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## JM Middle school's Creative Arts and Writing Contest celebrates its 40th year

*Submitted by Claudia Benner*



JM Vice Principal Brian Sullivan, CAW Chair Claudia Benner, judges Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda, Nancy Comprelli, Wynne Bacon, author Mitali Perkins, and JM principal Joan Danilson.

The Joaquin Moraga PTA-sponsored Creative Arts and Writing Contest, run by parent volunteers, has been encouraging middle schoolers to express their creativity in writing, music and visual arts for the past four decades.

This year, organizers received over 430 entries in 15 different categories. The awards ceremony was held on April 28. Students, parents and teachers packed the auditorium and cheered enthusiastically as the winner's names were called out.

The guests of honor were Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda, Nancy Comprelli and Wynne Bacon. All three have been judges in the contest for over 17 years. The special guest was local author Mitali Perkins, who awarded a copy of her novel "Bamboo People" to the winners of the Short Fiction and Long Prose categories.

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