



News release
March 29, 2023

Students recognized for Prodigies for Peace art and essays entries



The Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee held a community celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and NAACP Black History Month on January 15. As part of the celebration, students were invited to submit essays and art for the 22nd annual Prodigies for Peace competition.

The Prodigies for Peace Writing and Art Contest helps students draw connections between the people and the events that shaped the civil rights movement and the social issues that influence their lives today. The essay question asks students to describe what they could do for others that will continue Dr. King's message of equality and justice for all.

Students who chose to enter the art category were asked to use any medium they wished to create an art piece reflecting their artistic vision of Dr. King's dream coming true in our country through their eyes.

Student work is judged by members of the community. Students earning first, second, third, and honorable mention awards in each grade band and each creative category are honored for their inspirational works at the community celebration.

The district regularly encourages students to submit work as part of this contest. In recent years the school board has invited honored students and their families to a board meeting in recognition of the students' accomplishments. At the March 28 school board meeting, 30 Everett Public Schools students were recognized for earning awards in the contest.

This year, Everett Public Schools had nine winners for their essays and 21 winners for their artwork. The 2023 Prodigies for Peace winners are listed below by grade band and contest category. Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to recognized students.

Essay contest winners

Essay contest winners for grade 3

First place: Ivory Collier, Mill Creek Elementary
Second place: Maisie Kim, Mill Creek Elementary
Third place: Layla Ishiguro, Mill Creek Elementary

Essay contest winners for grade 4

First place: Aarav Arora, Penny Creek Elementary
Second place: Nikhil Dhanalakota, Cedar Wood Elementary
Third place: Samantha Carp, View Ridge Elementary

Essay contest winners for grade 5

First place: Dhiya Vadivelan, Mill Creek Elementary
Second place: Avalie Richter, Forest View Elementary
Third place: Anabelle Lai, Mill Creek Elementary

Essay Contest winner for Middle School

Second place: Yafi Taher, Forest View Elementary

Third place: Sahasra Kalvakunta, Gateway Middle School

Art contest winners

Art Contest winners for grades K-2

First place: Kaira Rajan, Tambark Creek Elementary

Second place: Adira Chukkala, Forest View Elementary

Third place: Lillian Arnette, Forest View Elementary

Art Contest winners for grades 3-5

Second place: Princeton Makinde, Mill Creek Elementary

Second place: Aarvi Goyal, Forest View Elementary

Third place: Riley Waldman, Lowell Elementary

Third place: Siri Velupula, Forest View Elementary

Honorable mention: Idhant Sai Maseedu, Forest View Elementary

Honorable mention: Amreen Kaur, Penny Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Nikhil Dhanalakota, Cedar Wood Elementary

Honorable mention: Renesmae Marzan, View Ridge Elementary

Honorable mention: McKenzie Thayer, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Macy Yu, Woodside Elementary

Honorable mention: Sofia Brouwer, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Ousman Njie, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Rua Lee, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Alyssa Fisk, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Elle Gundlach, Mill Creek Elementary

Art Contest winners for Middle School

First place: Sterling Seigny, Everett Virtual Academy

Honorable mention: Vivaan Rajan, Gateway Middle

Art Contest winners for High School

First Place: Joseph K. Pearce, Jackson High

---end---

For more information:

[Kathy Reeves](#), Director of Communications, 425-385-4040