

The Reflections Program

PTA believes that all children deserve a quality arts education, and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in the annual Reflections Program. 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.

The Reflections Program offers schools and PTAs an opportunity to showcase the importance of the arts in education. This theme-based arts recognition program can also enhance a school's arts program and give students a sense of achievement and pride.

Participation

Students in preschool through grade 12 can submit entries in the following categories:

- * Film/video production
- * Dance choreography
- * Musical composition
- * Photography
- * Visual arts
- * Literature

Participation in the Reflections Program is organized by school grade. Student works are critiqued against other works in the same grade division.

Works are judged and awards given at the local, state, and national levels. All participants receive recognition and showcase their talents through local exhibits of Reflections Program entries.

If you would like to learn more about the Reflections Program, visit www.pta.org.

About PTA

PTA comprises nearly 6 million parents and other concerned adults devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that prides itself on being a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who is concerned with the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.

PTA

everychild.onevoice.

(800) 307-4PTA (4782)

info@pta.org * www.pta.org



Theresa Lii
*I Wonder Why
I Have to Eat These*
Visual Arts
Senior Division

The Arts
and Your Child

Featuring the
Reflections Program

Americans agree: Students need more art

According to a 2005 Harris Poll commissioned by Americans for the Arts, “93 percent of Americans agree that the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education for children.”

What you need to know about the benefits of arts education for students

- * Participation in music, the visual arts, and dance is linked to better performance in mathematics, science, and creative thinking.
- * The arts nurture social skills and increase motivation to learn.
- * Artistic exploration promotes the ability to pay attention for longer periods of time.

What you need to know about arts education and schools

- * Arts education benefits *all* students, and the benefits are greatest for students who are educationally or economically disadvantaged.
- * Partnerships among teachers, students, parents, and community groups are often strengthened by arts education.
- * The No Child Left Behind Act identifies the arts as a “core academic subject.”

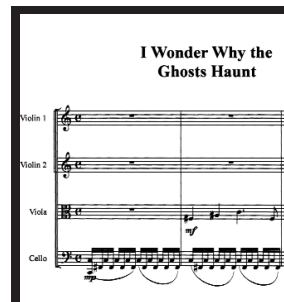
Source: Sandra S. Ruppert, *Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement*, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and Arts Education Partnership, 2006, www.nasaa-arts.org/publications/critical-evidence.shtml.

What you can do

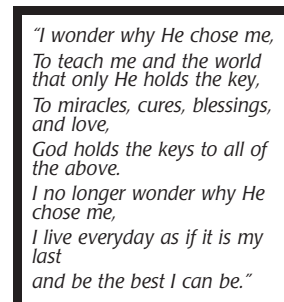
- * **Be an advocate.**
 - + Stay informed about legislation that would affect arts programs in your school, district, or state.
 - + Discuss arts advocacy at PTA meetings. Talk about any issues that could affect children and the arts.



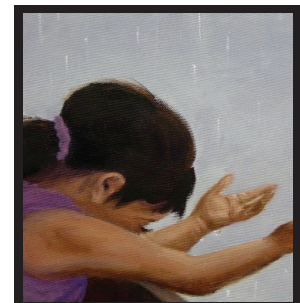
Hayden Larsen
Beach Glass—Trash to Treasure
Photography
Primary Division



Max Mueller
I Wonder Why the Ghosts Haunt
Musical Composition
Senior Division



Izayah Yenter
I Wonder Why...
Literature
Intermediate Division



Arshia Ali
I Wonder Why the Rain Feels So Beautiful
Visual Arts
Middle/Junior Division

- + Be a resource. Make sure you have the telephone numbers of elected officials, and make available to your community sample letters to elected officials and talking points on the issues. Always be prepared to make phone calls or send letters to advocate for arts education.
- + Be passionate. Be visible at arts events in your school and community.
- + Build relationships with art teachers, principals, school administrators, and community arts leaders.

* **Encourage art exploration at home and in the community.** Instead of watching TV or surfing the Net, choreograph some dance moves, play instruments (you can make your own instruments), write stories, take photographs, paint pictures, or make a collage. Use your imagination and create!

* **Improve arts education at your school.** Talk to your PTA and principal about developing a new or

enhancing an existing school arts program. The Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Program offers local PTAs matching grants of up to \$1,000 to support student-centered arts programs.

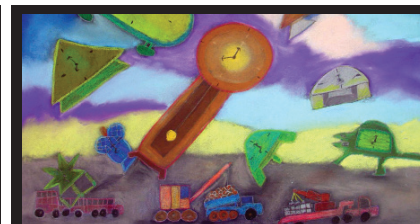
* **Encourage your child to participate in the Reflections Program.** Any PTA/PTSA in good standing is eligible to sponsor a Reflections Program. Parents, families, teachers, and community members run the program at no cost to the school.

Arts advocacy resources are available from

- * Americans for the Arts, www.americansforthearts.org
- * SupportMusic.com, www.supportmusic.com
- * The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, www.nasaa-arts.org
- * The Arts Education Partnership, www.aep-arts.org



Jessica Farquhar
No Need to Hate
Photography
Senior Division



Brandon Huang
Untitled
Visual Arts
Intermediate Division



Nathan Fisher
My Food
Photography
Middle/Junior Division