

For Immediate Release

Media contact: Jean Mann

914-328-3000

Jean.mann@schoolchoiceintl.com

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The School Choice Group announces The Michael Perelstein Memorial Scholarship Winners

Scholarship fund encourages New York City school age children to pursue their unique passions

(White Plains, NY – October 11, 2013) School Search Solutions (SSS), a division of The School Choice Group (SCG), the leading global education consultancy headquartered in New York, in collaboration with the Parents of Accelerated Learners (P.A.L.) Workshops, NYC, announced today the [Michael Perelstein Memorial Scholarship Fund Discover Your Passion](#) competition winners.

This competition was targeted toward New York City students from kindergarten through 8th grade, who showed exceptional promise and passion for an individual interest, in academic fields, sports, music, the arts, community service, entrepreneurship or technology. The focus on individual passion and the story behind the funds are what make this scholarship unique. Each of the competition winners had to submit a sample of previous work, nomination letters and a description of how the award monies will be used to further their unique passion.

“I know Michael would be proud to have provided opportunity for young people to pursue their personal passions and I am honored to be able to keep his memory alive by nurturing these children’s educational interests”, said Elizabeth Perelstein, the Chair and Founder of the School Choice Group.

The award winners:

1) Jalen Phifer is an 8th grade tap dancer from Brooklyn who attends the Birch Wathen Lenox School. Jalen will use his \$5,000 award money to diversify his training and produce a video for the purpose of encouraging other black males to pursue dance.

2 & 3) Jonathan and Michael Manta, are brothers from Queens, who attend the Speyer Legacy School, in grades 3 and 6, respectively. Jonathan is a chess wiz. Jonathan began his chess career at age 4, and won the NY State Chess Championship for first grade at 7 years old. Michael’s interest in math and physics were inspired by Star Trek. His goal is to become an astrophysicist. The Michael Perelstein scholarship will enable the brothers to attend summer programs to advance their passions for chess and mathematics. They were awarded \$3,500 to be shared equally.

4) **Gregory Wickham** a resident of Manhattan is a 4rd grader at St. Bernard’s School. His current passion is computer programming; Gregory has made over 100 computer games over the past year. Gregory

plans to use his \$3,500 scholarship funds to attend classes which will improve his skills and introduce him to like-minded peers.

5) **Lauren Scimeca** is a 3rd grade musician from Staten Island at P.S. 29 – Bardwell School. She plays several instruments, focusing on piano and voice. Lauren plans to use her scholarship money to diversify her music lessons. She will now be able to study voice, piano and perhaps electric guitar with her \$1,500 award.

6) **Melina Mitsogiorgakis**, a resident of Staten Island, is an 8th grader at I.S. 75. Melina has been drawing for as long as she can remember. Melina plans to use her \$1,500 award to purchase art supplies and to take courses in sculpture and portfolio presentation.

7) **Joshua Dior** is an 8th grade aspiring politician from Manhattan at St. Paul’s School. Josh plans to use his \$1,500 scholarship funds to participate in **Monumental, National Youth Leadership Council’s National Service-Learning Conference**, to be held in Washington DC.

The winners will receive their awards at the [NYC Gifted and Talented Symposium on October 26th](#). For full information on the Symposium see <https://nycgt.eventbrite.com/>. For information on the scholarship see www.schoolsearchsolutions.com

About The School Choice Group

The School Choice Group, consisting of [School Search Solutions](#) and [School Choice International](#), is the leading global education consulting service. Specialties include school placement for private, public, specialized and international schools, from preschool through college. With over 120 experienced consultants in 50 locations globally, the SCG works with families, schools, and major employers, to find the right schools for children, anywhere in the world. In addition to the Michael Perelstein Scholarship, its consumer division School Search Solutions developed the first school-child matching tool, [LEAP](#) that relies on both subjective and objective criteria to identify schools appropriate for a child. School Choice International, the business division, also conducts research and policy analysis for corporations, schools and governments setting or re-evaluating education policy. School Choice International created the only web based resource to understand education across the globe, Global Education Explorer. An industry leader, The School Choice Group Founder and Chair, Elizabeth Perelstein, co-founded the British International School of New York. For more information see www.schoolchoicegroup.com

About The P.A.L. Workshops

The P.A.L. Workshops, NYC for Parents of Accelerated Learners [P.A.L.] supports NYC-based parents and their children by offering educational workshops, talent development-based resources and programs, mentorships and a new discovery platform for web and app-based learning tools for kids. P.A.L. connects experts with parents to better support the cognitive, social and emotional needs of their children.

P.A.L. is passionate about closing the education gap in NYC by providing access to events at low or no cost to make sure that every parent who wants to pursue quality education for their child has that opportunity. P.A.L. is a founding sponsor of the NYC Gifted and Talented Symposium, a one day event to support high potential youth. For more information or sponsorship see www.palworkshopsnyc.org.