

PRESS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Announces Awards Winners of 2011 Poster and Essay Contest

Montpelier. Secretary of State Jim Condos will honor the winners of the 2011 Vermont Secretary of State's Poster and Essay Contest on Monday, May 23rd at the State House in Montpelier.

As part of the awards celebration, contest winners will tour the Vermont State House and the Vermont Historical Society. At 12:30 p.m., in an award ceremony in the State House cafeteria, the first prize winning students will be presented with a certificate and a \$100 prize donated to each student's classroom to spend on civics education. There are also a number of honorable mentions for outstanding work.

"It was very difficult to select winners from the many fine essays and creative posters we received," stated Secretary Condos. "This program is a great way to get younger students thinking about their state and its history, while encouraging older students to examine the nature of self governance and its importance in a free society," said Condos.

The Vermont Secretary of State's Poster and Essay Contest is an annual event to promote awareness of Vermont history, the Vermont Constitution, and the importance of democracy among students in Grades K-12. Nearly 400 Vermont students participated in the contest by submitting posters or essays.

The winning posters and essays may be viewed on the Secretary of State's Kids Page website at www.sec.state.vt.us

This year's award recipients are:

Grades K-2: Vermont Symbols Poster

Class Winner: Tom Young's Waitsfield Elementary School Grade 2 class

Individual Winner: Lily Welch's Hermit Thrush, Thetford Elementary School

Individual Honorable Mention: Rui Huang's Hermit Thrush and Red Clover, Rebecca Carleton's Art class, Randolph Elementary School

Individual Honorable Mention: Emily Kenyon's Vermont symbol collage, Mike Plante, teacher, bellcate School, Essex Junction

Individual Honorable Mention: Toni Turner's Morgan Horse, Stephanie Russ, teacher, Bethel Elementary School

Individual Honorable Mention: Cynthia Sheeran's State Seal, Nancy Nye, teacher, Essex Elementary School

Grades 3-5: Vermont History Poster

Class Winner: Beth Hahr's Robinson School Grade 4 class, Starksboro

Individual Winner: Ian Carpenter's Brattleboro Postage Stamp, BFA Fairfax Elementary School

Class Honorable Mention: Maureen Demers' Grade 4 class, Hardwick Elementary School

Individual Honorable Mention: Gabrielle Ochs' Orwell Sheep, Tia Bigg, Guidance, Orwell Village School

Individual Honorable Mention: Rachele Reicker's Vermont History Timeline, Randi Ray, teacher, Castleton Elementary School

Individual Honorable Mention: Abbygale Karlen's Ben & Jerry's, Anne Downs, teacher, Brownington Central School

Grades 6-8: Vermont Constitution – Vermont Civic Virtues Essays

Winner: Maggie McCaffrey's Power Point presentation on Temperance, 8th grade, April Vos, teacher, U-32 Middle School, East Montpelier

Honorable Mention: Hannah McKay's essay on Temperance, 8th grade, April Vos, teacher, U-32 Middle School, East Montpelier

Honorable Mention: Asher Lehrer-Small's essay on Moderation, 8th grade, Dave Baroody, teacher, Brown's River Middle School, Jericho

Honorable Mention: Sarah Henderson's essay on Industry, 6th grade, Sonia Joliffe, teacher, Good Shepherd Catholic School, St. Johnsbury

Honorable Mention: T.J. Beaumier's Power Point presentation on Frugality, 8th Grade, Amanda Gifford, teacher, Avalon Triumvirate School, Fairfax

Honorable Mention: Kelsey Parker's YouTube video on Industry, 8th grade, Bob Glennon, teacher, Dummerston School, East Dummerston

