

PRESS RELEASE

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Pasco Tax Collector Mike Fasano Announces Winner of Middle School Essay Contest

Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano, as part of **Clerk & Comptroller Paula O' Neill's** Constitutional Officers Essay Contest, announces that his office received 220 essays from middle school students throughout Pasco County. Students from public, private, parochial, charter and home schools all entered the contest, which ran during the month of March. The entrants, students in Grades 6-8, were asked to answer the question *"Do you think taxes are important? If so, why? If not, why not?"*

A panel of judges, not knowing the age, gender, grade or school of each entrant, chose the essay written by **Grace Ann Spurza**, a sixth grade student at *Imagine School at Land O' Lakes*, as the winning submission. **Grace Ann's** essay best communicated her response to the topic question all while meeting the contest criteria of overall essay structure, appearance and readability. A copy of **Grace's** essay is attached.

"I am very proud of all the students who participated in this essay contest," states **Tax Collector Mike Fasano**. "With 220 well-written essays to choose from, the judges had a fun but difficult task to perform. With so many excellent entries to read, the choice the panel made was a tough one. However, **Grace Ann Spurza's**

essay best embodied the spirit of the contest. She deserves high praise for standing out among all the entries submitted.”

Grace Ann Spurza was awarded an I-Pad Mini at a ceremony held at *Imagine School at Land O’ Lakes* on April 24, 2015. School principal **Aimee Williams** was on hand to introduce **Tax Collector Mike Fasano** as well as **Grace Ann Spurza** and her family. The coveted award was given to **Grace** before an assembly of her peers at *Imagine School at Land O’ Lakes* (see photo attached). All entrants in the contest received a personal letter from **Tax Collector Mike Fasano** thanking them for their participation in the contest.

The Pasco County Tax Collector’s office plans on participating in the essay contest again in 2016. Many students who did not win this year may have the opportunity to enter again during the upcoming school year. Additionally, the student essay contest is just one of many community-related events the Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office participates in throughout the year. For more details about next year’s contest or other upcoming promotions and activities coordinated by the tax collector please do not hesitate to contact Greg Giordano, Director of Customer Relations at 727-847-8179 or visit www.pascotaxes.com