Teenager writing and art talent shines in Pierce County Library’s contest

TACOMA – Nearly 1,000 teenagers showed their talents in Pierce County Library System’s 21st annual Our Own Expressions Teen Writing and Art Contest. From more than 900 poems, short stories, drawings and photographs, local artists selected 36 winners in various categories. The young artists showed energy, emotions and pure expressions with their words, drawings and photos.

This winter, teenagers in grades seven to 12 submitted their best poetry, short story, photography and/or drawing. Judges reviewed the writing entries evaluating originality, style, general presentation, grammar, spelling and evidence of skill appropriate for the writer’s age. Judges evaluated the entries on the basis of composition, evidence of skill appropriate with the age of the artist, creativity and effective use of media.

At a free public event at Pacific Lutheran University on Wednesday May 31, at 7 p.m. the winning authors and artists will showcase their work.

Poetry Winners
- Grades 7-8: 1st—Zoie McCarter, Sumner; 2nd—Angelo Acosta, Lakewood; 3rd—Honor Tammenga, Gig Harbor
- Grades 9-10: 1st—G Alvarado, Puyallup; 2nd—Quinn Sukhia, Gig Harbor; 3rd—Avery Welch, Auburn
- Grades 11-12: 1st—Angie Le, University Place; 2nd—Keir Adamson, Gig Harbor; 3rd—Will Lewellen, Lakewood

Short Story Winners
- Grades 7-8: 1st—Tallin Rivers, Gig Harbor; 2nd—Josiah Mellott, University Place; 3rd—Manye Kwablah, Tacoma
- Grades 9-10: 1st—Alyssa Young, Lakewood; 2nd—Michelle Foster, Tacoma; 3rd—R. M., University Place
- Grades 11-12: 1st—Finlay Adamson, Gig Harbor; 2nd—Keir Adamson, Gig Harbor; 3rd—Will Lewellen, Lakewood

Photography Winners
- Grades 7-8: 1st—Caitlyn Higgenbottom, Tacoma; 2nd—Logan Foster, Puyallup; 3rd—Trevor Drummond, Tacoma
- Grades 9-10: 1st—Jacob Million, Steilacoom; 2nd—R. M., University Place; 3rd—Aleah Haugen, Eatonville
- Grades 11-12: 1st—Rian Kasner, Puyallup; 2nd—Evelyn Yielding, Lakewood; 3rd—Sarah Hull, Graham

Drawing Winners
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- Grades 7-8: 1st—Rory Jacobs, Puyallup; 2nd—Josiah Mellot, University Place; 3rd—Dylan Cho, University Place
- Grades 9-10: 1st—Seo Kim, Puyallup; 2nd—Ayat Alkadban, Puyallup; 3rd—Katherine Hunter, Buckley
- Grades 11-12: 1st—Grace Lee, University Place; 2nd—Damita Gomez, Lakewood; 3rd—Kayla Schunzel, Gig Harbor

The News Tribune, Pacific Lutheran University and Print NW help fund the contest. See the winning entries at expressions.pcls.us and copies of the winners’ booklet at Pierce County Libraries as well as winning students’ school libraries.

About Pierce County Library System
The nationally acclaimed Pierce County Library System serves 590,000 people throughout Pierce County with 20 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from more than 1.5 million books, movies and other materials, as well as nearly half a million online/downloadable materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities or who are homebound, and to children in child care centers and schools. Pierce County Libraries are located at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, Pierce County Library Administrative Center, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

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