



Fredrick A. Wentworth,  
Superintendent

# NEWS RELEASE

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010-014: Reaching for the Stars Essay Winners

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## **REACHING FOR THE STARS ANNOUNCES POETRY AND ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**

The Reaching for the Stars Foundation is proud to announce the winners of the Astronaut and space exploration Poetry & Essay Contest: first-place is Erika Jane B. Albinto, Middle College High School of Lodi Unified; second-place is Raelin Tamargo, Rio Calaveras Elementary of Stockton Unified; and third-place goes to Peacha Sokk, Colony Oak Elementary of Ripon Unified.

The three poetry and essay winners were selected from more than 200 submissions from throughout the county. A panel of judges from the Reaching for the Stars Committee chose the winning entries. The winners will read their essay and have dinner with Astronaut Hernandez at the Reaching for the Stars Hometown Welcome Ceremony. Additionally, they will receive four Sacramento Monarch and Stockton Thunder tickets, a behind the scene tour of Arco Arena, and a basketball signed by all Monarch players.

For more details about the poetry & essay contest please visit [www.astrojh.com](http://www.astrojh.com).

Each winning piece can be read at the following site: [www.sjcoe.org/newsDetails.aspx?ID=1706](http://www.sjcoe.org/newsDetails.aspx?ID=1706).

### SJCOE ###







I try and try,  
so hard to breathe,  
But the sand keeps getting,  
inside of me.

I am out of breath,  
I'm about to pass out.  
Then, I open my eyes,  
and I look about.

I am back in my room,  
I can breathe perfectly.  
I look out the window,  
stars still shining brightly.

As I walk out of the room,  
I look everywhere.  
I look out my window last,  
and think of the things out there.

Submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
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## “Out There”

By Peacha Sokk

I look out the window,  
and what do I see?  
So many stars,  
all beautiful and free.

The way they twinkle,  
standing out in the night.  
The moon in the back,  
really, really bright.

As I walk out of the ship,  
The Astronomer 2,  
I see something wonderful,  
and my comrades see it, too.

A shooting star we see,  
Coming by so fast.  
It was quite a sight,  
We wanted the moment to last.

Then, we look around us,  
millions of miles from home.  
Even with others here,  
I've never felt so alone.

We see barren land,  
where everything was red.  
We had landed on Mars,  
everything pretty much dead.

All of a sudden,  
we see a sandstorm.  
Sand was flying here and there,  
everything was completely out of form.

We run for the ship,  
as quickly as we can.  
I briefly turn around,  
To see the storm engulf a man.

I run for my life,  
but I was too slow.  
The sandstorm had reached me,  
I was taken over by the foe.