

This year, Hoosier students wrote on the theme, "International Market Baskets Begin on Hoosier Farms." Considering the importance of our expanding global economy, students were asked to imagine themselves shopping in an exotic marketplace, anywhere in the world, and then describe what Hoosier agricultural products they might find there. I would like to submit for the RECORD the winning essays of Clayton Owsley of Washington County and Emily Ripperger of Franklin County. As state winners of the Youth Essay Contest, these two outstanding students are being recognized on Friday, February 4, 2000 during a visit to our Nation's Capitol.

The essays are as follows:

INTERNATIONAL MARKET BASKETS BEGIN ON  
HOOSIER FARMS

(By Clayton Owsley, Washington County)

Our ship arrived on the Island of Aruba early this morning. Our family had been sailing on the Caribbean all night.

Our first stop was to shop in the town of Oranjestad. As we browsed in the marketplace, we saw Aruban art and merchants selling fresh fish off their boats.

While we were in the marketplace we picked up some items to take back to the condominium. I forgot to pack my toothpaste, so I purchased a tube of Crest (peppermint flavored). As I was paying for it, I realized the peppermint used in it could have originated in Indiana. Indiana is the 4th leading peppermint exporter in the United States.

My dad loves popcorn, so he bought some microwave popcorn to fix in the room. I told dad this popcorn might have come from Indiana, since Indiana is the number one popcorn exporter in the United States.

Before we left to go back to our room we ate lunch at a restaurant by the marketplace. The special of the day was roast duckling, which is another export of Indiana. We tried to find many items on the menu that could have originated in Indiana. The vegetable oil and dressings may have come from Indiana soybeans. The soy sauce used to marinate the duckling could also have come from Indiana soybeans.

Dad reminded us that the ketchup on the table could also have come from diced tomatoes grown in Indiana. He informed us that 55% of Aruban imports come from the United States. So it is possible these things could have originated in Indiana.

We realized that there is a little bit of Indiana all over the world.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET BASKETS BEGIN ON  
HOOSIER FARMS

(By Emily Ripperger, Franklin County)

Have you ever wondered where Hoosier crops are sent after they are harvested? When I took my first trip to Europe, I found the answers to this question.

It began a few years ago, when I visited London, England, and was amazed at what I found. After visiting famous landmarks, I arrived at Portobello Market, which is on the west side of the city. When I got there, I was in awe at the sights and the sounds of this new place. People were walking down the crowded roads, talking in different languages, and there were more booths than imaginable. As I pushed my way through the crowds, I found myself gazing at crates filled with almost every kind of foreign fruit or vegetable that you could think of. Then, something caught my eye. There were boxes of soybeans, corn, tomatoes and other famil-

iar things. Immediately, I recognized this as something from my home state, Indiana. This really came to me as a shock, because being in a foreign country, I had the impression that I would only be seeing foreign objects. I spoke to the merchant, and he told me that although some of these crops were grown locally, most of them, even the peppermint and spearmint, were grown on Indiana farms. This information sparked my interest, so I did some extensive research. It turns out that Native Americans who lived mostly around the Ohio Valley, and the Great Lakes brought many of these crops grown in Indiana, there. When I returned home, I thought about Hoosier farms and the workers who help keep them running, in a new way.

Going to Europe made me realize the importance of Indiana farms and crops, and how they are useful, not only in the United States, but all around the world.

1999-2000 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

District 1: Wyatt Reidelbach (Pulaski County), Emily Ann Lawrence (Starke County)

District 2: Drew Englehart (Noble County), Alyxandra Schlotter (Noble County)

District 3: Kent Kohlhaugen (Jasper County), Laura Lachmund (White County)

District 4: Brad Rogers (Howard County), Jenell Hierholzer (Miami County)

District 5: Matthew Fry (Putnam County), Tarrah Bernhardt (Hendricks County)

District 6: David Baird (Wayne County), Cassie Bird (Hamilton County)

District 7: Shawna Asher (Knox County)

District 8: Jonathan Brookbank (Union County), Emily Ripperger (Franklin County)

District 9: Drew Baker (Posey County), Amy Moore (Posey County)

District 10: Clayton Owsley (Washington County), Paige Roberts (Washington County)

1999-2000 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

Cass: Jeff Plummer, Mollie Graybeal  
Delaware: Jason Perkins, Amanda Pollard

Dubuois: Dustin Schwartz

Fayette: Ashley Steele

Franklin: Zackary Reisert, Emily Ripperger

Hamilton: Ryan Kunkel, Cassie Bird

Hancock: Shelby Gues

Hendricks: Nathan Bayliss, Tarrah Bernhardt

Henry: Rebecca Robertson

Howard: Brad Rodgers

Jasper: Kent Kohlhaugen, Cristen Liersch

Jay: Danielle Look

Knox: Shawna Asher

Madison: Zamir Wolfe, Jessica Loveall

Marion: Mike James, Jessica Davis

Miami: Jenell Hierholzer

Newton: Curt Schriener, Lacy Padgett

Noble: Drew Englehart, Alyxandra Schlotter

Orange: Ryan Barwe, Kimberly Kee

Posey: Drew Baker, Amy Moore

Pulaski: Wyatt Reidelbach

Putnam: Matthew Fry

St. Joseph: Colin Ethier, Julie Vander Weide

Shelby: Amanda Denton

Starke: David Jensen, Emily Ann Lawrence

Union: Jonathan Brookbank

Vermillion: William Ealy, Alyssa Burch

Wabash: Greg Martin, Tiffany Livesay

Warrick: A.J. Wilks, Alyssa Davis

Washington: Clayton Owsley, Paige Roberts

Wayne: David Baird, Katy Baumer

White: Austin Waibel, Laura Lachmund●

CELEBRATING ST. PAUL SCHOOL

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I rise to tell you about St. Paul School in my hometown of Wilmington, Dela-

ware. In a country that can only be measured by the well-being of its least-advantaged citizenry, St. Paul has a special story that is too often left untold.

St. Paul Church and the adjoining school are landmarks on the Wilmington skyline, visible from Interstate 95 heading North through Wilmington. Surrounding it are remnants of a once heavily-populated Irish and German immigrant communities and now is in the heart of the Hispanic section of the city. It sits at the base of the West Side and since the 1800's, has been a safe haven for generations of children and families newly arriving to American shores and settling in our community.

St. Paul School was founded in 1874. Its 125 year history is clear—providing quality education to immigrant and minority children. Yet at St. Paul, there is a much deeper, much more powerful message. While St. Paul is a school of 235 kindergarten through eighth graders, 99% of whom are urban children of color from some of Wilmington's most distressed areas, its students are prepared well and consistently perform above the national indicators of student achievement.

There is no culture of poverty or sense of hopelessness in any child, in any classroom in this school. St. Paul's dispels the assumptions and myths about the innate inability of inner-city minority children from very precarious circumstances to succeed academically and socially in mainstream society. At St. Paul, parents are properly engaged, teachers are supremely dedicated and most important, children come ready to learn. This in a school where more than half the students enter with limited English-speaking ability, most of the families live on the margins of poverty and the teachers and administration work for pay well-below their parochial, public and private counterparts.

St. Paul is indeed a special place, but in my view, it is one of so many other stories we need to find out about, embrace and share with America. Furthermore, it is the reason that we must continue to invest in the education of our children. On February 9, 2000 in Wilmington, there will be a Commemorative Mass benefiting the Saint Paul School Scholarship Fund. It is a time when St. Paul School will take center stage for many in our community. It makes perfect sense because every day, education and its importance takes center stage in the lives of St. Paul children.

Our community—both now and in future—will be better because of the efforts of schools like St. Paul around the country where truly no one child is left behind. We in Wilmington salute St. Paul School.●