



Birchwood School of Hawken

BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL OF HAWKEN PRESS RELEASE

January 23, 2017

Contact: Cindy McNaughton, 216-251-2321

Seventeen Students win Regional Scholastic Writing Awards

Seventeen Birchwood middle students received recognition from the 2016 Regional Scholastic Writing Awards. Nadia Ibrahim, Jane Nilson, Dharma Nautiyal and Sophia Vlastaris received a Gold Key Award. This qualifies them to compete at the national level. Sam Hessler, Isabella Issa, Zuha Jaffar, Connor Stanton, and Hadi Tajour received a Silver Key Award. Paul About Haidar, Naya Alsouss, Stella Connelly, Thomas Gorenc, Shruthi Ravichandran, Saleh Daoud, Alexander Massier, and Joshua Samulak were awarded Honorable Mention for their entries.

Birchwood School of Hawken alumni Abby McNaughton, Julia Moreno, Farah Sayed, and Olivia Savona earned Silver Key Awards. Alumni Ying Ying Yang, Crystal Zhao, Abby McNaughton, and Topstone Liang were awarded Honorable Mention.

Founded in 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the nation's longest-running, most prestigious educational initiative supporting student achievement in the visual and literary arts. Since 1923, awards have recognized and encouraged millions of students, including Truman Capote, Sylvia Plath, Andy Warhol, and John Updike, who won when they were teens.

Birchwood students submitted narrative pieces in categories like memoir/personal essay, short story, science fiction, fantasy, or flash fiction (shorter than 1400 words). The winning entries were chosen by the panelists for creativity, technical skill and emerging voice. Students whose work was recognized were invited to attend the award ceremony and reception on January 14 where they received certificates, pins and special awards. Gold Key winner, Nadia Ibrahim, also received the Short Story and the American Voices Nominee awards.

Gold Key

- Nadia Ibrahim – “Anxiety is Okay,” short story
- Jane Nilson – “This Story is What You Make of it,” short story
- Dharma Nautiyal – “If Ignorance is Bliss,” short story
- Sophia Vlastaris – “The Polaroid Camera,” short story

Silver Key

- Sam Hessler – “Running out of Time,” short story
- Isabella Issa – “Here’s to All the Broken Ones,” short story

Connor Stanton – “The Discovery,” short story
Zuha Jaffar – “The Game of Life,” short story
Hadi Tajour – “The Favorite,” personal essay/memoir
Abby McNaughton – “How do I Tell them?” personal essay/memoir
Julia Moreno – “Train of Thoughts,” personal essay/memoir
Julia Moreno – “Waiting for Aushwitz,” journalism
Farah Sayed – “The Art Room,” poetry
Olivia Savona – “Education for Girls,” critical essay

Honorable Mention

Paul Abou Haidar – “The Innovation” critical essay
Naya Alsouss – “What a Wonderful World,” science fiction/fantasy
Stella Conelly – “Forgiveness is Sweeter,” short story
Thomas Gorenc – “The Duke’s Son,” science fiction/fantasy
Shruthi Ravichandran – “Merciless,” short story
Saleh Daoud – “The Unforgettable Halloween,” science fiction/fantasy
Joshua Samulak – “John’s Project,” short story
Alexander Massier – “Backyard Mystery,” science fiction/fantasy
Ying Ying Yang – “How to Use the Word ‘Sister,’” personal essay/Memoir
Crystal Zhao – “Don’t Keep the Peace,” critical essay
Abby McNaughton – “Nightmares,” flash fiction
Topstone Liang – “My Fear,” short story

Lorraine Tzeng, Birchwood language arts teacher, spoke of the success and dedication of her students in this way, “It is a long journey from the first draft to the final copy. Students put a lot of effort into revising and reworking their stories with gratifying results.”

###

Birchwood School of Hawken is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood's mission is to provide an educational setting where challenging academics build solid work habits, an achievement culture nurtures healthy attitudes, and a caring environment forges social responsibility.

birchwoodschool.org

