The students knew they were winners, but they didn’t know what they had won. Was it one of the two $100 Honorable Mention awards or the $200 Third Place prize? Maybe they had won Second Place with a $300 prize or even the First Place prize of $500.

Over 2,800 students from 29 schools in the Oro Loma Sanitary District submitted posters in the thirteenth annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest. Students were asked to create posters based on the slogan, “Earth Day 1970-2007.” In addition to those students winning cash prizes, 15 students in each grade group received Certificates of Merit for their excellent work in showing why Earth Day is important.

On Tuesday, May 22, at a festive awards ceremony in the Titan Auditorium of the Marina Community Center in San Leandro, the winning students found out what prizes they had won. Representatives from Oro Loma and Waste Management, students and their guests, school administrators, and government officials helped make the event one to remember.

First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention Awards were presented in each of six K-12 grade groups. Matching cash prizes were awarded to the students’ schools. In addition, schools that submitted eligible posters but had no winners received $100 Participation Awards. Prizes totaling $7,200 were awarded to students, and a matching $7,200 given to the students’ schools. Participation Awards were given to ten schools, for a total of $1,000. In all, $15,400 was awarded to students and schools in the Oro Loma Sanitary District. Arroyo High School ($1,100), East Bay Arts ($600), and Dayton Elementary School ($600) were the top prize-winning schools.