

# Governor Mifflin School District

# NEWS

10 South Waverly Street, Shillington, PA 19607

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL ART AWARD WILL BE CELEBRATED AT CARNEGIE HALL**

SHILLINGTON, PA, APRIL 2011 - A Governor Mifflin senior, Hannah Kerr, received a prestigious award for outstanding artwork through the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a national program that recognizes outstanding creative teenagers and offers scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

The nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, which administers the awards, will honor Miss Kerr and other national winners at a special ceremony at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City on May 31, 2011. Select award-winning art and writing will be exhibited at the World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery in Lower Manhattan from June 1-19. Mayor Bloomberg has declared May 31 the official Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Day, and the top of the Empire State Building will be lit in gold in honor of the students' achievements.

"In creating 'Reflect,' a chalk pastel work of my brother, I was interested in his emotion and focus as he studied the flower in his hand. I want viewers to appreciate what they have with the same intensity and reflection," said Miss Kerr about her award-winning piece.

"For 88 years the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards have provided the nation's most creative teens with opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication and scholarships," said Virginia McEnerney, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Over the years these teens have consistently gone on to form the core of their generation's creative leadership, not only by producing artwork with worldwide impact, but also by teaching, leading art museums, writing screen plays, producing films and exemplifying the values of creative self-expression that the Awards encourage."

This year's winners join the ranks of some of our country's most revered artists and writers who have received Scholastic Art and Writing Awards when they were in high school, including Robert Redford, Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, John Lithgow, Joyce Carol Oates, John Baldesarri, Philip Pearlstein, Zac Posen, Sylvia Plath, Richard Avedon, Robert Indiana and Abdi Farah (winner of the Bravo reality show *Work of Art: The Next Great Artist*).

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The annual awards competition is open to students in Grades 7-12 who submit works of art and writing for regional adjudication by a panel of local jurors comprised of artists, authors, educators and other arts professionals. Works are judged on originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal vision or voice and those receiving top honors are then submitted for national adjudication. Notable past and current national jurors include Tony Hawk, John Hockenberry, Robert Frost, Chuck Palahniuk, Gary Panter, Judy Blume, Billy Collins, Peggy Noonan, William Saroyan, KiKi Smith and Lesley Stahl.

Since 1923 the awards have recognized more than 13 million students and made available over \$25 million in scholarships. They continue to be the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers. The program is generously supported by Scholastic Inc., Maurice R. Robinson Foundation, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Command Web Offset, AMD Foundation, The New York Times, Dick Blick Co., Ovation, and New York Life Foundation.

For more information about the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers' Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, please visit <http://www.artandwriting.org>

The media is welcome to report on Hannah Kerr's success in the 2011 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. To schedule a visit or interview, please contact Keri Morton at 610-775-1312 or [kmorton@gmsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:kmorton@gmsd.k12.pa.us).

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