PRESS RELEASE

May 14, 2014

Eight Young Authors Chosen as Finalists to Represent District 158 at Annual Young Authors Conference

ALGONQUIN, IL – Consolidated School District 158 has announced the finalists selected to represent the district at the 40th Annual Young Authors Conference on May 17 at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Each year, students in Kindergarten through grade 8 across District 158 are invited to participate in the Young Authors Program, an event sponsored by the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, in conjunction with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The Young Authors Program is designed as a celebration to honor exceptional writing by students. The conference provides an opportunity for these young writers to meet published authors and to hear how the authors themselves create the characters and stories that have become their books.

Many community volunteers carefully review each book submitted and select grade level and building level winners. Building level winners are selected in three categories: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Congratulations to the following building level winners who were recognized at the May 1, 2014 Board of Education meeting.

Grades K-2 Category
Kaelyn Hines  “Barkley”  Chesak Elementary School
Ethan Abrath  “The Missing Snowman”  Mackeben Elementary School
Madison Perreault  “Caring for Puppies”  Leggee Elementary School

Grades 3-5 Category
Ellie Armstrong  “Shape Shifters”  Leggee Elementary School
Kate Patel  “The Royal Family”  Conley Elementary School
Zachary Leitzke  “Mr. Zach’s Hippo Facts”  Martin Elementary School

Grades 6-8 Category
Shefali Sharma  “Lost and Found”  Heineman Middle School
Zachary Alwicker  “Portals”  Marlowe Middle School
All teachers, grades K-8, are involved in the writing process. Teachers and other staff members provide instruction in the writing process throughout the school year.

Additionally, each school has a Young Authors Coordinator who orchestrates the school-wide competition. This coordinator is also responsible for collecting classroom winning books, orchestrating school-wide judging, and registering the participant for the state Young Authors Conference.

This years’ coordinators were: Elizabeth Gore (Mackeben Elementary), Linda Stoka (Leggee Elementary), Kathy Kamper (Chesak Elementary), Brenda Kunde (Martin Elementary), Jessica Anderson (Conley Elementary), Tammy Carpenter (Heineman Middle) and Tricia Warren (Marlowe Middle).

Special thanks to the many wonderful community members who volunteered their time and help judge this years’ submissions: Mary Ann Cannalte, Julie Costello, Linda Ellinger, Patrick Gordon, Gay Hannell, Judy Hansen, Pat Hector, Rosemary Herringer, Bonnie Kuhrt, Robert Langham, Theresa Lind, Karen McConnaughay, Elaine Neukirch, Peggy Person, Julie Peterson, Pat Rauschenberger, Barb Schmidt, Connie Shepherd, Judi Sieb, Barbara Terrill, Trudy Wakeman, Jean Wojciechowski and Mary Ann Zunkel.

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