FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Narrative Writing Competition Winners from Corona Del Mar, Newport Harbor and Costa Mesa High School Recognized

Students from Corona Del Mar High School, Newport Harbor High School, and Costa Mesa High School were recognized as the winners of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District's second annual Narrative Writing Competition. The competition was open to all tenth grade students in the district and had a requirement of at least 1,000 words in length.

The Second Annual Narrative Writing Competition winners include:

- **First Place**: Mitchell Cooper, Corona Del Mar High School
  *The Courier* – A futuristic thriller about a terrorist messenger fighting his way through a dystopian war zone to deliver classified files.

- **Second Place**: Allison Chen, Corona Del Mar High School
  *Marmalade* – A winter forest scene involving a hunter, an elk, and the power of Nature.

- **Third Place**: Jillian Birt-Russell, Newport Harbor High School
  *Sweet Simplicity* – A cupcake considers its fate as it is about to be thrown away at the end of a bakery's business day.

- **Fourth Place**: Kalia Rodich, Corona Del Mar High School
  *Best Friends* – Science fiction about a terrorist plot to plant explosives and weapons inside the new iPhones.

- **Fifth Place**: Nathan Pongsamart, Costa Mesa High School
  *Don’t Fear the Reaper* – After a traumatic loss, a child has a conversation with Death.

“This is a great opportunity to celebrate student achievement and to commend the dedicated work of all the teachers who participate in the curriculum design process,” said John Drake, director of K-12 curriculum and instruction.
The writing competition was conceived by English language arts curriculum design teacher teams, who collaborated to develop a narrative writing assignment as a common assessment for tenth grade students across the district. Dana Kahawai, an English language arts teacher on special assignment, facilitated the coordination of English teachers and scoring team to develop the writing assignment as a competition.

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