

## **Art finds other avenues outside of the classroom at Raymond Park Middle School**

After the elimination of the art program at Raymond Park Middle School, many talented students felt lost and even a bit betrayed. How could a school system so dedicated to teaching their youth to develop a positive work ethic and pride in a job well done abandon the arts program at the middle level? Bottom line...budget cuts. The talented youth at Raymond Park are now coming up with creative ways to incorporate their artistic freedom of expression by promoting their talent through the Library Media Center. During a nationally celebrated Teen Read Week, five groups of artistically talented teams at 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades competed in a poster contest. Groups worked together during their lunchtime on themes, design and display. After all posters were completed, students at Raymond Park cast their votes on their favorite poster theme. The winner this year was a 7<sup>th</sup> grade team composed of five individuals. Their captain was Brendon with teammates Ariana, Deon, Jordon and Jaylen. Through this and many other programs yet in the works, Raymond Park is in hopes of helping students develop a sense of craftsmanship, quality task performance, and goal-setting—skills needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond.



Pride in a job well done! Above are two of the poster contest winners. Pictured are team captain Brendon and teammate Ariana with their winning poster for Teen Read Week at Raymond Park Middle School.