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Wednesday, May 7, 2008

B-CC student to have play come to life

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Anthony Pape-Calabrese, a sophomore at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, had his play "Off the Hinges" selected as a winner in the 2008 Arena Stage Playwrights Competition.

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More than 700 entries were submitted to the 10-minute play competition, and Pape-Calabrese's work will be performed by professional actors at the Washington, D.C. theater company. Pape-Calabrese, along with the nine other winners, will also receive master classes in playwriting and will work with the theater to develop their play.

Pape-Calabrese's play will be performed at 7:30 p.m., May 21 and 22, at the Warehouse Theater in the District.

Tickets are free but reservations are required. Call 202-488-3300 for more information and reservations.

Fellow Bethesda-Chevy Chase student Lizzie Parmenter was named an honorable mention the competition.

The Warehouse Theater is located at 1017 7th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

WJ Booster Club looking for help

The Walter Johnson Booster Club is currently seeking funds for their "Dollars for Dugouts" campaign, to help the school build dugouts for the baseball field.

The club hopes to raise \$20,000 during the campaign, and any donations are appreciated.

Checks should be made to WJ Booster Club, and mailed to 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20814.

Contributors will be acknowledged on a plaque placed in the dugouts.

For more information, e-mail boosters@walterjohnson.com.

Garrett Park student stake home video honors

The Garrett Park Elementary School Video Club took home two first place prizes at the Montgomery County Public Schools Media Festival, held April 18. The club won for their fictional film "Robot, huh?" as well as the school's news magazine show "GP News @ 3." Contributing club members include Harold Castillon, John Yun, Justin Darlington, Katie Hickey, Sophia Ortega, Amy Kuritzky, Lindsay Martinez, Sophie Gharai, Kevin Corro, Melissa Calderon, Jackson Miller, Diego Cubas, Manuel Ovejas and Sarim Rana.

Darfur benefit show comes to Bethesda high school



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The band Steel Train will play a Save Darfur benefit concert at 5:45 p.m. Friday at Walter Johnson High School.

The show, which also includes area bands The Biggerlights, Larking Call, Parade the Day, fairgreen, and Mir and the Moon, is to benefit the Save Darfur Fund and the Genocide Intervention Network.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m., and tickets are \$10.

Walter Johnson High School is located at 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda. For more information call the school at 301-803-7100.

North Bethesda duo honored at Maryland History Day

Rebecca Gale, a student at North Bethesda Middle School, and Patricia Robinson, her teacher, were both given awards at Maryland History Day, held April 26 in Catonsville.

Gale was one of 22 Montgomery County students awarded for their works at the event. She received a second place award in the junior individual performance category for her piece “The Abolition Movement in Massachusetts.”

Robinson was named Montgomery County District History Day Teacher of the Year. More than 14,000 Maryland students entered projects at school and regional contests; the event encourages students to research and analyze a topic in history.

Bethesda genetics research group honors local student

The American Society of Human Genetics, based in Bethesda, awarded the second-place prize of an essay competition to Elaine Chung of Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring.

Chung received \$250 for her essay that detailed the importance of tailoring genetic drugs to individual people.

A running shoe that doesn't fit well can lead to injury, she wrote in the essay, just like a drug dosage that is not 'fitted' according to a patient's genes can be dangerous.

National DNA Day, celebrated annually on April 25, commemorates the discovery of DNA's double helix and the completion of the Human Genome Project in April 2003, according to the society.

The essay contest challenged middle and high school students to write an original essay that provides a critical examination of the importance and implications of genetic research.

For more information about the National DNA Day Essay Contest, or to read the prize winning essays, please visit the Genetics Education Network Web site at www.GenEdNet.org, or www.ashg.org.

Area students takehome Green awards

Three Winston Churchill High School students and a student from Albert Einstein High School were among the winners of this year's Green Focus Awards for outstanding environmental photography.

The awards, presented by the Newton Marasco Foundation, and Maryland's departments of the environment and education, were bestowed on April 18.

Jesse Schreck ,of Winston Churchill, was a category winner for the “water” category, while fellow Bulldog Nicole Pagonis was named honorable mention in the same category.

Valentina Andaya, of Albert Einstein High School, was the winner in the “fields and countryside” category, while Caitlin Gormley, of Winston Churchill, was an honorable mention in the “black and white” category.

Each category winner received \$125.

Bullis jazzensemble performs

The Bullis School's Jazz Ensemble performed at a free festival called the BIG BAND JAM!, held on the National Mall April 25. The event was created in 2005 to highlight the big band-style of jazz music, and increase awareness of the genre. This was the second time Bullis has performed at the event.

Students take homeposter contest honors

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Seven students at Potomac's Fourth Presbyterian School have been awarded prizes in the "Sunguard Your Skin Poster Contest," sponsored by the Maryland Skin Cancer Prevention Program.

Over 500 students submitted posters to the contest, and winners were awarded prizes ranging from U.S. Savings Bonds to Baltimore Orioles tickets. First prize winners for each grade earned a pizza party for their class.

Fourth Presbyterian's winners include:

Grade One- Madelein Herringa, first place, Kari Less, second place, and Ainsley Benton and Kiya Opstrup, honorable mention

Grade Two- Jack Essepian, honorable mention

Grade Three- Tyler Myers, second place, and Marcos Gonzalez, honorable mention.

County teams qualify for global tourney

Several Montgomery County teams qualified for the global finals of the Destination Imagination problem-solving competition after their performances April 12 at the state tournament at Towson University. The global finals will be held May 20-25 at the University of Tennessee.

Teams of up to seven members solve different challenges and are judged in the competition. The challenges can involve everything from science and engineering to theater and improvisation.

Paint Branch High School's squad finished first in the secondary level competition in a division called "DI've Got a Secret."

Burtonsville Elementary School finished first in the elementary level competition in "DI've Got a Secret."

In a competition called "Hit or Myth," a combined team from Richard Montgomery and Rockville High School finished first and a team called "Walt Whitman/Richard Montgomery Somewhat Chronologically Accomplished Midshipmen" finished second. Both teams qualified for the global finals.

County students recognized in string competition

Eighty students from around the region competed in the Washington Performing Arts Society's 37th annual Feder String Competition, held on March 20-21 at the University of the District of Columbia. The annual competition provides the opportunity for aspiring local string musicians in grades six through 12 to earn cash scholarships, free music lessons, and tuition remission to prominent summer music festivals. The 2008 judges were Joel Beckett (cellobass), Marc Ramierz (violin/viola) and Olivia Hajioff (violin/viola).

The following Bethesda area students were recognized:

*Teresa Lewandowski, viola, Robert Frost Middle School

*Natalia Merezhuk, violin, Thomas S. Wootton High School

*Cristina Carnie, violin, Walt Whitman High School

*Kai Kight, violin, Landon School

*Kelsye Little, violin, Washington Episcopal School

*Isabella Nogues, violin, French International School

*Andrei Romanov, cello, Richard Montgomery High School

*Max Li, violin, Thomas S. Wootton High School

*Teresa Lewandowski, viola, Robert Frost Middle School

*Justin Cho, cello, Cabin John Middle School

- *Francis Kang, cello, Earle B. Wood Middle School
- *Theodore Furchtgott, cello, French International School
- *Rhea Chung, violin, Holton Arms School
- *William Yu, violin, Takoma Park Middle School
- *Clara Hollander McCreery, violin, Walt Whitman High School
- *Nathan Kim, cello, Landon School
- *Judy Wang, cello, Robert Frost Middle School
- *Kevin Yang, cello, Thomas S. Wootton High School
- *Hoorig Poochikian, violin, Winston Churchill High School
- *Natalia Merezhuk, violin, Thomas S. Wootton High School
- *Kenneth Liao, violin, Winston Churchill High School
- *Lauren Song, violin, Walt Whitman High School
- *Tianheng (Tim) Wang, cello, Thomas S. Wootton High School
- *Andrew Yu, cello, Richard Montgomery High School

Sophomore accepted into Johns Hopkins program

Julia Langer, a sophomore at Connelly School of the Holy Child, was recently accepted into the Johns Hopkins Civic Leadership Institute. The institute is a three-week residential program this summer for 10th- through 12th-graders.

Langer has attended the school's Center for Talented Youth for several years prior to her acceptance, where she studied forensic science and brain studies.

To be accepted into the Institute, Langer had to submit her PSAT scores and write an essay about civic leadership.

This column is for you and your school community. Share your School Notes about students, teachers and anyone associated with your school. Feel free to send press releases and news tips. Contact Bradford Pearson via e-mail at bpearson@gazette.net, phone at 301-280-3003, fax at 301-670-7183, or snail mail at 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.