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Garcia pupil wins shopping spree / Fourth-grader writes essay to earn Northline Commons award

A fourth-grade pupil who promised himself he'd pay closer attention to his teacher, behave better in class and work harder to get better grades this school year was surprised with a \$500 shopping spree from Northline Commons.

Manuel Aguilar, 9, was awarded the prize Aug. 24 at at his school, Garcia Elementary School, 9550 Aldine-Westfield.

Manuel's school principal and new teachers joined Northline officials to congratulate the pupil.

Northline Commons, an open-air shopping destination, invited children to share their back-to-school resolutions for a chance to win a \$500 shopping spree, and Manuel submitted the winning entry.

From reducing dependence on the Internet to do homework, organizing themselves or reaching the top of the honor roll children across Houston already have set their goals for the school year and shared them with Northline Commons.

Manuel is planning to "pay a lot of attention in class" to "get good grades" and "have good conduct all year long."

Based on the back-to-school resolutions children submitted in their essays, teachers can expect students to be more focused on their studies and committed to "take better notes" instead of "talking with friends when the teacher is trying to explain things in front of the classroom."

One pupil wrote, "I will be more organized so when a teacher asks for a work sheet, I will not have to go through clutters of paper trying to find something I probably didn't even do."

Essays were submitted by Houston-area pupils from elementary, middle and high schools.

"Choosing one winner was very difficult. Each child's personality, excitement for a fresh start, and commitment to do better in school was apparent in each essay," said Rebecca Victor, Northline Commons' general manager.

"It's important for children to start the school year right, and we'd like to help by supporting their back-to-school resolutions."

Northline Commons, 4400 North Freeway is on the corner of Crosstimbers and I-45.

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