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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Buono's Authentic Pizzeria Inspires Youth to Take a Slice at Poetry
Winners of 6th Annual Poetry Contest Announced**

October 2004 (**LONG BEACH, Calif.**)— Buono's Authentic Pizzeria has just completed the last of its visits to thirteen elementary schools to recognize the winners and give out prizes and poetry books as part the restaurant's 6th annual poetry contest. The event whets the creative appetites of children throughout Long Beach and San Pedro. This year, the fun educational opportunity attracted entries from hundreds of third through fifth grade students. From honoring Italian greats like baseball's Joe DiMaggio and artist Leonardo da Vinci to paying tribute to Italian monuments and cities, and of course to pizza and pasta, the students were challenged and inspired to learn about the Italian culture and region, its people, and the art of pizza making and poetry.

"This contest is a wonderful tradition within the educational system because it gives my students the opportunity to use their poetry skills and knowledge of history that they learned in class," shared a grateful Anthony Martinez, 3rd grade teacher at Garfield Elementary School. "Buono's Authentic Pizzeria truly provided us an authentic learning experience and confirmed a motto I have -- It's your responsibility to use the gifts you have to serve other people."

According to Martinez, the students also learned about social responsibility when Frank Buono, the general manager of the family-owned authentic Italian restaurant, took the time to congratulate the students in person and hand deliver the cash prizes and books. As a matter of fact, Buono goes to every single participating school each year to announce the winners in classrooms and at assemblies.

"We are committed to help make where we work and live better," says Buono. "The kids and the teachers get so excited about this—we could not ask for anything more rewarding than that."

According to Buono, plans are already underway for the 7th annual contest to kick-off in early February 2005.

Buono's Poetry Contest Winners
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Each participating school submitted up to ten poems to be considered. From those finalists, five winners were chosen from each school and the others received honorable mention. All winners received a \$50 gift certificate to Buono's Authentic Pizzeria. The top three winners also received a cash prize and their poems are featured in a book of poetry produced by Buono's, *Pages of Paeans*. This year's book also included a list of common Italian words and their translations, as well as a bit of history about the Buono family's Italian origin and traditions.

Buono's donates a supply of the books to each participating school and they are also available at all Buono's restaurants for \$1 donation. The proceeds from the Long Beach locations (Willow St. and Ocean) will be donated to the Fairfield Family YMCA. The San Pedro sales (Gaffey) will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club.

One of the 1st place poems was written by Emily Henderson, now a 5th grader at Los Cerritos Elementary in Long beach. The poem is entitled "Italy, Oh Italy":

Italy, oh Italy, I love to hear that sound.
It's a beautiful place all the way around.
Origin of the painting Mona Lisa,
and even the Leaning Tower of Pisa.
The little boats called gondolas and singing a tune,
they cruise the canals from morning until noon.
The food that they eat is my favorite, I have to say.
Spaghetti and meatballs, yum, here comes some more my way.

The poetry winners from each school are as follows in order of first through third place:

The winners from Long Beach schools are: **Alice M. Birney Elementary**: Bajian Booker, Jessica Morales, Audrey Truong; **Burnett Elementary School**: Corey Mascorro, Richard Turner, Stephanie Hidalgo; **Garfield Elementary**: Lianne Chan, Daniel Henriquez, Charelle Brumfield; **Horace Mann Elementary**: Tiara Crawford, Fernando Guzman; **Longfellow Elementary School**: Niccolo Paganini, Bill Castro, Cyrus Kay; **Los Cerritos Elementary**: Emily Henderson, Joshua Hornilla, Kevin Dybens; **St. Lucy School**: Josemarie Santos, Annalea Ignacio, Oliver Guevarra.

Buono's Poetry Contest Winners
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From the San Pedro schools, the winners are: **Fifteenth Street School**: Flicia Mendez, Fresia Blaz, Elizabeth Ruiz; **Leland Street School**: Selena Jiang, Jonathon Burne, Gabriel Familathe; **Mary Star of the Sea**: Johanna Cabanban, Jessalie Buntan, Anna Raquid; **Seventh Street School**: Julia Skunca, Amanda Hernandez, Clarissa Donnelly; **South Shores Magnet School**: Mario Bugarin, Kamal Kajouke, Mark Flowers; **White Point Elementary**: Jillian Smith, Allie Swanberg, Nikaihla Olive-Ashby.

Buono's Authentic Pizzeria, a southern California tradition since 1973, has restaurants in Long Beach and San Pedro. The newest one opened up earlier this year on Ocean in Long Beach. The family-owned business is committed to building a better community one slice at a time. For more information contact Frank Buono at (562) 427-8665.

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