



For Immediate Release: 10.12.06

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Student Fire Safety Contest Winners Honored

More than 400 local students submitted entries for the 31st annual fire safety poster and essay contest presented by the Oak Park Fire Department. The 16 winners were honored at a ceremony Wed., Oct. 11 at the Main Fire Station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. Each student received prizes and certificates of merit from the Department. The contest was held as part of the Fire Department's recognition of *National Fire Prevention Week*.

"All of the students at the ceremony said they enjoyed doing the projects," said Oak Park Battalion Chief Glenn Vallone. "It seemed to capture their imagination and hopefully taught them something about home fire safety at the same time."

This year's contest theme was *Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat*. Many of the winning entries portrayed kitchens and stoves on fire with the fire department putting out the fire. Others split the poster space in half to show the right and wrong things to do in a kitchen to prevent home fires.

"We go through all of the entries a few times to find the ones that showed the most creativity, gave a good lesson and stayed in the theme," Vallone said. "One of this year's winning entries was particularly creative and the student used a recipe card called, 'Recipe for Disaster.' Others were more artful. There was even one poster that created a character called 'Sparky' who showed how to avoid home fires."

The winning entries will be displayed at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. through the end of the month. For more information about fire prevention, contact the Oak Park Fire Department at 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

2006 Poster/Essay Winners

Kindergarten

David Arnett, Mann
Ben Newbury, Holmes

First & Second Grade

Sophia Norton, Mann
Carey Songey, Holmes
Andrinque Nutall, Lincoln
Winston Durand, Lincoln
Maya Gary, Whittier
Elaine Johnson, Whittier

Third Grade

Ariel Noriega, St. Edmunds
Uzochi Nwoko, Hatch

Fourth Grade

Alexandra Kenoian, Longfellow
Sam Buterbaugh, Hatch

Fifth Grade

Aliyah Baker, St Catherine-St Lucy
Hannah Walsh, Whittier
Brittany Madison, St Catherine-St Lucy
Tavi Gevinson, Longfellow

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