

YOUNG OBSERVER

Essay winners focus on meaning of freedom

By Stacey Smith

Winners of the American Society's first annual essay contest on the meaning of freedom were presented with special prizes at the American Consulate last week.

Benjamin Broughton - who tied for third place in the Under Ten category with Elizabeth Parsons - and his 13-year-old brother William, winner of the 13 and Under category, each received a ribbon, a goodie bag, a Wahoo Waterpark pass for two at the Wyndham Bermuda Resort and Spa and an official American Consulate hat.

President of The American Society of Bermuda, Brad Woodings offered his praise for the efforts of the writers. "I had a read of what you did and it was fantastic," he said. William and Benjamin were born in Massachusetts and both attend Somersfield Academy.

"I feel very important" said Benjamin after his win. Their proud father, Kevin Broughton, said he was "absolutely not surprised (by their winning efforts) because they're great kids".

In total, five local youngsters were named the winners of the American Society's first annual essay contest on the meaning of freedom.

Ranging in age from 7 to 15, the young winners used the essay contest as an opportunity to ponder freedom - a concept that is celebrated

every July 4, US Independence Day. "Freedom is what everyone needs around the world," said seven-year-old Grace Palmer, winner of the Under 10 category.

Second place winner Nate Lang believes that "when you are free you do not have to ask permission from the Government".

Elizabeth Parsons expressed hope that "someday the whole world will be free", while, to Benjamin Broughton, freedom "means we live in harmony with our own choice of a job".

The inspiring essay written by his brother William states that "freedom is having responsibilities, to uphold them and to fight for them, and let your beliefs stand strong".

He also wrote: "Freedom, to me, is being your own person, knowing that what you do is not limited by others, but is set by your own standards".

The American Society and the American Consulate, co-hosts of the much-anticipated annual Independence Day Celebration, expect next year's essay contest to attract even wider participation.

US Consul General Gregory W. Slayton said: "So many of us take freedom for granted. It does us all good to stop for a moment and reflect on its meaning and to be thankful that we live in a free society."



For the Love of Liberty: Benjamin Broughton, third place winner in the July 4 Essay competitions' Under ten category, shakes the hand of US Consul General Gregory W. Slayton. Behind him stands his brother William, first place winner of the 13 & Under category (right) and President of The American Society of Bermuda Brad Woodings.

Photo by Glenn Tucker



Photo by Aki Simmons

Trophy laden: Oronde Wilson with his many academic awards.

Oronde Wilson is the shining star of Sandys

By Meghan Jones

Recent graduate of Sandys Middle School Oronde Wilson Jr. has left with an armful of academic medals and trophies.

Oronde, 14, and has just completed his last year at the school. He will start at the Berkeley Institute in September.

He received medals in science, mathematics, language arts and an overall academic achievement medal as well as several principal awards for his outstanding academic performance at Sandys.

In addition, he was awarded the Principal's Cup for Excellence and the E. Dudley Bassett Memorial Cup for most outstanding orator.

Oronde has performed at a very high level through his attendance at Sandys Middle School and has been on the Principal's List since he started.

His impressive speaking performances as a member of the school debating team led to his being named most outstanding orator. Oronde said that he had been interested in debating since primary school.

"I found out I was good at it

and I liked it so I kept on doing it," he said.

He has participated in many debating competitions and said that he had won several. When asked what he would like to do when he finishes school, Oronde said: "I want to be a Supreme Court Judge," and explained that he will start as a lawyer.

These aspirations derive from his love for debating.

Oronde's favourite subject is English. His least favourite subject is business studies.

Away from the classroom, Oronde sails and enjoys track and field, his favourite event being long jump.

For fun Oronde said he likes to hang with his friends.

"I try and stay focused on my school work," he said of his strategy for academic success.

"It's real hard - even for me, I get side-tracked sometimes, but always try to stay focused on my goals."

His grandmother, Glorine Lawrence said: "I am very proud of him."

"All his achievements are his own. He put in the work. He has a natural gift and he was always very bright."

Kyla finds that giving is the greatest gift

By Mikaela Ian Cannonier

A young Bermudian girl with a big heart did what to many children is unthinkable. Instead of asking for presents for her birthday, she asked for donations to aid children in need in Nepal.

For ten-year-old Kyla Bolden decided helping children who didn't have much was far more important than getting gifts.

As a result, Kyla raised \$1,500 for the Kathmandu Kids Club and PALS.

The idea came after she watched a programme on The Oprah Winfrey Show.

For her tenth birthday party, she asked her guests not to

Ten-year-old raises \$1,500 for charity by foregoing gifts at her birthday party

bring presents for her but donate money for charity.

"She is very sensitive to the fact that there are millions of people in the world who are in severe need and she wanted to do something about it," her mother Antoinette said.

Kyla's guests were very generous making donations of \$50 and even \$100.

After reading an article in The Royal Gazette about a new

charity, the Kathmandu Kids Club through the ISIS Foundation, Kyla took interest and began to do research.

She went to the website and even inquired about their parent charity the ISIS Foundation. After all her investigations, Kyla decided to give \$1,000 to the Kathmandu Kids Club and \$500 to PALS.

Leonie Exel, President of the Kathmandu Kids Club and Gen-

eral Manager of the ISIS Foundation said: "Although it costs tens of thousands of dollars to support the annual living costs of just one child in Bermuda or the USA, it only costs us about \$1,500 to support a child for one year in Nepal."

"Kyla has literally given us enough money to support that one child - their school fees, food, medical and dental care, clothes, housing, house parents and 'social workers', toys and outings. We are helping hundreds of children in Nepal, and Kyla has genuinely been able to support one of them for an entire year - it's fantastic."

For more information about the charity visit www.kathmandukidsclub.com.

Hurricane colouring contest winners

By Mikaela Ian Cannonier

Twenty-eight of Bermuda's primary school children received prizes for their creativity in the Bermuda Red Cross Hurricane Awareness Colouring Contest.

The children - ages 5-11 - had to colour in a drawing by Royal Gazette cartoonist Peter Woolcock. The winners were chosen from 823 entries of public and private school students by a panel of judges.

The winners were selected from seven categories divided by age.

In the five years old category, first place went to Meg Durhager from Bermuda High School, second place to Ashunti Crookwell of Francis Patton, third place to Adriana Penruddocke of Salties Cavendish and honourable mention and Shane Rogers.

The winners of the six years old category include Daisy Lines of BHS for first place, Brandon Jones of Warwick Academy in second, Kaya Montarsolo of Salties Cavendish coming in third and Sage Jackson of Francis Patton receiving honourable mention.

Seven year old Anthony Whaley of Warwick Academy won first prize in his category while Alyiah Williams of Southampton Gleebe placed second. Honor Darrell of Salties Cavendish placed third and Giordana Santin of Mount Saint Agnes received honourable mention.

In the eight years old cate-

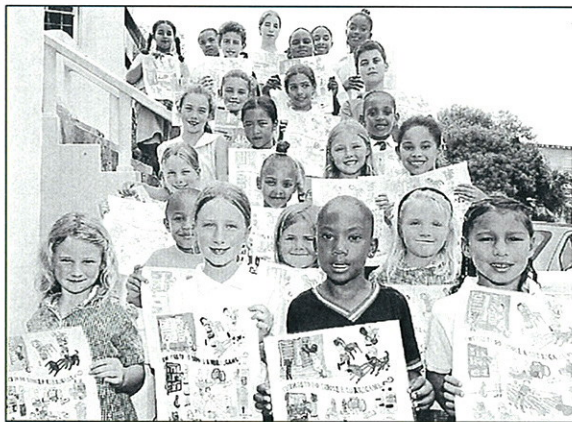


Photo by Aki Simmons

A colourful group: Winners of the hurricane colouring contest are pictured.

gory, Francesea Line of BHS came in first, Tatum Boyle of BHS placed second, Elizabeth Parsons of Salties Cavendish came in third and Koto Uchida received honourable mention.

Nine year old Brittney Wall of BHS won first place in her category while Danielle Fairfield of MSA came second. Corey Desiva of Gilbert Institute placed third and Kali Lespere of BHS received honourable mention.

In the ten years old category,

Molly Pilgrim of BHS came in first, Shi-Vaughn Lee of Francis Patton placed second, Zenia Welch of Harrington Sound Primary came in third and Chelsea Swanson-Pereira was given honourable mention.

Andre Botelho of Purvis Primary beat out all the 11 year old girls for the first place honour. Emma Steele of BHS came in second, Sharri Brechall-Weldon of Somerset Primary placed third and Breon

Neverson of Harrington Sound Primary received honourable mention.

First place winners received \$30 cash from Belco, second place received \$20 gift certificates from the Phoenix Stores, third place received a \$15 gift certificate from Staples and honourable mention received a \$10 gift certificate from The Royal Gazette Stationery Store.

The contest was sponsored by Belco and Triangle Press.