

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal ISD students excel in statewide geography contest**

It wasn't too difficult for Smithson Valley Middle sixth grader Analisa Dapilmoto to select a topic for her geography contest poster.

"I've actually been to the Coliseum in Rome, and I saw the Eiffel Tower on a trip to France," Dapilmoto said. "I think those experiences helped me visualize what the poster should look like."

Indeed they did, as the well-traveled student's entry was recently selected as the best in the state in the Geography Awareness Week poster contest, hosted by the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education. She beat out thousands of other entries in the 6-8 grades division.

"I was shocked," Dapilmoto said. "I couldn't believe it. I had never won anything before, so I was pretty happy."

This year's theme was, "Europe Beyond Borders: Exploring the Physical and Cultural Landscape."

The top four winning posters in each grade category (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) were selected by a panel of judges and the four first place winners were recognized during an award ceremony at the state capitol building in Austin on Nov. 18.

In addition to the Coliseum and Eiffel Tower, Dapilmoto's poster featured the Sagrada Família church in Spain.

"My goal was to represent a diverse mix of Europe's culture," Dapilmoto said. "My other goal was to get a 100 when it was graded in class, which I did, so that was something else to be excited about."

Dapilmoto's entry wasn't the only Comal ISD poster to earn accolades in the contest, as Canyon High freshman Landa Dowdy took home second place

honors in the 9-12 grades division. It's the 22<sup>nd</sup> straight year CHS world geography teacher Linda Hammon has had students enter the contest.

"I feel that it is an important process because I want students to become global thinkers," Hammon said. "Having a contest that asks them to design around the different themes each year will help them expand their horizons."

SVMS world culture teacher Margaret Hamilton agreed.

"I think doing well in a contest like this really helps build the confidence of a student," Hamilton said. "It gives them a chance to have their work viewed on a much bigger scale than just the classroom."

Winning entries will be on display throughout the year at different educational functions in Texas.

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IN PHOTOS: Smithson Valley Middle sixth grader Analisa Dapilmoto poses with Dr. Richard Boehm, SVHS teacher Margaret Hamilton and her winning entry in the Geography Awareness Week poster contest, hosted by the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education. She beat out thousands of other entries statewide in the grades 6-8 division.

Canyon High freshman Landa Dowdy (center) is surrounded by classmates (l-r) Camille Jackson, Tess Scott, Ray Sherman and Victoria Foster. Dowdy is holding her entry, which earned second place honors in the 9-12 grades division of the statewide Geography Awareness Week poster contest.