

SCHOOL NEWS

PAL honors winners of poetry contest

Each year, PAL After-School Program participants, representing different cultural backgrounds, age groups and New York City neighborhoods, come together to express themselves through poetry.

Placing an emphasis on creativity and the imagination, the annual Poetry Jam acknowledges the talent of children from PAL centers citywide. The win-

ter-School Program's annual Poetry Writing Contest.

Their work will be included in an anthology showcasing other winners throughout the city. This year's theme was Identity.

The young poets used language, along with poetry-writing and public-speaking techniques developed through collaboration with Leigh Mills, Libby Mislán and Allan Bounville of the Community Word Project, to produce a look into their identity.

Talise's poem was titled

ning poems were compiled in an anthology, featuring the original poetry and artwork of students across the five boroughs, including Queens resident, Talise.

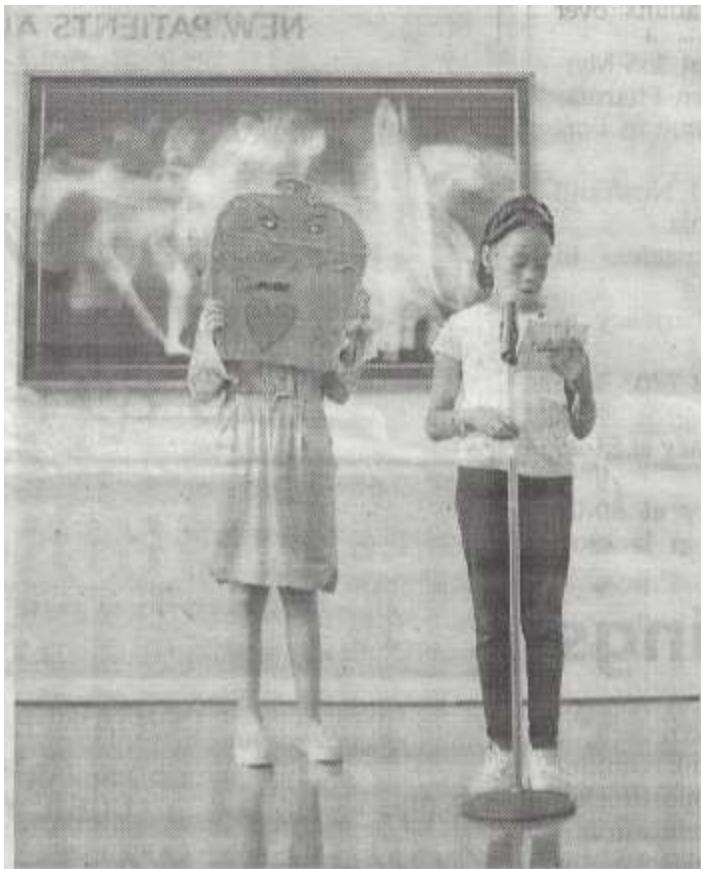
Queens resident Talise, a seventh grader from PAL Pathways Prep, and Brooklyn resident Laylah, a third grader from PAL Breukelen Cornerstone, were among the winners in the Police Athletic League's Arts Af-

"Fourth of July."

"I wanted to express the importance of the time I get to spend with family," she said. "No matter what is happening in our lives, we all come together and my cousins and I play around."

Laylah's poem "Cupcake" centers around a discarded treat.

"My grandma made cupcakes with lemon frosting, but my favorite kind is chocolate," she said. "After I threw the lemon cupcake away, I had a nightmare."



*Once I had a cupcake with lemon frosting.
I threw it in the garbage then it came to haunt me in
my dreams.
When I went to the living room to watch tv, I saw the
cupcake army.
When my aunt came the cupcake was gone.
I told my aunt and she said "I was using my imagina-
tion."
When she left I took a nap, I saw a cupcake
when I woke up my mom came and I told her what
happened.
She said eat a candy bar.
I did.
My cupcake fear was gone then I had a candy bar every
day at school.*

**- LAYLAH, 3RD GRADE
PAL BREUKELLEN CORNERSTONE**

*Dark blue skies
Stars in children's eyes.
It's a fun day for all that's alive.
America's gift for those loved and lost.
Only once a year but that's okay.
For it takes place over summer break.
A day for all to celebrate.
The special time for America's greatest day.
Food and fireworks and children play.
I'm talking about the 4th of July.
Yay!*

**- TALISE, 7TH GRADE
PAL PATHWAYS PREP**

