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Dear Students:

My colleagues and I are pleased that you attended the El Sol American Dream Forums. We hoped you enjoyed the experience and that it helped strengthen your commitment to your education and to defining and pursuing your American Dreams. Each speaker was terrific and your questions were meaningful, sometimes funny, and always important.

The El Sol Foundation and El Sol Academy hope you will now participate in the American Dream best paper and poetry contests. The funds for the awards were provided by the El Sol Foundation and Dr. Manuel Gomez, former Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at UCI and an outstanding poet.

American Dream Essay and Poetry Prize

Paper Guidelines:

If you decide to write a paper, it should include at least three parts responding to the following three questions: What is your American Dream or Dreams? What obstacles do you think might make it difficult to achieve your American Dream or Dreams? What strategies might you use to overcome these obstacles and achieve your American Dream or Dreams. You may incorporate ideas that seemed important to you from the speakers in the American Dream Forums.

Length of Paper:

6th graders: up to 500-600 words

7th graders: 700-800 words

8th graders: 800-900 words

Poetry Guidelines:

If you decide to write and submit a poem, it should respond to at least one of the questions from the paper guidelines above. You may also submit a poem focused on your family's American Dreams and their experiences in trying to achieve them. You may incorporate ideas in your poem that seemed important to you from the speakers in the American Dream Forums.

Submission Dates:

All Papers or poems must be emailed to Ms. Kayla Daviss, El Sol Foundation by December 4 before 5.00PM. Her email is kdaviss@elsolacademy.org

Awards:

200 dollars will be provided to one winner from each grade for the best paper and 200 dollars for the best poem. You may submit both a paper and a poem or one or the other.



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The winning poems and papers will be selected by Marshall Kaplan, Executive Director Board Member, El Sol Foundation; Karina Hamilton, Treasurer and Board Member of El Sol Foundation; Monique Daviss, Executive Director of El Sol and Dr. Manuel Gomez, Vice Chancellor, Emeritus of UCI.

The criteria for selection are: clarity of writing, creative vision, insightful thoughts, and power of presentation.

Announcements of winner will be on December 11th.

We hope you take part in the contest. Please call at 9496895003 or email me at mkaplan@pathopps.org if you have any questions.

Marshall Kaplan,
Executive Director and Board Member, El Sol Foundation.