

Reflections 2011-2012 “Diversity Means...”

Reflections Newsletter September 2011

Welcome to the 2011-2012 program year! I hope you had a wonderful summer. This year’s theme is “Diversity Means...”

Summer Leadership Academy

Thank you to all who attended the Reflections breakout sessions at Michigan PTA’s Summer Leadership Academy in August. We had some very valuable discussions and were able to share best practices and tips for success. I really appreciated all of your input!

Changes, Changes

Both National and Michigan PTA have implemented rules changes for this year. The changes are mainly for the Reflections Chairs, but there are some electronic submission requirements for the students. National PTA has made the electronic submission mandatory. However, in Michigan, we will transition over the next 2 years. Please make sure to pay extra attention to the naming conventions and file type requirements published by National PTA. Information for specific file type restrictions can be found on the rule sheets for that category. The naming convention is: **state abbreviation.arts area.grade level.student last name.student first name**. For example, if 2nd grader Mary Smith submits a Visual Arts entry, her entry and her student entry form should be labeled: MI.visualarts.primary.smith.mary . More information on electronic submission can be found in this packet. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

2010-2011 State Winners on Display

The 2010-2011 State Honorees will be on display for the last time at Common Ground’s Birmingham Street Art Fair on September 24th and 25th. Authorized persons will be able to take artwork back at the end of the day on the 25th. Come out and see our beautiful winners’ gallery!



Training

The Michigan PTA Reflections Committee is always available to assist our local units and councils. With all of the changes this year, I want to emphasize that we are eager to help and train. Even seasoned chairs may need a helping hand following some of the new rules. We are scheduled in several districts for various leadership days and Reflections kickoff meetings. We can also help establish the program in a new unit or a unit that has not participated before or help chairs new to the program have a smooth, successful and stress free year! Please contact Erika Golden at reflections@michiganpta.org for information on training.

Resources

The National PTA Reflections website has a wealth of resources. From rules and submissions forms to marketing flyers and guides, www.ptareflections.org has it. Please keep in mind that this is a National PTA website and does not contain the Michigan PTA specific rules and guidelines.

Michigan PTA website: www.michiganpta.org contains the Michigan Reflections packet and any resources that the Reflections committee is using in training. We will also post the newsletters. Newsletters will be sent out periodically throughout the year to the local unit chairperson and the local unit president. It contains frequently asked questions, tips on running your school program, date reminders and will be your notification for the list of award recipients. ***If you did not receive this Reflections packet via e-mail directly from the state office, you will need to register as a Reflections Chair.*** Register online at www.michiganpta.org or contact Nancy Jacka at membership@michiganpta.org.

Thank you for your participation the Reflections program – bringing the arts to our students is a vital part of their education. Our focus this year is building the PTA community and bringing Reflections to as many children as possible. I look forward to working with all of you this year!

Sincerely,

Erika Golden
Michigan PTA Reflections Chair
reflections@michiganpta.org
734-891-8932