



For more information, please contact

Tara Navarro

Saint Michael School, StMS

919-468-6150

For Immediate Release:

**StMS Authors & Illustrators Recognized in 2011 Young Authors
"That's a Fact!" Competition"**

Three St. Michael students accepted Raleigh-Wake Reading Council Young Authors awards on February 27th at a Meredith College. The writers' stories and poems appear in *That's a Fact! Raleigh-Wake Young Authors Collection, 2011*.

Winning authors included the following students: Ethan Wagner, a 6th grader, and two 8th graders: Adelaide Cooke and Kathryn Baker. Baker also placed as a state winner for publication in the North Carolina Reading Association's edition. Additionally, the following two StMS students were chosen for this year's competition as illustrators in the local edition: Amy Metzinger for the honor of the front cover and Natalie Bretzius for the back cover.

The Raleigh-Wake Reading Council, of the North Carolina and the International Reading Associations, sponsored this competition for all Wake County Schools. According to Sue Keehn, President of the local council, "The students are very talented and this competition gives them an opportunity to be published, which is so important for today's writers. In fact, we know being published multiple times before college makes a difference, so this is an encouraging start for them." The council event did a great job of announcing each winner with a short biography, a professional handshake, and presentation of an award, thereby teaching our future writers to accept public recognition as well.

At the Raleigh Convention Center on March 12th, Kathryn Baker will join over three hundred other North Carolina winners at a state-level awards ceremony.

According to Jane Kline, Ph.D., the event speaker from the International Reading Association in Leadership Development, "What you can write can be very influential, just like J. N. Darling (also known as Ding Darling) was once a young author that influenced a US President to protect wildlife." Darling has helped start the *Department of the Interior*, which protects America's natural resources. During her speech, Kline predicted, "Your names will also be among the writers that influence the future."