



## Norcrest and Floranada Elementary School Students Participate in "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest



Students visiting City Commission Office with (l to r): Vice Mayor Romney Rogers, Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler and Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis

The [Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International \(GFLSCI\)](#) Program in cooperation with the [Florida Turkish American Association \(FTAA\)](#), organized the third "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest in honor of International Children's Day traditionally celebrated in Turkey.

The contest took place at Floranada and Norcrest Elementary Schools. The fifth graders from these schools completed their essays, which were judged by FTAA Essay Committee. The finalists were invited to the Mayor's office on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. The winners of the contest from Norcrest Elementary were: Niamh Mulroy, Cameron Grier and Amber Randall, who placed first, second and third, respectively. Mekhi Prospere, Denisa

Stavri and Spencer Regli placed first, second and third from Floranada Elementary.

During the visit, finalists met Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler and City Commissioners Bruce G. Roberts, Dean J. Trantalis and Romney Rogers. In the Mayor's office, the students talked about their ideas if they ever were to become Mayor, as well as their plans for the future. The city officials inspired them with their dreams as students and how they built their careers.

Later the students participated in the City Commission Meeting, where they led the pledge of allegiance, received their certificates and had their photograph taken with the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners.

The essay competition was inspired by the National Sovereignty and Children's Day festivities, which have taken place throughout Turkey on April 23rd since 1920, which was the first time Children's Day was celebrated as a national holiday in the country. It has also been officially recognized by UNICEF as a day dedicated to children, during which they take part in colorful festivals and are invited to visit government offices to meet with leaders.

Board President of GFLSCI, Mr. Tony Marcelli, stated that "GFLSCI has a special interest in programs fostering cultural diversity and friendship among the youth of the world. As a result of our special partnership with the FTAA, the students of Floranada and Norcrest Elementary Schools benefitted from the activities organized to create the awareness about International Children's Day in our community." Zeynep Uluer Aytekin, President of the FTAA, added, "As we witness the excitement of the students, we hope to expose more of them to this wonderful experience, thus plan to roll out the Essay Contest next year to the entire Broward County School District."

For more information about the GFLSCI and FTAA, please visit [www.gflsci.org](http://www.gflsci.org), [www.ftaa.com](http://www.ftaa.com)

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