



Westlake Academy Journalists Share 56 Individual Awards at State Competition for New School Record

Westlake, Texas – April 22, 2010 – *The Black Cow*, the award-winning student newspaper of Westlake Academy now in its fifth year, recently set a new school record with 56 individual awards from the 2010 Interscholastic League Press Conference, breaking their own record by one. The monthly school paper, which is mailed to households in Westlake at the paper's own expense, won 10 first-place prizes, 13 second-place awards, 12 third-place awards and 21 honorable mentions. A total of 25 students came home sharing 56 awards.

"Moovelous! Mootacular! Mootastic!" exclaimed Westlake Academy's Head of Primary Jamie Schmitz. "We are thrilled with the achievements of each of these students and congratulate them on all of their hard work."

Eleventh grader **Riley Rennhack**, of Westlake, earned a **state championship** when she won Best Sports Column for her "Can You Let Me Know if it's a Strike?" in the March 2009 issue. The first-person story comically detailed her fearful participation in a school softball game. Her award marks the third state championship in school history.

Additional first place prizes went to **Nick Ford**, North Richland Hills, who won four, **Stefanie Schultz**, of Roanoke, for student art, and **Bailey Cockrum**, of Westlake, for sports action photo.

Another student to make history was **Nicolas Lekkos**, a 3rd grader from Westlake, who won two awards for his cartoons. Lekkos earned a third and an honorable mention in the editorial cartoon category for junior high/middle school students. He is the youngest Westlake student to win a state journalism prize.

The Black Cow staffers were entered in either the high school competition for 1A schools (under 200 students in high school) or in the junior high/middle school category.

A complete list of students and their winnings is below:

Amrita Hans/10th grade (Fort Worth): 2nd in news features for "A Day in the Park."

Anisha Chandra/12th grade (of Colleyville): honorable mention in headlines for "Is it a Nightmare? No, it's just the SATs."

Bailey Cockrum/12th grade (of Westlake): 1st in sports action photo for "Corey Slides into Home;" 2nd in sports opinion column for "State: Girls Varsity Basketball;" honorable mention in captions for "Zombies Come Out at the DP Haunted House during Monster Mash;" and 3rd in double truck design for "Arts & Science Building; Beam Signing Ceremony."

Bridgett Ledak/9th grade (Roanoke): 3rd in sports feature story for "Volleyball Co-Captains."

Brooke Whigham/8th grade (Keller): 2nd in student art for "House Crest Designs."

Caitlin Burke/10th grade (Roanoke): honorable mention for "Mr. Aisthorpe Never Leaves Home Without his Pet Chicken;" 3rd in features and entertainment design for "Is it a Nightmare? No, it's just the SAT's."

Camilla Cox/4th grade (Westlake): 2nd in student art for "House Crest Designs."

Corey Timmerman/11th grade (Westlake): 2nd in in-depth news/feature story for "Financial Sustainability."

Emily Titus/8th grade (Keller): 2nd in student art for "House Crest Designs."

Erik Herbst/12th grade (Trophy Club): 2nd in entertainment review for "Live Long and Prosper."

Isabel Stack/7th grade (Keller): honorable mention in entertainment feature for "Fall 4 Fashion."

Lauren McCall/10th grade (Southlake): 2nd in news features for "A Day in the Park: Arbor Day;" honorable mention in feature writing for "Who's That Girl?"

Madison Smith/11th grade (Southlake): honorable mention in entertainment review for "5 Great TV Comedies."

Margaret Ledak/11th grade (Keller): honorable mention in in-depth news/feature package for "Charter School Funding;" 3rd in in-depth news/feature package for "Head of School; Leadership Changes."

Nick Ford/11th grade (North Richland Hills): 1st in computer art for "Energy and the Environment;" 1st in page one design for the same; 1st in features & entertainment page design for "Darfur in Crisis;" 1st in general news photo for Financial Sustainability; 2nd in computer art for "Financial Sustainability;" 2nd in

portrait for "Mrs. Margaret Lee;" 3rd in page one design for "Financial Sustainability;" honorable mention in captions for "Firefighter Paramedics Gear Up for and Emergency Call;" 3rd in double truck design for "Arts & Science Building: Beam Signing Ceremony;" 3rd in features & entertainment design for "Is it a Nightmare? No, it's just the SAT's."

Nicolas Lekkos/3rd grade (Westlake) : 3rd in editorial cartoon for "Westlake's Secret Weapon;" honorable mention in editorial cartoon for "You Get Nothing for Christmas."

Phillip D'Amore/11th grade (Keller): honorable mention in three categories — news writing for "Energy and the Environment;" captions for "Natural gas is one of the most abundant and cleanest fossil fuels in Texas;" and headlines for "Taking Intensity to the Next Level."

Rameen Sarwarzad/8th grade (Keller): honorable mention in sports action story for "Can You Keep Up?"

Riley Rennhack/11th grade (Westlake): 1st in portrait for "The Little Pilgrim;" 2nd in general news photo for "Arts & Science Building: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony;" honorable mention in feature photo for "A Grandmother's Hands;" honorable mention in sports feature photo for "Westlake Baja Golf Tournament;" honorable mention in captions for "Study of Small Things - Persevere;" 1st in personal opinion column for "IB Walking for the Cure;" 1st in sports opinion column for "Can You Let Me Know if it's a Strike;" Tops in Texas in sports column for same; 3rd in double truck design for "Arts & Science Building: Beam Signing Ceremony."

Sarah Titus/10th grade (Keller): 3rd place in in-depth news/feature package for "Head of School; Leadership Changes;" honorable mention in personal column for "Witnessing History — Obama Inauguration."

Shea Griffin/11th grade (Roanoke): honorable mentions in three categories — headlines for "Seemingly Useless Driving;" personal opinion column for "Seemingly Useless Driving;" and headlines for "The Anti-Easter Bunny."

Shivam Purohit/12 (Keller): 3rd in in-depth news/feature package for "Head of School: Leadership Changes;" 2nd in personal column for "Surviving College Interviews;" 3rd in editorial for "No Westlake Property Tax."

Sophia Ganesh/11th grade (Westlake): 2nd in student art for "House Crest Designs."

Stefanie Schultz/12th grade (Roanoke): 1st in student art for "Cult Film Club."

Tyler Springer/12th grade (Southlake): honorable mention in headlines for "Bernard Madoff: A Crook with Clout."

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Westlake Academy is a public, chartered school that is municipally owned, offering an International Baccalaureate curriculum. Founded in 2003, with a mission to achieve academic excellence and to develop life-long learners who become well-balanced, responsible global citizens, it is the first and only municipality in the state to receive a charter designation. Westlake Academy became an IB World School in 2006 after it was authorized for the Primary Years Programme and further accreditation followed in 2007 with the Middle Years Programme and 2008 for the Diploma Programme, making it one of only six schools in the United States to offer all three programs and the only one in Texas. Westlake Academy is the only one of those six that does not charge tuition or require an entrance exam. The school will graduate its first class in 2010 when it will be fully functional from kindergarten - 12th grade. For 2009, the Academy received an 'Exemplary' rating from TEA for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests, the third time it has achieved this. It is located at 2600 Ottinger Rd., Westlake, TX 76262. Call 817-490-5757, visit www.westlakeacademy.org or email info@westlakeacademy.org for more information.