

English students win poetry contest

Lisa Gibson's eighth grade English class entered a writing contest sponsored by the local VFW Post titled "Patriot's Pen." The 2010-2011 theme is "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" There are four levels which the local post sponsors the first level.

Two winners were announced from the local level. First place went to Cade Bracelin. He is receiving a \$100 savings bond. Second place winner is Aby Fernandez who will be receiving a \$50 savings bond. Their essays will advance to the regional/district level.

The essays are judged on knowledge of theme, theme development, and clarity of ideas.

Mrs. Gibson said, "I'm very proud of these students. What a great way to get a fund started for their college career!"

The local VFW was notified last week that Cade's essay won at the district, the second level. His essay will now proceed to the state level. With the district level win, his essay was awarded a \$50 savings bond.

"What a great honor for Cade and his essay!" said Mrs. Gibson.

Does Patriotism Still Matter?
By Cade Bracelin

A brave soldier stands along with his rifle at his side overlooking the Afghanistan Desert. Behind him, there are many tents and dusty Black Hawk Helicopters ready for action. This man prays that he will safely return home some day to see his family and friends. He looks proudly at the tattered American flag whipping in the wind above him. This man is demonstrating and feeling patriotism.

Why is he there? This courageous man is a patriot and very

loyal to his country. He shows his patriotism every single day. He is fighting for his country's freedom.

One of our first patriots was George Washington, our first president. He led all the troops into battle in the late 1700's. His troops wanted to quit, but he never gave in. The winter was so harsh that his troops had to wrap rags around their feet because they had no boots left. George Washington was a true patriot.

How can I show my patriotism? I can stand at attention whenever I hear the "Star Spangled Banner" played at any event. I can vote at every election when I turn 18. I believe that voting is a privilege and a duty as an American citizen. I can simply say "thank you" to any veteran I see that has fought in any war. If I was ever asked to go to war, I would generously say yes. I hope anyone would too.

Ever since 9/11, Bin Laden has always been a constant threat to America. The soldiers in Afghanistan are always watching out for people like him. Our army is constantly observing and ready to go to war. The American soldiers are always willing to give their all and more. The American army has been fighting for many years and I don't think we will give up until it is over. Our freedom is never taken for granted.

Do you think patriotism still matters? If you would ask George Washington or any soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan, what do you think they would say?

Does Patriotism Still Matter?
By Aby Fernandez

Are you a patriot? Does patriotism matter to you? The word patriot comes from the Greek word "fatherland" which in this case



STUDENTS RECEIVE SAVINGS BONDS. Sam Miller, Commander of VFW Post 1528, left, presented Cade Bracelin and Aby Fernandez with their awards.

means love and loyalty to one's country. Patriotism involves service to one's country. In other words, a patriot is geared up to accomplish whatever is necessary for their country at any time.

Patriotism became combined with independence in the 19th century. Many pronounce that the patriots speak out when they are totally convinced the country is following unwise actions. Others believe that the national government speaks for the country. So what do you believe?

In my estimation, patriotism does matter, of course. It is important due to the fact that if we did not have patriotism, the United States would not have been what it is now, a loyal and enthusiastic country. Patriotism is excellent at proving our faithfulness to our nation which is fantastic! Being a

patriot does not only involve worry, love, and loyalty, but also involves care and concern for one's country.

An example of a great patriot would be George Washington. He proved himself loyal during the Revolutionary War by not giving up. His faith kept his soldiers going even though his army was in-

credibly smaller than Britain's. He knew there was a purpose for them to be fighting. Even though many died in the great Revolutionary War, their spirits weren't down. With trust in themselves and their people, they eventually won.

Not all patriots set out to war; the majority helps out in thousands of other ways like designing ships

to transport troops for combat. That's what patriotism is about, to do anything to help the country at anytime and not necessarily go to war. This would be another reason why patriotism is so important.

Do you consider that you have love and devotion for your country? "Honestly, does patriotism matter to you?"

Famous Quotes

Great wisdom is generous; petty wisdom is contentious. Great speech is impassioned; small speech is cantankerous. --Chuang-tzu

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous. --Aristotle

There are occasions when it is undoubtedly better to incur loss than to make gain. --Titus Maccius Plautus

There is nothing so easy but that it becomes difficult when you do it reluctantly. --Terence

Tradition is a guide and not a jailer. --W.Somerset Maugham

Train up a fig tree in the way it should go and when you are old sit under the shade of it. --Mark Twain

Wise men are not wise at all times. --Emerson

A leader is a dealer in hope. --Napoleon I

The golden age was never the present age. --English proverb

Man arrives as a novice at each stage of his life. --Chamfort

He who is being carried does not realize how far the town is. --Nigerian proverb

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