



PO Box 535, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
732-613-4790 – syoung@sueyoungmedia.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 1, 2007

CONTACT: SUSAN YOUNG
(732) 613-4790

**FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS FROM MIDDLESEX COUNTY HAVE
ARTICLES SELECTED FOR CELEBRATE NJ! KIDS NEWSPAPER**

(Bradley Beach, NJ) -- The ‘best of the best’ fourth grade student articles have been chosen as part the Second Annual School Program put on by Celebrate NJ!, a grass roots effort to build pride and forward a positive future for New Jersey. Of the more than 9,000 students who registered for the program, 277 articles were selected representing students from 15 counties.

(A complete list of articles and the schools they were selected from is available upon request.)

Sixty student articles and two class projects were selected to receive awards from Middlesex County. They include:

- 5 students from Susan Apfelbaum and Ellen Gorham’s classes at the Appleby School in Spotswood
- 6 students from Samantha McCloud, Karen O’Connell, and Jessica Bowman’s classes at Brookside Elementary School in Monroe
- 3 students from Debra Blaha’s class at Saint Bartholomew School in East Brunswick
- 9 students from Lauren Gilman’s classes at the Chittick School in East Brunswick
- Class project, “Famous New Jerseyans”, from Carey-Ann Byrnes’ class at St. Frances Cabrini in Piscataway
- 13 students from Cristy Moritz and Mary Rodgers’ classes at Franklin Elementary School in South Plainfield
- 5 students from Karan Landers’ class at Matthew Jago School in Woodbridge
- 4 students from Linda Goetz’s class at the Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield
- 13 students from Karen Balazs, Kelly Boldizar, Kimberly Lynch, and Diane Steinberg’s classes at South River Elementary School in South River
- 2 students from Stacey Russell’s class at St. Joseph School in Carteret
- Class project, “NJ Collage and Timeline”, from Debbie Blaha’s class at St. Bartholomew School in East Brunswick

Karen Hatcher, President of Celebrate NJ! says, “It was so fulfilling to see the effort and thought these shining students put into their articles this year. We saw such an interesting range of topics covering important NJ people, places and history, from Thomas Edison and Judy Blume to the Pinelands National Reserve, the Paper Mill Playhouse and everything in between. The idea was to instill pride in our children as they connect to all the wonderful things this state has to offer. It is encouraging to see our efforts come to fruition through such creativity.”

As part of the school program, an interactive WebQuest accessed through the Celebrate NJ! website guided students across New Jersey to research and write articles about state history, people and places. The challenge was to help create a newspaper written by and for New Jersey kids about New Jersey. The state requires fourth graders to study the history of New Jersey. This program included the state requirements and provided teachers with an engaging tool with which they were able to teach and create interest at the same time.

A list of the articles and students’ schools is located on the organization’s website. The articles themselves will also be published on the organization’s web site later this month and in local regional newspapers before school lets out in June.

The Celebrate NJ! School Program tagline is: *Education! Inspiration! Celebration!* Hatcher believes that recognizing both the effort and the learning is important to the long-term connection students make to their home state. “When our kids feel good about where they come from, they feel good about themselves. What’s more, they tend to take care of what they appreciate.” She added, “We’re planting seeds for a future New Jersey we can all feel proud of.”

The celebration component will happen during May and June at regional awards nights and baseball games planned for the students who participated. For more information about these events, go to the Events and Happenings page of the School Program section of www.CelebrateNJ.org.

Celebrate NJ! also invites everyone who has a Reason to Celebrate NJ! to log on to www.CelebrateNJ.org and enter that reason. No deadlines have been set. The group will continue to unveil the reasons monthly based on the number of days in a particular month. Residents are encouraged to enter multiple reasons describing the interesting and unique aspects of the Garden State. Entry cards are also available at over 350 libraries across the state. The selected reasons are announced daily on the organization’s website. The best 365 reasons will be published as part of an advertising and media campaign, taking place on outdoor ads across the state and through radio, television and newspaper promotions.