

# Students' essays published in book

Lisa Gibson's ninth grade English class entered the Creative Communication Spring competition sponsored by the Creative Communication Company.

Out of the 28 St. Francis ninth graders entering, 16 were selected to have their work published. That, said Mrs. Gibson, is over one-half of the freshman class! Less than 50 percent of all essays submitted in the United States were published.

"I'm so proud of these students," Mrs. Gibson said. "What an honor as a freshman to have their writing published in an anthology."

The school will also be recognized in the anthology as receiving a "Writing Achievement Award." The award is given to schools whose students' entries to the essay contest are of exceptionally high merit.

The essays are now eligible for prize money. The top 10 winners from seventh to ninth grade essay division will receive a \$25 check to be able to buy a \$50 savings bond and a complimentary copy of the book.

Those students whose essays qualified for publishing are: Tilyn Bell, Hayley Brown, Alexia Curtin, Kaitlin Figgins, Allison Grice, Jenna Hill, Lexi Hilt, Jacquelyn Ketzner, Ross Nicklos, Caitlin Northrup, Trista Orth, Stephanie Perry, Chauntell Peter, Isaac Schiltz, Matthew Tygart and Logan Whitmore. Their essays are as follows:

## Friends

By Alexia Curtin

Friends are very important to me because they are basically all I have. My family and I are not very close because we have a lot of differences. We do not get along very well.

My friend Ashley and I are very close; she is like a sister to me. I can talk to her about anything in the world and I know what is said will stay between us. Whenever I am upset, I can always go to her and she will help me.

Matt on the other hand used to be like my brother, but he's not anymore. He's still one of my best friends, but we will never be as close as we once were.

Stephanie is one of my closest friends who always was there when I was having a hard time when I first moved to St. Francis. When I stay the night at her house, we were up until all hours of the morning just laughing about the smallest things.

These are some of my friends which will always be there for me and I will always be there for them. My friends make my world go round.

## Honesty

By Trista Orth

Do you like it when people are dishonest towards you? Well, I don't. Being honest is one of the most important qualities you can have. Honest is a choice, and a big one at that. You have to decide whether you want to tell the truth or lie. Your choice can have an effect on your whole life.

When you tell the truth, people will respect you more than if you lie. You will be more trustworthy if you tell the truth. People will feel safer talking to you about things. Telling the truth is always better than lying, but there is a difference between lying and telling a little fib. If telling the truth is going to hurt someone, or ruin their self confidence, then you might be better telling a fib.

I try to be as honest as I can, because I know what it feels like to be lied to. I hate it when people lie to me about things. If one of my friends asks me if I like the shirt they're wearing, and I don't, I tell them that. They respect my opinion and are usually thankful that I told them the truth. I felt that is better than lying and telling them I liked it, because then they would be walking around with an ugly shirt. By telling the truth, you will be more respected and get farther in life.

## Absolute, Total Freedom

By Tilyn Bell

I feel a single bead of sweat making its way down the back of my neck, brought on by repetitively doing a sequence and by the anticipation of what is to come. The music starts, I feel a jolt of energy, similar to that of being struck by lightning, and then the magic begins. I am dancing, but it's more like flying to me.

When I am dancing, my worries and cares melt away into nothingness. No one can possibly understand the feeling I have, no one except for other passionate dancers at least. What some don't understand is that dance isn't just a series of movements. It is an art, with bits and pieces of the dancers' souls intertwined into it.

Also, it isn't just dancing by myself that I love. It is also watching other dancers. The way they move, the stories they tell, and the way they totally pour themselves into what they are doing blows my mind.

There are so many kinds of dance, which is part of what keeps it so interesting for me. There are joyful dances, mourning dances, loving dances, fast and slow dances; but they are all heartfelt dances, which is why I love them so very much.

Dancing is hands down the most rewarding thing to do. Dancing inspires me in so many ways to be the best I can be. The reason I love to dance so much, is because when I am dancing, I am free.

## It's You and Me

By Isaac Schiltz

I stood on the runway in St. Francis, Kansas. I felt very privileged, because only few before me have earned the right to stand on this runway. It was somewhat of a sacred place to me. As I stood there, the wind blew over my skin, giving me goose bumps. I was ready; ready to succeed, but also ready to fail, for a pole vaulter must accept both equally.

I looked up at the cross bar. It was my nemesis, and nothing was going to stop me from defeating it. Being nothing but a fiber glass pole, the cross bar can generate so many emotions; so much passion, aggression, and fear. A pole vaulter must thrive off all these feelings. They give him energy that allows him to harbor the strength to defeat his enemy.

I drowned out all noise; the crowd, the loudspeaker, and all other sounds around me were irrelevant. I looked at the bar one last time. "It's you and me," I mumbled quietly under my breath. I began my approach. The run seemed an eternity, but in reality lasted only a few seconds. As I approached my destination, information raced across my mind. Before I knew it, I was there. I slid my pole into the box, closed my eyes, swung my body into the air...and then it all went blank. I landed, and then opened my eyes. I found myself staring up at the cross bar, still high above me. I had won.

## A Life Full of Dreams

By Jacquelyn Ketzner

It all started when I was four years old. My mother and I moved to Bird City, Kansas, and she wanted me to make some friends. She asked if I wanted to be in a dance program. I agreed, but I didn't know if I'd like it or not. I've always been the type of girl who hung out with the guys and was a real tomboy, but I wanted to make my mom happy.

When I joined dance, I found out we had two recitals during the year, one for Christmas and one for Mother's Day. We wear shiny costumes and we do different dances; jazz, tap, and hip-hop. I like them all, especially jazz, because we dance to soft music and we get to do twirls and kicks. I feel so relaxed and free doing it.

I am now fifteen years old and this is my eleventh year dancing. I have never been in love with any other sport or activity. When I dance, I feel as if no one is watching me and I'm free to do whatever I desire.

I am very thankful for my mother who put me into dance. She encourages me and comes to all of my dance recitals. I couldn't ask for a better life.

## Click... Click

By Allison Grice

Have you ever taken photos

for a contest, fair, or for your school's yearbook? Some of these activities are really hard. Like taking photos for a sporting event can be really hard because they're moving really fast. Taking photos to me means that you can be out in nature, meeting new people, learning about other photos, and seeing what other photographer's photograph.

Have you tried taking a little child's photo? What do you think he/she would want to do? All children want to do is go run around. This is very true because I have little cousins that don't sit still for me to take a photo.

Try capturing wildlife photos; they're a blast to take because you can be out in the open getting these photos. I love being out in nature, so this is the most fun for me. I have photos that I took for the 2007 fair; everybody loves it. We have a group of foxes by our house that just happened to be out one day and I got a perfect picture of them playing together.

I have been taking photos for the last six years and have learned more and more each year. I enrolled in yearbook this year and I'm enjoying every moment of it. We had to go through a photography unit and I learned more about my camera and little helpful tips when taking photos. I hope you have interests that you enjoy doing just like my hobby.

## Dare To Be Yourself

By Caitlin Northrup

These days, people feel like they need to fall into categories. For example, if you join the band, people might start to consider you a band geek. Eventually those people could start acting like band geeks to fit that stereotype. You then start to lose your personality and loose your real friends.

Some people just choose the wrong friends. Their friends will tell them how they need to act and who they need to be friends with. If your friends are like that, then they aren't supporting your dreams and aspirations. The friends that you choose should be boosting you up, not breaking you down.

If you can get past all the stereotypes and wrong suggestions, then you have made yourself unique and different. You can be yourself and achieve what you've always wanted to do.

Every day people work towards becoming their own person, but not everyone gets there. That's because they are trying to do what they think sounds and looks right. By doing this, they aren't getting anywhere. They are just being fake and hiding what they really want with stereotypes. I don't think they'll be satisfied with how their life turns out if it isn't what they actually wanted.

You should never let others affect your life more than you do and you should never be afraid to be yourself.

## Success is What You Make It!

By Matthew Tygart

"If your success is not on your own terms, if it looks good to the world but does not feel good in your heart, it is not success at all." Anna Quindlen said these words in 1953. I believe this quote. Success is only success if we feel good about it. Some people never find success because they set their standards too high. "If at first you don't succeed, redefine success" —unknown.

Success needs to be broken down into smaller successes. Like climbing a mountain, you don't just go climb a mountain all in one shot. You do it in sections. Breaking down a goal makes it easier to reach. After each step, you feel like you have accomplished something.

Success can take us far into life! Bill Gates wasn't born a millionaire. He worked as hard as he could. He set goals in life, after each goal he made more. Now look where he is at, he is a mil-

lionaire. The only thing that keeps people from being successful is that they give up. To be successful you must endure until the end, work your hardest, and in the end you will succeed.

## Music

By Stephanie Perry

Music, not in so many words, is my life. Most of my life is centered on music. I play many instruments; the flute, the piccolo, the piano, the violin, the guitar and even once I tried playing the drums. My main instrument is the flute; it's very easy to play in my opinion.

My love for it definitely stems from my desire to best my sister in everything she did.

I love to sing. Singing gets me away from the real world for as long as I can possibly make it happen for me. As I listen to a song, I imagine what that song would look like if it was played out in the real world. Not many people sit back and listen to the story behind a song; but in most songs, there is one. If I listen hard enough and use my imagination I can see the story played out before me. As I envision this story, my eyes closed, I begin to find how much this story could easily relate to me and my own life.

No matter what you believe, you understand the reason you love the song more. If you find the story behind it, relate it to yourself and your own life. I, like every other teen, have pressures and have things I know I shouldn't do. Music helps realize the complete consequences for these things. Until I find something more, music will be a large part of my life.

## An Adrenaline Rush

By Lexi Hilt

I have a love for dancing. It's something about the adrenaline rush that flows throughout my body when I'm standing in the middle of the stage. It's a kind of addiction that you can't walk away from. The excitement of all eyes is upon me with the spotlight following my every move. It's the adrenaline my body feeds off to keep me moving to the music.

Dancing isn't something that you can just decide one day that you want for your passion. You have to be dedicated and practice. Being prepared for it makes it so much better of an experience. Knowing every move right after another without having to think about it is amazing.

Then the music stops and everybody smiles in acceptance, happy with what you've showed them. A wave of relief that you did so well washes over you. Everything you've accomplished in the end was worth the hard work. You feel like all the time and effort you put in has finally paid off to hear the applauding. It's a feeling that you don't just want to feel once but over and over again; which is why I have been dancing for eight years.

My advice to everyone is to put time and effort into something they thoroughly enjoy to feel the adrenaline rush that I do. It'll make you a stronger person knowing people have faith. Get involved with something that is well worth your time and passion.

## Be Prepared

By Logan Whitmore

Be prepared; the Boy Scout motto. As a Boy Scout, I have been stressed on being prepared, and I have realized that you really should be. As my parents would always say, "It's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it." If you're always prepared and ready for anything, then life will be much easier. On the other hand, if you are unprepared then you're easily caught off guard and can be overwhelmed quickly.

Along with being prepared you shouldn't procrastinate. I am guilty of procrastination because I often wait until the last second to get something done. It can get very stressful and often leaves me

unprepared. Lately I have been working on getting things done right away, and by doing so I have been getting better grades in my classes. All of this success is because I have been prepared.

Another reason of being prepared is for things like trips. I don't know how many times I have left something at home and ended up needing it. Luckily my family was prepared and brought an extra of whatever. I've started to take up that habit to where I bring things other people may need. I am being prepared for others and myself, and it has saved me a lot of time and money. I recommend for anybody to take up the habit of being prepared, because it will help you the rest of your life.

## What Makes YOU Feel Free?

By Kaitlin Figgins

What's the one thing that makes you feel free and untied? Is it playing sports? Going running and releasing all your feelings? For me, it's dancing. Dancing is one of the greatest opportunities in my life because it has helped me through things during my life. There are numerous different types of dances to express yourself and your feelings. Dancing is one of the best ways to release anger, pain, agony, and even happiness.

I started dancing in the sixth grade and it was the perfect time to start because at this point in my life I was going through so many things. My family and I had just moved and my parents were divorced. They have been divorced for quite some time now, but as time went by I started grasping the whole thing and it started giving me troubles. Dancing was an escape for me to get away from all my sadness. I had many friends that danced, so it was more enjoyable.

My favorite type of dance is lyrical because it makes me work hard. I have to do all these intricate moves and they all have to be so precise. This is an excellent dance to perform because you can put all your feelings into it. When it's all done and I've perfected it, well, it's so beautiful and it's a huge accomplishment.

## Looking Through My Window

By Chauntell Peter

What do you see in your future? That is the question everyone around me is asking. Juniors and seniors are struggling at the last minute to find what they want to do or where they want to go. That is not me at all.

I'm a freshman at St. Francis, Kansas. I have known what I wanted to be ever since I was a little girl. I want to be a therapist to help families and kids work past their struggles in life. The main reason why I want to do this is because of all the kids around me from bad homes or families who don't care.

My family is supporting me on what I want to be. School for me is really hard but I can get by with passing grades. I have had problems with divorced parents, boys and girls. It's a typical teenage life to have a lot of problems in high school. Some girls who don't have the cutest clothes, the most popular boyfriends don't always fit in. In my opinion I think that having less friends and knowing who your true friends are is more important than having a million friends and dating the most popular guy.

I'm on my path to following my dreams; I hope to see you on this magical dream ride. Thanks for looking through my window of future. I hope to be looking through yours soon.

## Hunting with the Family

By Jenna Hill

Hello, my name is Jenna Hill. Have you ever had a day out with the family and had no worries? I have had this experience many times.

My dad, John, my brother, Joel, and I love to hunt. We hunt almost every weekend we can. All of us love hunting every kind of game, but pheasants and deer are what we really enjoy to hunt. Even if only one of us have a deer license we will go with the other one.

We have five hunting dogs that we use for bird hunting. When we go pheasant hunting, we all talk and just have a great time in the field. We become closer and have fun doing it. One of the best things about hunting is watching the dogs work. It doesn't matter who gets the most birds to us; it is just about being together.

When we go deer hunting, we all load up into the pickup really early in the morning and head out for the day. Sometimes we will just drive around and look for some deer. Other times we will be in tree stands or in blinds. I like driving around for them because it is fun sneaking up on them.

Hunting is one thing that has brought us closer as a family. I wish everyone could experience a day with family and have no worries.

## The Locked Deer

By Ross Nicklos

This is the true story of how a deer traveled over two miles with its antlers locked onto a dead deer's antlers.

The two deer had been fighting.

My dad (a Colorado Division of Wildlife Officer) and I were sitting around the house when we got a knock on the door. The man knocking said he was out duck hunting when he saw a wounded deer. He said the deer wasn't moving very well. We decided to go check it out; my dad thought he would be forced to put the deer down.

A few minutes later, we pulled onto the two tracks that led past the deer. As we got out of the pickup, we realized that the deer wasn't wounded, just very fatigued. The deer was stuck to another buck.

Luckily, my dad always carried a rope around that we were able to use to hold down the deer. The duck hunter and my dad held the deer down and cut one of the deer's antlers so that the buck could be freed. As soon as they got off the deer and untied the rope, they took off running for the pickup. The buck took off running the other way.

Afterwards, we backtracked how far the deer had come, and found out that he had traveled over two miles locked to the deer. He managed to survive an attack from coyotes that attacked and killed the other deer. That buck was a lucky deer.

## Heroes

By Hayley Brown

Everyone needs a hero, right? Someone to lean on when times get hard, someone to look up to for an example.

I think every child needs a hero at some point. To me, it's a big impact on how you act in life. If you look up to someone who treats people horrible, or cheats, or anything like that, then you'll most likely do the same thing as them. If you have a hero that does good things, like helping people when they need it without being asked, then you'll probably end up doing that too.

One of my heroes is most definitely my older brother, Matt. He's helped me out with a lot this year. I'm really grateful that I have him as an older brother. I honestly don't think I would be the same person I am today without him. He's taught me to never give up, to fight for what's right, and most importantly to have fun with life because it's too short not to.

Like I said before, I think everyone needs a hero. Heroes help children on becoming who they are. They may not even realize they're doing it, but they are. Children need a hero so they will be a better person and stay out of trouble. I honestly think that when you grow up having a hero, you act like a better person but maybe that's just my opinion. I know that my brother, has unknowingly, made me a better person.



Bell



Grice



Perry



Figgins



Curtin



Schiltz



Northrup



Hilt



Orth



Ketzner



Tygart



Whitmore



Hill



Nicklos



Brown