

# Students earn 'Virginia Youth Voices Contest' honors

By David Broyles

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R.A.E. Center students have earned state honors in the "Virginia Youth Voices" contest which is held in concert with the 4-H "Health Rocks" program in Carroll Schools. Local participants from Laurel and Gladeville Elementary were honored at the School Board's June 11 meeting.

"This has been a phenomenal year for Health Rocks. Next year is going to be even more phenomenal because of some things which will take place in about three weeks with a group of students. This spring, there was a contest where students were asked to make videos," said Associate Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development Jonette Mungo. "Specifically, the videos were anti-drug and anti-tobacco. Carroll County Middle, Gladeville Elementary and Laurel Elementary School all made submissions."

She said the videos were placed on YouTube and a link was sent out on the 4-H Clubs and Activities web page to all schools. Participants had to get "votes" by how many time their videos were viewed online. The winners at the end of a one-month voting period submitted their work to the state contest.

Mungo said during the voting period the video "This Is Drugs" was submitted from Laurel Elementary School. They had over 550 views, winning them a first place in the PSA category. The video "Pretty Poison" in the commercial category received 287 views. It was made at Gladeville Elementary School. The 12-minute video "No Big Deal," made by Regional Educational Alternative (R.A.E.) students in the documentary category was also submitted to the state contest, earning state honors.

Students involved with the No Big Deal video will travel with Mungo in July to Washington, D.C. on an all-expense paid trip to participate in "Citizenship Washington Focus."

The students will be meeting with their representatives at the week-long event (June 30 to July 6). Mungo said they are arranging with congressmen in their districts at this time to hopefully meet with the students and discuss healthcare matters (either directly or through staffers).

"They will be getting a completely immersed, hands-on experience of the legislative process and they will develop a community action plan with delegates from Richmond," Mungo said. "Their task is to enact this community action plan over the next school year. They are going to have some partnerships with organizations that will help to bring about the awareness of the pres-



Photos by: David Broyles | The Carroll News  
Associate Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development Jonette Mungo talks about student participation in the "Virginia Youth Voices" contest during the School Board's June 11 meeting. A group of R.A.E. Center students' video won statewide honors in the contest.

ence of drugs in Carroll County and Southwest Virginia. The epidemic is very much so statewide. They will be working with their Richmond counterparts and probably go to Richmond to help them as well. This is an all-encompassing thing we are doing to tackle this at the youth level to try and make a change."

Laurel Elementary students who produced the This Is Drugs video were Madison Hall, Natalie Marshall, Emma Harman, Kylea Payne, Laiken Burnett, Amelia Dalton and Lyric Bowman. Gladeville Elementary students who produced the Pretty Poison video were Maggie Carico, Gracie Lineberry, Kierra Lane and Bryleigh Porter. R.A.E. Center students who produced the video were Kylie Hensley, Nicholas Spivotero, Breanna Hopkins and Aspen Huff.

"The competition was stiff and we are already talking about how we can use our intercession time to fine tune the green screen process, videography, specialty lighting and editing with them," said Mungo.

"Teachers have done an incredible job of implementing the entire Health Rocks program. I have been working with these kids for two years and I'm having such a good time with them. They opened up and shared their stories because they are ready to make a change and make a difference in their community - to have their voices heard and do what needs to be done to help curb the issue and help other kids who are being introduced to this epidemic at a very young age."

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These Gladeville Elementary students and their advisors video entry "Pretty Poison" earned top honors in the local Virginia Youth Voices Contest. Pictured in back are, from left, Karen Coleman, Amy Collett, Principal Marlin Cambbell. In front are Maggie Carico, Gracie Lineberry and Bryleigh Porter. Not pictured is Kierra Lane.

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These R.A.E. Center students and advisors video entry "No Big Deal" won statewide honors in the Virginia Youth Voices Contest and will travel to Washington D.C. in July to participate in the week-long "Washington Citizenship Focus" event. Pictured from left to right is Kylie Hensley, Nicholas Sprioviero, Principal Shane Woods, Aspen Huff and Teacher Jennene Kohl.



These Laurel Elementary School students and their advisors' video entry, "This Is Drugs," topped the field in the local Virginia Youth Voices Contest. Pictured from left to right in front are Lyric Bowman, Amelia Dalton, Rylea Payne, Emma Harman and Natalie Marshall. In back are Principal Angela Beamer and Teacher Sherry Barrnard.