

August 31, 2009

Dear Language Arts Teachers,

The “Back to School” season brings many changes for teachers and students. As contest chairperson, I am excited to announce some great changes in our fourth annual Young Writers Contest.

The Polk Writers Group, an affiliate of the Florida Writers Association, moved the contest from late spring to early fall in order to provide more exposure for our winners. Thanks to the generosity of the Polk Education Foundation, we are adding a high school category for the contest. Since bullying is a countywide concern, this year’s prompt is a timely topic providing opportunities for problem solving.

For both the middle school and high school categories, we plan to award \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. The deadline for the contest is Thursday, October 8, 2009. We will reveal the winners at our award program at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at the Jim Miles Center.

For more details about the contest, please see the provided documents. We included a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the contest to your students. Entries are limited to two per class for each language arts teacher. Only electronic submissions saved on a CD will be accepted. You may request a CD from me, or you may use a CD of your own. Multiple entries on a single CD are acceptable if each student has an individual folder. Entries may be sent via courier to Deb Gornoski, Bartow Middle School, Route E or via postal mail to Deb Gornoski, Bartow Middle School, 550 E. Clower St., Bartow, FL 33830.

Last year our award program appeared on PCSB TV during the summer. Now students can share their excitement with classmates during the school year. Once again, we will provide photos of our winners for school news media and local newspapers. Winners’ photos should also be able to meet yearbook deadlines as well.

If you have questions, please email me at Deborah.Gornoski@polk-fl.net. Thanks for all you do to enrich the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

Deb Gornoski
Contest Chairperson
Polk Writers Group