

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

The School Choice Group (SCG), the leading global education consultancy headquartered in New York, in collaboration with the Parents of Accelerated Learners, NYC (PALNYC), announced today the second annual Michael Perelstein Memorial Scholarship Fund Discover Your Passion competition winners. This competition is targeted toward New York City students. Meet the award winners.

**Samantha Katel** (The Mandell School, Manhattan, grade 8). Samantha, the Grand Prize Winner is being awarded **\$5,000** to develop a unique therapy device for autistic children. She is an 8th grader from Manhattan who for the last three years has been a volunteer peer buddy at Manhattan Children's Center, a school for children with autism. Samantha has designed and hopes to prototype and distribute her idea with the help of this award.

- Meet Samantha here: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bx2fIPkLS1L0cWhWZVluMk9GalU/edit>

**Julian Benelli** (The Anderson School, PS 334, Manhattan, grade 3). His musical talent already blooming at the age of 8, Julian is being awarded **\$3,500** to purchase a weighted keyboard, piano bench and piano lessons to help his music composition.

- Meet Julian here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/b09vuu7h98t9fhp/Julian%20Benelli.mp4?dl=0>

**Akira Nakada** (Speyer Legacy School, Manhattan, grade 6). A keen and talented chess player, Akira will receive **\$3,500** to attend the North American Chess Open and to take private chess lessons.

- Meet Akira here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4StydNmMgeM&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CGbSsILqa4&feature=youtu.be>

**Nash Flammang** (Success Academy, Manhattan, grade 3). Nash will receive **\$3,500** to expand his "Lemon-Aid" stand to help the homeless. The funds will be used for tuition to an entrepreneurship camp and for seed money to advance his project.

- Meet Nash here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC2zwB0zXY8&feature=youtu.be>

**Olivia Kelly** (School: PS 121, the Bronx, grade 2). Olivia will receive **\$1,500** to attend an International Gymnastics Competition winter camp to prepare her for the Junior Olympics.

- Meet Olivia here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypd-1574wVA&feature=youtu.be>

**Andrei Stewart-Chapman** (Little Red School House, Manhattan, grade 4). Andrei is being awarded **\$1,500** to support his passion for tap dance with a tap board, shoes and lessons.

- Meet Andrei here:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0kblg6ilbumad55/AADrAdPtIQmzVuABqNYvAqSwa#/?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0kblg6ilbumad55/AADrAdPtIQmzVuABqNYvAqSwa#/)



**Sebastian Klein** (PS 29 -John M Harrigan, Manhattan, grade 5). Sebastian is being awarded **\$1,500** to be used for fencing equipment, clothing, and private fencing lessons.

- Meet Sebastian here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHQBwJe2MLw&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqv-4ityNV8&feature=youtu.be>