

He's a winner

Young artist designs official logo for annual art exhibition

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Quionne Quattlebaum is the winner of the first competition to design a logo for Sumter Accessibility2007. His art will be used on all official signage and communications related to the annual installation art exhibition scheduled for October.

As a third-grader at Crosswell Drive Elementary School, Quionne learned about the contest through his art teacher, Valeria McDonald. He'll attend fourth grade at Willow Drive next year.



Photo provided
This design by Quionne Quattlebaum, 9, was selected as the official logo of Sumter Accessibility2007. It will be used on the event Web site, stationery and signs.

It was also McDonald who conceived of the idea for the competition, said Booth Chilcutt, a director of Sumter Accessibility. He approached her with the idea that the students might somehow participate in the annual arts exhibition.

"Crosswell is (Sumter School District 17's) magnet school for the arts," he said, "and we wanted to offer the younger students a chance to do something like this. The art students at the high school usually get to do a lot more hands-on projects than the younger ones. We also want Accessibility to have more of a grassroots approach."

Chilcutt said Crosswell was already teaching the students about ecology, the environment, recycling and reusing products, so the art students have a good idea of what this year's installation art exhibition is all about.

"Besides," he said, "the younger generation is the one that will have to deal with whatever damage we older ones do to our earth."

Quionne's mother, Lakeshia Quattlebaum, said her son has been drawing "for as long as I can remember, since he was very little."

On Tuesday, Quionne and his mom were visiting his grandmother; her dining room table was covered with art supplies. Sitting on a corner chair was a portfolio of Quionne's previous work, many of them drawings done in McDonald's class. Most had a grade of "A" in a corner tab. Quionne, who is 9, is fond of Spider-Man and other cartoon characters, which are well represented in the portfolio. There are also collages and paintings of other subjects.

While his favorite medium is black pencil, Quionne used colored pencil for his winning entry, which shows the phrase "Recycling is our responsibility" continuously circling the planet Earth.

"It fits the whole theme of (Accessibility)," he explained.

While his favorite subjects are "reading, math and social studies," Quionne said he's a pretty good student all around. He completed his winning drawing in class.

"Miss McDonald just told us to be quiet and think and just work on our logos," he said. "Just to do the best we could do."



Ivy Moore / The Item
Quionne works on a drawing at his grandmother's home on Tuesday. His design for Sumter Accessibility2007 was named the winner as the official logo for the fall exhibition.

T.J. Jones, coordinator of Gifted and Talented and REACH programs for Sumter School District 17, said the competition was an ideal match for Crosswell, whose students in the magnet program study not just visual arts, but dance, drama, vocal ensemble and piano and strings.

"Crosswell is the magnet school for fine arts and technology," she noted, adding that Chilcutt and McDonald felt it was so important for young people to be involved in the communitywide project that they established the criteria for a competition.

"The selection criteria for the winner had three elements," Jones said. "They were creativity, connection with the Accessibility2007 theme and suitability for reproduction as a graphic image. Quionne's is very colorful and illustrates the recycling, reuse theme very well. We're just thrilled. This logo immortalizes his achievement at this point in his life."

Jones added that the district will continue to have broad participation in Accessibility, not just in the arts classes, "but in the core curriculum as well."

McDonald said the competition was open not just to magnet school students, but to all interested Crosswell Drive students in grades 3 through 5. She's not surprised Quionne was the winner.

"He is so focused and so creative," McDonald said. "You can see him sit there and see his mind working, and then he comes up with the most beautiful creations. I'm so proud of him."

Chilcutt said that, in addition to official Sumter Accessibility2007 communications, Quionne's design will be used on the opening page of the Accessibility2007 Web site.

"It is an important, integral part of Accessibility," he said.

Sumter Accessibility2007, sponsored by the Sumter County Cultural Commission, the City of Sumter, Time Warner Cable and the Sumter County Gallery of Art, brings internationally known installation artists to Sumter each October. The exhibition has grown to include other genres to complement the visual arts, and each work is intended to reflect some aspect of the community. For more information, call (803) 436-2616 or (803) 436-2260.

Click here to visit the [Accessibility2007](#) website.