Pets in the Classroom Grant Program Announces Video Contest Winners

The grant program has announced the winners of the Success Story Video Contest, which invited teachers to share their classroom pet experiences.

The Pets in the Classroom grant program is excited to announce the winners of the Pets in the Classroom Success Story Video Contest. The Contest, open to Pets in the Classroom grant recipients, asked teachers to share about their classroom pet experiences. The winners are:

1st Place:
Emily Yates
Evergreen Elementary School
Midlothian, VA
Miga the Gecko is the best thing to happen to Room 204!

2nd Place:
Shannon Thompson
Eduardo Mata Montessori School
Dallas, TX
Pets in the Classroom at Mata Montessori

3rd Place:
Jill Kumagawa
Riviera Elementary School
Torrance, CA
Stella, our Classroom Bunny

Sponsored by Hikari, the Contest had teachers submit entries showing the positive changes they’ve seen in their classrooms due to their classroom pets. From Wednesday, March 11 to Friday, April 3, people had the opportunity to vote for their favorite video. The 10 videos with the most votes became the finalists from which a committee of judges selected the winners. The first-place winner received $1000, the second-place winner received $500, and the third-place winner received $250.

“We received so many fantastic entries,” commented Jackie King, Executive Director of the Pets in the Classroom grant program. “The Contest provided an avenue for teachers to share their ‘Success Story’ involving their classroom pet, and we hope it spread awareness of the many benefits classroom pets can provide.”
The Pets in the Classroom grant program provides grants to Pre-Kindergarten through 9th grade teachers in both private and public schools for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining classroom pets. Classroom animals are wonderful resources for teachers that, when incorporated into lesson plans, can have a profound impact. Classroom pets not only provide excitement in the classroom, but they also benefit students by teaching them responsible, long-term pet care at an early age and providing the psychological and developmental benefits associated with the human-animal bond. Studies have shown that caring for pets has a positive effect on children, improving school attendance and teaching children responsibility, as well as encouraging nurturing tendencies and building self-esteem.

For more information about the Pets in the Classroom grant program, visit www.PetsintheClassroom.org.