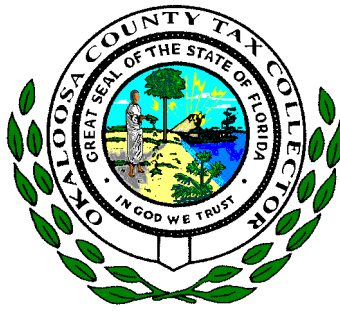


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Building 210, Suite 179
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701 E. John Sims Parkway
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120 Simpson Ave.
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PRESS RELEASE

KIDS TAG ART PROGRAM DELIVERS \$10,400.00 TO 13 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

April 22, 2019

Press Release 19-00

Contact: Shari Bruns (media inquiries only) 850-651-7669 SBruns@OkaloosaTax.com

Shalimar, FL – About two dozen Okaloosa County elementary students and their families waited with excitement to hear their names announced in front of the packed School Board room. The recognition came from Okaloosa County Tax Collector Ben Anderson as he presented the Kids Tag Art Award of Distinction winners, two each from thirteen participating schools. Principals of the participating schools were also all smiles when they heard that each of their schools would be receiving an additional \$800.00 from Kids Tag Art program sponsors.

The Kids Tag Art program is a partnership with the Tax Collector’s Office and the School District. The program has contributed \$64,367.00 to participating schools since 2013. As an art project, this program gives students a chance to create their own specialty license plate. As a fundraiser, those created plates can be purchased by parents and the public where the proceeds from school sales stay in that school.

Combining in-school sales and local sponsorships, the Kids Tag Art program earned \$17,624.00 this year. Tax Collector Ben Anderson says, “This is non-tax generated revenue and comes at a time when money for art curriculum is hard to find.” He continues, “In the coming weeks we will be delivering \$800.00 checks to each participating school. This is possible because of the generous support of our sponsors: The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, AFLAC with Leo Tisa and Corporate Benefits, Inc.”

Award of Distinction winners are:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <u>Bluewater Elementary:</u> Alexandra Wirsing Olivia Jernigan | <u>Destin Elementary:</u> Stella Scoma | <u>Edge Elementary:</u> Annabella Duque Sophia Sikora |
| <u>Elliott Point:</u> Kallie Sage Victoria Higginson | <u>Florosa Elementary:</u> Kyliegh Cooley Janelle Johnson | <u>Lewis Middle:</u> Emily Mills Jordyn Friley |
| <u>Liza Jackson Preparatory:</u> Katie Eubanks Anna Abernathy | <u>Northwood Elementary:</u> Priscilla Antunez Khamauri Hardy | <u>Plew Elementary:</u> Caitlin Scroggs Sadie Carter |
| <u>Riverside Elementary:</u> Emily Gailey Alayna Ruth | <u>Shalimar Elementary:</u> Wendy Martinez Emily LaPoint | <u>Walker Elementary:</u> Izel Fitzpatrick Angelisa Sierra |
| Tax Collector’s Choice: Zachary Gideons – Plew Elementary | | |
| Sheriff’s Choice: Destini Howard – Northwood Elementary | | |

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