

Next generation artists spotlighted at awards ceremony

The First Coast's next generation of artists were honored Feb. 2 at the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards, a regional visual art awards and scholarship program.

Prior to the awards ceremony, which was held at the Florida Theatre, Adjudication Day took place at Jacksonville University on Jan. 5, when 18 judges worked in six teams to adjudicate panels of student work totaling 2,578 works of art representing 843 students, 76 educators and seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia) in Northeast Florida. Students from public, private, charter and home schools participated in this annual event. Terry Woodlief, an Avondale resident and art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary School, served on the awards board.

In the regional, 19 portfolios comprising 319 Gold Keys will advance to the national level. Gold Key winners from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts included Anasha Barnes, Erin Bouchard, Emma Flaire, Kaitlyn Griffin and An Tran.

Twelve silver portfolios included 341 Silver Key awards; 19 portfolios comprised 487 Honorable Mentions, and five students, including An Tran, were nominated for American Vision medals, the highest regional honor. In total, 573 students earned awards.

Following the awards ceremony, exhibitions were on display at the Jacksonville Main Library and the Heather Moore Community Gallery, located at Cathedral Arts Project, 207 N. Laura St.

Last year, regional winners were awarded college scholarship offers from Jacksonville University, the University of North Florida, Savannah College of Art & Design and the New Hampshire Institute of Art totaling over \$4 million. Gold Key winners advancing to the national level will be recognized this summer at the 2019 National Ceremony of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards at Carnegie Hall.



Emma Flaire's "Gigi," a Gold Key winner in mixed media



"Road Trip" was a Gold Key winner for Emma Flaire, a junior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.



Lillie Tritt, a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, won a Gold Key for her archival inkjet print, "The River."



LaVilla eighth-grader Meghan Haile's mixed media work, "Adrift," received a Gold Key award.



Margaret Commander, a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, won a Silver Key for her photo, "Pathlight."



Fourth-grade students Henry Massey and Cheyenne Knight with second-grader Emma Knight dropped off Ruth N. Upson Elementary School's latest donation for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Little things can make big difference

Students at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School know that just the smallest gesture can reap a larger benefit. The Murray Hill-based school supports Ronald McDonald House Charities in Jacksonville by collecting the little tabs used pull to open soda, soup or other aluminum cans.

These aluminum gems are recycled for cash to help provide housing for families visiting Jacksonville while their children receive medical care. RMHC takes the tabs to a local recycling center. Collections have helped raise over \$5,000 annually for RMHC of Jacksonville.

The price of aluminum changes on a regular basis depending on the supply and demand. On average, they receive between \$.40-\$.55 per pound of aluminum pop tabs. Approximately one million pull tabs equals 800 pounds. Approximately 1,430 pull tabs comes to about one pound.

"This ongoing school initiative is good for Ronald McDonald House families, our school and the environment. We can all do a little to make a big difference in our community," said Principal Yvonne Spinner.

Literacy Week celebration includes author reading

During "Celebrate Literacy Week," the John Stockton Elementary School PTA sponsored a reading from award-winning children's author, Kentrell Martin, whose series of books feature a deaf girl named Shelly and her many adventures, and which incorporate American Sign Language in the stories.

During literacy week Jan. 28-Feb. 1, the PTA and school held other literacy events such as reading lunch dates with parents or grandparents, a vocabulary parade where kids dress up like a vocabulary word and parade around the campus for all to see, DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read), buddy class reading where older classes buddy up with younger classes and read to each other, and ended the week with Lunch and Read (parents joined kids for lunch and read together).



Kentrell Martin, an award-winning children's author, incorporates sign language in his stories.



Rocky Smith, Lily Gordon and Pepper Lochrie participate in a Vocabulary Parade.





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