

2011 HOUSTON EVENT FACTS PAGE

15th Annual Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory Competition

For more information:

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Event:

- 15th Annual **Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory Competition** sponsored by the Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP law firm
- **Semi-Finals:** Friday, January 7, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at Thompson Elementary School, 6121 Tierwester
- **Finals:** Friday, January 14, 2011, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, Downtown Houston

2011 Topic: How will you carry forward the legacy of Dr. King in your personal and professional life?

Participant Criteria:

- Fourth and fifth grade elementary students compose their own original 3-5 minute speeches, incorporating ideals from Dr. King's writings, speeches and other records, to answer the competition's theme question, "How will you carry forward the legacy of Dr. King in your personal and professional life?"
- Students are judged on delivery, stage presence and decorum, content interpretation and memorization at all three levels (school, preliminaries and finals) of the competition
- The 23 Houston ISD elementary schools will host in-school competitions of 20 students (maximum) per school; the first place winners will then participate in the semi-final competition at which time 12 finalists will be selected

23 Participating Houston ISD Elementary Schools:

Anderson Elementary	Dodson Elementary	Park Place Elementary	Valley West Elementary
Atherton Elementary	Foerster Elementary	Pleasantville Elementary	Wainwright Elementary
Burrus Elementary	Garden Villas Elementary	Port Houston Elementary	Whidby Elementary
Cornelius Elementary	Gregg Elementary	Rodriguez Elementary	Windsor Village Elementary
Crawford Elementary	MacGregor Elementary	Sanchez Elementary	Woodson Elementary
Crespo Elementary	Mading Elementary	Thompson Elementary	

Purpose:

- Annual program designed by Gardere to recognize and encourage the writing and oratory skills of elementary students
- Celebration of cultural diversity and opportunity to spotlight talented Houston ISD students as they learn about Dr. King
- Presented in the spirit of learning and as a celebration of Dr. King's legacy

History and Awards:

- Established in Dallas in 1993 to commemorate the life of Dr. King; expanded to Houston in 1997
- In 2010, more than 375 students representing 39 schools in Dallas and Houston participated in the program along with approximately 153 Gardere attorneys and staff members who served as judges at the in-school competitions
- Awards for student participation include a certificate of participation; the 12 finalists will also receive a U.S. Savings bond, a participation plaque and other gifts; participating schools receive a book on civil rights for their libraries
- Past winners and participants have delivered their speeches to numerous local organizations, including annual MLK Day appearances at the House of Blues, and they have also appeared on local and national television programs, including Good Morning America, The Early Show, Fox 26 News, and in numerous local and community newspapers

Program Details:

- Judges for in-school competitions will consist of Gardere attorneys and staff members
- Judges at the semi-finals competition will consist of Gardere attorneys.
- The Final competition will feature a number of VIP community/civic/business leaders on the judging panel
- Outstanding entertainment presented by Salvation Army Harbour Light Choir
- For more information: http://www.gardere.com/Firm_Profile/Community/ (click on MLK event logo)