

Student NEWS

Essay winners announced

By Paula Roy
Special to the Irregular

PHILLIPS — As part of her presentation about Veterans Day at the Phillips Elementary School on Monday, Nov. 9, Diana McCall presented awards to three winners of her annual essay contest for Phillips 5th graders.

For their essays on the theme “What a Veteran is to Me,” Senna Reid, Reina Evans and Kendall Dudley received small American flags and their choice of an Army book cover or travel mug.

Every 5th grader wrote an essay and each one received a memento of one kind or another for their efforts. They were also treated to apples and cider donated by Hannaford’s in Farmington.

McCall, though not a veteran herself, is the daughter, sister, wife and mother of veterans. She has been giving Veterans Day and Flag Day presentations in elementary schools for 17 years.

Her mission began when she recognized a general lack of basic knowledge in the citizenry regarding these patriotic holidays. She kicked off her campaign to change that in Sanford, where she lived at the time. Now a longtime resident of Phillips, McCall has made a tradition of sharing her patriotic passion with the young people here.



Diana McCall, sponsor of an annual Veterans’ Day essay contest, stands with this year’s winners (left to right) Reina Evans, Kendall Dudley and Senna Reid. (Paula Roy photo)



Veteran stars

KES Middle School students offer veterans a heart-felt thanks. Seventh graders took the lead as students in grades five through eight made a star for a veteran that they or their parents know as a tribute and to honor the effort and sacrifice all veterans gave for their country. Above, Meghan McCormack (clockwise from bottom left), Katie Jordan, Libby Shanahan and Emily Listowich hang the stars on a school wall. (Contributed photo)

Maine author visits schools

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — Stratton Elementary and Kingfield elementary schools enjoyed a personal visit from award-winning Maine Children’s Book Author, Amy MacDonald of Falmouth recently.

MacDonald has taught writing at Harvard University and developed teacher training workshops on writing for the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared in many national and international publications.

MacDonald’s spirited presentations invited students to participate in discussing the usage of “loaded words,” both positive and negative, and how they affect the reader’s interpretation of the writer’s prose. Students “strutted” and “strolled” about the classroom, and discussed reckless behavior in ways of the courageous or foolhardy.

Before signing books, MacDonald read “Little Beaver and the Echo,” which has been published in 27 languages worldwide, to K-4th graders at Stratton Elementary School.

Wednesday evening, she was the special guest at the Girls Talk presentation at the Stratton Community Building where she shared a slideshow and described the process of writing her first book, “Little Beaver and the Echo,” choosing an illustrator and the printing and publishing process.

Other books include “Rachel Fister’s Blister,” “Cousin Ruth’s Tooth,” “Please Malese” and “Quentin Fenton Herter III,” as well as chapter books, “No More Nasty/No More Nice” and “Too Much Flapdoodle.”

The Carrabasset Valley Public Library was proud and honored to host the events made possible by The Maggie Trafton Memorial Fund. The fund was established by Barbara and Dick Trafton in 1995 in honor of their daughter Maggie, a student from Carrabasset Valley who attended Kingfield Elementary School.

The children and teachers enjoyed this wonderful experience. By inviting special guests or purchasing new books to enhance our students’ skills and excitement in reading and writing, the library can fulfill the mission of Maggie’s Fund to bring more opportunities like this to children in the schools and libraries of the greater Carrabasset Valley community.