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**30 FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY HAVE  
ARTICLES SELECTED FOR CELEBRATE NJ! KIDS NEWSPAPER**

(Bradley Beach, NJ) -- The ‘best of the best’ fourth grade student articles have been chosen as part the Second Annual School Program put on by Celebrate NJ!, a grass roots effort to build pride and forward a positive future for New Jersey. Of the more than 9,000 students who registered for the program, 277 articles were selected representing students from 15 counties.

*(A complete list of articles and the schools they were selected from is available upon request.)*

Thirty students from Somerset County had their articles selected. They include:

- 5 students from Barbara O’Donnell’s class at Adamsville Primary School in Bridgewater
- 1 student from Stephanie Geiger’s class at Bradley Gardens Primary School in Bridgewater
- 10 students from Karen McGrath, Kristine Shurina and Jessica Snow’s classes at Crim Primary School in Bridgewater
- 3 students from Sandra Arnold’s class at Hamilton School in Bridgewater
- 1 student from Sandra Viola’s class at Holy Family Academy in Bound Brook
- 6 students from Michele MacMath and Jennifer Pennisi’s classes at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Raritan
- 4 students from Tracy Harmon’s class at Old York School in Branchburg

Karen Hatcher, President of Celebrate NJ! says, “It was so fulfilling to see the effort and thought these shining students put into their articles this year. We saw such an interesting range of topics covering important NJ people, places and history, from Thomas Edison and Judy Blume to the Pinelands National Reserve, the Paper Mill Playhouse and everything in between. The idea was to instill pride in our children as they connect to all the wonderful things this state has to offer. It is encouraging to see our efforts come to fruition through such creativity.”

As part of the school program, an interactive WebQuest accessed through the Celebrate NJ! website guided students across New Jersey to research and write articles about state

history, people and places. The challenge was to help create a newspaper written by and for New Jersey kids about New Jersey. The state requires fourth graders to study the history of New Jersey. This program included the state requirements and provided teachers with an engaging tool with which they were able to teach and create interest at the same time.

A list of the articles and students' schools is located on the organization's website. The articles themselves will also be published on the organization's web site later this month and in local regional newspapers before school lets out in June.

The Celebrate NJ! School Program tagline is: *Education! Inspiration! Celebration!* Hatcher believes that recognizing both the effort and the learning is important to the long-term connection students make to their home state. "When our kids feel good about where they come from, they feel good about themselves. What's more, they tend to take care of what they appreciate." She added, "We're planting seeds for a future New Jersey we can all feel proud of."

The celebration component will happen during May and June at regional awards nights and baseball games planned for the students who participated. For more information about these events, go to the Events and Happenings page of the School Program section of [www.CelebrateNJ.org](http://www.CelebrateNJ.org).

Celebrate NJ! also invites everyone who has a Reason to Celebrate NJ! to log on to [www.CelebrateNJ.org](http://www.CelebrateNJ.org) and enter that reason. No deadlines have been set. The group will continue to unveil the reasons monthly based on the number of days in a particular month. Residents are encouraged to enter multiple reasons describing the interesting and unique aspects of the Garden State. Entry cards are also available at over 350 libraries across the state. The selected reasons are announced daily on the organization's website. The best 365 reasons will be published as part of an advertising and media campaign, taking place on outdoor ads across the state and through radio, television and newspaper promotions.