



401 W. Willow Street • Long Beach, CA 90806 • (562) 427-8665

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For more information contact:  
Keri Gee Barnett (714) 724-2221 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Long Beach and San Pedro Youth Win 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Poetry Contest *They Invent Poems about Italian Inventors and Inventions***

July 2006 (**LONG BEACH, Calif.**) — Hundreds of third through fifth graders at nine Long Beach and six San Pedro elementary schools took on an extra year-end school assignment from a local business, to research and write creative poems about Italian inventors and inventions. The educational opportunity was all part of the Buono's Authentic Pizzeria 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Contest, themed "Inventare Italia!" From researching and writing about Italian inventions like the electric battery, the Jacuzzi, and even the first Mathematics book and cursive handwriting, to poetically celebrating the lives of numerous inventors like Leonardo Da Vinci, the students submitted many creative poems that were read by judges who chose the overall winners and the top five entries from each school.

Overall winners included Poets' Choice Award recipient Sydney Beres, a 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Mrs. Bard's class at White Point Elementary for her poem called "The Aroma of Italy." The 2<sup>nd</sup> place Poet's Choice and Kids' Choice Awards winner was Quincee White, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in Ms. Gross' class at 7<sup>th</sup> Street School. The Kids' Choice award went to Krystal Denise Ball, a 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Mrs. Amaya's class at Jackie Robinson Academy for her poem about Christopher Columbus. Students were congratulated in person by Buono's general manager/owner Frank Buono who handed out award certificates and Buono's gift certificate during on campus assemblies and classroom visits. Winners of the Poets' and Kids' Choice Awards also earned a trophy and they, along with the first place winner at each school, were honorees at pizza parties held in each of their classrooms. Artwork from 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Giselle Gonzalez of Leland Street School was chosen to adorn the front cover. The back cover included artwork from 4th graders Alisa Chaidez and Sarah De Los Reyes of Cesar Chavez Elementary School.

California State University, Long Beach Department of English professors Dr. Gerald Locklin and Rafael Zepada and a panel of youth members of the San Pedro Boys & Girls Club TEENS supreme served as the judges for the two "overall best" categories – Poet's and Kids' Choice awards. Dr. Locklin says, "The winners showed me the greatest originality as well as the basic principles of all good writing: clarity, grace, and correctness. They and all the young poets deserve great credit."

—more—

Buono's 2006 Poetry Contest Winners  
2-2-2

According to Carolyn Johnson, parent of a former participating student, "The recognition Buono's gives children is so empowering and critically important, from the complimentary poetry booklet they create for the kids to having the owner of Buono's come to participating schools to congratulate each child in person. It would be nice to see all local businesses show this kind of connection with our schools."

"To celebrate children and recognize them for being inventors of their own creativity is the most rewarding part of our annual tradition," says Buono. Plans are already underway for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual contest to kick-off in early February 2007.

The poem earning the Poets' Choice award written by Sydney Beres, of White Point Elementary School, reads:

The Aroma of Italy (in Germany)

Paul Feminis was searching for relief for his nose;  
because the aroma of sauerkraut was too much to expose.  
To an Italian in Germany who was searching for a scent to please,  
one that would attract – like honey and bees.  
So he found some ingredients to mix in a pot,  
like lemons, lavender, and Italian Bergamot.  
He said, "I've got an exquisite formula here – it is called Cologne.  
If you don't wear it, you'll be all alone!"

The poem earning the Kids' Choice award written by Krystal Denise Ball, of Jackie Robinson Academy, reads:

Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus is Italian they say,  
but many other people said, "Hey no way."

He knew the world was round,  
but the others said, "The world was flat right off the ground."

Christopher was very curious,  
but he was also very serious.  
He was bound to be mysterious,  
he's also bound to be furious.

Queen Isabella gave him her gold jewels and crown.  
He bought food around the town.  
With the gold jewels and crown he got sailors and ships,  
so with all that he got he was ready and prepared to go on his trip.

Soon they saw shallow water,  
and that meant there was land.  
Now his trip is done,  
Christopher found us and then he won.

–more–

Buono's 2006 Poetry Contest Winners  
3-3-3

Long Beach student winners include (in order of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place):

**Birney** - Kenton McDonald, Chris Valiente, Alexis Bustos, Briana Owens, Alia Persad;  
**Burnett** - Ru'Shell Lathom, Lorea Lach, Jenny Phoun, Michael Mc-Gill Davis, Jesus Benitez;  
**Cesar Chavez** - Alisa Chaidez, Trevoughn Harris, Sarah De Los Reyes, Geneva Alewine, Lizet Berumen;  
**Garfield** - Lianne Chan, Raslyn Preston, Jay-Alyssa Reguindin, Justin Lim, Wyleen Olaes;  
**Holy Innocents** - Janalee Tabayoyong, Alfred Lucero, Therese Liwanag, Mellanie Villanueva, Brianna Regan;  
**Jackie Robinson** Krystal Denise Ball, Alyssa Ignacio, Dora Ochoa, Daniel Casal, Daniel Ramirez;  
**Lafayette** - Florentino Millan, Rogelio Mujica, Kyara Daniels, Ariana Alvarez, Shamarie Neal;  
**St. Lucy** - Johanna Dungca, Kyler Victorio, Jose Marcel Santos, Elizabeth Soteras, Andrew Fahit;  
**Los Cerritos** participants (no specific order) Julia Chhay, Germaine Deason, Justin Robertson, Daniel Perez, Skylar Mitchell.

San Pedro student winners include (in order of 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place):

**Cabrillo** - Brenda Alvarado, Samantha Zosaya, Eunice Rangel, Jeremy Flores, Mia Acosta;  
**Leland** - Magdalena Sebez, Elizabeth Orduno, Maritza Villa, Giselle Gonzalez, ShanieceThomas;  
**Mary Star of the Sea** - Riley Seidman, Michael Flanagan, Sofia Smith Canetti, Kylie Bijelic, Steve Uthoff, Jr.;  
**7<sup>th</sup> Street** - Quincee White, Nathan Palma, Tess McElroy, Alison Parrott, Julia Skunca;  
**South Shores Magnet** - Ka'lani Galinato, Madeline Calixte, Isabella Bacoka, Joey Reynolds, Chucky Bennett;  
**White Point** - Sydney Beres, Julia Sampson, Frankie Ummel, Aaron Galea, Nicole Mardesich.

Buono's Authentic Pizzeria, a southern California tradition since 1973 and heralded by the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce as the "2005 Restaurant of the Year," has restaurants in Long Beach and San Pedro. For more information about the annual school poetry contest contact Frank Buono at (562) 427-8665 or go to [www.BuonosPizza.com](http://www.BuonosPizza.com).

# # #