

2017-18 Writing and Illustration Contest

Deadline: The postmark deadline for the writing contest is January 20, 2018.

Part 1: Creative writing contest

Create a story that explains the incident that led to the creation of the sign with the following text: **“Notice! Due to the unfortunate kerfuffle on February 29th, toothpaste, playing cards, and swalampary are no longer allowed in this building. Thank you for your cooperation.”** Who was involved, what happened, where did it happen, and what in the world is swalampary? The story must include interactions between multiple characters, and you get to decide what swalampary is (truly, it’s a nonsense word). Swalampary can be an object or an action, so let your imagination soar!

Keep in mind

- The story should have a beginning, a middle and an end.
- All language and story content should be appropriate for posting on the Duke TIP website.
- The story may be told in either first or third person.

Story requirements

- Your story must not exceed 1,000 words (excluding the title).
- Stories must be typed on 8 1/2 and 11 white paper, double-spaced. A parent or other person may type your entry, but they must type it exactly as you have written it to maintain the integrity of your original work.
- Your submission must include a cover sheet (details below).
- You must submit two copies of your story, stapled only in the top left corner. No report covers or card stock, please.
- Include the title of your story on each page.
- Do not print your name or TIP ID on the pages of your story. Your name and TIP ID should only appear on the cover sheet.
- You may have a teacher, parent or other adult review your story and make general suggestions (but not specific corrections) regarding format or grammar.

Cover sheet requirements

- Your name
- Your Duke TIP ID #
- Your parent’s email address (required for submission confirmation)
- Your parent’s phone number
- Your grade
- The number of words in your story (excluding the title)
- The name, city and state of the school you attended when enrolling in Duke TIP
- The name, city and state of your current school, if different from your enrolling school
- The title of your story

Do not worry about us losing track of your entry. Instead of your name, we assign a special receipt code to every entry to ensure that judging remains anonymous.

Part 2: Illustration contest

In the second part of the Writing and Illustration Contest, participants will be asked to create an illustration based on the winning story for their grade. The illustration component will open on March 15, 2018. The winning stories, as well as detailed guidelines, will be posted on the website at that time.

An excellent story will include the following:

- Appropriate vocabulary to create a visual picture of the events, location and individuals involved in the incident.
- A clear beginning, middle and end.
- Very limited punctuation, spelling or grammatical errors (computer spell-checks do not catch all errors).
- A conclusion that brings the overall story theme together and events to an end, and makes sense.
- Only your own original thoughts and ideas.
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Check these things before you mail your entry:

- Have you included a cover sheet with all of the required information, including word count? See above for a full list of items to include.
- Is the title of your story on the cover sheet and on the top of each page?
- Is your story typed and printed on 8.5" by 11" white paper? Remember, only staple in the top left corner.
- Have you included two copies of your story, both meeting the requirements?
- Have you made sure that this story is your own work, that you did not copy anything from another source (a person, book, movie, game, etc...)?
- Did you follow the rules of grammar and mechanics? Did you double-check your work for spelling and punctuation errors?
- Have you made sure that your name does not appear in the text of the story or on the margins of the pages?

Awards and prizes

Three winners will be announced from each grade for each part of the contest, and all winners and their enrolling schools receive cash prizes as follows:

- First place in each grade: \$200 to the first-place winner and \$200 to their enrolling school.
- Second place in each grade: \$100 to the second-place winner and \$100 to their enrolling school.
- Third place in each grade: \$50 to the third-place winner and \$50 to their enrolling school.

To be eligible to receive a cash prize, the student must be a U.S. citizen or a U.S. permanent resident with a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C (Permanent Resident Card, Resident Alien Card, or Alien Registration Receipt Card), also known as a "green card".

Winners from both parts of the contest will be highlighted in *Navigator*, the 4th–6th Grade Talent Search's online magazine, and first-place entries will be posted to our website. Writing Contest winners will be posted in the spring, and Illustration Contest winners in the early summer.

Where to submit

Once you have checked your submission to make sure you meet all the guidelines, please mail your entry to:
2019 Duke TIP Writing Contest
300 Fuller Street
Durham, NC 27701

Emailed entries will not be accepted

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