

NCDSB LAUNCHES 2nd ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST

On your mark, get set, write! That is the message that the Northeastern Catholic District School Board is sending students as they invite them to participate in their second annual writing contest.

The purpose of the contest is to help students think creatively, express their thoughts and ideas and develop strong literacy skills. It fits in well with the implementation of our Balanced Literacy framework by encouraging guided and independent writing. This approach allows the students to practice and become more comfortable with the skills to which they have been introduced in the classroom. In addition to acquiring stronger writing skills, the students will become more effective and confident communicators.



Rikki Lahaie (St. Paul School)
1st place winner in the JK-Gr.3 category
of the 2003/2004 contest

Students may choose to submit either poetry or short stories. To encourage participation by our younger students, Junior and Senior Kindergarten students may express themselves through art by submitting picture poems or picture stories. Categories will include JK to grade 3, grades 4-6, grades 7-8, grades 9-10, and grades 11-12. Winners will be awarded a plaque, a copy of the anthology and a gift voucher. All entries must be submitted by Friday, January 28, 2005.

This is the second year that the Board has hosted this contest, which was inspired and coordinated in part by support staff member Brian Beaudry at St. Patrick School in Cobalt. Mr. Beaudry is himself an accomplished poet, and has done much over the years to encourage our students to share of themselves through writing. He published the works of last year's winners in an anthology entitled *Whispers*.

The Board is proud to sponsor this contest, which has generated some profound verses and beautiful pieces of literature. "I was impressed with the collection of poetry and short stories written by our students last year," stated Director of Education Paul Toffanello. "They shared with us through words their experiences, passions and mostly themselves. The power, intensity and spiritual aspect of their *Whispers*" are evident for all to see in the anthology. They have truly demonstrated their potential in their journey to become accomplished writers, and I look forward to reading their latest creations this year."

For more information, please contact:
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