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THREE ST. PAUL STUDENTS, TEACHER TURN WINNING ESSAYS INTO CASH IN EXPO® CLASSROOM MAKEOVER CONTEST

Louisville school's students chosen from 10,000 entries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOUISVILLE, Ky.--Three students at **St. Paul School in Pleasure Ridge Park** used their writing skills to earn a classroom makeover in the EXPO Classroom Makeover Contest. St. Paul students and teachers were thrilled to learn that 3 students from the same class were selected as national winners. St. Paul School, located in southwest Jefferson County, is the only single Parish based school in the area and has a 90 year tradition.

Sixth-graders Presley Gilson, Alex Brackney and Katie Renn wrote essays describing how their teacher, Theresa McClinton, deserved an upgraded classroom. Their essays were selected from more than 10,000 submissions nationwide.

Each of the students earned a \$1,000 makeover for Ms. McClinton's room, including new EXPO dry erase boards, markers and accessories. Presley, Alex and Katie also received \$500 for their winning entries.

The students wrote that Ms. McClinton is "a good motivator to students" and "always treats the students fairly." One student wrote, "She doesn't yell at the boys. She is so very nice . . . She makes sure we use good manners and makes us pray before lunch."

"It meant a lot to me to have my students go above and beyond to win something like this for our classroom," Ms. McClinton said. "It felt awesome when I learned what wonderful things they had written about me." Ms. McClinton has been teaching for 23 years and has been at St. Paul for 11 years.

The EXPO Classroom Makeover program is helping wipe out dusty, drab classrooms and enhance learning by adding color to classrooms across the country. This is the third year of the program.

"We fielded a survey that confirms that educators find using color to teach in the classroom enhances the learning process, and the majority of students believe it is easier to learn with color," said Phil Dolci, vice president and general manager of EXPO. "We've had tremendous feedback about this program since its inception in 2005, and have been able to add color and make improvements in many schools that might otherwise lack the means and funding to do so. We are honored to reward the outstanding work of teachers and students such as Ms. McClinton, Katie, Presley and Alex - it's well deserved."

The contest invited students in grades 3-12 nationwide to write a short essay describing why their teacher deserved a classroom makeover. First prize winners, like Alex, Katie and Presely were chosen to receive \$500 in U.S. Savings Bonds and a classroom overhaul worth \$1,000. Of those, one grand prize winner received an additional \$1,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds, and a classroom makeover for the teacher's room designed by celebrity designer Genevieve Gorder from *TLC's Trading Spaces*, valued at \$25,000. The lucky grand prize winner was Ella Wolfe of Shreveport, Louisiana.

"We look forward to helping brighten and enhance more classrooms through the continuation of the EXPO Classroom Makeover program in 2007," said Dolci. "Congratulations to Ms. McClinton, Alex, Katie and Presley!"

For more information about the contest and a complete set of contest rules, visit www.expomarkers.com.

About EXPO®

One of Sanford's most popular brands, EXPO® is the market leader in dry erase markers and accessories and a maker of boards. Sanford, a Newell Rubbermaid company, is a worldwide leader in the manufacturing and marketing of writing instruments, art products and office organization, including such well known brands as Sharpie®, Paper Mate®, DYMO®, Parker®, Waterman®, Foohy®, uni-ball® and Rolodex®, among others. Sanford makes more than 6,000 products, ranging from markers, pens and pencils to professional art products, fine writing instruments and office organization products. For more information on EXPO, go to www.expomarkers.com.

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