

Essay Contest Winners Explore Freedom

WATERLOO – We hear it all the time: “Let Freedom ring.” “They died for our freedom.” But just what is freedom? This year’s Celebrate Commemorate essay contest invites students to explore the concept of freedom. About 400 students in grades 3 through 12 wrote essays.

Many students wrote about the importance of being able to go to school and get an education. Others discussed the importance of freedom to speak their opinions. Several students said they cherished the rights women have in this country. For some, the freedom to be able to choose what to wear was important, and one student discussed the importance of being free to have fun and be a kid.

And the winners are...

3rd grade: Alexandria Nocolini & Annie Smithers

4th grade: Kari Jensen & Emily Miracle

5th grade: Ashley Ross & Alexis Rodgers

6th grade: Meara Shaffer & McKayla Jones

7th grade: Kalieb Minnier-Kelsey & Brianna Hendrix

8th grade: Chelsea Stock & Taylor Simmons

9th grade: Rachel Wood

11th grade: Kathleen DePillio

12 grade Christine McGhan

The winning essays will be on display in Lafayette Park.

“We are so proud of the fine work our students do for the essay contest and we want to share their essays with everyone,” said essay committee chair Kathy Sigrist. “We also are grateful to the teachers who work with their students to encourage them to enter the contest. Without their help, the essay contest would be very difficult.”

Prizes will be awarded to the winners during ceremonies in the Waterloo Middle School. Each winner will receive a \$50 savings bond sponsored by Waterloo Education Foundation, the American Legion, VFW, Waterloo Educators Association and Seneca County retired teachers. Guest of honor Clara Barton will attend the award ceremony on Thursday. High school winners will receive \$50 in cash.

Pupils in kindergarten through second grade were invited to color freedom bells. Their pictures are on display in the windows of downtown businesses.

