

### February 19, 2014 - Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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#### **SHELBURNE STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS IN VFW ESSAY CONTEST**

On Sunday, February 16th, the annual Patriot's Pen Essay Awards took place at VFW Post 2216 in Staunton. Out of 76 entries from seven different schools in the area, two Shelburne Middle School 7th graders placed first and second in the essay contest which asked, "What does Patriotism mean to you?" The essay contest was open to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders.

Molly Zinn won 1<sup>st</sup> place for Post 2216 and 4<sup>th</sup> place in the entire district. After winning she said, "I felt overwhelmingly happy. The essay took a while to write and I tried to put a lot of detail and patriotic references in it." Alie Guillory took home 2<sup>nd</sup> place locally and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the district. She added, "I was really, really happy and surprised to win second place. I am very thankful to our veterans." Molly and Alie were presented with certificates and a monetary award from both the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary.

Both of these young ladies wish to express their gratitude to Commander Mac McCauley, VFW Post 2216, and the Ladies Auxiliary for not only hosting this event, but also for their patriotism and service to America.

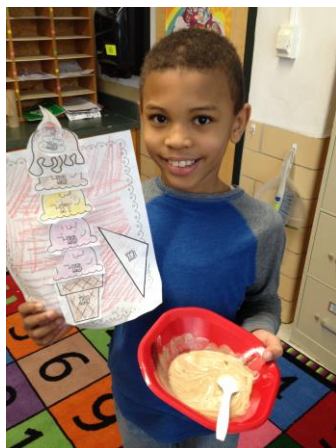


Shelburne 7<sup>th</sup> grade students Alie Guillory and Molly Zinn received awards in the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

## MATH FACTS ARE SWEET AT WARE

Why should students focus on learning math facts? Math fact fluency refers to the ability to recall the basic facts in all four operations accurately, quickly and effortlessly. Math facts are important because they form the building blocks for higher-level math concepts. Being fluent in math facts frees up working memory that can be devoted to learning new concepts and skills.

Third grade is a pivotal time for learning multiplication and division math facts. Third grade teachers, Mrs. Alford, Ms. Erb, Mrs. Leach, and Mrs. Ott crafted a program that encourages their students to become fluent in multiplication and division facts. Throughout the nine weeks, the teachers spend time imparting strategies students can use to improve their quickness in recalling multiplication facts. The students each have a paper ice cream cone and once they learn a family of multiplication facts, they receive a "scoop" of ice cream they can put on their cones. Mastering all multiplication fact families earns them entrance to a real ice cream sundae party. As Jedidiah White's face shows in the picture, the students are very proud of building their ice cream cones and of achieving this mathematical milestone.



Jedidiah White shows off his ice cream cone with pride as it signifies that he has mastered his multiplication facts.