

Good Evening Mayor Euille and Honorable Councilmembers, Ladies, and Gentleman,

Congratulations to these talented George Washington Middle School Students! In just a minute I will introduce them individually.

I would first like to give you the background for this poster contest that took place in March at GWMS. In late November, GWMS was awarded a Safe Routes to School mini-grant. The purpose of this grant was to increase walking and bike safety at the middle school.

So we brushed off the winter blues with safety presentations by Alexandria Police Officer Carl Wortham, mapped out safe routes for everyone to walk and bike to school on March 26, and designed a poster contest to best advertise and motivate the students for the event. A total of 37 posters were entered in the contest. Then, the Clerk's office judged them and had the very difficult task of choosing the 3 favorites.

Our third place artist is Jackie Canning. Jackie is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at GW2. (applause)

Our second place artist is Ana Humphrey. Ana is also in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at GW2. (applause)

Our first place artist is Madeline Kasoff. Madeline is also a 7<sup>th</sup> grader in GW1. (applause)

Madeline's poster is in the process of being placed in most of the local bike shops.

In closing, George Washington Middle School had such a successful event that now we will repeat this on May 7 in observance of the NATIONAL WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY!