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Office of the President

### **First Lady and Ministers' Spouses Announce Winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Public School Christmas Tree Contest**

On Friday, January 5, First Lady Debbie M. Remengesau and Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton announced and awarded winners of the 2017 Public School Christmas Tree Contest during the Principal's Forum held at the Ministry of Education.

The First Lady expressed the objective of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Contest held in December 2017 is to not only encourage young children to utilize recyclable and reusable materials, but to also provide them with an avenue to be innovative, creative and to "think outside the box" of normal daily classroom studies.

The Ministry of Education revealed the students who participated in designing the Christmas Trees for the Annual Contest researched the products such as plastic bottles to learn more about their origin and how they washed up on Palau's shores. The Contest gave the students an opportunity to be hands-on, learn more about everyday products they use and how they can contribute to maintaining and protecting the environment.

The winners of the 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Contest is as follows:

1. Angaur Elementary School – First Place Prize of \$1,000.00
2. G.B. Harris Elementary School – Second Place Prize of \$700.00
3. Ngeremlengui Elementary School – Third Place Prize of \$500.00
4. Aimeliik Elementary School – Fourth Place Prize of \$300.00

The remaining schools were awarded \$250.00 each for their participating in the contest. A total of fourteen public schools, twelve elementary schools and one high school, designed and submitted their Christmas tree creations based on the "Year of Family" theme and use of recyclable materials. A group of judges, including the Ministers' spouses judged the submitted Christmas Trees on December 20, 2017 based on its height, creativity, expression of the theme "Family", the use of recyclable and reusable materials and the originality of the design.

The Christmas Tree Contest is an annual program and plans are underway for this year's contest.