

Hurry up! Time's running out to enter 'Best Kept' Awards

SCHOOLS in West Belfast are being encouraged to earn recognition for their environmental projects by entering the 2009 SuperValu Best Kept School Awards before the closing date of March 6.

The organisers of the prestigious environmental awards scheme, the Northern Ireland Amenity Council (NIAC), and sponsors SuperValu, hope that an increased prize fund for winning schools will help achieve a record number of entries from West Belfast this year.

The prize money for winning schools has more than doubled and is now £300 per school (up from £125), with runners-up getting £120 (up from £65).

The overall winning school receives an additional £200.

Over 200 schools entered the awards in 2008 and Ballykeel Primary School, Bally-

mena, took the 'Best of the Best' title. Locally, Holy Trinity Primary School also won an award.

Doreen Muskett, President of NIAC, said: "It is always a difficult task to judge the entries to the awards, because the quality is so consistently high."

There are three award categories based on the age group of pupils: Pre-Primary School (3-5 yrs), Primary School (5-11 yrs) and Post Primary School (11-18 yrs). Category winners and runners-up will be selected in each of the five Education and Library Board areas, and judges will also choose an overall Best Kept School for the North.

Entry forms are available from NIAC on 028 9040 3681 or go to www.niacbestkept.com for more information.

West Belfast calendar boy's colourful artwork goes global

Young Clubhouse member's talents go on worldwide calendar display

The Belfast Computer Clubhouse (BCCH) is celebrating the recent achievements of a young West Belfast artist.

David Campbell, 10, whose artwork was selected to feature in the 2009 Intel Computer Clubhouse Calendar, was selected alongside 12 others from countries including, America, India, Russia and New Zealand to feature in the global calendar.

David, a pupil at Glenwood Primary School, attends the Clubhouse at the Spectrum Centre on the Shankill and his colourful contribution, entitled Red Desert Moon, is an excellent example of the talent of BCCH members.

The BCCH is a multimedia learning environment for young people aged 8 to 18 in the Greater Shankill and West Belfast areas, and is the only Clubhouse worldwide with two locations on either side of the peaceline.

Helping young people develop skills in graphic design, music and film production, robotics and animation, the BCCH fosters an inclusive environment for its young members and works hard to build cross community relations and promote cultural diversity.



CALENDAR BOY: David Campbell shows off his winning design

Each year the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network in Boston have an open competition for Clubhouse members

worldwide.

With over 104 Clubhouses across the globe, competition is fierce.

The BCCH is very proud of David's success and has high hopes that Belfast Computer Clubhouse members can make it three in a row in 2010.

This is the second year running that the BCCH has had the artwork of one of its members chosen for the ICCN Calendar.

In 2008, 11-year-old Danni Curley from the Springvale Clubhouse achieved success when her artwork, Funky Face, was chosen to feature in the calendar.

Geraldine Cunningham, who has just joined the BCCH project as co-ordinator, said: "What a wonderful welcome. The photograph taken with David holding his calendar displays the sense of pride the Belfast Computer Clubhouse aims to achieve with all their young people. Well done David."

The Belfast Computer Clubhouse is always on the lookout for new members and volunteers. For more information contact Geraldine Cunningham on 028 9024 2362.

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Belfast's Book Festival is launched

TWO bestselling authors are to

come together in Belfast next week to launch the city's first ever Book Festival.

Lord Mayor Tom Hartley – author of 'Written in Stone, the History of the City Cemetery' – will join Booker Prize-winner, John Banville at the Linenhall

Library on Tuesday evening, February 24, for the opening event. Following the official opening ceremony, Mr Banville will be 'in conversation' with broadcaster William Crawley to discuss his long and illustrious career.

The Belfast Book Festival, organised by the Linenhall Library and supported by Belfast City Council, continues until March 1 and features more than 30 events at 11 venues across the city. More information on the Council website.

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