

BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS HOLIDAY PARADE COVER CONTEST



Devin Pokraka has been drawing since she was old enough to hold a pencil. The joy of creation – of putting ideas to paper, of sketching, coloring and painting in images that were born of her own imagination – has given the Brockton High School junior a sense of purpose and achievement. The Greater Brockton Holiday Parade Committee and HarborOne Bank recognized Devin’s artistic prowess and put her watercolor of Christmas lights and ornaments on the cover of the 27th Annual Holiday Parade book.

“I was surprised they chose my work, because so many people in my classes had really great drawings and paintings,” the 16-year-old said. “I am really proud.”

More than 300 student artists from across the region submitted entries to an annual cover contest sponsored by the Holiday Parade Committee.

“We received a lot of really great entries, but there was something about Devin’s painting that captured the imagination,” said Parade Organizer John Merian. “She’s got a great perspective.”

Brockton Public Schools Art Director Sarah Richards said the cover contest is a great way to showcase the talent and skill of Brockton’s young artists.

“The competition is a wonderful way to connect our student artists with the community: we get to showcase the great work that our students and teachers are doing, and the students also gain the respect and notice of their friends and neighbors,” Richards said. “HarborOne Bank and the Parade Committee demonstrate how much they value the arts and arts education, and we are so pleased to partner with them.”

At the city’s downtown Santa Hat Challenge on November 24th, parade organizers presented Devin with a framed copy of her work and a \$100 cash prize. On Saturday, November 30th, thousands of parade watchers will have an opportunity to see Devin’s artwork and kick off the holiday season in style.

“The parade is a reflection of our city, it shows the artistic and creative points of Brockton,” said Devin, who marched with the Brockton Youth Cheerleaders when she was younger. “It’s a fun thing to do, and it gets everyone out to be thankful for all that we have in the city. I’m glad to be a part of it.”



The parade officially kicks off the holiday of the season in Brockton. Beginning at 9 a.m. that morning, there are crafts and activities for the whole family. Check out the fun at the Brockton Public Library; stroll Main Street and learn facts about Brockton's own James Edgar, the first department store Santa; shop at City Hall's Holiday Bazaar beginning at 11 a.m.; and take part in a holiday-themed scavenger hunt in downtown Brockton .

At 1 p.m. the parade steps off at Belmont and Main Streets and winds its through the streets of downtown Brockton. Thousands of revelers turn out to enjoy elaborate floats, troupes of talented dancers and martial arts performers, and the acclaimed Brockton High School Band. Following the parade, they gather in City Hall Plaza for a holiday sing-along and see Mayor Linda M. Balzotti throw the switch on the city's Holiday Tree, which is decorated with ornaments made by Brockton Public Schools students.

For more information, please visit www.1stdepartmentstoresanta.com