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SDLAX HPL Proudly Presents...

Matt Hessel-Mial Creative Writing Contest

SDLAX HPL presents Matt Hessel-Mail Creative Writing Contest 2026-2027!

SDLAX HPL is excited to offer the thirty-sixth annual Matt Hessel-Mial Creative Writing Contest! In his eight years, Matt exercised his passion for writing by writing creative short stories, some of which were published, such as *The Great Planet Swap*! In keeping his spirit for creative writing and curious imagining alive, the annual writing contest aims to inspire writers in grades second through fifth to share their unique storytelling talents!

SDLAX MHM Details!

WHO:

All elementary students in grades 2nd through 5th are eligible to enter the Matt Hessel-Mial Creative Writing Contest.

Requirements:

Write a fictional story. Topics are unlimited but appropriate content is required.

- The story must be original and the work of only the student. Students may only enter one story.
- Adults may type the story, but the words and ideas must be the student's.
- The contest will be introduced to students by their building HPL teacher.

2026-2027 Guidelines

✓Stories must be typed and submitted as a Google Doc. Poems are allowed as long as they depict a story.

✓No longer than 4 pages or 1000 double-spaced typed words

✓Times New Roman Font

✓12pt font size and double-spaced

✓Entry will be done digitally through the student HPL Website. See the Link below: *https://www.sdlaxhpl.org/matt-hessel-mial.html*

✓**2026 submission window opens in February.**

✓Address any questions to abarribe@lacrossesd.org