



Our World Neighborhood Charter School
Elementary School
Kindergarten to Grade 5
36-12 35th Avenue
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Middle School
Grade 6 to Grade 8
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CHARTER SCHOOL FIFTH GRADERS WINS NYJTL ARTHUR ASHE ESSAY CONTEST

10 Year Old writes about Arthur Ashe and his contributions to the sport of Tennis and Social Activism. Student receives award from the USTA.

Astoria, New York- Calvin Semczuk, a fifth grader at Our World Neighborhood Charter School (OWNCS), has been named the recipient of the National New York Junior Tennis League (NYJTL) Arthur Ashe Essay Contest Award by the NYJTL, in collaboration with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Eastern. Calvin was invited to receive his award at the Junior Awards Luncheon as part of the Eastern Annual Meeting for the USTA on Saturday, January 29, 2011. The luncheon took place at the Westchester Renaissance Hotel in White Plains New York from 12pm to 1:30pm.

As one of the founders of the NYJTL, Arthur Ashe set the direction of the organization towards transforming the lives of young people. His ideals to positively impact the lives of young people through athletic and academic education are actively expressed in the mission and key guiding principles of the organization. The essay contest serves to remember the Arthur Ashe's contributions to educational enrichment by prompting students to write about Ashe's accomplishments in both the sport of tennis and social activism.

The NYJTL runs the AfterSchool program in OWNCS from Kindergarten to grade 5. Francisco Q. Vázquez Córdova is the NYJTL Site Director for the program at OWNCS and has overseen the submission of the contest essays during his 3-year tenure. Mr. Vázquez has seen four students from OWNCS win since 2008. Calvin Semczuk is the first OWNCS student to win the essay contest at the national level.

Calvin Semczuk participated in the essay contest in the age 10 and under category through the NYJTL program at OWNCS last year when he was in fourth grade. Calvin worked with his afterschool group leader, Ms. Eva David, and his mom on the essay. Ms. David says, "I printed out information on Arthur Ashe and helped them write in their own words. Calvin got really into it. He's very smart" Calvin plays tennis with his mom and enjoys participating in the tennis activities as part of the NYJTL Afterschool program at OWNCS. He said, "I enjoyed writing the essay, because it had to do with what I learned at the afterschool program about tennis."

Our World Neighborhood Charter School was founded in 2002 and is located in Astoria, Queens. It is the mission of Our World Neighborhood Charter School to educate its students to become independent thinkers and lifelong learners. The school values its partnership with the NYJTL and is proud to have so many students honored by the organization for their writing skills.