



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Four Goose Creek CISD students will compete in the National History Day contest in Washington, D.C., after winning top honors at Texas History Day competition. From left are Edna Mendez and Valeria Sixtos, both of Horace Mann Junior School; Matthew Broussard of Gentry Junior School; and Cassadi Pape of Sterling High School.

Four Goose Creek CISD students advance to National History Day competition

Four Goose Creek CISD students have advanced to the National History Day competition in Washington, D.C., after winning top honors at the State History Day.

Goose Creek CISD students shined in the state competition and walked away with several special awards as well as entry placements.

Entries placing first and second at the state competition move on to the national competition in June.

History fair participation is and has been a district initiative for pre-AP social studies in Goose Creek CISD for years, and the district's track record at state and nationals is a source of community pride.

"I am very confident in the entries that we are submitting to National History Day this year. They could all take top honors," said Goose Creek CISD Coordinator of Social Studies Taunya Breaux, who oversees history day activities for the district. "We have much to be proud of, and all of our students and teachers deserve our sincere congratulations."

Students representing Goose Creek CISD at the National History Day event include:

- Matthew Broussard, who attends Gentry Junior School, once again earned first place for his Individual Performance in the junior division (grades 6-8), titled, "An Expression of the American Mind, A Written Revolution."

Matthew is the reigning national champion in this category, winning the Gold medal for his performance as Benjamin Franklin in "The Treaty of Paris: The Ultimate Game of Chess" at last year's National History Day competition.

In this year's history day competitions, Matthew portrays another Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson, who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States.

His teacher, Laura Bagwell, said the talented eighth-grader's previous two years of experience at the state and national level gives him the competitive edge necessary to be successful at the national level once again this year.



Mrs. Liggett

Mrs. Liggett was recognized for two outstanding teacher awards at the state level. Mrs. Liggett won The David DeBoe Teacher award and will serve as the State of Texas nominee at the National History Day Competition.

She also won the Patricia Behling Teacher Award.

Ami received \$500 and the nomination for the National Outstanding Teacher award.

Both of these awards are set up to honor teachers who participate in History Fair and do an outstanding job in the classroom.

Mrs. Liggett's teaching career spans 27 years, the last 13 years at Horace Mann as an eighth grade history teacher, department chair and History fair coordinator. She had never been involved in History Fair until she came to Goose Creek CISD.

"Without any history fair experience, I was fortunate to take workshops led by Donna Britt (RSS) and Pat Kana (retired). These wonderful women helped me learn about the process and gave me much needed guidance and advice," said Mrs. Liggett.

"I was again fortunate when Suzy Ferrell was hired as our librarian because she loves research as much as I do. She offered to help me and we continue to work together," said Mrs. Liggett. "The success of our students and our school is truly attributed to the students."

Winning the Patricia Behring and the DeBoe Awards, she says, "is a blessing that was exciting and at the same time, so humbling."

"I am truly honored to have been recognized and I am so grateful to Toni Shuman who nominated me and to Donna Britt, Suzy Ferrell, Mrs. Coy, Mr. Coopersmith and Mrs. Breaux for always supporting me and for writing letters of recommendation," said Mrs. Liggett. "I am especially grateful to all of my former and present students who made a commitment to their projects. I know that my award is truly a reflection of all of these people in my

the national level once again this year.

"Matthew is a gifted performer and truly brings Thomas Jefferson to life in his performance," said Mrs. Bagwell. "The degree of detail and thorough research he has put into his history fair project is evident every time he performs. This sets his project apart from many others. Matthew genuinely enjoys history and his love for the subject matter comes through in his project."

- Cassadi Pape, a Sterling High School student, won second place for her Individual Exhibit in the senior division (grades 9-12), titled, "Triangle Fire," which is about the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. (The fire was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of the city of New York and resulted in the fourth highest loss of life from an industrial accident in U.S. history.)

Cassadi's teacher, Stephanie Cottle, said her topic did a great job expressing this year's history day theme: Revolution, Reaction and Reform.

"She discusses the event and the dangerous working conditions that were exposed after the fire and the reforms that came because of it," said Mrs. Cottle. "She has worked very hard and gathered many primary sources. With her excellent historical quality and analysis she has a great chance at being successful and placing at nationals."

- The Horace Mann Junior School team of Edna Mendez and Valeria Sixtos won second place in the junior division for their Group Website titled, "An Island's Victory: The First Successful Slave Revolt."

These students are under the direction of teacher Beverly Joseph and librarian Suzy Ferrell.

"The website division is growing every year but I believe our Horace Mann entry by Edna and Valeria will be a front-runner in the competition," said social studies coordinator Mrs. Breaux.

These four Goose Creek CISD students will compete against more than 2,000 other students from across the country during the national competition at the University of Maryland near Washington, D.C., which opens on June 10.

Goose Creek CISD also has a teacher, Ami Liggett of Horace Mann, who has been chosen as the Texas nominee for being an outstanding History Fair teacher. "Ami has put in countless hours and dedication through the years on History Fair and, she is very deserving," said Mrs. Breaux.

life and it is truly an honor to be involved with them."

Participating in history day events actually helps students to become more successful in the classroom. Students gain great knowledge creating a project including research, writing, interviews, making and keeping appointments, collaboration, and cooperation.

This year, all student entries were tied to the National History Day theme of "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History."

Texas History Day, part of the National History Day program, is a yearlong education program that culminates in an annual state-level history fair for students in grades 6 through 12. It provides an opportunity for students to develop their knowledge of history and their critical thinking, analytical reading and writing, presentation, media design, and public performance skills through creative and original papers, performances, documentaries, web sites or exhibits.

While only the first- and second-place winners go on to the national contest, many other Goose Creek CISD students placed or won special awards at Texas History Day.

Gentry's Matthew Broussard and Sterling's Sydnie Bautand won the Outstanding Lee College Regional History award. Matthew was the junior division winner and Sydnie was the senior division winner.

In the junior division, Kandyse Warbrick, who attends Horace Mann Junior School, walked away not only with third place for her Historical Paper titled, "Seven Steps of Courage: Ruby Bridges Fight For Equal Educational Opportunities" but also won the Willie Lee Gay award for excellence in African American History. Kandyse was under the direction of Ami Liggett and Suzy Ferrell.

In the junior division Individual Documentary competition, Gentry Junior School's Divya Singh won fourth place for her entry titled, "Rachel Carson. Divya also won first place for the Oral History Special Award. Divya was under the direction of Toni Rosenbaum.

In the junior division competition, Highlands Junior School student Kyleigh Fanning won third place for her Individual Documentary titled, "Driving the Cultural Revolution of the 20th Century." Kyleigh was under the direction of JoBeth Bacon.

In the junior division, the Cedar Bayou Junior School team of Mallory Jackson, Katie Guy, and Rachel Stafford placed third for their Group Documentary titled, "The Haitian Revolution." The team was under the direction of Kristen Davenport and Renee Dehoyos.

In the senior division Individual Documentary category, Sterling High School student Becky Conejo won fourth place for her entry titled, "Transfixing the World. Becky was under the direction of Arlene Hastings-Hill.

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