2012 International Student Media Festival:
Close to 100 projects recognized with six earning “Best of Festival”

Close to 100 projects from Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) students earned recognition this year during the 2012 International Student Media Festival (ISMF), an annual program that provides teachers with a unique opportunity to motivate, educate, and inspire students to excellence in their academic pursuits through the creative use of media technology. The student winners, their teachers, and their parents are invited to receive the awards in person during the awards ceremony at this year’s ISMF conference, Nov. 1-3, 2012, in Louisville.

Out of 159 GCPS entries that qualified for the international event, 97 were recognized—79 of the entries received “Excellence in Media Production” awards, 12 of those entries were honored with both the ‘Excellence in Media Production’ and “Judge’s Favorite” awards and six received the “Best of Festival” recognition, the competition’s highest honor.

The six Gwinnett projects honored with “Best of Festival” are:

**From Britt ES and teacher Sara Forrester:**
- “Snowman, Snowman” -- Sequential Stills (with audio)
  Student Producers: Jasmine Anthony, Mary Grace Auld, Anna Banegas-Brodax, Elizabeth Brito, Sierra Driessen, Tala ElMahi, Riley Frandsen, Vanesa Gutierrez, Damond Hartley, Jumel Haynes, Christian Irving, Lykina Kay, Kallia Pierce, Dwight Robinson, Mason Rogers, Cameron Simmons, Amare Smith, and Jenna VanSant.

**From Gwin Oaks ES and teacher Rebecca McClellan:**
- “John F. Kennedy” -- Live Action
  Student Producer: Reuben Dayal (now enrolled at Five Forks Middle)

**From Gwin Oaks ES and teacher Amanda Alligood:**
- “Super Supreme Sound!” -- Web Site
  Student Producers: Ms. Alligood’s 4th grade class

**From Peachtree ES and teachers Dorothy Swindle and Deborah Westbrook:**
- “Matter” -- Sequential Stills (with audio)
  Student Producers: Luckson Gondwe and Cassandra Rico
From Phoenix HS and teacher Pasha Souvorin:
- “Can’t Tell Me Nothin’” – Live Action
  Student Producer: Tyler Thompson

From South Gwinnett HS and teacher Page Ferris:
- “Life is Beautiful” – Sequential Stills (with audio)
  Student Producer: Megan Rosenberger

The competition began at the local level when 544 entries moved up from the local schools to compete during the Gwinnett Student Media Festival. Of those, 291 projects moved on to the state competition and 159 went on to compete at the international event.

Through this program, Gwinnett teachers expand teaching and learning opportunities. The use of media, as part of the curriculum, fosters learning by developing academic skills, including reading comprehension, math, and the ability to plan and analyze. In addition, the development and creation of media festival entries actively involves students in their learning.

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