

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

October 15, 2011

11-089-01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Contact: Kimberly Qualls, (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org

NE Kansas Students *Ride Off* with Regional Honors in 2011 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day Poster Contest

Sisters, Sierra de Koning and Reagan de Koning, from Axtell (Marshall County) and Neeharika Kothapalli from Overland Park (Johnson County), were chosen as the three northeast Kansas regional winners in the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day poster contest. As a regional winner, each student received a bicycle donated by Wal-Mart Store #1802 in Topeka and a bicycle helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Kansas Highway Patrol presented the students with their regional and statewide honors at a presentation event held today, Saturday, October 15 at 11 a.m. at Wal-Mart Store #1802 located at 1501 Southwest Wanamaker Road in Topeka.

Sierra de Koning and Reagan de Koning both attend Summerfield Elementary School in Summerfield; and Neeharika Kothapalli attends Lakewood Middle School in Overland Park. 7-year-old Sierra was presented honors for the 5-7-year-old category; 8-year-old Reagan for the 8-10-year-old category, and 11-year-old Neeharika for the 11-13-year-old category.

Not only did Reagan take home regional honors, but she was also selected as one of the three statewide winners. As a statewide winner, Reagan won a Kansas family vacation package to the Great Wolf Lodge (Kansas City, KS) and a \$50 gas card compliments of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas.

A total of 18 winners from six different regions and three separate age groups (ages 5-7, ages 8-10 and ages 11-13) across the state will each receive a bicycle donated by Wal-Mart Stores in Kansas as well as a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas.

Over 642 poster contest entries were received across the state with 18 students receiving regional recognition and three students receiving statewide recognition. The poster contest helps bring awareness to all ages for the need to reduce fatalities on our nation's highways. Numerous transportation organizations across the state sponsor this annual event.

For more information on Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day, visit www.brakesonfatalities.org. For questions or additional information, please contact Kimberly Qualls, Northeast Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 640-9340.

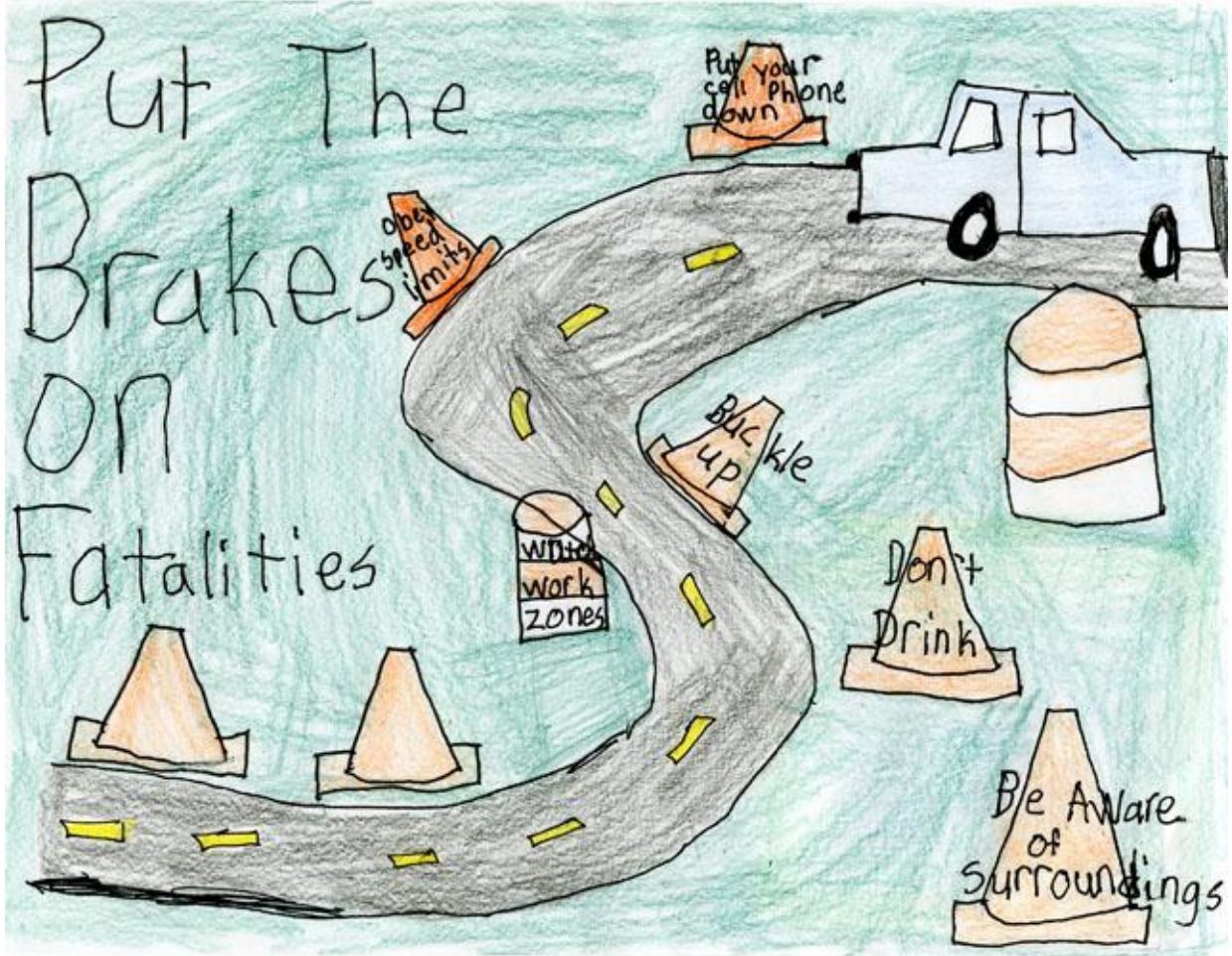
###

NOTE: Electronic copies of the students' artwork are attached to this release.

Click below to connect to KDOT's Social Networks:



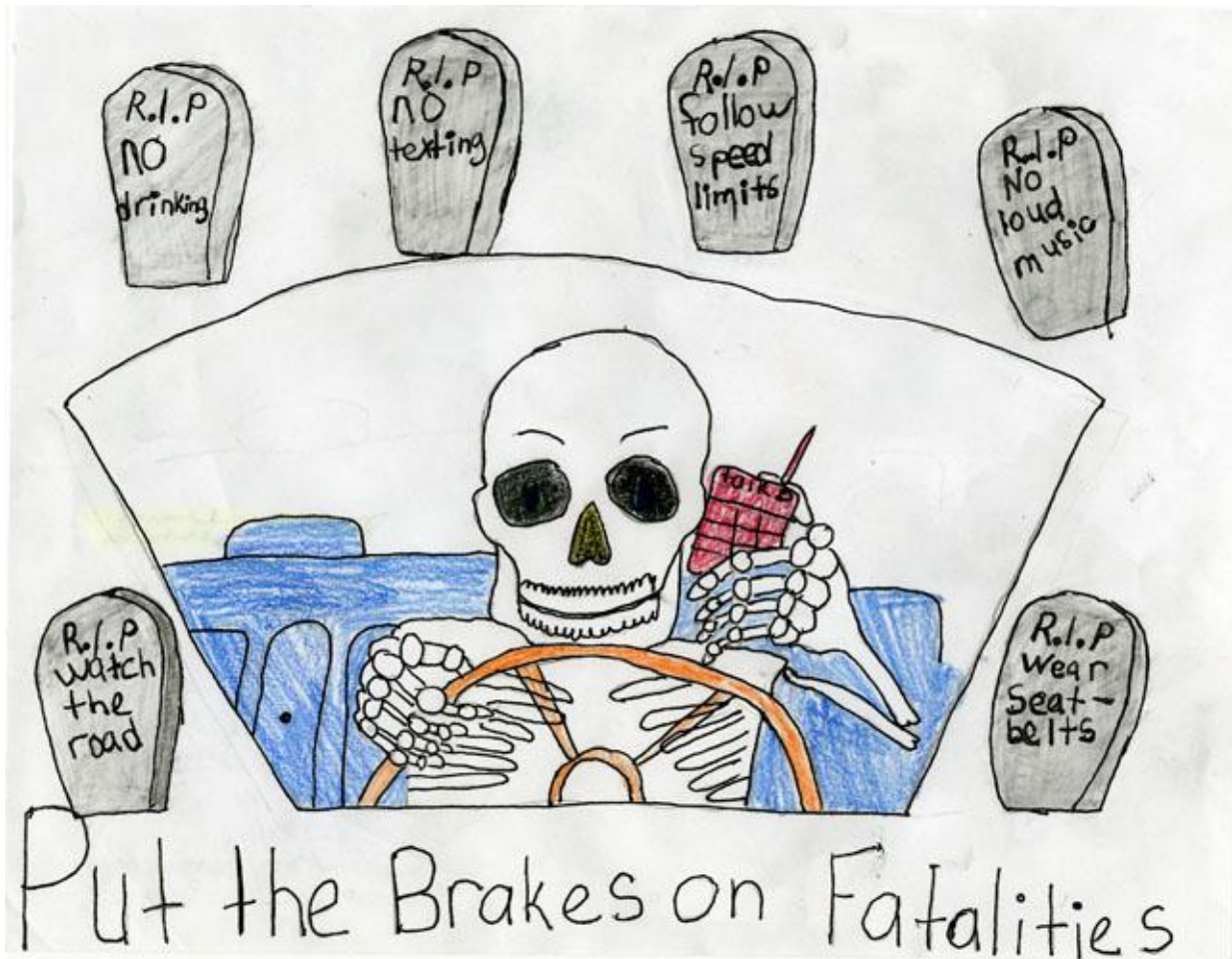
This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.



Poster created by:

Sierra de Koning
Age 7

Summerfield Elementary School, Summerfield, KS
5-7-year-old category winner



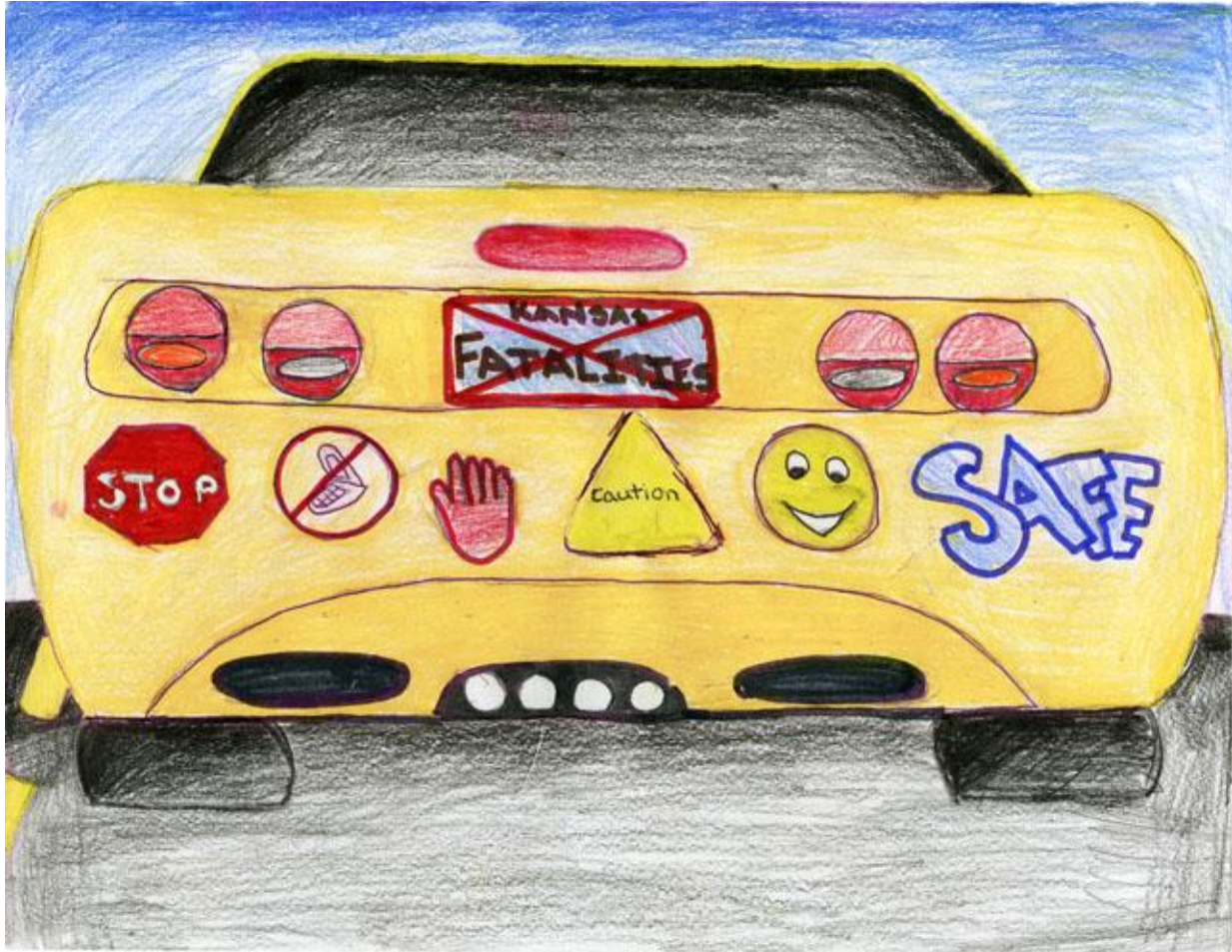
Poster created by:

Reagan de Koning

Age 8

Summerfield Elementary School, Summerfield, KS

8-10-year-old category winner



Poster created by:

Neeharika Kothapalli

Age 11

Lakewood Middle School, Overland Park, KS

11-13-year-old category winner