



## **VEGAS PBS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PBS KIDS WRITERS CONTEST**

*Southern Nevada Children in Grades K-5 Encouraged to Submit Original Stories*

(Las Vegas) – Vegas PBS is announcing the annual PBS KIDS Writers Contest which is designed to promote the advancement of children’s literacy skills through hands-on, interactive learning. Vegas PBS offers the local competition to all students in Kindergarten through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. However, the first place winners from only Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be forwarded for judging in the national PBS competition which is limited to students in K-3.

“The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is a wonderful opportunity for Southern Nevada children in grades K-5 to explore their imagination, express their creativity and feel the power in developing stories,” said Vegas PBS Ready To Learn Coordinator Jessica Carroll. She continued saying, “In 2014, Oniana Boulware, a local second-grade student, was the first Southern Nevada student to place first in the national competition and this was a great achievement for our community.”

Southern Nevada children may now submit their entries for the PBS KIDS Writers Contest. The contest is supported by a robust set of resources including story ideas, activity sheets and the previous winning entries. Submissions will be judged for creativity and originality of plot and/or themes, story structure and use of literary devices, and relevance, quality and originality of illustration. For more detailed information, see [VegasPBS.org/writers-contest](http://VegasPBS.org/writers-contest). The entries are due to Vegas PBS Ready To Learn, 3050 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89121 by mail or delivery, at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2015. In spring 2015, Vegas PBS will select local winners and award prizes including free tuition for contest partner Southern Nevada Writing Project's annual summer writing camp for the first place winners. Also, the public service media organization will hold a special ceremony for all 18 local winners. Local first place winners in Kindergarten through the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be forwarded for consideration in the national PBS competition.

National judges in past years have included writers and producers from PBS KIDS programs in addition to well-known children’s authors and illustrators. The judges will rank the top 12 entries. National winners will be announced during summer 2015 and the winning stories will be featured on [pbskids.org/writerscontest](http://pbskids.org/writerscontest).

The national winners will receive prizes courtesy of the national prize sponsor, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, and PBS. The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by PBS and based on the

Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED-TV, Buffalo, New York.

### **About Vegas PBS**

Dedicated to enriching the lives of those who call Southern Nevada home, Vegas PBS Channel 10 is one of America's most watched PBS stations on a per capita basis. Five additional channels are available over the air or on cable and satellite including Create, Vme, Worldview, Rewind and Jackpot!

Vegas PBS expands its television broadcast impact through supplemental materials on VegasPBS.org, PBS.org, PBSKids.org, PBSParents.org, PBSTeachers.org and NextAvenue.org. Vegas PBS also offers extensive online distance education for workforce development and economic diversification through Global Online Advanced Learning (GOAL).

Vegas PBS provides K-12 educational resources to teachers and students in public, private, charter and home schools including TeacherLine professional development courses; One Place, a curriculum-correlated online media service; the Described and Captioned Media Center (DCMC) containing materials for deaf, hard of hearing, blind and vision impaired individuals and those who assist them; and Ready To Learn literacy and health community workshops based on curriculum materials in daytime children's programs.

For more information on programming and services, please visit VegasPBS.org, like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/VegasPBS, or follow us on Twitter at Twitter.com/VegasPBS.

### **About PBS KIDS**

PBS KIDS, the number one educational media brand for kids, offers all children the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television, online, mobile and community-based programs. Kidscreen- and Webby-award winning pbskids.org provides engaging interactive content, including the PBS KIDS video player, now offering free streaming video accessible on computer- and mobile-device-based browsers. For more information on specific PBS KIDS content supporting literacy, science, math and more, visit pbs.org/pressroom, or follow PBS KIDS on Twitter and Facebook.

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