

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Jersey Afterschool Program Wins Statewide Contest

Students from Archway's Just Kids Program create winning poster

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COLLINGSWOOD, NEW JERSEY (May 3, 2018) – Students from the Just Kids Program at Tatem Elementary in Collingswood, created and won the NJSACC's (New Jersey's School Age Care Coalition) first ever annual Celebrate Afterschool Poster Contest! The NJSACC, the Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities, received over one hundred posters from fourteen different afterschool care programs throughout the great state of New Jersey. Poster submissions were due in March and created by youth attending afterschool programs located in New Jersey. Students in the Just Kids Program at Tatem Elementary worked together and made a colorful puzzle piece poster listing out what they love to do in their afterschool program. They will receive a \$50.00 gift card to use towards an event of their choice.

The children in the Just Kids Program at Tatem Elementary have a very special reason for choosing the artwork that they created for the winning poster. Their inspiration came from some of the children in the Just Kids Program who have autism. Each of the kids designed their own puzzle piece and then fit them all together. Much like a puzzle, it can be difficult to make sense of something or put the pieces together when individually each one of us faces unique challenges. It may not always be easy since each person has their own way of fitting in, however it's these differences that make us a unit. The children in the Just Kids Program at Tatem Elementary want to promote autism awareness and they want to do what they can so that others will be more accepting of it too.

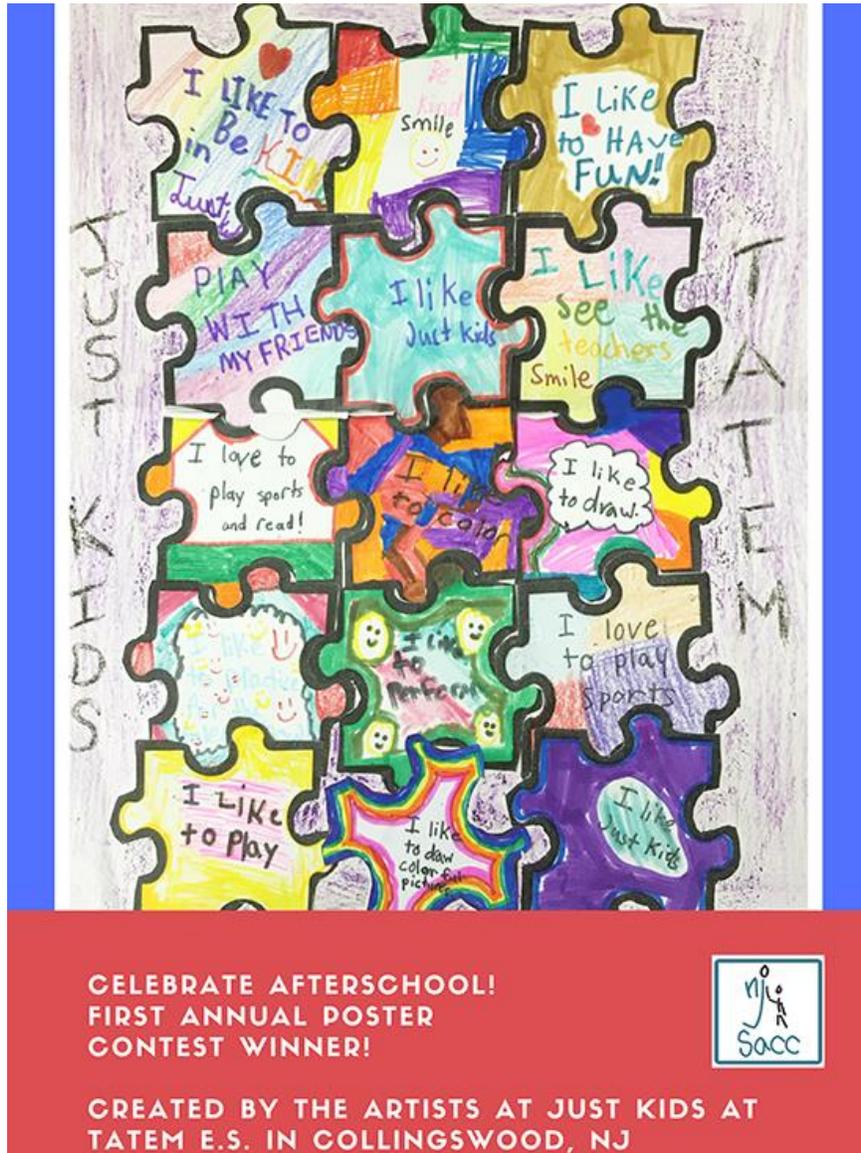
The following artists from the Just Kids Program at Tatem Elementary contributed to the winning poster: Makeena, Clementine, Freya, Abby, Graham, Gabriella, Emilia, Samantha, Maddy, Caroline, Bailey, Clayton, Sophia, Josie, and Benjamin. As you can see in the photo below, it was truly a team effort.



280 Jackson Rd
PO Box 668
Atco, NJ 08004

tel: 856-767-5757
fax: 856-767-8047

www.archwayprograms.org



The posters will be used by the NJSACC to promote their annual Celebrate Afterschool initiative.

“The children loved being able to create artwork that symbolizes how we embrace each other’s differences at Just Kids. They wanted to make puzzle pieces to support their peers, promote autism awareness and show how compassionate and accepting we should be of others, no matter how different they may be. To say that I am proud would be a huge understatement, all of the staff here are,” states Narci Alwan, Just Kids Program Supervisor, Tatem Elementary.



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The children in the Just Kids Program at Tatem Elementary celebrating the exciting news with Just Kids staff members: Narci Alwan, Wanda Allen, Kwamere Ingalls, Stephanie Fitzgerald and Lynne Toone.

Just Kids, an Archway Program (nonprofit), is located right in the school where your child is enrolled providing before and afterschool care in an engaging, comfortable and safe environment. Just Kids balances learning and fun while stimulating social and emotional development through cultivating academic curiosity. The Just Kids Program is available to school-aged children, Pre-K (starting at four years old) up to eighth grade. Families in partnering school districts throughout the state of New Jersey can participate in Just Kids between the hours of 7:00 a.m. until the start of the school day, and from school dismissal time until 6:00 p.m. Just Kids offers several plans that add flexibility to family schedules and provides a cost-effective, loving, safe and secure environment where all children, including those with special needs, can learn and grow outside of the traditional school day. For more information about the Just Kids Program, please visit www.justkidsprogram.org.

For more information on Archway Programs, visit www.archwayprograms.org.

Media Contact:

Jillian Pustizzi

856.325.7369

Jillian.Pustizzi@archwayprograms.org



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About Archway Programs

Since 1965, Archway Programs has been meeting the individualized needs of thousands of families throughout the state of New Jersey. Archway Programs is a diverse, non-profit, human services organization which includes approved private schools for students with disabilities in addition to several model programs providing unmatched services. Built on a solid foundation of core values, providing safety, possessing compassion and promoting individuality, Archway Programs strives to improve the life of every individual served. Our goal is to ensure that each individual's needs are met and customized services are provided and partnered with passionate, committed and talented professionals in a safe environment. Over 440 individuals are currently employed by Archway Programs and this dedicated and talented staff provides services to over 1,800 children and adults requiring individualized care. Please visit www.archwayprograms.org for more information.



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