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Keep Sarasota County Beautiful awards grants to local schools

Keep Sarasota County Beautiful (KSCB) will award three local elementary schools a total of \$5000 in education grants during the Sarasota County School Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, Sarasota County School Administration Center, 1980 Landings Blvd., Sarasota.

The funding, part of the \$50,000 education grant commitment from Waste Management of Southwest Florida, will support programs that focus on anti-littering, sustainability and taking pride in your community. The grant proposals were judged by four representatives of Keep Sarasota County Beautiful and four representatives of the school district with awards going to the following schools:

- First place: Bay Haven Elementary School (Sarasota) - \$2,500
- Second place: Phillippi Shores Elementary School (Sarasota) - \$1,500
- Third place: Atwater Elementary School (North Port) - \$1,000

Points were awarded for proposals that promote the KSCB mission; involve students, parents and teachers; list activities that are feasible and likely to succeed; will work as a pilot program for other schools; and generate positive publicity.

In addition to the grant awards, KSCB will announce that Atwater Elementary School, Bay Haven Elementary School, Cranberry Elementary School, Fruitville Elementary School and Phillippi Shores Elementary School are the winners of its Talking Trash Dude art contest. Nearly 100 students from schools throughout Sarasota County submitted drawings of the Trash Dude talking waste container and a sentence about why they thought their school would make a great home for the Trash Dude.

"It is exciting to see how involved students are about promoting a cleaner environment, especially at the elementary school grade level," said Sandra Washington, manager of Keep Sarasota County Beautiful.

Keep Sarasota County Beautiful and Sarasota County Schools partnered in these two projects to help heighten awareness about litter disposal and to create ways of implementing projects at individual schools.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Keep Sarasota County Beautiful.

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