35th Annual Stamford Literary Competition

The Annual Stamford Literary Competition, which has been sponsored by Friends of the Ferguson since 1994, got its start 35 years ago in association with a local arts festival. Students in grades three through 12, who live in or go to school in Stamford, submit entries in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction or Poetry. Librarians, teachers and members of the board of Friends of the Ferguson judge the submissions, which have topped 400 each year. Judges award First, Second, Third and Honorable Mention prizes in each category for students in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12. Stamford Public Schools (SPS) students earned 46 total prizes in this year’s competition. Winners received a gift card for the Friends Book Shops at the Main and Harry Bennett branches of the Ferguson Library. An Anthology of winning submissions is now available on their website. The following SPS students earned First place:

Fiction
- Navya Patnekar, Westover Magnet
- Astrid Moqueta-Blomström, Strawberry Hill School
- Maximilliano Gromko, Davenport Ridge
- Nabeeha Nafey, Turn of River Middle School
- Sophia Masone, Westhill High School
- Timothy Telesca, Westhill High School

Nonfiction
- Alexander Kolev, Northeast Elementary School
- Aarna Agrawal, Westover Magnet School
- Marlena Noto, Davenport Ridge Elementary
- Rebecca Bear, Rogers International School

Poetry
- Kate Pelletier, Northeast Elementary School
- Namratha Presanth Kamath, Turn of River Middle School
- Madeline Shapiro, Stamford High School
- Emma Rimerman, Westhill High School
Outstanding Special Education Preschool Teacher

APPLES PreSchool Teacher Brie O'Bryan was named Outstanding Special Education Preschool Teacher by the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association. The APPLES parent community nominated Brie for this award earlier this year. According to the school, Brie supported the school with technology assistance, her colleagues with lesson planning ideas, and her students with daily lessons both in email and through Zoom. She also stayed connected by delivering weekly "goodie" bags to her students’ homes each Sunday.

Eagle Scout

Stamford High School Senior Joe Nathanson recently earned the Rank of Eagle Scout. Joe’s Eagle Scout project was the construction and installation of four Buddy Benches at Newfield Elementary School, as part of the school’s “Kindness” program. Joe and his team of volunteers, from Troop 9 and Stamford High School, logged 178 hours to complete the project. Joe also successfully acquired the donation of all necessary materials from local suppliers. His Eagle Scout advisor attributes his “communication skills and focus” as key to completing the project, which provides a friendly place for students to make new friends.