Ava Kvarta 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Second Place Mrs. Fortunato

## MY WINDOW OF WILDLIFE

I can see many different animals from my windows in Pittstown, New Jersey. It is like my own little zoo in my backyard. I live in the woods and have my own stream, so I can see many animals like deer, fox, fish, bears, coyotes, turkeys and bunnies. Living in Pittstown, New Jersey, is one of the best unknown spots in the northeast region to view animals all day and night.

There are so many wild animals in my own backyard. One summer evening, while I was watching TV in my living room, I saw something moving out my front window. I got up to take a look and realized it was a fox and her two baby kits sitting on the hill. They were playing together while their mother was searching for food. They were jumping on each other and rolling all around. They reminded me of my brothers playing together. They looked so cute that I smiled to myself. They looked like little fur balls rolling around that I just wanted to pet them. I called my family over to the window to take a look. We didn't want to disturb them, so we just left them alone and watched them play. I will always remember how they looked, frolicking on my hill.

Another morning, when I was getting dressed for school, my siblings and I spied a family of deer run past our front window. There must have been about ten of them! They ran and jumped over the fence into my woods. I thought to myself how they looked like a group of ballet dancers leaping across the stage.

My favorite wildlife encounter in my own backyard was last spring when my dad decided to make my brothers, sister, and I a fort in our woods so we could have our own private hideout in nature. We helped him cut a path through the woods to get to a clearing where he built a small fort out of wood. In the middle of the path, I spied a bunny den in the ground. I pointed it out to my siblings. We looked inside and saw little gray balls of fluff in the hole. I thought to myself just how lucky I was to live in an area full of wildlife.

My windows are like a passageway to nature. When I go outside, it seems like anything is possible. Pittstown, New Jersey, is my own little world of wildlife. What can you see outside your window?