HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
65 McCampbell Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733
tel: 732-946-1800
fax: 732-946-1875

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steven Tetreault, 732.946.1800

8TH GRADER "DRAWS FOR FUN" AND WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

HOLMDEL (April 14, 2017) – Cynthia Zhang, an eighth grade student at the William R. Satz Middle School, recently won a National-level gold medal for her artwork in the 2017 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition.

The awards recognize student achievement in the visual and literary arts in 29 categories, including editorial cartoon, poetry, graphic design, fashion, science fiction, video game design



millions of students, including Truman Capote, Philip Pearlstein, Sylvia Plath, Andy Warhol and John Updike, who won when they were teens."

and more. According to a statement made by the sponsors "the awards have, since 1923, recognized and encouraged

Each work of art and writing is blindly adjudicated, first locally, and then nationally by panels of judges comprised of renowned artists, authors, educators and industry experts. This year, more than 330,000 works of art and writing were submitted with less than 1% earning recognition at the national level. Students receiving top Awards are invited to attend a ceremony at the world-famous Carnegie Hall on June 8 and to participate in showcase events at Parsons School for Design at the New School and Pratt Institute's Pratt Manhattan Gallery in New York City.

Cynthia's drawing, "Grandpa," was selected as one of the most accomplished in the nation in the "Drawing and Illustration" category. When asked about her artwork, Cynthia reported that she likes to draw in her free time. With her contest-winning drawing, she explained, "I was just drawing for fun, and my art teacher said I should submit it to the contest." "I just wanted to draw my grandpa," she added.

"We're proud to have Cynthia represent our school district in this year's Scholastic Art and Writing Awards," said Superintendent Dr. Robert McGarry, who was quick to point out the 8th grader's humility. "Regardless of the subject, I've often heard our students make comments like Cynthia's," he said. "Her explanation that she was simply 'drawing for fun' is a great reminder of just how 'extraordinary' the efforts that Holmdel students view as 'ordinary' truly are!" he added.