Students’ designs grace Christmas Cards

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ASHBORO — The drawings of two local students grace the covers of the 2018 Christmas Cards, for Asheboro City Schools (ACS) and the Randolph County School System (RCSS) respectively.

Omar Gonzalez, 11 years old and a sixth-grader at South Asheboro Middle School (SAMS), drew the winning design for the ACS Christmas Card.

Zane York, 9 years old and a fourth-grader at Farmer Elementary School, created the design for the RCSS Christmas Card.

City winner

Omar Gonzalez’s winning artwork depicts the snow-covered scene of a red church and the words, “Happy Holidays.”

His art teacher, Jaime Carr, was impressed when she saw it.

PROUD MOMENT — Omar Gonzalez, a student at South Asheboro Middle School, shows off his winning entry for the Asheboro City Schools.

ALL SMILES — Zane York poses with his winning Christmas Card design for the Randolph County School System at Farmer Elementary.
Trailblazer

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“It was clean, it was nicely drawn. He used all of his space wisely. You can tell he placed a lot of care and effort into it. He used the space, the values and forms very well,” Carr explained about the key components of Omar’s artwork and why she sent it to the ACS District Office for consideration.

“He is a very respectful, sweet young man, comes in and does his work, super focused, never even makes me think twice on him doing anything wrong, and he is very talented,” she added.

Omar aspires to be a soccer player when he grows up. He calls math his favorite subject, enjoys playing in the park with his sister and wishes for an iPhone 6 for Christmas. But he also enjoys drawing in his spare time. “I like to draw and paint, things that are going on in the world, such as the Macy’s Holiday Parade. I draw stuff like that, and people having snowball fights ... and stuff in general,” he said of his subject matter.

He was stunned by the honor of having his artwork chosen to be on the city system’s holiday card. “I was like this can’t be possible,” he said. “When I first told my Mom, she didn’t believe me, until I got a call from the school and they said they’re going to give me the award. When she received the call she said, ‘You won. You should be proud of yourself.’”

County winner

Zane York’s artwork shows a puppy looking outside a window, with a Christmas tree and fireplace displayed in the background. “For the Christmas tree, I did little lines, then, I did like zig-zags, really close together, to make it look like a pine tree. Then I got sharpies for the ornaments and stuff,” Zane said when asked to describe his artwork.

He decided to call the puppy Mr. Jingle. “I have a bell in my room that said Mr. Jingle, so I wanted to call him Mr. Jingle,” he explained.

His design immediately captured the attention of Zane’s art teacher, Leire Gogenola Martitegui — better known as “Mrs. G.”

“It was very different from the other ones, (especially) with a puppy, in front of the Christmas tree,” she said, which prompted her to choose it, along with two other students’ renderings, to send to the NCSS District Office for consideration.

“He’s very talented. He’s excellent, very good in art,” she added.

Unlike Omar, Zane plans on using his artistic ability in the future. He wants to be an architect because he “likes to draw houses.”

Zane’s mother, Stacy York, a preschool teacher at First Presbyterian Preschool, is very proud of both his future ambitions and the honor of having his artwork chosen for the holiday card.

“Zane is a very sweet child. He has an artistic ability that I never knew he really had until a few years ago,” she said. “It takes a very God-given talent to have the ability and the capabilities to draw. That’s amazing, and I’m glad that he has such wonderful goals for his life, that’s great.”

When asked how she felt about Zane’s art on the front of cards representing the whole district, she said it was “very overwhelming, in a good way, very exciting, and I’m so proud of him. He worked hard, and I watched him draw that, and he did it in stages.”

She’s not surprised his warmth comes through in the scene. “He has a very loving, caring and giving heart. Zane has always had that eye for looking for that person who is left out,” she said — if he sees a student sitting alone at lunch he will join the student so he or she won’t feel left out.

“I’m very thankful to see he loves to help others, he loves to give. He (even) loves to do Operation Christmas Child,” she said, referring to the Samaritan’s Purse project which delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to boys and girls around the world.

Zane’s dad is Kevin, a line-man with Duke Energy.

He has three siblings, Easton, 7, a second-grader at Farmer Elementary; Maddox, 5, a kindergartner at Farmer Elementary; and Grant, 3, who attends preschool.