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City Honors Walk-to-School Day Poster Contest Winners

Perris elected officials this week honored two children who submitted the winning entries in a poster contest to celebrate the 2015 International Walk-to-School Day.

Rebecca Rooney, 8, a third-grader at Avalon Elementary School, and Elias Juarez, 10, a fifth-grader at Triple Crown Elementary School, were feted Oct. 13 at the Perris City Council meeting.

The youngsters and their parents met Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, who presented them with plaques and gift baskets, which included gift cards to the recently opened Super Walmart.

Rebecca's poster featured a girl and boy walking to school near a field of grass under a morning sun. A student in Avalon's gifted and talented program, Rebecca enjoys drawing going crafts and playing the Minecraft video game. Her favorite subject is science.

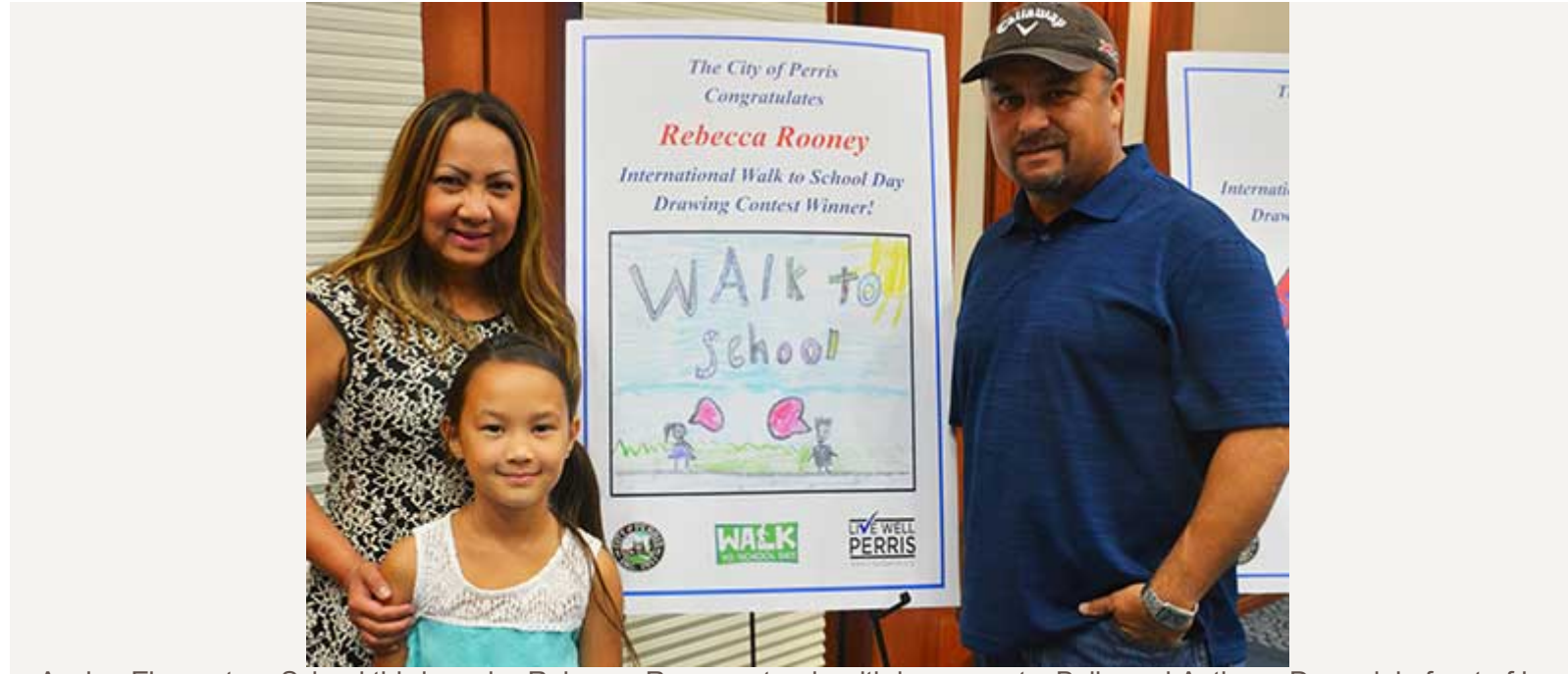
Mom Belle Drumal and dad Anthony Drumal accompanied Rebecca to the podium. Belle Dumal said her daughter was more than pleased to learn she took top honors in the poster contest.

Buttons depicting Rebecca's artwork were created as part of the City's third annual participation in the Oct. 7 International Walk-to-School Day, which promoted exercise in more than 20 countries around the world. Thousands of Perris students in eight schools took part in this year's event.

"We are pleased the City of Perris is part of International Walk-to-School Day," Belle Drumal said. "We are equally pleased Rebecca won the poster contest."

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Avalon Elementary School third-grader Rebecca Rooney stands with her parents, Belle and Anthony Drumal, in front of her winning poster entry to support the 2015 International Walk-to-School Day.

Elias attended the meeting with his parents, Gabriela and Sal, and sister, Gabriela, 13.

Among the unique features in Elias' poster was the Triple Crown school logo, a colt, along with the inscription "Colt Pride" and "City of Perris." Elias enjoys playing Lego Batman and reading installments of the "Wings of Fire" books series. His favorite subject is reading.

Elias said one perk from claiming the top contest prize was "seeing my friends wearing buttons with pictures of the poster I drew." Like Rebecca, he said he was surprised and honored to be named his school's contest winner.



Triple Crown Elementary School student Elias Juarez, 10, holds the plaque he received for his winning school entry in the poster contest; with him are school principal Deni Seagrave, sister Gabriela, 13, mom Gabriela, dad Sal and Perris Mayor Daryl Busch.

Perris elected officials extended their congratulations. Mayor Pro-Tem Tonya Burke, who accompanied the students on their walk to Avalon, said she "enjoyed a truly great time" chatting with students and parents. She later addressed a school assembly.

"A lot of students don't normally get to walk to school," she said. "I look forward to expanding our presence in the Walk-to-School Day next year."

Mayor Busch could not attend because of another engagement but thanked City staff, school administrators, parents and students for their enthusiastic participation.

"It's always fun to do," he said. "I'm sorry I missed it."

City Councilwoman Rita Rogers praised the students who took part in the Walk-to-School Day and those who walk or bicycle to campus daily. Among other benefits, Rogers said such exercises support the City's "Live Well Perris" healthy eating active living initiative.

"Great job all the way around," Rogers said.



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