

November 2009

Dear Educator:

In 1960, an eight-year-old Chinese American girl at Matanzas Elementary School entered the **What the Library Means to Me** contest, winning a \$25 US Savings Bond; her essay was published in *The Press Democrat*. That girl was Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club* and other novels.

To encourage emerging artists and writers, we are pleased to co-sponsor the 2010 **Why I Love the Library** essay and art contest in partnership with the Sonoma County Library. The contest is for children from kindergarten through sixth grade. Essays may be written in the home language of the student — all entries are welcome. We will distribute entry and parental consent forms on January 4; the contest deadline is February 15. Contest specifications are as follows:

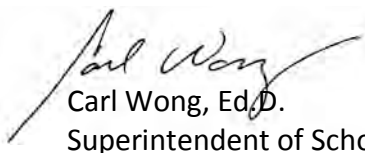
- All entries (art and essays) must be on 8 ½ x 11" paper.
- Maximum essay length is:
  - Kindergarten through second grade: 100 words
  - Third and fourth grade: 200 words
  - Fifth and sixth grade: 300 words

There will be 18 cash prizes, ranging from \$25 to \$100, and passes to the Charles Schulz Museum for the first 2,000 entrants. Panels of judges throughout the county will select the winners based on content, originality and execution. The awards ceremony will be held on April 10, 2010 at the Central Santa Rosa Library.

Please note these dates on your calendar and encourage your students to participate. Having someone at your site coordinate the contest and collect entries will help us greatly. More information is on our website at [www.scoe.org/librarycontest](http://www.scoe.org/librarycontest).

You may direct inquiries to Michael Powell, SCOE Library Manager, at [mpowell@scoe.org](mailto:mpowell@scoe.org) (707-524-2844) or Arlene L. Mandell, contest spokesperson, at [poetessxyz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:poetessxyz@sbcglobal.net).

Sincerely,



Carl Wong, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

