



PBCBHC

— Palm Beach County
Behavioral Health Coalition

Building A Healthier Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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16th Annual School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest Winners

BOYNTON BEACH, FL (April 14, 2026) — Creativity and prevention took center stage as Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition notified the winners of its 16th Annual School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest, featuring submissions from K–12 students across Palm Beach County. The Coalition received an overwhelming response of more than 800 entries from students across the county, making the selection process especially competitive. A panel of judges spent hours reviewing the submissions to identify this year’s winners. This year, even more students were recognized than in previous years due to the addition of Digital Art categories and a new sponsored scholarship from Community Care Plan.

This marks the second year digital art entries were accepted, with the stipulation that submissions could not be created with or by artificial intelligence. With “Art of Self Care” as this year’s theme, students were challenged to create positive prevention messages promoting an alcohol-free or vape-free lifestyle that prioritizes self-care. After all, choosing to avoid substances is an important form of self-care.

Poster winners each earned a \$100 gift card and Scholarship Winners were each celebrated with a \$500 and \$1,000 scholarship award.

Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition is pleased to announce the results of its 16th Annual School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest:

Poster Winners			
Winner	Grade	School	Award
Gia Lema	5th	Binks Forest Elementary School	Visual Art-Elementary School
Corinne Courtright	4th	Wellington Elementary School	Digital Art-Elementary School
Atchellie Drayton	8th	Carver Middle School	Visual Art-Middle School
Brantley Soper	6th	Crestwood Middle School	Digital Art-Middle School
Katarina Balla	12th	William T. Dwyer High School	Visual Art-High School
Jaquez Cato	12th	SouthTech Academy	Digital Art-High School
Samantha Figueroa	2nd	Binks Forest Elementary School	Community Choice Winner Elementary School
Kate Laird	8th	Western Pines Middle School	Community Choice Winner Middle School
Luigina Malak Iaia	11th	Spanish River Community High School	Community Choice Winner High School

Scholarship Winners			
Winner	Grade	School	Award
Jenny Salic	12th	John I Leonard High School	Hanley Foundation Scholarship
Austin Bucolo	12th	Royal Palm Beach High School	Community Care Plan Scholarship

In addition to receiving cash scholarships, winning students from the elementary, middle, and high school divisions will have their artwork displayed on Palm Beach County school buses. Their designs will be seen by tens of thousands of students each day, transforming daily commutes into a powerful platform for promoting healthy, substance-free lifestyles.

Congratulations to the three winners of our Video/Reel contest. First place took \$500, second place \$250 and third place \$150.

Video Winners			
Winner	Grade	School	Award
Zachary Preddy	9th	Seminole Ridge High School	1st
Alan Lewis	9th	Seminole Ridge High School	2nd
Chloe Smith	9th	Seminole Ridge High School	3rd

In addition to the scholarship prizes, every student entry earned two community service hours for posters and five for video submissions. If you would like to take a look at the winning posters and videos, they will all be featured on our Media Contest website soon at PBCBusPoster.org.

Our 16th Annual School Bus Drug Prevention Media Contest would not have been possible without our generous sponsors. Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to:

- Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
- Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
- Hanley Foundation
- Coral Shores Behavioral Health
- Michael Joseph Brink Foundation
- Community Care Plan
- CEMEX
- No More Starving Artists Foundation
- The Rotary Club of Wellington

We are also grateful to our contest partners, whose unwavering support has made our 16th Annual Contest a resounding success:

- Palm Beach County School District
- Village of Wellington
- Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization
- WPEC CBS 12
- Cultural Arts Performance Education
- Students Against Destructive Decisions
- The South Florida Fair
- Mission Possible Foundation
- Charles Edward Soto

About Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition

Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition empowers youth, families, and community partners with education, resources, and prevention programs that support healthy choices. By uniting parents, schools, and local leaders, we work to reduce substance misuse and build safer, stronger, and more resilient communities across Palm Beach County. Since 1982, our Coalition has played a vital role in advancing efforts to keep our communities healthy, safe, and drug-free, and we remain committed to empowering youth, parents, and neighborhoods through education, advocacy, and support. We invite you to take an active role in shaping the future of Palm Beach County by joining one of our task forces, attending our events, or sponsoring our initiatives. Your involvement helps protect families, empower youth, and create lasting change. Together, we can build a healthier future. To learn more, get involved, or access resources, visit www.pbcbhc.org

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