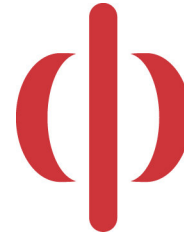


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**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATIONSM**
of Metropolitan Chicago

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**CPS Student Illustrates the Importance of
Hand Washing, Wins Poster Contest**

Some heroes visit space, save lives, win the game, or slay dragons. Taft High School Academic Center 8th grader Marcelina Suchocka, 14, knows that all heroes wash their hands.

The Stakeholders Collaboration to Improve Student Health and Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) held a contest for Chicago Public School (CPS) 7th and 8th graders to design a poster encouraging hand washing.

The winning poster*, created by Suchocka, depicts five figures standing at sinks, washing their hands—an astronaut, a nurse, a young boy, a Chicago Bulls player and a knight. The poster reads, “Even heroes have to wash their hands.” Her poster was chosen as the winner based on originality and readability and will be hung in bathrooms throughout CPS this fall.

“Ms. Suchocka’s drawing is creative, well done and easy to understand. Children of all elementary grades will be able to understand the importance of hand washing,” said Joel Africk, RHAMC President and CEO.

Africk awarded Suchocka with a video iPod and iTunes gift card and her teacher, Rachel Fenker-Vera with a gift card to Staples. Jessika Stec, 13, also from Taft High School-Academic Center and Linda Nguyen, 14, from Alessandro Volta Elementary School received honorable mentions. Both were presented with an iPod Shuffle and iTunes gift card. Nguyen’s teacher, Sadie Bristow, also won a Staples gift card. The awards are sponsored by an educational grant from Otho S.A. Sprague Memorial Institute.

The Stakeholders Collaboration partners with Chicago Public Schools to overcome barriers to healthy learners by coordinating health-related programs and services to schools and addressing systems issues and policies.

Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago is a non-profit dedicated to improving lung health through research, advocacy and education throughout the Chicago area. For more information, visit www.lungchicago.org.

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***Editors’ Note: Photo of winner and poster available upon request.**

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