

BB Russell School Student Wins Holiday Parade Art Contest

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B.B. RUSSELL SCHOOL STUDENT WINS HOLIDAY PARADE COVER CONTEST

Juan Feliciano has always loved to draw: give him a topic, and he can come up with a mental sketch in seconds. So when his art teacher told Juan and his classmates about a contest to design the cover for the 25th Annual Greater Brockton Holiday Parade Book, Juan had a concept in his head before he had a pencil in his hand.

“Ever since I was little, I would just draw,” said the 16-year-old BB Russell Alternative School student. “I like art, I like that I can express myself through drawing.”



Juan's pencil and ink sketch of wrapped presents under an outdoor Christmas tree graces the cover of the holiday parade book this year, the parade's 25th anniversary. More than 300 student artists from across the region submitted entries to a contest sponsored by the Holiday Parade Committee.

“Juan's drawing stood out immediately, and the selection of this piece was overwhelming among the committee,” said Parade Organizer John Merian. “He's a very talented young man.”

Beth Delaney, Juan's art teacher, said she was as excited as he was when the word came that Juan's drawing had been selected.

“It was an impressive accomplishment for Juan to be chosen to represent the students of Brockton, and specifically the alternative high school program. I believe this opportunity to display his mastery and competence will showcase the artistry of our students,” Delaney said. “Juan has



exhibited a natural talent in the visual arts and I am confident that this achievement will help to encourage him to continue in his pursuit towards a successful future.”

At the city’s downtown Santa Hat Challenge on November 20th, parade organizers presented Juan with a framed copy of his work and a Visa check card for \$100. On Saturday, November 26th, thousands of parade watchers will have an opportunity to see Juan’s artwork and kick off the holiday season in style.

“I’m so excited, I can’t wait for the parade,” Juan said.



The parade officially kicks off the holiday of the season in Brockton. Beginning at 9 a.m. that morning, there are crafts and activities for the whole family. Check out the fun at the Brockton Public Library; stroll Main Street and learn facts about Brockton’s own James Edgar, the first department store Santa; shop at City Hall’s Holiday Bazaar beginning at 11 a.m.; and take part in a holiday-themed scavenger hunt in downtown Brockton .

At 1 p.m. the parade steps off at Belmont and Main Streets and winds it’s through the streets of downtown Brockton. Thousands of revelers turn out to enjoy elaborate floats, troupes of talented dancers and martial arts performers, and the acclaimed Brockton High School Band. Following the parade, they gather in City Hall Plaza for a holiday sing-along and see Mayor Linda M. Balzotti throw the switch on the city’s Holiday Tree, which is decorated with ornaments made by Brockton Public Schools students.

For more information, please visit www.1stDepartmentStoreSanta.com