

070354



Tales Around the World Life Stories of People with Nature

This year, Veolia Environment organized its fourth annual environment awareness campaign aimed at students between 8 and 11 years of age. In this international competition, children from some thirty countries throughout the world were asked to reflect on the fundamental connection that exists between people and nature.

Park View's fourth-grade Project Expand students researched legends, myths, rituals and customs that characterized the people of the five continents, and evoked earth, air, fire, water and weather. Once this work of exploration was completed, the students drew a mask representing the planet earth and wrote a short story in the form of a legend, which allowed the earth to speak for itself. The story reminded people of the fragile and limited resources of the earth, and the importance of respecting the natural balance between man and nature. The children allowed the Earth to tell its story through a masked character of their own invention.

It is with great pride that I announce that Park View School's entry was chosen to represent the United States in Paris, France. The opening of the "Tales Around the World" exhibition will take place on June 1, 2007 at the Quai Branly Museum. The event will be a major international meeting of the child winners from all the countries taking part in the program.

The following 16 Park View fourth graders were the creators of the winning entry:

**Leslie Schmuldt
Naomi Crews
Erik Van Swol
Amber Lopez
Steven Vitale
Autumn Carone
Haley McKeever
Savannah Ireland**

**Audrey Peickert
Jamie Wareham
Tilo Lamken
Nathan McWilliams
Kasey Shores
Johnny Vitelli
Anne Marie Owens
Aja Todd**

We are so very proud of our students' accomplishments. They will be celebrated via newspaper coverage, School Scape, and various receptions including the May School Board Meeting, a Veolia reception, and a special luncheon at a local French restaurant.

Two student representatives were chosen through a lottery, which included the names of all sixteen students involved in the project. **Casey Shores** and **Leslie Schmuldt**, along with **Kathy Tobin**, their Project Expand teacher, will attend the awards and opening of the exhibit in Paris. Expenses for the trip (transportation, accommodations, meals and activities) will be paid for by Veolia Environment. They will be accompanied by **Kate Dale** and **Sue Daeschler**, their fourth-grade teachers, as well as their mothers, **Heidi Schmuldt** and **Julie Shores**. They will be leaving for Paris on May 29 and returning home on June 3.

Even though only two students will be going to France, all 16 students will be there in spirit through their work, which will be displayed in the Quai Branly Museum in Paris. All the students are excellent representatives of the spirit of Park View School, Lombard School District 44, Illinois, and the United States. They should be very proud of their accomplishments. The winning of the competition is only the result. More importantly, the students gained a deeper understanding of the link between people and nature. They also learned the value of hard work, commitment, creativity, problem solving and teamwork. Isn't that what education is all about?

