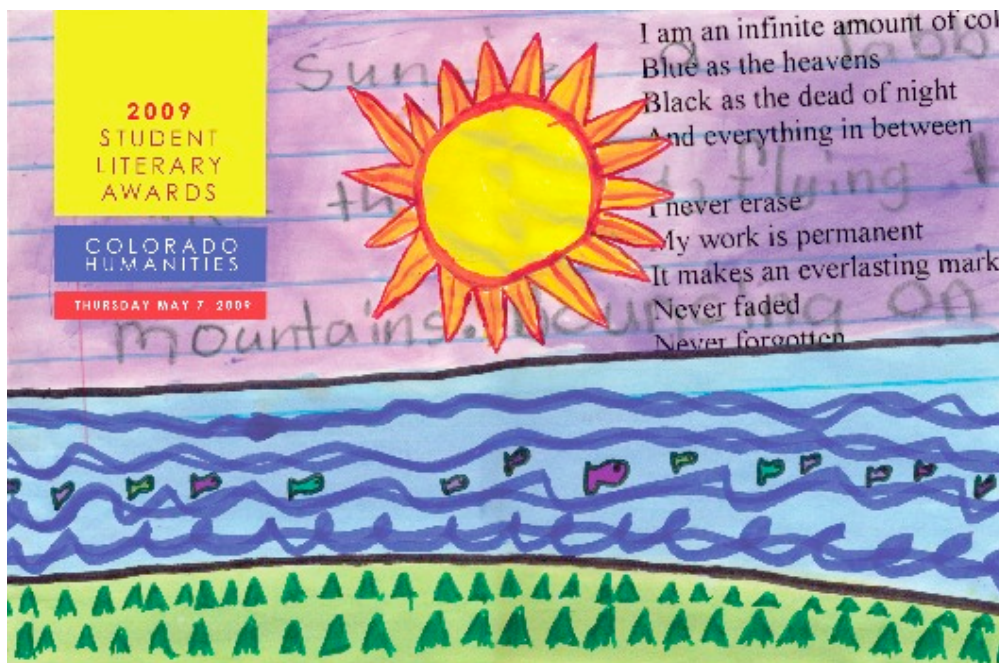


Student Literary Awards to be held May 7, 2009



Colorado Humanities and Center for the Book Host Student Literary Awards

Denver – Thirty-six Colorado students will be honored at the sixth annual Student Literary Awards at the Denver Public Library on Thursday, May 7th 2009. The winning students, surrounded by parents, family members, teachers and educators from across the state, will be recognized for their literary or artistic achievements in two national competitions presented by the Library of Congress:

- Letters About Literature participants write a personal letter to an author about how their book changed their perspective on the world.
- River of Words contestants create art and poetry about the role of watersheds and the environment in our lives.

Colorado has two national finalists in the River of Words poetry contest. Alexa Beaver, 4th grader at Caprock Academy in Grand Junction and Madeline McGrigg, 2nd grader from Polaris at Ebert Elementary in Denver have received National Finalist honors for their environmentally-themed poetry. Colorado Humanities and its program department, Colorado Center for the Book, administer the program at the state level.

“This year’s participation shows we’re offering K-12 programs that challenge the creativity and critical thinking skills of young people,” said Josephine Jones, Colorado Humanities and Center for the Book director of programs. “The quality of work submitted continues to improve in each year of the competition.”

Awards for winners in the River of Words competition will be presented by Colorado’s River of Words judges Catherine O’Neill Thorn and Justice Gregory Hobbs. Kathleen Pelley, noted speaker and winner of



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a Colorado Book Award for her children's books, will present honors to the winners in the Letters About Literature competition.

About Colorado Humanities

Founded in 1974, Colorado Humanities is the only statewide organization in Colorado dedicated exclusively to support the humanities. Each year, the organization's teacher education, reading and writing and living history programs, grants and special events serve more than 20,000 people in 30 counties across Colorado. For more information, visit www.coloradohumanities.org or call 303-894-7951.

The best opportunity to interview winners is at the awards ceremony. Please contact Hae Won Kwon 303 894 7951 x19 and hwkwon@coloradohumanities.org on more information for attending press.

2009 STUDENT LITERARY AWARDS LIST OF WINNERS

RIVER OF WORDS Poetry

Category I (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade)

First Place Madeline McGrigg, 2nd grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary, Denver
Second Place Madeline McGrigg, 2nd grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary, Denver
Third Place Abe Hoffman, 2nd grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary, Denver
Honorable Mention Skye McCrimmon, Kindergarten, Stedman Elementary, Denver
Honorable Mention Monica Bautista, 2nd grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary, Denver

Category II (Grades 3 – 6)

First Place Caleb Lyson, 5th grade, Ponderosa Elementary School, Aurora
Second Place Michelle Villanueva, 3rd grade, Johnson Elementary School, Denver
Third Place Emily Bella Bruell, 6th grade, Individual Entry, Carbondale
Honorable Mention DiAnna Rowe, 5th grade, Individual Entry, Greeley
Honorable Mention Rayna Miller, 6th grade, The Watershed School, Boulder

Category III (Grades 7 – 9)

First Place Taylor Naiman, 8th grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Denver
Second Place Ellen Kate Kaplan, 7th grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Denver
Third Place Wren Duggan, 8th grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Denver
Honorable Mention Kylie Kachmer, 7th grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Denver
Honorable Mention David Anthony, 8th grade, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Denver

River of Words National Finalist Honors

Alexa Beaver, 4th grade, Caprock Academy, Grand Junction
Madeline McGrigg, 2nd grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary, Denver

RIVER OF WORDS Art

First Place, Category I Grayson Quint, 2nd grade, Steele Elementary School, Denver

First Place, Category II Cormac MicCrimmon, 3rd grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary, Denver
Second Place Serene Singh, 6th grade, Mountain Ridge Middle School, Colorado Springs
Third Place Carter Cheo, 3rd grade, Aspen Country Day School, Aspen
Honorable Mention Jenna Hamilton, 5th grade, Indian Ridge Elementary, Centennial
Honorable Mention Siena Gibson, 3rd grade, Aspen Country Day School, Aspen

First Place, Category III Jaser Alsharhan, 9th grade, Standley Lake High School, Westminster





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Second Place Olivia Wheelock, 8th grade, The Classical Academy, Colorado Springs
Third Place Emi Takada, 8th grade, The Classical Academy, Colorado Springs

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

Level I (Grades 4 – 6)

First Place Steven Santoro, 6th grade, Aurora Quest K-8, Aurora
Second Place Sophia Friskey, 6th grade, Liberty Middle School, Aurora
Third Place Erik Van Hegewald, 6th grade, Aurora Quest K-8, Aurora
Honorable Mention Elora Morrissette, 6th grade, Individual Entry, Aurora

Level II (Grades 7 – 8)

First Place Kristen Scott, 8th grade, Drake Middle School, Arvada
Second Place Dianna Croke, 8th grade, Dolores Middle School, Dolores
Third Place Jeremy Duran, 8th grade, Aurora Quest K-8, Aurora
Honorable Mention Connor Cooper, 7th grade, Aurora Quest K-8, Aurora

Level III (Grades 9 – 12)

First Place Meghan Callahan, 11th grade, Arapahoe High School, Centennial
Second Place Cindy Yetman, 12th grade, Peak to Peak Charter School, Lafayette
Third Place Lindsay Peterson, 10th grade, Individual Entry, Centennial
Honorable Mention Courtney Escajeda, 12th grade, Peak to Peak Charter School, Lafayette

