



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 TO BE
HONORED FOR THEIR WRITING SKILLS: CELEBRATE NJ! HOSTS
AWARDS NIGHTS**

(Bradley Beach, NJ) -- Forty five student authors from Bergen and Passaic counties whose articles were selected for publication by Celebrate NJ! will be honored at a special award ceremony at The Paramus Park Shopping Center. The event will take place on Thursday, May 17th from 7:30-9PM in the Center Court area. “Jack”, the mascot of the NJ Jackals baseball team, will be on hand to congratulate the students from 7-8PM. This event is one of several regional events being held across the state during May.

The ‘best of the best’ fourth grade articles were chosen as part of 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.

Karen Hatcher, Executive Director of Celebrate NJ! says, “These students impressed us with the subjects they chose and their enthusiasm for learning about our great state. By making connections to the important people, places and events that have shaped New Jersey from the time of the American Revolution into current day, we hope these students are inspired and feel proud to call New Jersey home. The awards event will give the rest of us the opportunity to be inspired by them—New Jersey’s future.”

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.

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 New Jersey Jackals game on June 26, 2007.

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.

The "365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ!" campaign is made possible through the generous support of sponsors NJ Cable Telecommunications Association, ArborSys Group, NJ101.5 Radio, and St. Barnabas Health Care System. For more information about the campaign, visit www.CelebrateNJ.org.