

The Boston Globe

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Breaking News! The Sports Museum is now accepting entries for the *5th Annual Will McDonough Writing Contest*

Winners to attend the March 23rd Celtics game

The Sports Museum is now accepting entries for *The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest*. Students in grades 4-12 are encouraged to apply.

The Sports Museum is asking principals and school administrators to let their teachers and students know about the contest.

The program is named in honor of the long-time *Boston Globe* sports columnist. It is designed to encourage the development of language and writing skills while incorporating the topic of sports and such concepts as teamwork, responsibility, fairness, courage and determination.

Students enter the contest by

submitting an essay on one of several topics. Essays will be judged on topic development, organization, style and mechanics. Editors and writers from the *Boston Globe* will determine the winners.

Applications and guidelines can also be downloaded off The Sports Museum's website, www.sportsmuseum.org. The deadline for submission is March 6, 2009. The winners will be announced via The Sports Museum's website on March 17. First place winners will take part in an award ceremony at The Sports Museum within the TD Banknorth Garden and receive a \$100 savings bond. Their guests,



**Globe Columnist
Will McDonough**

members of the Globe editorial staff and members of the McDonough family will be there to take part in the celebration. This year's ceremony will take place prior to the Boston Celtics game on March 23rd.

If you have any questions about *The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest*, please call Michelle Gormley at (617) 624-1233.

We look forward to reading this year's essays.

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Winners of the 2008 Will McDonough Writing Contest



The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest

Contest Guidelines

Essay Topics

Students can create a fiction or non-fiction essay on one of the following three topics:

1. Stand Strong

Write a fiction or non-fiction essay about an individual or a team who has shown great **Teamwork, Responsibility, Fairness, Determination or Courage** in athletics.

2. Good Sports/Bad Sports

Write a fiction or non-fiction essay about an individual or a team who has displayed exceptionally good or exceptionally poor sportsmanship. Discuss how that individual's attitude has affected the people around him or her.

3. An Athlete I Admire

Write about the athlete, famous or unsung, whom you respect and admire the most.

4. Character Counts

Former Boston Bruin Willie O'Ree is known as the Jackie Robinson of hockey because he was the first black player in the NHL. Not only did he endure racial prejudice in many cities that he visited, he also suffered an injury that left him blind in his right eye. Despite all this he achieved his dream of playing professional hockey. When Willie O'Ree speaks to kids, he likes to tell them, "If you think you can then you can. If you think you cannot, then you're right.". What does he mean by this and how does his life experience exemplify this message? Focus on the character traits of **Teamwork, Responsibility, Fairness, Determination and Courage**.

Judging Criteria

Students will be judged on how they organize and express their ideas and how well they address the topic. Students will also be judged on creativity, writing style, grammar and spelling. Students may use primary and secondary sources in their essay. Please include a bibliography and documentation if needed.

Maximum Length of Essays

Grades 4-5	300 Words	Grades 9-10	600 Words
Grades 6-8	500 Words	Grades 11-12	700 Words

All entries must be postmarked on or before March 6, 2009. Winning essays will be featured in the Will McDonough Exhibit in The Sports Museum, located within the TD Banknorth Garden. Contest winners will receive a \$100 savings bond, and along with their families and teachers, be invited to participate in the award ceremony at The Sports Museum on March 23, 2009 that includes attending a Boston Celtics game after the ceremony. Winners will be announced via the The Sports Museum's web site (www.sportsmuseum.org) on March 17th.



The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest

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Entry Form

Each Entrant must attach this form to his/her essay. Entries with incomplete forms will not be accepted. Entries must be mailed or faxed by March 6, 2009. The decisions of the judges are final. Submitted essays become the property of The Sports Museum.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Essay: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School Phone: _____

Parent/Caregiver Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Parent/Caregiver Release

I/We understand the The Sports Museum may use the essay, in its original or adapted form, for publicity or commercially distributed publications for no additional compensation and may use the entrant's name and/or likeness. We hereby grant such uses.

Parent of Caregiver

Student Signature

Date

Date

Please submit entries to the following address: Attn: Michelle Gormley, The Sports Museum
Will McDonough Writing Contest
100 Legends Way
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 624-1238 FAX