

To All Newark Schools,

Event: #SpeakUp2SpeakOut: Preventing Pain through Poetry Contest

Why?

April is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month as well as National Poetry Month. In honor of this Wynona's House will be hosting its first annual poetry contest. The event is called #SpeakUp2SpeakOut Preventing Pain through Poetry contest. The goal of the event is to encourage children to express themselves creatively while encouraging reading and writing. The contest will be divided into different division which include Public, Private, Charter, Wynona's House, our ESL and Special Poets. The age categories for the participants are divided into ages 6-9 for kids, 10-13 for tweens and 14-18 for teens within each titled division.

Who?

Wynona's House is a nonprofit agency that works collaboratively with partnering agencies to investigate child abuse and neglect, help children and non-offending families recover and heal, and hold offenders accountable. We meets the needs of children who have been abused and neglected. We work with children and their non-offending caregivers throughout the investigation, prosecution and treatment phases of their case.

What?

For the Public, Charter and Private division participating students attending those respective schools will automatically be in enrolled in those designated divisions to compete amongst their peers. The Wynona's House division is specifically for children who use our agency's services that do not attend schools within the City of Newark. Our English as a Second Language division is for students whose first language may not be English therefore providing students with an opportunity to express themselves in a combination of their native language and English, this category will be judge by individuals who speak a variety of languages. Our Special Poets, judged by a few special education teachers, are designated for students with special needs and/or classifications.

When? /Where?

The winners will be announced on April 18th via our Facebook page and Instagram account. The winners and their families will be invited to attend the awards ceremony being held on April 22nd, to be held at the Newark Public Library to perform their winning submission and receive their awards. Prizes will vary.

How?

Submission Guidelines:

One entry per participant

- Maximum two pages in length
- Must include name, age and school

Any student from 6 years old to 18 years old can participate.

Content: The focus of the poems should be on prevention (feelings, thoughts, actions of prevention, how you use your voice to speak up about abuse, ways to keep safe, advocating for yourself and others). Profanity is not allowed but since this is not for school or a class assignment, students do not have to be grammatical correct.

Your poem, Your words, Your style

Poetry is a tool used to empower individuals to use their voice in an effective manner.

Participants can submit their poems one of three ways: either through our email address included, hand delivery to our agency, or submit it to their teacher/school administrator to then be picked up from schools. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY APRIL 4TH 5:00 PM.** Any entry submitted later than this deadline will not be included in the contest.

Once all poems are collected at 5:00 pm on April 4th, poems will be stripped of any identifying markers in order to keep poets anonymous throughout the evaluation process thus eliminating any bias by judges. Our judges include a variety of professionals and specialized students from various backgrounds, which include special education teachers, ESL teachers, published and professional poets, college professors and a special international poet teaching abroad in Turkey at Bilkent University! Judges will receive the poems via email to evaluate and then will email them back to Wynona's House. Each poem will be reviewed by three judges for a total score.

All participants will be given a certificate of participation and honored with the distinguished title of Laureate Poet. All poem entries will be published on our website thereby making each participant a published poet. All winners will be able to download the collection of poems, which will include their name and age next to their poem, from our website.

Enter to make sure your school is represented and your voice is heard!

Questions?

Contact:

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Submit entries to:

Email address: mdtcoordinator@wynonashouse.org

Location address: 185 Washington St. Newark, NJ 07102