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**PLEASANTON PTA COUNCIL ANNOUNCED
PLEASANTON STUDENTS ADVANCING TO
NEXT LEVEL OF NATIONAL ART COMPETITION**

Pleasanton, CA – Twenty two Pleasanton students have moved on to the next level of the National PTA Reflections Art Competition. Entries advancing from Pleasanton were announced on December 13, 2011 at the Pleasanton PTA Council’s ninth annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program at the Firehouse Art Center. These entries are currently being judged and those advancing to the State level of the competition will be announced at the Peralta District (Alameda County) PTA Reflections Ceremony to be held from 2pm – 4pm on January 14, 2012 at the Ruby Bridges Elementary School in Alameda.

Pleasanton students, from Kindergarten through 12th grade, entered their work in six categories: photography, visual arts, literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film/video production. 284 young artists from eight Pleasanton schools submitted entries for this year’s program to their local PTA or PTSA sponsored program.

From these 284 entries, Reflections Committees at each school identified students in each category and age level to represent their school at the Council level. Seventy one entries were submitted to the Pleasanton PTA Council for recognition and were showcased on December 13th at the Firehouse Arts Center.

The 22 entries advancing to the next level, Peralta PTA District, were announced at the event. The students advancing to the next level of the competition are listed on the following page.

“Pleasanton PTA Council was extremely happy to be have been able to hold our annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program at the Firehouse Arts Center again this year,” said Jodie Vashistha, Pleasanton PTA Council President. “The Firehouse Arts Center is perfect for live performances. Since we have so many entries that are performance based it’s great to have a few of the students get a chance to present their entries. I am extremely grateful to the Firehouse staff for their support, to all of our PTA Reflections volunteers at each of the schools that helped to make this event possible, and to our community members who volunteered to serve as judges. I am also grateful to Rekha Joshi, our new Council Reflections Chair. I wish all of our advancing students the best in the next level of the competition and hope to see some Pleasanton students receive awards at the annual California PTA State Convention to be held in May 2012 in Anaheim.”

Advancing Entries:

Photography:

Jake Grijalva, Hearst (Kindergarten)
Sophie Keegan, Vintage Hills (3rd Grade)
Mayank Sharma, Harvest Park (6th Grade)
Anuja Joshi, Amador (10th Grade)

Literature:

Julia Kang, Mohr (2nd Grade)
Meera Popli, Vintage Hills (4th Grade)
Sandhya Kalavacherla, Harvest Park (7th Grade)
Arany Uthayakumar, Amador (11th Grade)

Visual Arts:

Avery Noleroth, Walnut Grove (2nd Grade)
Sruthi Kalavacherla, Mohr (4th Grade)
Amanda McKenzie, Harvest Park (8th Grade)
Yuchao Xie, Amador (11th Grade)

Musical Composition:

Hannah Jang, Hearst (2nd Grade)
Brendan Hwang, Hearst (5th Grade)
Mayank Sharma, Harvest Park (6th Grade)
Amy Tilson-Lumetta, Amador (11th Grade)

Film/Video Production:

Raniya Fatteh, Hearst (2nd Grade)
Esther Forest, Walnut Grove (4th Grade)
Varsha Ramakrishnan, Harvest Park MS (8th Grade)
Marie McCoy-Thompson, Amador HS (12th Grade)

Dance Choreography:

Gracie Bitting, Vintage Hills (2nd Grade)
Riya Bhatia, Vintage Hills (3rd Grade)

About the Reflections Program: The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. It provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by this year's theme, "Together We Can..."

The Pleasanton PTA Council began in 2003 as an umbrella group for all PTAs in Pleasanton. The mission of the PTA is to represent their members and to empower and support them with skills in advocacy, leadership, and communication to positively impact the lives of all children and families. More information is available at www.pleasantonpta.org.