FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Air District Celebrates Winners of Annual Clean Air Art Contest

DAVIS, CA – June 9, 2026 – Twelve students from across Yolo and northeastern Solano counties were recently recognized as winners of the 2026 Clean Air Art Contest by the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District Board of Directors and staff. Through exceptional artwork created with colored pencils, crayons, markers, pens and paint, the students used their artistic talents to bring this year's theme, "Heroes for Clean Air," to life.

"Thank you to all the students who participated in the contest and created such fantastic artwork," said Gretchen Bennitt, Executive Director of the District. "Choosing the winners was incredibly difficult because of the high quality of the entries. We especially enjoy seeing students who participate year after year and watching their artistic talents grow."

The District received 80 submissions from students in transitional kindergarten through ninth grade this year, representing 16 local schools across the region. The contest serves as one of many ways the Air District engages local communities while promoting awareness of the connection between air quality, public health, and the environment.

Instead of being featured in the District's traditional annual calendar, this year's winning artwork will appear on stickers and other promotional giveaway items distributed at community events later this year. Each winner also received a gift card in recognition of their achievement. All winning artwork can be viewed online at www.ysaqmd.org/classrooms.

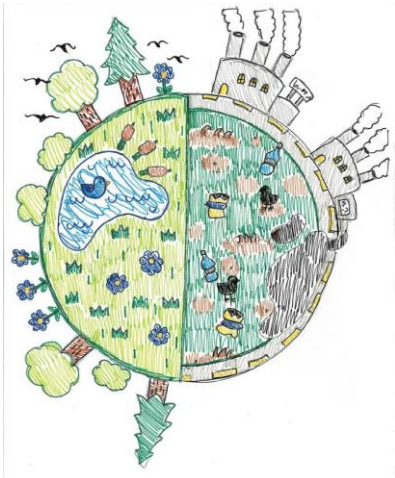
The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District's mission is to protect human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution. As a public health agency, the District is responsible for safeguarding air quality and overseeing air pollution control in Yolo and northeastern Solano counties, including the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, and Vacaville. For more information, visit ysaqmd.org. Connect with the Air District via Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Nextdoor.

2026 Clean Air Art Contest Winners
Transitional Kindergarten – Second Grade
1st Place: Kira Rehe, First Grade, Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento
2nd Place: Lillian Ong, Second Grade, Fred T. Korematsu Elementary School, Davis
3rd Place: Hiro Bissell, Second Grade, Fred T. Korematsu Elementary School, Davis
4th Place: Olive Zhang, Second Grade, Fred T. Korematsu Elementary School, Davis

Third Grade
Tie for 1st Place: Ophelia Watkins, Robert E. Willett Elementary School, Davis
Tie for 1st Place: Elena Rodriguez, Orchard Elementary School, Vacaville
2nd Place: Ava Rehe, Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento
3rd Place: Olivia Elaine Brown, Fred T. Korematsu Elementary School, Davis

Fourth – Ninth Grade
1st Place: Elizabeth Chen, Eighth Grade, Frances Harper Junior High School, Davis
2nd Place: Lydia Foo, Ninth Grade, Frances Harper Junior High School, Davis
3rd Place: Ryan Rose Lavelle, Fifth Grade, Shirley Rominger Intermediate School, Winters
4th Place: Mariam Mahmoud, Ninth Grade, Da Vinci High School, Davis

Pictured, first place winners:
Top left: Kira Rehe, First Grade, Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento
Top right: Elena Rodriguez, Orchard Elementary School, Vacaville
Bottom left: Ophelia Watkins, Robert E. Willett Elementary School, Davis
Bottom right: Elizabeth Chen, Eighth Grade, Frances Harper Junior High School, Davis



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