

The Tennessean

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Young artists impress with 'green space' scenes

By Bonnie Burch, staff writer

BRENTWOOD — Budding young artists with an eye toward natural vistas were rewarded for their efforts recently during the first Young Artist Showcase.

Sponsored by Citizens for Brentwood Green Space, the contest received about 240 entries from students in kindergarten through the fifth grade. The kids drew what open space meant to them.

"They were asked to draw a favorite outdoor, natural scene. And we've got everything from trees in the back yard to cows and horses in a pasture," said Fred Kane of CBGS.

Another CBGS member, Gil Hutchinson, said he enjoyed seeing the concept of "green space" as seen through the eyes of children.

With only one week to complete the artwork, students impressed the judges with mixed media, acrylics, oils, watercolors, pencils, crayons and one photograph. Entries came from Brentwood public elementary schools as well as Currey Ingram Academy.

Whitney Ferre, owner of The Creative Fitness Center, and local artist Bettye Malone served as judges. Malone said it was difficult to choose the top artists among the many colorful submissions.

"I was really impressed with the caliber of art. I saw impressionism, abstract art and realism," she said. Brentwood mom Robin Schlacter watched from the wings as her 9-year-old daughter, Zoe, got her picture taken with her runner-up collage submission.

"She was thrilled. She's very artistic and loves the outdoors," she said.

Edmondson fifth-grader Emily Samuel also received runner-up status for her drawing of the tree in her back yard. She's also a budding poet. "And I also play the violin," she said..

Winners were chosen in two categories: kindergarten through the second grade and the third through fifth grades. First-, second- and third-place winners received savings bonds, while runners-up received backpacks.

"I think so many schools are in dire straights, but cutting arts (funding) is a mistake. So much creativity is lost when you cut arts, whether it's in the visual, dance or theater fields. The appreciation of the arts lasts indefinitely, although many young artists may not pursue art as a vocation," Malone said.

Winners for the contest are:

Kindergarten through second grade: Lisa Qu, first, Scales; Jacob Honeck, second, Edmondson; and Reina Westberg, third, Scales. Runners-up were Olivia Bonnell and Kendall Osman, both from Edmondson; Taylor Fussell, Katie Chance and Garrett Grissim, all from Lipscomb; Daniel Yang, Kenrose; and Arthur Bailey, Scales.

Third through fifth grades: Lucy Qu, first, Scales; Joyce Kang, second, Edmondson; and Christopher Hobbs, third, Crockett. Runners-up were Axley Smith, Currey Ingram Academy; Ryan Daly, John Lifferth and Emily Samuel, all from Edmondson; Savannah Marquardt, Kenrose; and Zoe Schlacter and Raye Pitts, both from Scales.