

Three Mendham, West Morris high students get psychological awards

Freud would be proud of a trio of brainy students from Mendham and West Morris Central High Schools who have won the Morris County Psychological Association award.

The association offers its annual Psychology Award to high school students in Morris County who are taking classes related to the behavioral sciences. Classes include psychology, human and/or animal behavior, child development and sociology. The purpose of the award is to stimulate and encourage the study of the behavioral sciences among high school students, said a statement.

Students submitted papers previously written as part of their regular course work. Each entry was judged independently by three doctoral level psychologists on a set of nine criteria, including:

- Awareness of social and cultural issues in the behavioral sciences.
- Awareness of theoretical and technical issues in the study of behavioral sciences.
- Clarity of written expression.
- Originality of the study.



The Morris County Psychological Association has named winners of its annual Psychology Award. In front, from left, are Audrey Velvia, Julia Drahzal, Cecelia Gemma Pateman, honorable mentions; Emma Jenkins, winner; and Dr. Randy Bressler, president of Morris County Psychological Association. In rear, from left, are John Hrynyk, teacher; Kate Alexy, winner; Anna Moffitt, Eve Hennebery, honorable mentions; Mia Pergola, winner; Mary Caroline Laurita, honorable mention; and Jennifer Brown, Erin Feltmann, teachers.

Many Entries

A total of 27 students from five Morris County schools submitted entries, which were then judged by 24 psychologists. There were three top scores and six additional exception-

al entries which were given honorable mention, the statement said.

The winners, honorable mention awardees, their teachers and their parents attended an awards reception at the June 7, associa-

tion meeting at the Hamilton Park Conference Center in Florham Park. Each winner received a \$150 award.

Winners were: Kate Alexy of West Morris Mendham High School, and her teacher, Jennifer Brown; Emma

Jenkins and Mia Pergola, both from West Morris Central High School and their teacher, Erin Feltmann.

Alexy's entry was "An Experiment to Investigate the Effect of a Numerical Anchor on Estimation." Jen-

kins focused on "Making Matters Worse?; Exploring the Cultural Factors Involved in the Treatment of PTSD in Refugee Children." Pergola's entry was "Mind Over Matter: An Analysis on the Healing Power of Mental Imagery."

Honorable mentions went to Anna Moffitt and Eve Hennebery of West Morris Central High School and their teacher Erin Feltmann; Audrey Velvia of Morris Knolls High School and teachers George Economou and John Hrynyk; Julia Drahzal, Cecelia Gemma Pateman and Mary Caroline Laurita, all of West Morris Mendham High School and teacher Jennifer Brown.

Judges were Michael Zito, Joshua Zavin, Jayne Walco, Aaron Welt, Debi Roelke, Nancy Sidhu, Hayley Hirschmann, Morgan Murray, Randy Bressler, Brenda Stepak, Jane Hochberg, Sarah Dougherty, Carly Orenstein, Paul Yampolsky, Christopher Lynch, Marc Girona, Lyn Martin, Li Faustino, Geraldine Lucignano; and College of St. Elizabeth doctoral candidates Judi Amberg, Nikki Lacherza, Nydia Rolon, Nicole King.

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