



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- PRESS RELEASE -

**MERRILL HONORS FOURTH GRADERS
FROM ACROSS CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR
AWARD WINNING POSTERS**

CONNECTICUT'S POSTER CHILDREN: BLENDING ART WITH A MESSAGE OF
GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Hartford – Secretary of the State Denise Merrill joined dozens of 4th graders from across Connecticut on Thursday, May 24th, 2012 in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol in Hartford for an awards ceremony honoring the winners of the Secretary of the State's 17th Annual Poster Contest. Secretary Merrill honored twenty-six students – selected from a field of more than 1,000 entrants from forty-seven participating elementary schools – for their posters depicting acts of good citizenship happening in their community.

“I always encouraged my own children to explore their imaginations, so it was wonderful to see young students from across Connecticut engage with their creativity, and produce beautiful posters,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. “It was far from easy selecting the top three posters from each of the five Congressional districts; all entries were unique and expressive. But, I am so thrilled to have the award-winning pieces displayed in the Capitol building. Our young people can be an inspiration for what good citizenship looks like.”

The top five posters came from students in the elementary schools of William M. Strong Elementary School of Plantsville, SB Butler School of Mystic, Francis E Kom Elementary School of Durham, Wolfpit School of Norwalk, and Squadran Line School of Simsbury.

“The theme of the contest is ‘Good Citizenship Happening in Our Community’. This contest motivated students to look within their communities and see the democracy occurring in their towns,” said Secretary Merrill. “By making children aware of these opportunities within their community at a young age, we can only hope that it encourages the next generation of Connecticut leaders to demonstrate how to get involved in their local community and give back to their city or town.”

Five winning posters were selected from divisions established by the Office of the Secretary of the State. Each division consisted of a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner, along with two students who received honorable mention. Every student honored at Thursday's event received a certificate of recognition, and gift certificate from Barnes & Noble bookstore.



2012 Poster Contest Winners

Student information is listed below:

Office of the Secretary of the State's
2012 4th Grade Poster Contest Winners
"Good Citizenship is Happening in Our Community"

Congressional District 1

1st Place, Andrew Hoy Wong, William M Strong Elementary School, Plantsville
2nd Place, Lazo Kociu, Martin Elementary School, Manchester
3rd Place, Brenna Smith, William M Strong Elementary School, Plantsville
Honorable Mention, Maddie Gourley & Julia Nemeč, Buttonball Lane Elementary School, Glastonbury
Honorable Mention, Tyler Dias, Martin Elementary School, Manchester

Congressional District 2

1st Place, Gabriel Edward Amar, SB Butler School, Mystic
2nd Place, Sophia DiCocco, Fields Memorial, Bozrah
3rd Place, Schuyler Drago, Haddam Elementary School, Higganum
Honorable Mention, Amy Clarke, Fields Memorial, Bozrah
Honorable Mention, Lily Bucko, Haddam Elementary School, Higganum

Congressional District 3

1st Place, Melany Chanthinith, Francis E Korn Elementary School, Durham
2nd Place, Savana Rodriguez, Moody School, Middletown
3rd Place, Atalie Sweet, Francis E Korn Elementary School, Durham
Honorable Mention, Jake Marquardt, Grove J Tuttle School, East Haven
Honorable Mention, Shaylen Pasco, Washington School, West Haven

Congressional District 4

1st Place, Katelyn Greco, Wolfpit School, Norwalk

2nd Place, Camilla Cennamo, Park City Magnet, Bridgeport
3rd Place, Joy Odigbo, Frenchtown Elementary School, Trumbull
Honorable Mention, Chris Twomey, Redding Elementary School, Redding
Honorable Mention, Christopher Dauser, Wolfpit School, Norwalk

Congressional District 5

1st Place, Caitlin Walsh, Squadran Line School, Simsbury
2nd Place, Jack Good, Warren School, Warren
3rd Place, Phoebe DeRiu Crowley, Middlebury Elementary School, Middlebury
Honorable Mention, Alice Pereira, Pembroke Elementary School, Danbury
Honorable Mention, Emily Veronesi, Wakelee Elementary School, Wolcott

Photos of winners available upon request.