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Pre-school,  
Kindergarten and  
1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades

## John XXIII Seventh Grade Creative Writing Team Wins First Place at Power of the Pen District Tournament, Beats Top Cincinnati Schools

### Team members also place 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in individual competition

Middletown, Ohio, January 30, 2010: John XXIII 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade creative writing teams, coached by Ms. Kerry Sullivan, competed Saturday, January 30 at the Power of the Pen district tournament held at Summit Country Day Middle School. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team beat out 17 Cincinnati area schools, including Indian Hill, Summit Country Day, and Sycamore, to win top honors. Team members Gracie Grimes and Katie McCarthy also took top honors to place 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, respectively, out of a total of 92 7<sup>th</sup> grade students competing in the individual writing category. The remaining John XXIII 7<sup>th</sup> grade team members Will Cummins, Elise Erhart, Abbie Hurlburt, Breanne Johnson, and Meghan Mulligan shared in the first place team prize.

According to Ms. Sullivan, "I am so proud of both our teams, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All of the Power of the Pen participants have been committed for months in attending weekly after-school practices, and it is such an honor to have the 7<sup>th</sup> grade efforts rewarded in this way." With this significant win, team members are almost assured a chance to compete in the regional competition to be held at Princeton Junior High School on March 13.

In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Power of the Pen is Ohio's award-winning educational enhancement program devoted to excellence in creative writing. This year more than 7,500 writers at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels are expected to compete directly in a Power of the Pen interscholastic tournament.

Mrs. Brenda Neu, John XXIII principal says, "This is a fantastic way to start John XXIII's Catholic Schools Week celebrations. The students, Ms. Sullivan, and Fenwick freshman Katie Bruce worked hard after school to prepare for this competition. We are so proud of their accomplishments."

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If you would like to learn more about John XXIII's creative writing program and other academic programs visit their Open House which is being held this Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 p.m. for prospective and current families.

Discover a school that cares as much as you do. At John XXIII, our primary goal is the total Spiritual, Intellectual, Social, and Physical growth of your child in an atmosphere and spirit of Christian Community. John XXIII will challenge your child to do their best in their studies and in their walk with the Lord. We are eager to educate your child, pre-school and K-8. John XXIII Catholic School is regionally located with a long-standing history of educating children from Middletown and the surrounding communities of Franklin, Springboro, Trenton, Monroe, Liberty Township, and Lebanon. For more information visit [www.john23middletown.org](http://www.john23middletown.org) or call 513-424-1196.