

Roxanne Maher

From: Mark Westkott <mwestkott@ledyard.net>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 4:59 PM
To: Gary St. Vil
Cc: kiabaird@gmail.com; April Brunelle; Roxanne Maher; Jason S. Hartling; jconn@ledyard.net
Subject: Re: 2026 Black History Month Student Poster Contest (GFS)

Mr. St. Vil,

We are excited to offer this opportunity to our students once again. A message will go out this week to the school community, and we will include it in our weekly newsletter.

Very respectfully,

Mark

On Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 2:18 PM Gary St. Vil <GSVil@ledyardct.org> wrote:

Dear Principal Westkott,

As we approach Black History Month, the Town Council's Community Relations Committee (CRC-DEI) would like to once again partner with Ledyard Public Schools to offer elementary school students an opportunity to reflect on the significance of Black History Month through a voluntary student contest. Please share the contest details below with your teachers and students.

The 2026 Black History Month theme is: *From History to Responsibility: The Legacy We Carry, the Future We Create*

Contest: Black History Month helps students learn about important people and events from the past. These stories form a legacy that teaches kindness, fairness, and respect. Students are invited to create a poster based on **one** of the two prompts below:

1. **The Legacy We Carry:** Create a poster showing a person, event, or story from Black history that you think is important to remember.

or

2. **The Future We Create:** Create a poster that shows something we can learn from Black history that helps people do the right thing today.

Contest Details:

- **Duration:** Now through February 20, 2026
- **Eligibility:** Elementary students (Grades K–5). Open to all students residing in Ledyard, including those who are home-schooled or attending private or technical/magnet schools.
- **Submission Guidelines:**

- Only one poster submission per student. No Group Projects
- Student's name, school, and grade must be written on the back of the poster
- Posters should be held in the main office for pickup by Town Council Chairman Gary St. Vil on **February 20, 2026 at 3:00 PM**
- **Prizes:** Submissions from Gallup Hill and Gales Ferry Schools will be combined, with first, second, and third place winners selected.
 - Grades K–2: Store gift cards — 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$25), 3rd (\$10)
 - Grades 3–5: 1st – Store gift cards — 1st (\$50), 2nd (\$25), 3rd (\$10)

Winners will be notified by February 27 and formally recognized by the Town Council at an upcoming Town Council meeting. Thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Gary A. St. Vil

Chairman, Ledyard Town Council

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Mark Westkott

Principal

Gales Ferry School/Juliet W. Long School

Ledyard Public Schools