

GLOBAL VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

2014/2015 AWARD WINNING WEBSITES ANNOUNCED

May 1, 2015 – The Give Something Back International Foundation (GSBI) has announced the winners of the 2014/2015 Global Virtual Classroom Contest (GVC) -- a free online collaborative learning project that fosters creativity, cross cultural understanding, helping others and teaches IT and website design skills amongst students working together from around the world.

Sponsored by GSBI, the GVC program provides an opportunity for primary and secondary school students from different countries to work with and learn from students in other countries, as they collaboratively design a website on a topic of their choosing. A panel of international judges evaluates the final work and determines the winners.

Contest participants virtually collaborated with students in other countries to build and submit websites designed around a thought provoking theme. As such, the contest aims to enhance abilities required for the 21st century such as: cross-cultural communication, collaboration, social responsibility, and technology skills. This year the contest had participants from 16 countries including participants from India, Kenya, Malaysia, Russia, Czech Republic, Afghanistan, Spain, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Hungary, Turkey and the USA. A map of participants is available at: <http://virtualclassroom.org/global2.html>

Their efforts were judged for content, presentation, collaboration, and a helping focus. The helping focus encourages students to also demonstrate achievement of a helpful objective such as personal, social and/or environmental responsibility or support for a worthy cause.

JoAnn Patrick-Ezzell, the Chairman and one of the co-founders of the Give Something Back International Foundation said, "This year the students very effectively demonstrated amazing creativity and collaboration in exploring their selected topics. Beyond the impressive accomplishment of their website projects, we are delighted that the students engaged in a myriad of ways to give back to their schools, their communities, and to others around the world in very meaningful ways."

This year's Grand Prize winner for the primary school category is the "Recycling to Live Green" website created and built by students from The Cathedral of St. Raymond School in Joliet, Illinois, USA ; Tainan Municipal Haidon Elementary School in Taiwan (R.O.C.); and The Rock Academy in South Africa. The website not only emphasizes the 3-R's, but also offers unique ideas such as saving space. They even featured a 'trashion fashion' show with garments made from recycled items.

The Second Place winner in the primary school category is the "Living in Harmony with Nature" website designed by Veda Vyasa DAV Public School in New Delhi India; Jaeahar Navadaya Vidyalaya Derala Bhiwandi School in Bhiwani, India; and Sam Rotola Middle School in Batavia, Illinois, USA.

In Third Place of the primary school category is “Game On” website presented by Leslie H. Walton Middle School, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA and Plaza Park International Prep Academy, Evansville, Indiana, USA.

The secondary school category’s Grand Prize winner is the “Rhyme & Rhythm” website presented by students at Liberty High School, Liberty, Missouri, USA; Liceo Classico Giulio Cesare, Rome, Italy; and St. Mark’s Senior Secondary Public School, Janakpuri, New Delhi, India. The website is a phenomenal display of original art work, photography singing, dancing, and poetry. A highlight is the poem written by a student in India and performed by each country in a musical style that represents their country.

The Second Place winner for the secondary school category is the “Sports & Recreation” website developed by Kulachi Hansraj Model School, Delhi, India and Leslie H. Walton Middle School, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

In Third Place of the secondary school category is the “Think Before You Click” website created by Veda Vyasa DAV Public School in New Delhi India; Darbari Lal DAV Model School, Shalimar bagh, Delhi, India; and Measowcreek High School, Norcross, Georgia, USA

Certificates of participation are awarded to all students. Plaques are presented to the schools of the winning teams. The winning primary and secondary teams receive \$1000. A GSBI scholarship/sponsorship to a needy, disadvantaged student will be given on behalf of each school on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place primary and secondary teams. Each school will receive a certificate of recognition of their sponsorship.. Special Merit awards are also presented for exceptional academic merit, for significant helping focus accomplishments, for creativity, for collaboration, and for the innovative use of multimedia. Merit award winners receive software from Tech4Learning.com.

To view the winning websites visit www.VirtualClassroom.org.

Online applications for the 2015/16 program are also available on the site. Contest sign-up begins each June. There is no cost for participation. The contest runs from October 1 until April 1, with results announced in May.

The International website contest is made possible by Give Something Back International (GSBI), a nonprofit educational foundation headquartered in Sarasota, Florida. GSBI’s goal is to provide life changing, quality educational opportunities to children, young adults, and teachers around the world.

“GSBI is dedicated to empowering, enabling and connecting students around the world using Internet technologies,” said their President Andrew Ezzell. “It is enormously gratifying to watch kids learn to use technology to reach out to each other across great distances. We’re delighted to see the Global Virtual Classroom contest facilitate such positive cross-cultural collaboration.”