

# Pleasanton Council



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Contact: Diane VanWagner  
(925) 846-3327

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

Pleasanton, CA: On Wednesday December 1, the Pleasanton PTA Council held its eighth annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program at the new Firehouse Art Center.

Pleasanton students, from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, entered their work in six categories: photography, visual arts, literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film/video production. 310 young artists from eight Pleasanton schools submitted entries for this year's program to their local PTA or PTSA sponsored program.

From these 310 entries, Reflections Committees at each school identified students in each category and age level to represent their school at the Council level. Over 60 entries were submitted to the Pleasanton PTA Council for recognition and were showcased on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Firehouse Arts Center. These students were awarded certificates by Parvin Ahmadi, Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent, and Jodie Vashistha, Pleasanton PTA Council President, at Wednesday's ceremony. Also in attendance were Joan Laursen, School Board Trustee-Elect, Valerie Arkin, School Board Trustee, and Jim Hansen, Amador Valley High School Principal.

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 able to hold our annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program at the Firehouse Arts Center this year," said Jodie Vashistha, Pleasanton PTA Council President. "The Firehouse Arts Center is perfect for live performances so for the first time in our history, we were able to have a select number of students present their entries to our audience. Our live presentations included Saloni Wasnik, a dancer from Fairlands Elementary, Brendan Hwang, a violinist Hearst Elementary, Esther Forest, a film maker from Walnut Grove, and Sandhya Kalavacherla, from Harvest Park Middle School who read her literature entry. We are extremely grateful to our sponsor Bay Area Academy of Music for helping to make our change of venue possible; the staff at the Firehouse Arts Center, and the Pleasanton PTA Council Reflections Committee, Eileen Armstrong, Susan Marceno and Diane Van Wagner whose coordination made the night such a huge success."

## **Advancing Entries:**

### **Photography:**

Rylee Galletti, 2<sup>nd</sup> GR, Hearst  
Zara Fatteh, 4<sup>th</sup> GR, Hearst  
Varsha Ramakrishnan, 7<sup>th</sup> GR, HPMS  
Hayden Mitchell, 11<sup>th</sup> GR, AVHS

### **Literature:**

Sudiksha Gudipati, 1st GR, Vintage Hills  
Stacy Simanuki, 5<sup>th</sup> GR, Alisal  
Sandhya Kalavacherla, 6<sup>th</sup> GR, HPMS  
Da Eun Kim, 10<sup>th</sup> GR, AVHS

### **Visual Arts:**

Mahika Sharma, Kindergarten, Fairlands  
Sophia Kang 4<sup>th</sup> GR, Mohr  
Lucille Bell, 7<sup>th</sup> GR, - HPMS  
Linyan Tian 10<sup>th</sup> GR, AVHS

### **Musical Composition:**

Hannah Jang, 1<sup>st</sup> GR, Hearst  
Brendan Hwang, 4<sup>th</sup> GR, Hearst  
Logan Kane, 9<sup>th</sup> GR, AVHS

### **Film/Video Production:**

Amala Rao, 2<sup>nd</sup> GR, Hearst  
Esther Forest, 3<sup>rd</sup> GR, WG  
Varsha Ramakrishnan, 7<sup>th</sup> GR, HPMS

### **Dance Choreography:**

Mahika Shamra, Kindergarten, Fairlands  
Saloni Wasnik, 5<sup>th</sup> GR, Fairlands

*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..."*

*About our Sponsor: Bay Area Academy of Music provides private music instruction for children, teens and adults in a professional studio environment. They are located in Pleasanton and currently offer lessons in electric guitar, acoustic guitar, violin, viola, fiddle, vielle, voice/singing, flute, piccolo, saxophone, clarinet, and piano/keyboard.*

*Bay Area Academy of Music*

*(925) 398-8683*

*5460 Sunol Blvd, Suite 1*

*[www.bayareaacademyofmusic.com](http://www.bayareaacademyofmusic.com)*

*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](http://www.pleasantonpta.org).*