

Air district releases annual calendar of kids' artwork

Bee Staff Reports

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Two Modesto students are among the 15 Valley children whose artwork was selected for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's free 2015 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar.

A drawing by Freedom Elementary fourth-grader Isabella Zardo, with the message "Live a healthy life, walk more," is on the cover of the calendar.

The September illustration is by Mary Ann Sanders' fourth-grader Nathaniel Valadas. Its message is "Ride a bike, scooter, skateboard or run instead of polluting the air," and it shows students arriving at Sanders Elementary in those fashions.

The full-color wall calendar is an annual publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. It showcases original works of art by children in each of the air basin's eight counties, chosen from hundreds of entries.

The kids' artwork illustrates a monthly clean-air message in English and Spanish, such as "Live a healthy air life," "Check before you burn" and "Bike there for cleaner air."

The calendars are distributed to schools, community groups, health care facilities, churches, civic organizations and nonprofit groups throughout the Valley. The district prints 20,000 copies of the popular, free publication, promoting healthy-air practices throughout the year.

The 2015 calendars can be reserved, while supplies last, by emailing public.education@valleyair.org, and can be picked up in any air-district office. In Modesto, the office is at 4800 Enterprise Way, (209) 557-6400.

In addition to Isabella's and Nathaniel's drawings, the calendar includes artwork by the following students:

- Christina Nuqui – eighth grade, Tracy
- Noorpreet Mann – kindergarten, Fresno
- William Mosby – sixth grade, Lodi
- Angela Flynn-Ulfers – sixth grade, Lemoore
- Alice Medrano – 11th grade, Coarsegold
- Jesse Gutierrez – seventh grade, Delhi
- Hadiyeh Pishvaei – third grade, Bakersfield
- Jason Villegas – third grade, Fresno
- Catricia Alvarez – third grade, Dinuba
- Emily Martinez – second grade, Sanger
- Hannah Ortiz – 12th grade, Coarsegold
- Angel Oardo-Garcia, seventh grade, Tulare
- Francine Therese Canal, sixth grade, Lathrop