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Twin Girls Win Local Art Contest!

The Laura **Recovery** Center - for missing children - is excited to announce the winners of their art contest. The Center has been working with the popular and award winning children's author **Mike Thaler** to produce and distribute an important booklet about child safety and abduction prevention. Mike's **Black Lagoon** series is known and loved by many elementary school children and teachers. His new book, donated to the Laura Recovery Center teaches kids, as only Mike Thaler can, that a key part of staying safe is if you **Don't Know, Don't Go**.

The LRC sponsored the art contest to illustrate Mike's new book. The winner of the contest has the honor of illustrating the booklet written by Mr. Thaler. Fourth and fifth grade students from schools in Alvin, Clear Creek, Friendswood, and Pearland Independent School Districts were invited to enter. Each school that entered the competition chose their top 5 entries and submitted those to the LRC. Out of those submitted, the LRC selected the top 10 finalists and these were sent to Mike Thaler, who choose the final winners. The booklet will eventually be distributed through the Laura Recovery Center to help to prevent abductions.

Mike Thaler traveled from his home in Oregon to present awards to the first and second place winners on the 12th anniversary of Laura Kate Smither's abduction and murder, Friday April 3rd.

The winners happen to be twin sisters who attend school at Bauerschlag Elementary in the Clear Creek Independent School District. First place went to Allyson Godfrey, and second place went to her twin sister Sarah Godfrey. Winners were given a Certificate of Excellence and a set of Mike's books autographed personally to them in a personalized Black Lagoon Series tote bag. The girls were very excited to receive their prizes. Allyson is currently working on the final illustrations for the booklet, which will be titled, "**Don't Know? Don't Go!**"

Mike Thaler presented a program to the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes on how to write riddles, which was greatly appreciated by those in attendance. Much laughter and hilarity was enjoyed as they created riddles with the Thaler method! For information on how to do this, along with pictures of the event at Bauerschlag Elementary, please visit the Laura Recovery Center website at:

www.LRCF.org/Thaler

1st place: Allyson Godfrey

2nd place: Sarah Godfrey

Bauerschlag Elementary:

Art teacher: Sherry White

Principal: Trudy Knight

The Laura Recovery Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, that was founded in Laura Smither's memory. The Center focuses on Education, Search, and Prevention in the area of missing children, has offered free abduction prevention programs to over 170,000 children throughout the greater Houston area, worked with over 1,400 families with missing loved ones, and has organized over 85 community searches for abducted children nationwide. The Center trains law enforcement at the Houston Police Department training academy and other agencies in Texas, and distributes educational materials and child ID kits.

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