



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

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CONTACT: SUSAN YOUNG
(732) 613-4790

**STUDENT AUTHORS FROM BERGEN AND PASSAIC COUNTIES HONORED
FOR THEIR WRITING SKILLS: CELEBRATE NJ! HOSTS AWARDS NIGHT**

(Bradley Beach, NJ) -- Spirits were soaring as 54 student authors from Bergen and Passaic Counties, whose articles were selected for publication by Celebrate NJ!, were honored at a special award ceremony at Paramus Park Mall on Monday (May 21, 2007).
(Editor's Note: See school list at end of release)

All of the students participated in an interactive online program designed to make the required study of New Jersey a fun and engaging project. The challenge was to help create a newspaper written by and for New Jersey kids about New Jersey, researching subject areas from arts to science to sports and everything in between.

Karen Hatcher, Executive Director of Celebrate NJ! says, "I was impressed with how poised these students were when summarizing their projects. They chose some very challenging topics, from The Baylor Massacre of 1778 to New Jersey's wildlife to inventor Thomas Edison. By making connections to New Jersey's people, places, business, events and history, we hope these students are inspired and feel proud to call New Jersey home. The awards event gives the rest of us the opportunity to be inspired by them—New Jersey's future."

Fourth graders Paul Kozakiewicz and Nakia Griffin of Jefferson Elementary School in Bergenfield researched the shore town of Wildwood. Paul said, "We focused on a hotel there that has lots of family things to do. We brought our article to the hotel and it's now hanging in the lobby."

According to Stacy Novoshelski, 4th grade teacher from B.F. Gibbs Elementary School in West Milford, "The Celebrate NJ! School Program is phenomenal, and the students really enjoyed researching their topics."

Pompton Lakes Mayor John Murrin and Montvale Councilman Roger Fyffe were on hand to congratulate the students. Jack, the NJ Jackals mascot, was also there.

Mayor Murrin said, “This program is absolutely wonderful! It’s great that kids get recognized for their academic abilities and their communication skills.”

Each student who participated in the program, whether selected for an award or not, has also been invited to take part in one of eight Celebrate NJ! nights which will be held at minor league baseball parks across the state. Students from Bergen and Passaic counties will attend the NJ Jackals game on June 26, 2007.

Students from the following schools were honored at the event: B.F.Gibbs Elementary School, New Milford; Berkley Street Elementary, New Milford; Memorial School, Montvale; Roberge Elementary, Rivervale; Lincoln Elementary School, Pompton Lakes; Samuel R. Donald School, Bloomingdale; and Jefferson Elementary, Bergenfield.

To read the student’s online newspaper and learn more about the Celebrate NJ! school program, go to www.CelebrateNJ.org.

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Photo Caption: JPEG #1- . Pictured L-R: Karen Hatcher, Executive Director of Celebrate NJ!, Jack, the NJ Jackals mascot, and Jason Liska, a fourth grade student at the B.F. Gibbs Elementary School in New Milford.