

Marblehead students honored for sustainability posters

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Marblehead students from kindergarten to high school will receive awards this fall for posters they created about practices to protect the environment and promote a more sustainable world.

The poster contest was sponsored by Sustainable Marblehead, a community organization working to address climate change at a local level. Student award winners will be honored at the organization's first community-wide Sustainability Fair on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Marblehead Community Charter Public School. The awards will be given by State Representative Lori Ehrlich.

Winning first place was the Glover School Thomas Team led by teacher Barbara Thomas. The nine-foot-long poster created by Thomas's 19 kindergartners includes footprints of each student and statements from each child about what he or she can do to protect the planet, including bringing a reusable water bottle to school, saying no to plastic bags and straws, and passing used clothing down to younger relatives. The poster's theme is "I Can, You Can, We Can."

Noa Brochstein, a fourth grader at the Epstein Hillel School, won second place for her image of the earth being kissed by four colorful birds and her advice "to not pollute the environment and to reduce, reuse, and recycle."

Kasia Smallwood, a sixth grader at the Marblehead Village School, won third place for her poster urging fishermen to change the material of their fishing nets to something that breaks down in the environment and doesn't trap and kill marine life. Her split-screen image of a dolphin frolicking in the ocean and a dolphin caught in a fishing net features the words: "Our Earth Deserves Better."

In addition to the first, second, and third place winners, Sustainable Marblehead's Education Action Group, which chose the winners out of 144 posters submitted, also awarded honorable mentions to the following students:

Sarina Ariely, Epstein Hillel School

Eliana Berger, Epstein Hillel School

Delia Biancardi, Veterans Middle School

Shlomo Dubrovin, Epstein Hillel School

Clara Dye, Glover School

Evie Field, Epstein Hillel School

Leba Friedman, Epstein Hillel School

Orli Gold, Epstein Hillel School

Mia Guinto, West Boylston Middle School (Mia created her poster at the Arts Festival while visiting her aunt in Marblehead)

Morgan Helmuth, Marblehead High School

Lily Murphy, Epstein Hillel School

Reese Pignato, Tower School

Liora Ragozin, Epstein Hillel School

Julia Roy, Glover School

Olivia Schuller, Epstein Hillel School

Chloe Stux, Epstein Hillel School

Owen Taupier, Veterans Middle School

Audeline Vitet, Village School

In addition to recognizing these students, the fair will feature student and other exhibits: family-friendly educational programs and entertainment; speakers from town departments who will talk about what Marblehead is doing to create a more sustainable community; speakers on ocean ecology, current legislation, and how to create a zero net energy home; hands-on workshops; vendors who provide sustainable products and services and food trucks serving local food. The theme of the day is "Protecting Each Child's Future by Greening Today's World."

A highlight of the fair will be the opportunity to test-drive a variety of electric vehicles in partnership with MASS DRIVE CLEAN. ReVision Energy will also be there with information about solar energy and a demonstration of how they use their solar van to power an electric car.

Fair sponsors include National Grand Bank, The Rotary Clubs of Marblehead and Marblehead Harbor, Dr. Jack Weltner and Whole Foods. For more information, visit www.sustainablemarblehead.org or email sustainablemarblehead@gmail.com.