

PRESS RELEASE

Artwork wins Walker Station Elementary 5th grader Caribbean cruise

Teresa So earns top honor in 2016 Adopt-A-Beach Children's Art Contest

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AUSTIN — Teresa So, a 5th grader from Walker Station Elementary in Sugar Land, Texas, is the grand prize winner of the 2016 Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest. Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush selected Teresa's art from more than 5,000 entries submitted statewide. The annual competition encourages schoolchildren to learn more about the Texas coast and express what they've learned through their art. Open to grades K-6 across Texas, the contest motivates thousands of young artists each year.

"With more than 5,000 entries statewide, the 20th anniversary of the Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest has broken all previous records," Bush said. "This contest is a great way for young Texans to learn about the natural beauty of our precious coast and to demonstrate their creativity. Having so many young artists participate this year made the decision especially difficult, but Teresa So's submission stood out due to her attention to artistic detail and careful depiction of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, one of five of the world's seven sea turtle species known to call the Texas coast home."

Teresa So's artwork, along with 39 runners-up, will appear on the cover of the 2017 Adopt-A-Beach calendar. The artwork of all winners will be on public display in the South Central Gallery of the Texas Capitol May 24th – 31st for all visitors to view and appreciate. The exhibit will be sponsored by Representative Wayne Faircloth (HD 23, Galveston).

Teresa So's winning artwork earns her two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines to any United destination in the 48 contiguous United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, one 7-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean International departing out of Galveston, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Port Canaveral or Puerto Rico and a class party at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels.

The grand prize winner's teacher, Karen Germany, also receives two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines, and one 7-night Caribbean cruise courtesy of Royal Caribbean International.

Ten winners were chosen from each of four grade-level categories (K – 2nd, 3rd – 4th, 5th and 6th) for a total of 40 winners. All 40 winners will receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, a ticket to the Exhibit Hall at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, a ticket to the Houston Zoo, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn

Waterpark in New Braunfels, a certificate of recognition and prizes from the Texas General Land Office and a calendar displaying the winning artwork.

To learn more about the Adopt-A-Beach program, visit www.TexasAdoptABeach.org or contact the GLO at 1-877-TX COAST. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/texasadoptabeach and follow us on Twitter at @TXadoptabeach.

2016 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest Winners

Finalist Name	School Name	City
Kindergarten – 2nd Grade		
Reid Ballard	Wall Elementary	Wall
Colton Claybar	Little Cypress Elementary	Orange
Clay Darby	St. Mary School	Orange
Amadeus Kwan	First Foundations Pre-School	Austin
Audrey Li	Roosevelt Alexander Elementary	Katy
Alanna Sun	Lakeside Elementary	Coppell
Lilian Sanchez	Castaneda Elementary	McAllen
Nathan Taylor	Harvey Elementary	Kingsville
Khloe Troup	Welder Elementary	Sinton
Katelyn Vera	Clear Fork Elementary	Lockhart
3 – 4 Grades		
Sara Arellano	Athlos Leadership Academy	Brownsville
Katherine Bong	Blackland Prairie Elementary	Round Rock
Vanessa de la Torre	Terrace Elementary	Houston
Elton Huang	Roosevelt Alexander Elementary	Katy
London Jones	Bay Colony Elementary	Dickinson
Makayla McLemore	Martins Mill Elementary	Ben Wheeler
Celeste Pecina	Park Place Elementary	Houston
Arjun Pemmasani	Falak Art Studio	Coppell
Kaylen Smith	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Meaghan Williams	Home School	Corpus Christi
5th Grade		
Rudy Aguilar	Burnet Elementary	Odessa
Deborah Bong	Blackland Prairie Elementary	Round Rock
Eve Brogger	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Karen Cui	James E. Randolph Elementary	Fulshear
Seth Fatuch	Home School	Conroe
Maxine Fraser	Pease Elementary	Austin
Kasie Kujawa	Terrace Elementary	Houston
Amaya LaFleur	Lorenzo de Zavalla Middle School	Pasadena
Teresa So	Walker Station Elementary	Sugar Land

Hagen Swoboda 6th Grade	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Maya Abrol	Dallas Arts Studio	Dallas
Alexander Adam	Polly Ryan Middle School	Richmond
Sarah Culpepper	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
	Cedar Valley Middle School	Round Rock
Juhyun Lee	Driscoll Middle School	Driscoll
Joangelina Perales	Lucio Middle School	Brownsville
Esmeralda Ramirez	Polly Ryan Middle school	Richmond
Sloane Solomon	Lake Travis Middle School	Spicewood
Chloe Storm	Westbrook Intermediate	Friendswood
Janijara Un	Our Lady of Victory	Victoria
Anna Valenzuela		
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