Enosburg Shines in Health Department Radon Poster Contest

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BURLINGTON – Three students from Enosburg Middle School were winners in the first annual Vermont Department of Health Radon Poster Contest.

Iliana Luneau, 12, won the top prize for her “What Lies Under Your Home?” poster, Marie Jackson, 13, won third place, and Jalyn Larivee, 12, received honorable mention. Second place went to Morgan Eames, 11, from Good Shepherd Catholic School for her “Radon: The Silent Killer” poster.

See the four top posters

The top three posters from Vermont were entered in the National Radon Poster Contest, operated by Kansas State University. January is National Radon Action Month, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“While none of the Vermont’s posters were selected as national winners, we were glad that Vermont was represented this year. The quality of the art work was outstanding,” said Marielle Strong, one of the judges and a program technician with the Health Department’s Indoor Air Radon Program. “We hope even more students will want to participate next year.”

Fifty-one elementary and middle school students submitted artwork to the Health Department in 2013. Posters were judged based on the quality of the artwork, the poster’s educational value, and its originality. Artwork created for the Radon Poster Contest is used to promote radon awareness and encourage people to test their homes for radon.

Approximately one in eight houses in Vermont have elevated levels of radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that seeps into homes from soil and bedrock. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and a smoker’s risk of getting lung cancer from radon is almost six times greater than a non-smoker’s. It is estimated that approximately 50 Vermonters die each year due to radon-related lung cancer.

The only way to know if a house has elevated levels of radon is to have it tested. Any Vermont resident can request a free long-term test kit by emailing radon@state.vt.us or calling 1-(800) 439-8550.

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