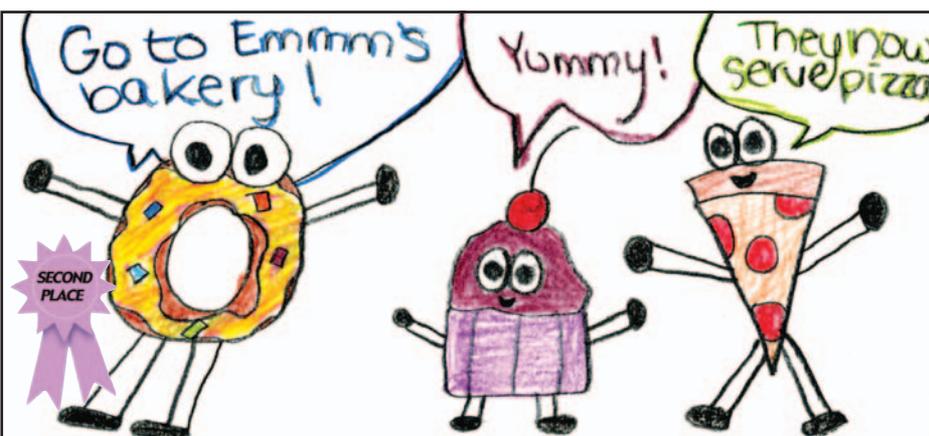
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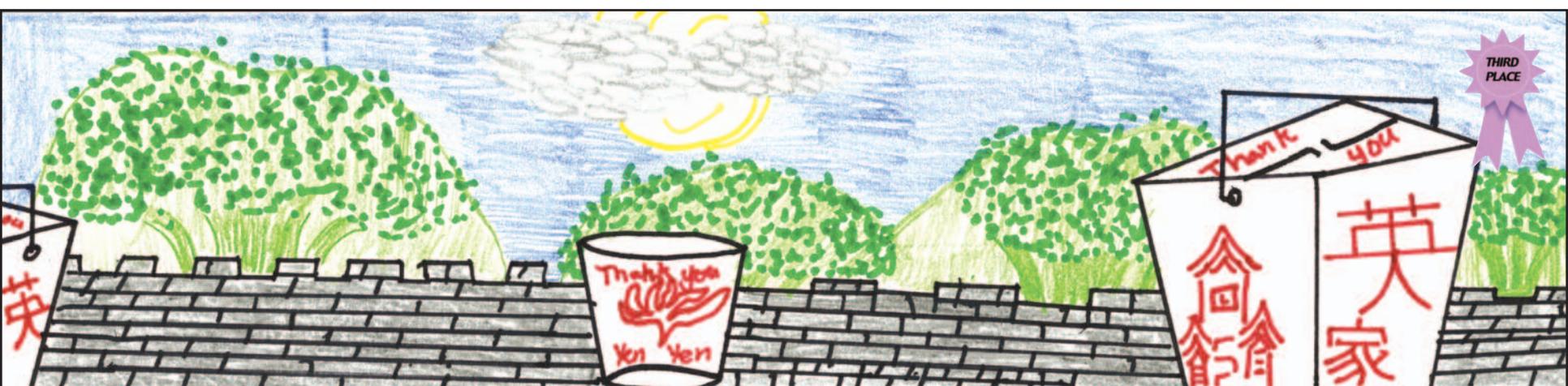
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