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Christian Bach of Frenchtown Named “2017 Junior County Historian”

Flemington - Hunterdon’s Junior Historian for 2017 is Christian Bach of Frenchtown Elementary School, selected for writing the best essay in “The Most Historic Place in My Town” contest sponsored annually by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission. Second place honors went to Jake Mikruk, of Tewksbury Elementary School.

The 2017 competition drew 107 entries from seven school districts. Awards were presented by John Lanza, Freeholder Director of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Carrie Fellows, the Commission’s Executive Director. The awards ceremony took place in the historic Hunterdon County courthouse in Flemington during the May 2 meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Essays are submitted by third or fourth grade students in participating schools, according to which grade level studies local history. In order to be entered into competition, essays must describe a historic place, and source citations are required.

The grand prize winner Christian Bach receives a gift card for \$100, a certificate, and a trophy designating him as the 2017 Hunterdon County Junior Historian. His essay, “Strimple’s Mill” described the history and local significance of Strimple’s sawmill, the family who owned it, and the types of products it produced in Delaware Township. His fourth grade teacher is Mrs. Roxanne Kloos, who was recognized by the Board of Chosen Freeholders for having participated with her students in every single essay contest since its inception. Mrs. Kloos plans to retire at the end of the school year.

County Second Place winner Jake Mikruk receives a gift card for \$50, a certificate and a trophy. Jake’s essay, “The Hoffman Farm” described this 200-year-old, still-working farm, and what he learned about it through interviews with current and past owners, including his friend Evelyn Hoffman Powell, who was born there. Jake is a fourth grader in Bonnie Wade-Taffera’s class at Tewksbury Elementary School.

First prize winners in each of the participating districts were presented with a certificate and a First Place medal. In two districts, Second Place certificates and medals were also awarded, and two Honorable Mention certificates were presented. All entrants received a Certificate of Appreciation. Winning essays were selected by a panel of members of the Retired Teachers Association. Photographs of the winners and downloadable copies of the top two essays may be viewed at the County’s website: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/c&h/essay.htm>. A list of winners follows.

Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission recommends and administers programs to increase the visibility and impact of local and county history, the arts, and culture, goals and traditions of the community. It serves as an advisory agency to the Board of Chosen Freeholders and seeks available government funds to develop and support historical, arts and cultural programs.

HUNTERDON COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION

THE MOST HISTORIC PLACE IN MY TOWN
2017 ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

HONORABLE MENTION – DISTRICT

Tewksbury Elementary School

Ms. Susan Wilkinson, Teacher

Fiona Andrade, *Cokesbury Village*

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Bonnie Wade-Taffera, Teacher

Caitlin Carr, *The Old Distillery*

SECOND PLACE – DISTRICT

Frenchtown Elementary School

Mrs. Roxanne Kloos, Teacher

Lily Anne Rivera, *The Delaware River*

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Bonnie Wade-Taffera, Teacher

Andrea Manning, *The Fairmont Lime Kiln*

FIRST PLACE – DISTRICT

Califon Borough - Califon Public School

Mrs. Medea, Teacher

Daniel Van Elkan, *The Califon Bridge*

East Amwell School

Mrs. Parillo, Teacher

Elizabeth Hitchcock, *Henry Landis House*

Franklin Township School

Mrs. Prassl, Teacher

Chase Kober, *Pittstown Inn*

Frenchtown Elementary School

Mrs. Roxanne Kloos, Teacher

Christian Bach, *Strimple's Mill*

High Bridge Elementary School

Mrs. Lynn Hughes, Teacher

Tyler Kuznier, *The South Branch River*

Readington Township – Whitehouse School (tie)

Ms. Valerie Zanardi, Teacher

Olivia Ost, *The Transformation of the Whitehouse Train Station into Readington Library*
Aman Shah, *Taylor’s Mill*

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Bonnie Wade-Taffera, Teacher

Jake Mikruk, *The Hoffman Farm*

2nd PRIZE – COUNTY

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Bonnie Wade-Taffera, Teacher

Jake Mikruk, *The Hoffman Farm*

GRAND PRIZE – COUNTY “2017 HUNTERDON COUNTY JUNIOR HISTORIAN”

Frenchtown Elementary School

Mrs. Roxanne Kloos, Teacher

Christian Bach, *Strimple’s Mill*

“The Most Historic Place in My Town” 2017 Essay Awards

A total of 14 prizes were awarded, including 2 cash prizes.
Members of the Retired Teachers Association of Hunterdon County judged the 107 essays written by students.