

## Childhood Lead Awareness Art Contest Winners Recognized

Winners to receive commendations from the Board of Supervisors

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will present on August 2, 2011 honorary scrolls to the winners of the Department of Public Health’s 2011 Lead Awareness Art Contest. The contest, themed “Prevention is the Key to Being Lead Free” encourages youth to demonstrate ways to reduce lead hazards in the home and environment through educational art.

“This art contest helps educate parents, teachers and students by promoting awareness on lead poisoning prevention,” said Angie Toyota, Director of the Los Angeles County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), which sponsors the Lead Awareness Art Contest.

“In 2010 672 children in Los Angeles County were lead poisoned at elevated levels,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. “Lead poisoning is preventable and we are working in communities across LA County to educate and provide resources to families to solve this preventable health problem.

The most common way children in LA County are poisoned is through exposure to lead-based paint and dust. Lead-based paint is commonly found in houses, apartments and buildings built before 1978. Lead dust and chips from deteriorated paint can settle on toys, windowsills and floors, where they can be swallowed by children. In addition, “parents need to follow lead-safe work practices when they repair, remodel, or paint their house or apartment,” stated Angie Toyota, CLPPP director. “We are happy to provide parents and contractors with information on how to do this.”

In addition, certain occupations and hobbies of parents or adults living in the home, retained bullets, soil, and some traditional or folk health remedies (e.g., azarcón and greta), can bring lead into the home. More information on lead poisoning prevention, lead-safe work practices, and where parents can go for free and low cost blood lead tests is offered at 1-800-LA-4-LEAD or at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lead>.

Contestants’ entries were judged according to grade level, originality of art, and design quality. Judges also looked for a good demonstration of knowledge of lead sources, and different ways that lead poisoning can be prevented. The panel of judges included community stakeholders, staff from Public Health and community service organizations. Winning contestants received trophies and other prizes that were presented to them during school assemblies.

The winners of this year’s contest are:

<b>Student</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>City</b>
Angelina Kim	1st Place	K	Topeka Drive Elementary	Northridge
Anthony García	1st Place	1	92nd Street Elementary	Los Angeles

Shawn Velazquez	1st Place	2	Castlebay Elementary	Northridge
Megan Miyamoto	1st Place	3	Castlebay Elementary	Northridge
Helen Situ	1st Place	4	Castelar Elementary	Los Angeles
Linda Sánchez	1st Place	5	Castelar Elementary	Los Angeles
Naomi Almeria	1st Place	6	Montvue Elementary	Pomona
Vanessa Rodríguez	1st Place	9	Santana H.S. (ACCEPT)	Rowland Heights
Marilyn Padilla	1st Place	10	Santana H.S. (ACCEPT)	Rowland Heights
Jennifer Coto	1st Place	11	Santana H.S. (ACCEPT)	Rowland Heights
Bryan Tecotl	1st Place	12	Santana H.S. (ACCEPT)	Rowland Heights

In addition to the Board of Supervisor’s recognition, students and their teacher sponsors received trophies and other prizes at award ceremonies conducted at their school.

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