

WPB NEWS

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor Lois J. Frankel

School Winners Announced at Kaleidoscope 2008 **Local Schools Earn Big Rewards at this Award-Winning Event**

(January 27, 2008 – West Palm Beach, FL – When school children and teachers partner up with local cultural organizations, the combination can be particularly rewarding at Kaleidoscope. This award-winning event offered various incentives to the participating schools, cultural groups and teachers in the form of cash prizes, gift certificates, goodie bags, and much more. Kaleidoscope 2008 was held on January 27, 2008 in Downtown West Palm Beach, with the biggest prize offered to all participants – fun and an unforgettable experience!

This year, Kaleidoscope awarded a total of **\$2700** in prize money to the event winners. Students from participating Palm Beach County schools worked for months with local cultural groups to learn about a specific culture and create an authentic representation of that culture in the form of an Epcot-style “village” they built onsite at the event. There were several categories in which schools and cultural groups competed for prize money: The City of West Palm Beach would like to announce the winners of this year’s Kaleidoscope event as follows:

Best Overall Village – JAMAICA

Created by: **Roosevelt Middle School and Jamaicans of the Palm Beaches**

Award: \$500 to the winning school / \$300 to the cultural organization

Best Educational Environment – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Created by: **Lake Worth Middle School and South Grade Beacon**

Award: \$250 to the winning school / \$175 to the cultural organization

Most Creative/Authentic Representation of Culture – ITALY

Created by: **Okeehelie Middle School with Palm Beach County All Things Italian Club and Il Circolo, The Italian Cultural Society of the Palm Beaches**

Award: \$250 to the winning school / \$175 to the cultural organization

Best First-Time Participant – GUATEMALA MAYA

Created by: **Conniston Middle School and Westgate Elementary Beacon Center with the Guatemala Maya Center**

Award: \$250 to the winning school / \$175 to the cultural organization

Best Use of Go Green Theme – GERMANY

Created by: **Palm Beach Gardens Elementary School with the American German Club**

Award: \$250 to the winning school / \$175 to the cultural organization

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Judges Choice Award – SPAIN

Created by: **Palm Beach Maritime Academy with the Palm Beach Maritime Museum**

Award: \$100 to the winning school / \$100 to the cultural organization

Judging occurred throughout the day on a schedule and each school and cultural organization had a ten minute opportunity to showcase their village. Judges scored the villages on a number of predetermined criteria in each category and announced the winners on the East Library Grounds Stage at the end of the event. Schools could not win more than one category and the school with the highest score received the Best Overall Village Award.

Other prizes awarded at Kaleidoscope included gift certificates to the individual teachers and cultural group representatives from the winning villages. The teacher and cultural group representative from the “Best Overall Village” each received two free SouthWest airline tickets as the grand prize. While participating teachers receive goodie bags with donated items from a variety of stores, event locations and sponsors, they were also offered an extra incentive for their professional development. The City and School District worked out a plan that offered participating teachers “in-service credit points” towards their mandatory annual accreditation.

But the best reward Kaleidoscope offered was not in the form of cash at all, but in the memorable educational experience provided to the school children and the community. Kaleidoscope offered students a unique out-of-the-box learning experience in an environment different from their day to day classroom lessons through hands-on and creative activities. It also taught students about diversity and embracing other cultures while studying and honoring the many different cultures in our own community.

Kaleidoscope 2008 is a family-friendly celebration of many cultures produced by the City of West Palm Beach in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County. Kaleidoscope has been judged the “Best Educational Event” and “Best Community Outreach Event” by the International Festivals & Events Association. This year’s event was held on Sunday, January 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Centennial Square and on the East Library Grounds in Downtown West Palm Beach. Features included 17 villages from around the world, two stages of multicultural entertainment with Tito Puente Jr., an interactive kid’s area with tons of eco-friendly fun, ethnic foods and refreshments and an international shopping bazaar. Participating sponsors include National City, Palm Beach County, The Palm Beach Post, La Palma, 97.9 fm WRMF, Comcast, the West Palm Beach Marriott, Southwest Airlines, the Children’s Services Council, Coca-Cola, and Columbia Restaurant. The event is free and open to the public. For more info, call (561) 822-1515 or visit www.wpb.org.

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Media contact:

Amaryvis “Ryvis” Sierra

Marketing Coordinator

Phone: 561-822-1522 / Cell: 561-644-7639

E-mail: asierra@wpb.org