

For Immediate Release:
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Nash Kindergarten Class Christmas Ornament is Austin Bound for the Holidays

Texarkana, Texas - Mrs. Berry's Kindergarten class from Nash Elementary received high marks from the judges at last Thursday's reception, earning their ornament the coveted spot on the House Christmas Tree at the Texas State Capitol in Austin as the official ornament of House District 1. The reception, held last Thursday evening at the Truman Arnold Center on the Texarkana College Campus, showcased ornaments designed by students from across House District 1 in the Lone Star Christmas Celebration Christmas Ornament Contest. The contest and reception were hosted and organized by Rep. George Lavender. Three Awards were given in each of the grade-level categories, K-5 and 6-12, with one chosen as Best All-Around.

A complete list of contest winners includes:

K-5 Grade Category

Best Representation of House District 1 - Syth Armbruster, Cub Scout Pack 7
Best Artistic Design - Mrs. Berry's Kindergarten Class, Nash Elementary
Most Original Idea - Mrs. Berry's Kindergarten Class, Nash Elementary

6-12th Grade Category

Best Representation of House District 1 - Ms. Sultz Art Class, Maud Middle School
Best Artistic Design - Jeremy Williams, Marion County 4-H Club
Most Original Idea - Dekalb 4-H Club

Best All-Around - Mrs. Berry's Kindergarten Class, Nash Elementary



Mrs. Berry's Kindergarten class came up with a design and concept that keyed in on the State Representatives last name, "Lavender" and included a parallel in their ornament description between the "new color of House District 1 and the many new jobs and ideas flowing into our area, said Carolyn Lance, who served as one of the judges. "It is the kind of ornament that you are naturally drawn to; very creative, very original, strong visual appeal. It stood out in room full of beautiful ornaments."

Students were asked to design an ornament that reflected the character, history and culture of House District 1 which includes Bowie, Cass, Marion & Morris Counties. They were also asked to provide a brief narrative about their ornament that included its significance to district. Retired teachers from across House District 1 judged the ornament entries. The panel of judges included:

Eastern Cass County-Carolyn George, Carolyn Lance, and Wynell Heldt
Morris County-Joan Cook, Sharon Moore, and Bonnie Wommack
Bowie County-Wanda Ingram, Mary Young, and Betty Williams
Western Bowie County-Denise Coffman, Judy Eitel, and Alliene Duke

"This was such a fun project. It was a really neat way to involve and connect students with the legislative process. It gave them a chance to learn more about our East Texas region as well as show off their creativity and talent, said Rep. George Lavender. 'How many kids can say that their ornament was displayed on the Christmas tree at the Texas State Capitol? We think it's a special honor and hope that the kids feel the same way.'"

The winning ornament designed by Mrs. Berry's Kindergarten class will be sent to Austin next week to be photographed and archived. It will be on display on the House Christmas Tree at the Texas State Capitol from December 2nd - January 6th. All other ornaments will be displayed on the district office tree of Rep. George Lavender.

PHOTO CREDIT: Robin Aaron, Bowie County Citizens Tribune