

OneWorld Progressive Institute, Inc.

Presents:

“21st Century Conversations” with N’Zinga Shāni

Date: June 18, 2009

Topic: **Honoring OneWorld 2009 Essay Contest Winners**



Students from Hamden Middle School, Truman (NH) & Carrigan Middle (WH)

Participated in our 2009 7&8th Grade Essay Contest. Approximately 460 students wrote essays. OneWorld board members selected the top 25 essays and awarded prizes.

Hamden Middle School – won a total of 21 awards

Carrigan Middle in West Haven = won 3 awards

Truman School, NH = won 1 award

Top Winning Schools: Carrigan Middle School, WH: Patricia Libero, Principal
Hamden Middle School: James O’Connor, Principal
Truman K-8 School, NH: Roy Araujo, Principal

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Brenda Calderón, | 13 – 8 th Grade - | Carrigan Middle School, West Haven Top winner overall - Most Outstanding Essay |
| 1. Kristen Stadalnik, | 13 -- 8 th grade | Hamden Middle School, 1 st Place Most Creative Essay |
| 2. Lindsay Hiebert, | 12—7 th | Hamden Middle School, 2 nd Place Special Humanitarian Award |
| 2. Abby Jones, | 14 – 8 th | Hamden Middle School, 2 nd Place Very Creative Essay |
| 3. James Mendillo, | 13—8 th | Hamden Middle School, 3 rd Place Thoughtful, Warm & Creative |

Special Mention (Higher Caliber) Essays: Offer Unique Insights, Thoughtfulness & Creativity

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Ben Bonadies | 13 –7 th | Hamden Middle (Excerpt) |
| 2. Michael Kearney | 13—7 th | Hamden Middle ** |
| 3. Elizabeth Gonzalez | 13—8 th | Hamden Middle ** |
| 4. Candice Neal | 13—7 th | Truman School, New Haven (Excerpt) |
| 5. Denise Perez | 14—8 th | Hamden Middle * |
| 6. Angelica Santos | 13—8 th | Hamden Middle |
| 7. Max Vieira | 14—8 th | Hamden Middle * |
| 8. Abdul-Razak Zachariah | 13- 8 th *** | Carrigan Middle, West Haven (Excerpt) |

*** There are many heroes in this world; one who stands out for me is President Barack Obama; he does everything a true hero does. He tries hard to fix problems in our country everyday; he keeps a happy and upbeat tone even in these desperate times, and that really brings Americans’ spirit up. **Abdul Zachariah**

Honorable Mention: Offer Special Insights. Went beyond the obvious

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Hope Blue | 14—8 th | Hamden Middle ** (Excerpt) |
| 2. Stephen Gonza | 14—8 th | Hamden Middle ** (Excerpt) |
| 3. Nana Dwamena | 13—8 th | Carrigan Middle, WH (Excerpt) |
| 4. Emily Jones | 14—8 th | Hamden Middle |
| 5. Natalia Katz | 12—7 th | Hamden |
| 6. Valerie Katz | 14—8 th | Hamden |
| 7. Catherine Lindsay | 12—7 th | Hamden |
| 8. Kolby Matusovich | 13—7 th | Hamden |
| 9. Louis Pascarella | 14—8 th | Hamden |
| 10. Kathie Pfeiffer | 13—8 th | Hamden * |
| 11. Dylan Sarosario | 12—7 th | Hamden |
| 12. Sebastian Ullrich | 12—7 th | Hamden |

Key: Top winners numbers 1-3 received OneWorld checks.

Special Mention Essays: Students received a gift certificate and coupons; they are encouraged to purchase a game intended to engage them in critical thinking activities and to apply their coupons to the purchase of books that offer something special and engage the mind fully.

Honorable Mention Essays: Students received a gift certificate and coupons; the value of the certificates is less than those for Special Mention. Students are encouraged to purchase a game intended to engage them in critical thinking activities and to apply their coupons to the purchase of books that offer something special and engage the mind fully.

Excerpt: "I think a hero should be one who is optimistic and doesn't get discouraged by adversities. A hero should abide by the old quote – "What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger." *Nana Dwamena*

Excerpt: "My dad is my hero because of what he does for me, and how he supports me overall; he plays music with me, listens to my problems, frustrations, and questions. He makes a list of what has to be done and makes sure it can be finished throughout the busy schedule I have. This teaches me that having a family takes a lot of responsibility." *Stephen W. Gonza*

Excerpt: "If people grow up not taking chances, they will never know who they are inside. In the book, Frindle, the main character stood up to a bully in his school, and it turned out that the bully was actually afraid of him. A lot of people would like to stand up to the person they are afraid of, but can't." *Candice Neal*

Excerpt: "Inspirational, courageous, and intelligent are the three basic categories that a Hero falls under. President Obama fits these categories; he is the first African-American president and he is showing all African-Americans that they can be whatever they want to be in this cruel world." *Hope Blue*

Excerpt: "A hero cannot be deemed a hero if the heroic acts are done for the sole purpose of fame or riches. If a celebrity succeeds in living a positive life that younger people can admire and duplicate, that celebrity can be a hero. If celebrities use their fame for charitable causes, they can certainly be heroes." *Ben Bonadies*

All students received a recognition certificate from OneWorld Progressive Institute, Inc.

Students whose names have additional stars have demonstrated in admirable ways the additional qualities listed in the category. The numbers of stars reflect the number of qualities demonstrated with particular expressiveness.