

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #289 (2000-2001)

May 21, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PENCILS FULL OF STARS WINNERS

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. Now in its 32nd year of publication, it is believed to be the longest continually published poetry anthology in Alaska.

The members of this year's Poetry Committee include Carol Dahl, Melinda Dale, Lori Davis, Beverley Foncesbeck, Louise Gallop, Sean Murphy, Keith Perrins and Majel Toyofuku. Louise Gallop will present certificates to this year's Gold Nugget winner Morgan Doty.

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: Shelby McMasters, Michael Ross, Alexandra Kate Noble, Megan Petersen, Nicholas Gilmore, Holly Werel, Donna Nielsen, Jean Allworden, Alex Jernstrom and Patrick Flint.

Two years ago 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: Kendra Awad, Mandy Dickey, Alex Jernstrom, Christina Knapp, Israel McNearney, Alexandra Kate Noble, Shana Reichlin, Michael Ross and Holly Werel.

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

CC/LW/CW

Prepared by: Cindy Wilsbach, Communications Specialist/Nina Prockish
Approved by: Larry Wiget, Executive Director, Public Affairs