



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Winners Announced for Bicentennial Poetry and Essay Contest

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – June 2, 2025 – The Lafayette Bicentennial Committee is proud to announce the winners of the Bicentennial Poetry and Essay Contest, representing exceptional student voices from Faith Christian School, Lafayette School Corporation, and Tippecanoe School Corporation. The contest was held in April to celebrate National Poetry Month.

This creative writing contest invited students to reflect on the rich history, diverse culture, and enduring legacy of the City of Lafayette as it celebrates its 200th birthday. The poetry contest, with a theme of *My Wish for Lafayette's 200th Birthday*, was open to students grades 4 through 12, in three divisions by grades. The essay contest, with a theme of *Celebrating our Bicentennial: What Makes Lafayette Greater*, was open to students grades 6 through 12, in two divisions by grades. Information was sent to Lafayette School Corporation, Tippecanoe School Corporation and other schools throughout Lafayette in early March. Submissions were judged based on theme, originality, historical relevance, and creative expression.

Winners include:

- **Faith Christian School:**

Poetry:

- Division I: Grades 4 through 6
 - o First Place – Lucy Strayer, 4th Grade



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- Division II: Grades 7 through 8
 - o First Place – Anna Bella Cousineau, 8th Grade
 - o Second Place – Madeline Myers, 7th Grade
 - o Third place – Roslyn Diehls, 8th Grade
- Division III: Grades 9 through 12
 - o No entries

Essay:

- Division I: Grades 6 through 8
 - o First Place – Addy Schlueter, 7th Grade
 - o Second Place – Rolan king, 7th Grade
 - o Third Place – Ana Nugent, 7th Grade
- Division II: Grades 9 through 12
 - o No entries

• **Lafayette School Corporation:**

Poetry:

- Division I: Grades 4 through 6
 - o First Place – Annabella Serrano-Matias, 4th Grade, Edgelea Elementary
 - o Second Place – Kiaya Gillette, 4th Grade, Miller Elementary
 - o Third Place – December Wilson, 4th Grade, Miller Elementary
- Division II: Grades 7 through 8
 - o No entries
- Division III: Grades 9 through 12
 - o First Place – Eli Huttenstine, 10th Grade, Oakland Academy
 - o Second Place – Braxton Schnelle, 10th Grade, Oakland Academy
 - o Third Place – Asher Fuller, 11th Grade, Oakland Academy

Essay: No entries

• **Tippecanoe School Corporation:**

Poetry:

- Division I: Grades 4 through 6
 - o First Place – Chloe Kent, 4th/5th Grades, Wyandotte
 - o Second Place – Lexi Wysong, 4th/5th Grades, Wyandotte
 - o Third Place – Nolan Tribbett, 5th Grade, Mayflower Mill
- Division II: Grades 7 through 8
 - o No entries
- Division III: Grades 9 through 12
 - o First Place – Sarah Lyons, 11th Grade, McCutcheon HS
 - o Second Place – Evelyn Love, 10th Grade, McCutcheon HS
 - o Third Place – Carter Riley, 10th Grade, McCutcheon HS

Essay:

- Division I: Grades 6 through 8



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- No entries
- Division II: Grades 9 through 12
 - First Place – Isaac Morrison, 10th Grade, McCutcheon HS
 - Second Place – Reagan Plante, 10th Grade, McCutcheon HS
 - Third Place – Luke Anderson, 10th Grade, McCutcheon HS

The winners are invited to share their award-winning pieces at a special Open Mic Night at Duncan Hall on Saturday, June 14, as part of the city's bicentennial celebration events. The event begins at 7:00 PM, is \$5.00 for admission, and open to the public.

“We are thrilled to see our young writers engage so thoughtfully with the past and future of the City of Lafayette during our bicentennial,” said Mayor Tony Roswarski. “Their voices are a meaningful part of this historic celebration.”

For more information about upcoming bicentennial events, please visit Lafayette200.com.

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