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# The Keller Citizen

## Westlake Academy student wins art contest, special ride to school

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WESTLAKE When Westlake Academy staff asked students to create an educational picture for National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5-11, third-grader Karly Plamondon got all fired up.

About helping people stay safe from fire dangers, that is.

Karly and fellow students in grades 1-4 were given some background on fire prevention and then asked to draw related pictures for an art contest — focusing on creativity and a safety message.

The top three from each grade were put into a hat and one name drawn at Westlake Town Hall.

Karly, the second place winner from the third grade, was chosen to receive the grand prize.

She drew a colorful, two-sided poster that featured a cafeteria fire on one side and helpful safety measures on the other, including a fire extinguisher, a message to call 911 in an emergency to save lives and a smoke detector.

She even drew a fire truck.

Although she was drawing the truck from memory, Karly not only got to see one firsthand on Friday, but to ride in it, too.

As winner of the school's contest, Karly and her mother, Peggy, were given a ride from their Westlake home to the school in a fire engine, complete with sirens and lights.

Engine 481 drove through the drop-off lane at Westlake Academy and Karly's classmates lined both sides of the drive, cheering and shouting "Go Karly! Go Karly!"

Peggy Plamondon said it was her daughter's first year there and the youngster was feeling a little lonely. But not anymore.

"This had been an immeasurable experience," Plamondon said Friday. "She is living the dream today."

Mom asked her only daughter if she wanted to be a firefighter after her fun experience.

"I might," the 9-year-old said. "Whatever I do, I want to be helping somebody."

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