



December 18, 2019

Dear Third-grade teacher,

In recognition of March as **Parenting Awareness Month**, the Child Abuse Prevention and Education Council and the Petoskey News-Review are sponsoring an essay contest for area third grade students. We hope your students participate this year! The winners will be selected from all entrants. The topic of the essay is, “**WHAT MAKES YOUR FAMILY STRONG?**” Please refer to the Great Start Collaborative’s website, www.WhatMakesYourFamilyStrong.org, or the flyer for ideas on how families stay strong.

PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

- 1) **The contest is open only to third-grade students (or equivalent) in Charlevoix and Emmet counties.**
- 2) **The essays should be one-page minimum and not exceed two handwritten pages. Please submit as written.**
- 3) **The topic must be “What Makes Your Family Strong?”**
- 4) **These should be sent together as a class no later than February 1st. Please be sure each essay can be identified (e.g., name or student number). Include a submission form found on our website that includes the classroom teacher’s name, school, address, phone number, and email.**

The essays must be submitted by **February 1st, 2020**. You may mail entries to the CAPE Council at P.O. Box 414, Petoskey, MI 49770 OR use Char-Em route mail and send to Saint Francis Xavier Elementary School, Petoskey, Attn: Lisa McCullough, CAPE Council. If you have any questions concerning the contest, please feel free to contact me at 231-753-8510 or lisa@upnorthchildabusecouncil.org.

Please visit www.UpNorthChildAbuseCouncil.org (go to the *program* tab) to find:

1. Submission Form: required for all teachers, one per classroom
2. Photo Release Form: only required if your students’ essays is a winner or honorable mention. A parent or guardian must sign the release form.

All students will receive a participation certificate. (Bonus: If you email an excel list of your students’ names, I will complete the certificates for you!) Winners, honorable mentions, and their families will receive an invitation to an award ceremony on **March 21st, 2020**.

Thank you in advance for your participation. We look forward to seeing the essays your students produce!

Sincerely,

Lisa

Lisa McCullough
Executive Director