



Reflections Program

The PTA believes that all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works of art in four areas: literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. In its more than 30-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. The Reflections Program was started in 1969 by then Colorado PTA President Mary Lou Anderson.

Creating art is a valuable learning process. Artistic exploration and expression enhance and develop intellectual, social, and physical skills. When Children express themselves through words, pictures, music, photography, and other art forms, they grow intellectually. They learn to analyze their thoughts, feelings, and ideas; learn to look at things, people, and experiences in a fresh and exciting way; and become more interested in the ideas and works of others. This program helps parents encourage and recognize the continuous self-discovery process of their children.

Each year, the Reflections Program challenges students to create art that relates to a specific theme. Themes are selected from thousands of ideas submitted by students to PTA's Reflections Program Theme Search. Past themes have included, "A Different Kind of Hero," "If I Could Give the World a Gift", "Imagine That....". This year's 2006-2007 Theme: "My Favorite Place".

Students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting to local PTAs. A student may submit an entry in any of the four arts areas listed above. Only original works of art are accepted.

There are 200+ local PTA units here in AZ that belong to the AZ PTA organization. This year the AZ level of the National PTA Reflections program had 37 local PTA units involved. This is a voluntary program depending on if they can find a parent to manage the program in their school.

At the local unit level there were a total of 3,682 entries (for all forms of art) from which the local PTA unit's awards of excellences came to Arizona's state representative, Lisa Pavlet, who makes this happen each year. Meredith Stucky of the Litchfield Park PTA has again requested Art League West to judge the visual arts division for state wide representation. Art League West has juried this event for the past several years. Art League West members asked to jury the competition were Carol Burford, Mary Santos, and Connie Whitlock. They met at the Litchfield Park Scout Lodge on Feb 8th to select winners of the competition. Again the theme was "My Favorite Place". The categories were Pre-school thru 2nd grade, 3rd thru 5th grade, 6th thru 8th grade and 9th thru 12th grade. We awarded best in each category along with 3 merit awards. The best in each category will go onto compete nationally.

The winners will be hanging their art works at the West Valley Art Museum from April 23 to May 20th. There is some exciting and very good art, plan to go see it.