



**REFLECTIONS PROGRAM THEME FOR 2008 – 2009:**

**“WOW!”**

Deadline for submitting entries to SM-M Council:

**OCTOBER 21, 2008**

*Sorry this is earlier than ever—the dates for 33<sup>rd</sup> and above have changed so we had to change too!*

**The webpage where you can download guidelines, rules, entry forms:**

**<http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>**

**Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the Reflections Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis.**

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas listed below.

- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual arts
- Dance Choreography
- Film/Video Production
- Literature

The four grade divisions are as follows:

- Primary – Preschool – Grade 2 or up to age 7
- Intermediate – Grades 3-5 or ages 8-10
- Middle/Junior – Grades 6-8 or ages 11-13
- Senior – Grades 9-12 or ages 14+

Please remember that:

- All entries submitted must be original works and must relate to the annual Reflections Program theme.
- Each entry must be the work of only one student. Assistance from teachers, parents or friends is not permitted except in special cases (such as for those with disabilities)

**Questions?**

**Call Reflections co-chair Miriam Billington (310) 829-7998 or write to [billingtons@earthlink.net](mailto:billingtons@earthlink.net)**

- Participation encourages creativity and exploration. Students should do their best, but crooked lines, incorrect musical notes, or misspelled words do not disqualify anyone!

**TO DO LIST FOR REFLECTIONS CHAIRPERSON: First, please have the chairperson e-mail me his/her contact info so I can communicate directly with him/her: write to me at [billingtons@earthlink.net](mailto:billingtons@earthlink.net).**

- Familiarize yourself with the materials on the California State PTA Web site—the web address is <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>. Read the materials but I recommend that you do not overwhelm your students and their families with too many forms or too much information—create one page that highlights the most important info, like your school’s deadline for entry, the categories, and theme, plus the Reflections chair’s contact info.
- Explain the Reflections Program to the principal and school staff; teachers can encourage students to participate. Share information about the Reflections Program at a PTA meeting, share examples of last year's entries and have current entry forms and rules for distribution. Publicize the Reflections Program, theme and deadline dates in your school or PTA newsletter.
- Select impartial, qualified judges. Inform judges of the criteria to be used in evaluating/judging Reflections Program entries. (Refer to the rules for each art category.) Remember to accept the judges' selections of winning entries. **IMPORTANT:** Do not show student information (name, address, etc.) on entries displayed for judging.
- Make certain each entry meets all judging criteria with regard to size, mounting, etc. See rules at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>.
- **Please make sure your school has a large art portfolio in which to transport your entries.**
- **Be sure the Official Entry Form (Forms Section) is completely filled out, signed by both student and parent, and attached securely to each entry,** according to the National PTA rules.
- **Make sure your entries get to Council by deadline.** What usually happens is the Reflections chair gives the entries to their PTA president to bring to the October PTA council meeting, where they will be collected.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Hold a Reflections Program workshop or a Family Arts Night on Saturday, after school or at lunch for students to work on their projects and provide supplies. **Make sure to include this in your PTA budget.**
- Display local entries in school, at PTA functions, in local community buildings (e.g., libraries, museums, banks, hospitals, nursing homes)
- Organize a special program/reception/assembly where Reflections Program photography and visual arts entries can be displayed, musical composition entries can be performed and literature entries can be read aloud.
- Make all Reflections Program entrants feel special. Consider awarding students with certificates, ribbons, medallions, buttons, plaques, trophies, or other items than encourage future participation in the arts. Send congratulatory letters to students.
- Instead of “winners” you can do like the film festivals do, and call the pieces you choose to send to council “selections!”

### Questions?

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