

Tamarac Senior Takes First Place for Video

Senior Adam Bornt took home the Best Music Video Award at this year's Rod Serling Video Festival in Binghamton for the video he created in Tamarac's television production studio.

This is the third year in a row that a Tamarac student has been honored at the annual awards festival, which receives hundreds of entries from students across the state.

"The first year we got Honorable Mention and last year we got Best Screenplay," Adam noted. "It's really cool to get Best Music Video because we're not used to making those."

While Adam has made many films in his three years in television production classes at Tamarac, this is the first music video he's created. His video for the song "Ain't



No Rest for the Wicked" by Cage the Elephant features a story about a man walking down a street meeting people faced with hard times mixed with footage of a band playing the song in a studio with fake instruments.

Adam used classmates for the cast, who also accompanied him to the awards presentation in Binghamton on June 4. Adam's parents also attended the event along with Television Production teacher Mark Spitzer.

"It's just amazing to me to see the quality of the work our students produce going up and up and up," Mr. Spitzer said. "When I see the work our students are producing, I'm really proud."

Adam explained the most difficult part of creating the video was time constraints. He had to deal with weather for outdoor shots and finding time when the district auditorium wasn't booked.

But Mr. Spitzer noted that what made Adam's video so successful was the two months of preplanning he did, including creating storyboards and visualizing every shot before filming.

"It's inspirational for the underclassmen," Mr. Spitzer said. "Younger students watch it and say 'I want to do that.' It's a trickle down effect. They want to make their own videos better."

Adam said he doesn't plan to continue making films as he will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall to study criminal justice and psychology. But he enjoys the opportunities the television production class has provided and will never look at films the same way.

"This gives me a chance to express myself," Adam said. "I'm really happy how it turned out."

NYS Regents Exams – June 15 – 23

The New York State Regents Exams will be held for high school students **Tuesday, June 15 - Wednesday, June 23.**

Please note, students must observe exam guidelines to help ensure a quiet and secure testing environment. Students should not bring backpacks to school, they may not go to their lockers, and parking will be restricted to certain areas.

Complete exam guidelines and schedules are available on the High School homepage by visiting www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us.

Author Visits Tamarac Elementary

Tamarac Elementary students learned how an author takes an idea and turns it into a book when children's author Karen Beil visited the school library on June 4.

Ms. Beil, who lives in Guilderland, shared stories from the five books she's written, including reading one together with students.

But the biggest hit was a reenactment of Ms. Beil's book "Moove Over!" featuring teachers and Superintendent Lou McIntosh acting out a story about a pushy cow on a train ride with other animals.

Ms. Beil's books have won many awards. "Jack's House" was chosen as a top illustrated book and "Fire in Their Eyes: Wildfires and the People Who Fight Them" was honored as a top nonfiction book by the National Council of Teachers of English.



When Ms. Beil asked students for questions, dozens of hands shot up as they took turns asking about the writing process.

"What inspires you to be an author?" asked Lauren Lockrow.

Ms. Beil explained she worked as a news reporter but found she enjoyed writing books for children. She noted they can be a challenging audience, however, because if a student isn't moved by the first few sentences they'll often choose another book.

Ms. Beil then showed students a large paper layout of book pages that had yet to be made into a book. She asked the students if they knew how they were put together.

"They have a seam and are sewn together," said Hanieka Balint.

School Librarian Janice Toomajian explained she invites authors to speak with students to help illustrate the importance of writing.

"I think it's very valuable for children so they can see the writing they do in the classroom could be a profession," Toomajian said. "It's great for them to see authors are real people too."

To see more photos, visit www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us.

Students Honored for Excellence

Congratulations to the 47 Tamarac students who were inducted into the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society in May.

To qualify for the honor, students must maintain a high grade point average and display outstanding character and leadership as well as be involved in service at school and/or in the community.

Middle School students inducted at the May 6 ceremony were: Thomas Becker, Hannah Bornt, Shanaya Bulmer, Kristin Connolly, Robert DeLaMater, Courtney Dreher, Eion Falance, Emma Galvin, Lissabeth Gardner, Hannah Gilchrist, Brittney Glogowski, Megan Grimmick, Kerry Judge, Brent Legenbauer, Jenna Long, Amber Masterson, Abbey McGrath, Alexandra Milazzo, Madeline Montero, Michaela O'Keefe, Nolan Senecal and Michelle Urkevich.

High School students inducted at the May 27 ceremony were: Alexandria Birdsinger, Lindsay Bonesteel, Ryan Bromm, Brier Carrier, Ashley DelGiacco, Lindsay Doyle, Alexander D'Urso, Nick Feldmaier, Shelby Giamei, Shawn Griffin, Kevin Keleher, Leandra Kneeland, Andrew Lang, Victoria Lee, Sarah Malsch, Adam Mikhitarian, Kelly Nealon, Dan O'Brien, Kevin O'Keefe, Kiersten Raymond, Julia Sloboda, Ashley Sweet, Nancy Vickerson, Chelsea Weber and Austin Wilson.

Commencement for Class of 2010 – June 25

Commencement for the Class of 2010 will take place Friday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the district auditorium.

Seniors participating in the ceremony are required to attend rehearsal on June 25 at 9:00 a.m. Tickets for the ceremony will be handed out at the rehearsal.

For more information, please visit the school website, www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us and click on the High School webpage.



Students in Grades K-8 Receive Anti-Bullying Message

Tamarac students received an important anti-bullying message from a presenter recently who used magic and humor to engage students while teaching them lessons about respecting each other.

James Warren visited Tamarac schools on May 21, speaking to students in grades K-8.

Mr. Warren explained the different types of bullying including direct bullying, such as threatening or hitting a classmate, and indirect bullying, such as spreading

rumors. Warren stressed that either is hurtful to others.

In part of the presentation, Mr. Warren tore up a newspaper to illustrate how a bully might symbolically try to hurt someone with words. He then used a magic trick to put the newspaper back together.

"Don't let words rip you apart," Mr. Warren told the attentive audience.

Teacher Helen Findlay said Mr. Warren had a big impact on students who listened and watched carefully throughout the assembly. "This is a performance the students will not soon forget," Findlay said.

Sweet Reward for Memorizing 134 Digits of Pi

What do you get when you memorize 134 digits of Pi?

In Angelica Roddy's fifth grade class at Tamarac Elementary, the opportunity to put a whipped cream pie in the face of your teacher.



As part of a recent geometry unit, students in Mrs. Roddy's class were given the opportunity to memorize as many digits of Pi as they could.

Pi is a mathematical constant defined as the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Pi is considered an "irrational" number that is typically rounded to 3.14. But the true number goes on without end or repeating numbers.

For a reward, Mrs. Roddy told students that whoever could remember the most digits of Pi would get to put a pie in her face.

"I thought it was a fun way to end our geometry unit," Mrs. Roddy said. "I think they'll never forget what Pi is."

The challenge must have worked as students one by one recited the digits of Pi in front of the class. Each student who could remember 20 got extra credit. Third place was 72 digits. Second place was 96 digits.

But first place went to Hannah Krieger who memorized an astounding 134 digits of Pi. Hannah then took full advantage of her winnings, putting the pie in Mrs. Roddy's face in front of her classmates.

To see more photos, please visit the school website, www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us and click on the Elementary webpage.