

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #324 (1999-2000)

May 22, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD  
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
SUBJECT: PENCILS FULL OF STARS AWARDS

PERTINENT FACTS:

The idea for a poetry booklet penned by students began in 1970 when Northwood Elementary School first grade teacher Bell Benton set out to collect student poetry to present at the District's Fine Art Festival. Overwhelmed with the number of submissions, Ms. Benton compiled the collection and titled it, "Pencils Full of Stars."

Each year since, with the help of the Poetry Committee, the booklet has been published to allow Anchorage elementary students the opportunity to see their creativity in print. It is believed to be the longest continually published poetry anthology in Alaska. This year is the 31st year of publication.

The members of this year's Poetry Committee include Gino Cherry, Carol Dahl, Melinda Dale, Lori Davis, Beverley Fannesbeck, Louise Gallop, Sean Murphy, Keith Perrins and Majel Toyofuku.

Louise Gallop will present certificates to the Gold Nugget winners. They include: Steven Dossat, Joel Huntsman, Hannah Dempsey, Christina Knapp, Maggie Rose McGuire and Jordan Macleod.

In addition to the publication of their poetry, some students are honored with other special awards, such as the Margaret Mielke Memorial Poetry Award to Promising Young Poets. This award is given in honor of the late Margaret Mielke, the first poet laureate of Alaska. Trudy Keller, a Mielke family member, will make these presentations.

This year's Mielke Award winners include: Eddie Landes, Brittany Oden, Jessica LaChapelle, Roxanne Gillam, Miranda Cortez, Sarah Sherburne, Whitney Heck, Cari Jamieson, Steven Dossat and Nicholas Jordan.

Last year another award was added to honor the late Bell Benton who was a creative inspiration to so many students. The Bell Benton Memorial Poetry Award honoring excellence in poetic expression will be presented by Margaret Campisi from the Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a society of women educators.

The winners include: Jim Knoll, Charles Miles, Christian Benedetti, Aaron Troutman, Roxanne Gillam, Megan Lepley, Thomas McIntyre, Sarah Potter, Felish Daniels and Sarah Sherburne.

It is requested that the School Board recognize these young poets whose imagination and creativity inspired these awards.

BC/LW/CW

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