



PressFriends earns community recognition

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The student board of the nonprofit group PressFriends was named a first-place winner in Scholastic’s 2012 Be Big in Your Community Contest. The students were honored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and state Assembly member Bonnie Lowenthal at the Rolling Hills Estates City Council meeting on Nov. 13. The students receiving commendations were Luke Southwell, Taylor Wirtz, Tyler Barnett, Tessa Southwell, Mitchell Trainotti, Jack Solaro, Mary Dawson, Nina Grove, Jessica Pedersen, Edwin Jacobson, Dragon Siu, Diamond Naga Siu, Taylor Hulahan, Sarah Collins, Makena McCarroll, Madeline Cane, Neema Masoudipour, Hannah Katagi, Elena Ueda, Matthew Miyamoto, Austin Doke, Kaitlan Tseng, Nicholas Jung and Shaun Kim. Not present at the meeting were Leonora Meroth, Conor Dawson, Megan Hokama and Anna Wood.

PressFriends is a student-run, all-volunteer organization that works with elementary students to help them publish their own school newspapers. The newspaper serves as a vehicle for improving writing and verbal communication skills. More than 200 local middle and high school students volunteer with PressFriends and mentor more than 400 elementary students a year. PressFriends works with 10 Title I elementary schools, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Los Angeles Harbor in Wilmington and San Pedro, two public libraries and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

In the 2011-12 school year, PressFriends published 25 newspapers and printed more than 10,000 copies of those newspapers.



Students from PressFriends were recognized with a Be Big in Your Community award. They are pictured with the Rolling Hills Estates City Council on Nov. 13.