

December 14, 2011

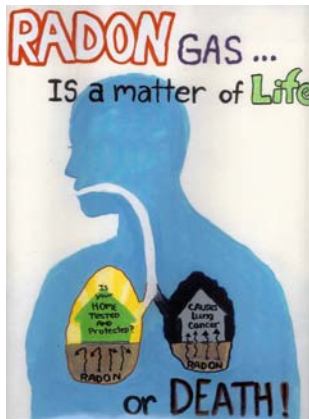
Contact: Maggie Hall, Public Information Director
Pinellas County Health Department
(727) 824-6908 Margarita_Hall@doh.state.fl.us (media only)



Public Health
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PINELLAS STUDENT A TOP WINNER IN RADON CONTEST
2012 CAMPAIGN ENTRY CREATED BY LEILA DAVIS ELEMENTARY STUDENT RANKS
NEAR THE TOP STATEWIDE

Nathaniel Briseno, a fifth-grader at Leila Davis Elementary School in Largo, tied for second place in the 2012 Florida State Radon Poster Contest, which highlights the risks associated with the colorless, odorless gas that is found in many homes and that is not easy to detect. His award will be presented at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 16 at Leila Davis Elementary, 2630 Landmark Dr., Clearwater.



Briseno's "Radon: It's Life or Death!" was one of two second-place winners out of close to 400 entries statewide from students ages 9 to 14. It will be one of three entered in the National Radon Poster Contest. Florida entries have won at the national level three of the four previous years. The Florida winners' art will be posted on the Florida Department of Health's site in the coming weeks.

"We are proud that Nathaniel will be representing Pinellas in the state's contest," said Gayle Guidash, MPH, REHS, director of the Pinellas County Health Department's Environmental Health division. "He did a great job learning about radon and helping to educate others about the health hazards and the need for testing."

Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless, colorless, and tasteless radioactive gas. Nationally, an average of 1 in 15 homes has elevated radon. In Florida, 1 in 5 homes has elevated levels. Radon exposure is a leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.

A simple test can detect radon in your home. For information, including home test kits or hiring state-certified radon measurement professionals, call the Florida Radon Program, (800) 800-543-8279, or go to www.radon.doh.state.fl.us.

The winners of the National Poster Contest will be recognized by award ceremonies in January 2012.

For information about the Pinellas County Health Department, go to www.PinellasHealth.com.

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