



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2016

Contact: Doug Tobin
Public Information Officer
Office: 727-815-7177
dtobin@pascocountyfl.net

Pasco County Student Wins State Severe Weather Poster Contest

~~Chasco Elementary's Maria Bustinza will be honored April 27th ~~

PASCO COUNTY, FL ---- A Pasco County student has won the Florida Division of Emergency Management **Kids Severe Weather Awareness Week Poster Contest!** Maria Flavia Bustinza from Chasco Elementary School is the 2016 Region 4 winner. Maria's artwork was chosen for the top honor among schools from 8 west central Florida counties.

The [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) and The [Pasco County Office of Emergency Management](#) will recognize Maria and her school during a special ceremony **Wednesday, April 27 at 2:30 p.m.** at **Chasco Elementary School**, 7906 Ridge Road in Port Richey. Maria and her teacher will be awarded prizes for the winning poster.

“Pasco County’s Office of Emergency Management is thrilled to be able to honor Maria and celebrate her artwork,” said Pasco County Emergency Services Director Kevin Guthrie. “She’s setting a wonderful example for her classmates and the rest of the community, reminding everyone to stay informed and be prepared for any kind of severe weather.”

This is the 15th year of the Severe Weather Awareness Week Poster Contest, which is open to students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Teachers encourage students to create a poster about what severe weather preparedness or a disaster supply kit means to them. Students have to draw or paint their poster without computers, stencils or stickers. Maria’s winning poster will be unveiled during the April 27th ceremony at her school.

“We’re so proud of Maria for winning this contest, and we appreciate the opportunity for our students to participate in this worthwhile contest, which illustrates the importance of both the arts and severe weather awareness,” said Pasco County Superintendent of Schools Kurt Browning.

Hurricane Season begins June 1st and ends November 30th. For more information about severe weather safety – including evacuation zones, disaster kits, preparing your home or business, special needs, protecting your pets, shelters and much more – visit the Pasco County Office of Emergency Management website: <http://www.pascoemergencymanagement.com>.