

ChildSupport.

It's more than just money.



2021

CONFIDENCE...

Talk to those who don't accept you,
Who knows, maybe they'll become your friend too!
But be careful not to say too much,
It can cause you anxiety if you rush!

You never know where your secrets can go,
All around the city, the world...they flow!
Talk to your rival and ask what's wrong,
Maybe that will form a friendship that's strong!

But don't put yourself down because of them,
Don't play their pointless games,
Confuse them instead!
Not letting them know what's ahead!

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Don't Follow the Crowd

My parents once told me,
"Be different, you're allowed!
Don't do what they do,
Don't follow the crowd!

You are your own person,
There's no one else above you,
You're very unique,
That's why we love you.

So wear what you want,
Although people might stare,
We don't even mind
If you want pink hair."

That's a life lesson I live by
In my heart.



2021 NJ Teen Media Award Winning Honorable Mentions



Ashleigh Tavaska
"Pride"
High School



Adam Boberick
"Look Inside Her"
High School



Christine Lane Anthony
"Cherish What Matters"
Middle School



Freud Maceno
"Sing Me To Sleep"
Dr. E. Alma Flagg Middle School

2021 Winners

Hand-Drawn/Hand-Painted Art

High School

- 1st Place: Kiera Reeves, Piscataway High School
2nd Place: Jesus Calderon, Boonton High School
3rd Place: Sophia Lerro, Paul VI High School

Middle School

- 1st Place: Mariah Fay, Christopher Columbus Middle School
2nd Place: Charlize Diaz, Emerson Middle School
3rd Place: Esperanza Baquedano, Emerson Middle School *Repeat Winner

Written

High School

- 1st Place: Angela Eggie, Ocean City High School
2nd Place: Amy Leon, Boonton High School
3rd Place: Daniel Givens, Ocean City High School

Middle School

- 1st Place: Ahlam Zalat, Pillars Prep Academy
2nd Place: Adrian Caballero, Paterson Charter School for Science & Tech
3rd Place: Brianna Morrishaw, Paterson Charter School for Science & Tech

Honorable Mentions

Ashleigh Tavaska, Jackson Liberty High School
Adam Boberick, Paul VI High School
Christine Lane Anthony, Emerson Middle School
Freud Maceno, Dr. E. Alma Flagg Middle School

About The Teen Media Contest

The theme for the 2021 Teen Media Contest encouraged students to illustrate – through art and written word – the situations where they most need their parents. This concept could be taken literally, abstractly, or be left to the imagination. What you will find inside our calendar are the unique perspectives of students across the state.

This annual contest is open to all middle school and high school age students in New Jersey.

For more information about the contest and to sign up for contest updates visit www.NJTeenMedia.org.

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Don't Follow the Crowd

My parents once told me,
"Be different, you're allowed!
Don't do what they do,
Don't follow the crowd!"

You are your own person,
There's no one else above you,
You're very unique,
That's why we love you.

So wear what you want,
Although people might stare,
We don't even mind
If you want pink hair."

That's a life lesson I live by
And is deep in my heart,
As for me I stay true,
From myself I won't depart.

January 2021

Angela Eggie
"Don't Follow the Crowd"
1st Place Written
High School

January 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

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December 2020

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February 2021

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28						

Notes



February 2021

Sophia Lerro
"The Strongest Bond"
3rd Place Hand-Drawn Art
High School



February 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1	2 Groundhog's Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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January 2021

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March 2021

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Notes

CONFIDENCE...

Talk to those who don't accept you,
Who knows, maybe they'll become your friend too!
But be careful not to say too much,
It can cause you anxiety if you rush!

You never know where your secrets can go,
All around the city, the world...they flow!
Talk to your rival and ask what's wrong,
Maybe that will form a friendship that's strong!

But don't put yourself down because of them,
Don't play their pointless games,
Confuse them instead!
Not letting them know what's ahead!

"Ugly," "Stupid," "Small," and "Weak!"
Hurtful words they speak,
Push those hurtful words away,
Don't allow them in your mind, to linger, to stay!

Sometimes we cry alone in our rooms,
Over something that's genuinely dumb!
Don't let those words get to you,
You'll give them power if you do!

Others might see you as different, even bizarre,
But know inside just who you are!
You're so amazing, why can't you see?
You are the greatest version of you that you can be!

Now look into that mirror,
And repeat after me...
"God made me beautiful!"
Tell yourself clearly,
You've been blessed with endless opportunity!

One day you will learn,
To not be concerned,
With peoples' harsh words and negativity,
Learn to love yourself!
And only then will you be FREE!

C O N F I D E N C E...

A ten letter word you must remember,
In this life, it'll help you forever!
And it is something priceless we all have sought,
So value it as a blessing that cannot be bought!

March 2021

Ahlan Zalat
"CONFIDENCE..."
1st Place Written
Middle School

March 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins	15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of Spring
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Passover Begins
28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31			

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February 2021

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April 2021

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Notes



April 2021

Charlize Diaz
"Running Through My Mind"
2nd Place Hand-Drawn Art
Middle School



April 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
				1 April Fools' Day	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Ramadan Begins	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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March 2021

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May 2021

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23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

Notes

The Moon

"Dad I'm home," I muttered as silently as possible so that he would not be able to hear me.

"Good. I'm gonna need you to work on the gutters Luna. They are starting to get dirty from all the rain we've been getting," my dad joyfully said thinking I would be happy to do it. My dad has been giving me chores and work to do ever since the day I could walk. He cooks and gets money, I go to school and clean, it's our system.

"Shoot," I thought exhausted from school, "On it dad!" I tried to say in an annoyed tone. As I dawdled along to the gutters I stumbled upon a pipe that I've never seen before. "Ugh what is that," I asked myself because all of the gunk I saw was disgusting. Black paste was slathered all along that area, getting on the grass and wall of the house too. I know my dad, he is going to make me clean it up. Although I gagged several times, I was still curious about what was down there. And that's a curse of mine, my curiosity will make me do so much more things than what I'm comfortable with. So I ran to get all the cleaning supplies available. I reached down into the pipe with about a dozen layers of latex gloves. I reached down into the pipe, gagging every second my hand was inside. I ended up not finding anything and as I attempted to get my hand out of the pipe, I was stopped. Some form of barrier didn't allow my hand to leave. Adrenaline rushed into my body faster than anxiety rushed during a panic attack.

"Dad!" I yelled at the top of my lungs. He came sprinting to me, almost falling.

"¿Qué pasó mi Lunita?" He only speaks Spanish when either very angry, nervous, or worried so this was a relief to me to know that he cared.

"I-I got my hand stuck in this pipe that I found and-and-and..." I kept on stuttering to the point that what I was saying was indistinguishable. He eventually got the gist of it and told me that he was going to cut the pipe with a chainsaw. After what he said I completely drifted off. Perhaps it was the adrenaline that made me faint or the situation of seeing my hand caught in the pipe.

I woke up to me being in the same spot, my father at my side using Lysol Wipes to do his best to clean all the filthy gunk that was on my hand.

"Please, please don't do that again Luna, I almost had a heart attack," my dad pleaded, "I dug up this pipe recently but I didn't know that you'd investigate it."

"I am so, so sorry dad, I just...you know how I am. Just like m-" I cut myself off there. I was going to say that I was like my mother, curious, but I don't want to hurt my father. He has been sensitive ever since she passed when I was born. The only time I would see him talk about my mom is when he would speak to a picture of her at night. He was unaware that I knew this, but I would catch him several nights talking to her, and I would

sometimes join behind the door frame trying to gather information on my mom. Some people might think that he's going insane, but in reality, he just loves her so, so, much.

"Just like what Luna?"

"Oh, oh my friend Maria, I think you know her. She's as curious as a cat."

"Of course..." he mumbled.

I woke up at around 1 A.M. that night just to find my father speaking to the picture again. That night I was contemplating if I wanted to join him, but this time, at his side. I waited and waited, listening to him tell stories about his day today. But then, he came to the point where he talked about my incident.

"So Luna got in an accident today, She got stuck in a new pipe that I found which almost made my heart stop. The thing that destroyed me the most was when I asked her why she did it she said that she was curious. She said "Just like m-" and cut herself off. I thought she was going to refer to you, because, well you know, you were known for being curious. I just thought that she would know something about you."

At that point, I just wanted to bust in there because of how bad I felt. All the empathy I was feeling enveloped me. He knew that this broke

my heart, and I knew that it broke his. And so, I went in there without hesitation, because I knew that he would understand me.

"Luna..." he mumbled. But that was all he said. There was an unspoken conversation between us. He gestured to me to join him, and he kept on talking. Somehow I knew that he was always aware of my presence there.

"Oh, the moon," he continued to speak to the picture. "How much I adore that grey object in the sky. Only rises once we are all asleep, rises when we forget about its presence. But not for all. Some acknowledge the moon and value it when they are never able to see it. They adore it without being able to come across it," he edged toward the window, glaring at the moon with a passion so great that his pupils dilate. As he stared there was a moment of silence.

A couple minutes passed and the silence continued. What he said about the moon, I finally understood why he stays up in the night just to talk to mother even if she is not there. I understood so I broke the silence and began reciting what he said about the moon.

"Oh, the moon."

May 2021

Adrian Caballero
"The Moon"
2nd Place Written
Middle School



May 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

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April 2021

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June 2021

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Notes

A Moment to Mourn

Not even the sun's most supple rays Poked through the sky's muddled
grays On that fateful day in October

On the rain-soaked bridge, my dampened spirit Saw our home and the
damage near it-
The hurricane's havoc had left it shambled

My youthful eyes looked towards my parent's.
It saw their aching fears most apparent But also something strong
beneath it all.

I looked back towards my drenched memories: Ruined toys, a swing set
left wet and leathery. Yet, I saw something else in my Mom and Dad

While they were grieving like my siblings and me, They were also
preparing themselves to see That we got ourselves back up on our feet.

In a time of tragedy, I saw my parent's backbone And I learned a lesson
that I now try to own: It is okay to mourn as long as you look ahead.

Now, I always keep my head up and look down the road.
I try to capture the strength my parents showed.
I graciously thank my parents for that.

June 2021

Daniel Givens
"A Moment to Mourn"
3rd Place Written
High School



June 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth
20 Father's Day First Day of Summer	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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May 2021

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July 2021

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Notes



July 2021

Mariah Fay
"My Mom Empowers Me to be Confident"
1st Place Hand-Drawn Art
Middle School



July 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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June 2021

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August 2021

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29	30	31				

Notes

Be a Leader, Not a Follower

Life is a miracle
That brings hope to the world
My mother said to be original
After everything I learned

Following everyone doesn't get you anywhere
Be a leader, not a follower
Just be yourself
And not anyone else

Following don't get you anywhere
While being a leader gets you everywhere
You have dreams to live up to
So be a leader, not a follower

Be a leader, and others will follow along
Being a leader, is not so wrong
It gets you to be independent and brave
When following the bad, makes you misbehave

Be a leader like a king or queen
Not a follower like thieves
It's you that revolves around the world
Not anyone else

BE A LEADER, NOT A FOLLOWER

August 2021

Brianna Morrishaw
"Be a Leader, Not a Follower"
3rd Place Written
Middle School



August 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
1 Friendship Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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July 2021

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September 2021

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26	27	28	29	30			

Notes



September 2021

Kiera Reeves
"Apple Picking"
1st Place Hand-Drawn Art
High School



September 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day Rosh Hashana Begins	7	8	9	10	11
12 National Grandparents Day	13	14	15 Yom Kippur Begins	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 First Day of Fall	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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August 2021

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October 2021

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24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Notes



October 2021

Esperanza Baquedano
"Caring Community"
3rd Place Hand-Drawn Art
Middle School



October 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Halloween 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

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September 2021

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November 2021

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Notes

I Love You, Mom

From the moment my newborn eyes looked at your face, I knew you were somebody to be treasured all my life. Mommy, you have always been around to guide me through the long animations of life. You were the one who has handled my mistakes and taught me the rights from wrongs with the utmost delicacy, only to help me grow into the person I am today. Having gone through so much yourself, I have earned such high respect for you, and I will forever be grateful for the many lessons you have gifted me with.

You taught me from the moment I shouted my first words how important it is to stay true to myself and always strive for the greatest things in life. This, of course, has stuck with me for the past 15 years I have been alive, and never once have I taken it for granted. You see, mom, you have always left your arms fully accessible to me whenever I doubted my abilities, or whenever the words of others put me down, and the words "it will be okay," that you always said ever so softly, never failed to put me at ease.

It's the comfort that a mother gives her child that should be deemed the most precious thing in the world. There's nothing better than looking to your mom for advice during the many rough patches in your journey of growing up. While some kids are not fortunate enough to have this bond with their mothers, you have made it a point to always listen and advise, which is something I cannot thank you enough for. In my journey, even when I wanted to give up, you taught me the meaning of perseverance and sharing in my triumphs and tears.

I love you endless amounts for the support you have always showered me in since I was born. You have always been my #1 fan, mom, and even though I may not express it often, nothing you do is ever forgotten, and every day you mean more and more to me. You are so bright and special, and you carry endless amounts of wisdom on your shoulders that I hope to put upon my kids in the future. I just want to thank you for your warm hugs, your encouraging words, your wisdom, and just for being the amazing person you are. I love you, mom.

November 2021

Amy Leon
"I Love You, Mom"
2nd Place Written
High School



November 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6
7 Daylight Saving Time Ends	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 Hanukkah Begins	29	30				

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October 2021

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December 2021

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26	27	28	29	30	31		

Notes



December 2021

Jesus Calderon
 "My Dear Beloved Parents"
 2nd Place Hand-Drawn Art
 High School



December 2021

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

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November 2021

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January 2022


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Notes

Protector.
Teacher.
Monster Checker.
Dad.

ChildSupport.
It's more than just money.


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Amigo.
Compañero de juego.
Chofer.
Papá.

PensiónInfantil.
No se trata sólo de dinero.

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The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Office of Child Support Services recognizes the importance of child support to the economic well-being of NJ families. This calendar is one example of how we get information out to mothers and fathers across the state about our child support program and to share our message that "child support is more than just money." It's also about time – and teaching, protecting, playing, mentoring – being there to care, share, celebrate and support.

Call 1-877-NJKiDS1 or visit www.njchilddsupport.org.

Listener.
Buddy.
Jungle Gym.
Mom.

ChildSupport.
It's more than just money.

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Hero.
Nurturer.
Boo-boo Fixer.
Dad.

Parents have so many roles.

Each one is important. And each one requires time, patience and love.
Whether you live with your children or not, support them in every way possible.
Remember, child support is more than just money.

ChildSupport.
It's more than just money.

njchilddsupport.org
1.877.NJKids1
New Jersey Department of Human Services
New Jersey Judiciary



ChildSupport.
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Phil Murphy, Governor | Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Carole Johnson, Commissioner