



**ROCKLAND COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RECYCLED ART CONTEST  
K – 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE ‘CALENDAR FOR THE PLANET’**

Ask a child a serious question, and you are sure to get an answer that is poignant, insightful -- often humorous -- and sometimes surprisingly mature. As we know, “Kids say the darndest things!”

Ask a child to *draw a picture* about a serious subject, as the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority recently did, and you really get a treat! Approximately 100 local schoolchildren from across Rockland County submitted drawings to this year’s annual Recycled Art Contest – and the results are not only artistically admirable but also philosophically meaningful. We often state that the children are our future. That is something to think about as we view the thoughtfulness that each artistic entry conveys. Ron DeLo, Executive Director of the Authority said, “I am extremely impressed by the messages portrayed in the drawings and how strongly our children feel about improving the quality of life in our communities by protecting and preserving our environment and natural resources.”

Today’s youth are more knowledgeable and more concerned about nature, our planet, and our immediate environment than ever before. For our schoolchildren, ‘ecosystem’ is an everyday word, and the desire to “save the planet” is not just a dream, but a common ambition. These drawings by Rockland County children surely show us the way. Solid Waste Authority Chairman, Christopher P. St. Lawrence observes, “Our children are our most valuable resource. I am proud of the scope of knowledge these kids exhibit in their drawings. It shows that our message is coming across: Taking care of the environment is paramount in planning for a healthy,

enjoyable, sustainable future. Our kids already know this, and they are well-prepared for taking an active role in the future.”

This year’s contest theme called for students to develop environmental designs that carry an important “earth friendly” message. The twelve winners’ artworks will carry that message across the County as illustrations in an eco-Calendar which the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority will publish later this year. “My mission is to evoke enthusiasm about environmental preservation,” says Solid Waste Educator, Kerri Zepf, organizer of the contest. “Every day I work toward that goal by developing unique ways to get the public involved. This was our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Recycled Art Contest and each year it proves to be an exciting and educational way to reach our youth.”

The Authority will honor the creators of the twelve selected designs by having paving stones engraved with their names, and placed in the Authority’s “Path to a Brighter Future” at the recently completed Compost Demonstration Garden adjacent to the Greenhouse and Conference Center at the Authority facilities in the Torne Valley. Each winner also received a \$20 gift certificate from Barnes and Noble. Additionally, drawings by all the entrants will be on display throughout the year at the Herb Reisman Environmental Education Center. Every year, thousands of students and residents tour the Center to learn more about the environment, and these drawings will become a part of the visitors’ learning experience.

The annual Recycled Art Contest is one of many ways the Authority fosters student awareness and involvement in environmental activities. In viewing the students’ exceptional efforts, we realize that they, in turn, inspire us!

Watch for announcements later this year, when the Calendar will be published. Congratulations to our twelve 2003 winners, whose works will be featured as the month-by-month illustrations:

Dannah Mena, Upper Nyack Elementary, Gr. 2	Pamela Kotorac, Liberty Elem., Gr. 5
Rebecca Sophia Janovic, Green Meadow, Gr. 2	Kenneth Matos, St. Peter’s, Gr. 7
Amy Rose Proietti-Fox, Cherry Lane Elem., Gr. 3	Cory Rainford, St. Peter’s, Gr. 8
Allyson McCarter, Liberty Elem., Gr. 4	Jehovan Barnes, St. Peter’s, Gr. 8
Kionna Morrison, Liberty Elem., Gr. 5	Jonathan Iliev, St. Peter’s, Gr. 8
Richard Lynch, Liberty Elem., Gr. 5	James Rondina, Tappan Zee H.S., Gr. 9

