



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: April 17, 2023

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Art-inspired haiku Words relate to images Three winners chosen

Winners to receive framed haiku and gifts from The Charmery and The Ivy Bookshop

TOWSON, Md. – April 17 is International Haiku Poetry Day and time to announce the winners of the 2023 Team BCPS Haiku Contest. Images of an abstract tree, a fallen leaf, and a patchwork dog inspired the three winning poems.

This year, for the first time, rather than challenging Baltimore County Public Schools students to write haiku related to a word or concept, students were asked to write in response to a piece of student artwork selected from among [10 pieces](#). Nearly 2,200 entries were received from 111 schools, centers, and programs – including the Virtual Learning Program.

After a lengthy debate, a panel of judges selected the following contest winners:

Elementary School Winner

The tree is quite old
The branches still reach for me
Comforting me now

Elliana Cunningham, Grade 5

Sparks Elementary School

Coralea J. Tarlton, classroom teacher

(The haiku was created in response to art prompt #3, which was created by JP Stokes of Ridge Ruxton School.)

Middle School Winner

Insignificant?
Falls without making a sound.
Life, purpose, fulfilled.

Graham TerBeek, Grade 7

Dumbarton Middle School

Kristy Knuppel, English language arts teacher

(The haiku was created in response to art prompt #10, which was created by Landon Lewis of Sudbrook Magnet Middle School.)

High School Winner

Patchwork, but complete.
I have made myself out of
the wreckage I find.

Paige Mathias, Grade 11

Eastern Technical High School

Morgan Phillips, English language arts teacher

(The haiku was created in response to art prompt #1, which was created by Gus Cohee of Hillcrest Elementary School.)

“This year’s haiku contest celebrates both student artwork and student writing,” said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. “I congratulate Elliana, Graham, and Paige for their excellent writing, and I thank every student from who entered the contest and all the teachers who encouraged their students to participate. Every year, through their entries, our students show us how deeply they think and how creatively they express themselves. Writing, like every skill, requires practice, and it is exciting that the entire BCPS community embraces this opportunity to focus on developing as writers. Many thanks, also, to the talented student artists whose beautiful work served as contest prompts.”

The three winners of the 2023 contest will each receive gifts from [The Charmery](#) and [The Ivy Bookshop](#) and a framed poster of their haiku from BCPS.

Contest judges included award-winning student writers – Couryn Branch of George Washington Carver Center for Arts, Lucia Bray of Dumbarton Middle School, Ashley Lazo of Loch Raven High School, Ivy McKnight of Cockeysville Middle School, and Favour Ogedengbe of Eastern Technical High School– and staff members from the Office of English Language Arts and the Department of Communications and Community Outreach.

All entries are judged blindly (without any identifying information about the writer), and haiku being considered for prizes are checked to ensure they are original works.

The following five schools submitted the highest number of student entries: Hereford Middle School (287 entries); Arbutus Middle School (147 entries); Sparks Elementary School (90 entries); Hillcrest Elementary School (85 entries); and Owings Mills Elementary School (80 entries).

(Editor's note: Photos of [Elliana Cunningham](#), [Graham TerBeek](#), and [Paige Mathias](#) can be found on Flickr.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 22nd largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).