



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Strawberries get the artistic treatment in the Santa Maria 2016 Strawberry Art Contest

SANTA MARIA – What Santa Maria Valley resident doesn't dream of strawberries during springtime? With the scent of strawberries in the air as inspiration, students from all over Santa Barbara County submitted their artistic designs for inclusion in the Strawberry Art Contest, and this week judges named the winners.

Students were asked to re-imagine a single, or multiple strawberries, in a creative fashion. First place winners in each grade category received a \$25 gift card and a Family Fun Pack for 4 to the 2016 Santa Maria Strawberry Festival. The 1st place winner's classroom also received a \$150 gift card for classroom supplies.

Santa Maria Fairpark CEO Richard Persons said the contest brought in an impressive amount of responses, all with very unique interpretations of the theme.

"It's always fun to watch the entries come in and see all of the talent that exists in the Santa Maria Valley," Persons said. "It's never easy to choose the winners."

Ultimately, winners were indeed chosen, but all of the entries will be on display during the Strawberry Festival for the community to admire.

This year the winning entries included:

1st – 3rd Grade

- 1st Place – Victor Ramirez – Adam School
- 2nd Place - Caleb Arguijo – Jimenez School (pictured)
- 3rd Place – Kaleb Nogales – Rice Elementary School

4th – 6th Grade

- 1st Place - Yanire Martinez-Perez – Sanchez School
- 2nd Place – Maluari Alonso Martinez – Sanchez School
- 3rd Place – Aliyah Egbert – Trivium Charter School

7th – 8th Grade

- 1st Place – Yeymy Ruiz – Arellanes Jr. High
- 2nd Place – Ruby Cruz – Arellanes Jr. High
- 3rd Place – Jessica Vital – Arellance Jr. High

All entries will be on display in the Strawberry Pavilion during the Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival. This year the 29th Annual Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival will feature the theme “A Sweet Adventure,” and takes place April 29 through May 1.

For additional information, visit www.santamariafairpark.com or Like us on Facebook.

About the Santa Maria Fairpark

The Santa Maria Fairpark serves as the hub for major events and community activities on California’s Central Coast. The state-owned facility hosts the annual Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival, which attracts more than 60,000 people, and is home to its headlining event, the Santa Barbara County Fair, which is attended by more than 140,000 people each year.