**Theme for 2014 – 2015 School Year: “The world would be a better place if…”**

**We have summarized the important information below. The NJ PTA website also has detailed information that can answer many questions. The website also has copies of all the forms you need, including a judging form. The NJ PTA website is:** <http://www.njpta.org/reflections>

***Remember that everything you submit to the County must be labeled with the student’s name, school, artwork title, category and grade division. Please make sure both pages of the Student Submission Form must have the student’s name, school, artwork title on it. The art and the Student Submission Form are going to be handled by many people – without identifying information we will not be able to put the student’s submission together if the items become separated.***

**Program Details**

A student may submit an entry in any of six arts areas. Only original works of art are accepted. The six art areas are:

* Literature -- works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, prose, drama, short stories and lyrics.
* Music Composition -- original musical composition, with or without words.
* Photography -- prints up to 11 x 14 inches in color or black and white, including techniques: photogram, retouched, montage, sandwich and multiple exposure.
* Visual Arts -- drawing, painting in tempera, oil, acrylic, watercolor & t-shirt paints, computer generated art, two-dimensional collage, printmaking, needlework & leather tooling.
* Film/Video -- original works, with or without sound, of animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or music video/film.
* Choreography/Dance -- originally choreographed dance composition.

Participation in Reflections is organized by student age and grade levels. Student works are critiqued against others in the same grade division. The grade divisions are:

* Primary -- Preschool - Grade 2
* Intermediate -- Grades 3 - 5
* Middle/Junior -- Grades 6 - 8
* Senior -- Grades 9 - 12

**Special Artist Division**
The National PTA special artist division is an option for students with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The rules within the special artists division are intended to ensure accessibility to the National PTA Reflections® program and are modeled after the guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law? The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who: (1) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person; (2) Has a record of such an impairment; or (3) Is regarded as having such impairment.

Students who identify as having a disability two ways to enter:
Option 1. Enter in special artist division: Qualifying students entering this non-graded division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. At the national level, one special artist from across all arts categories will be selected to receive an Outstanding Interpretation award. Up to five additional special artists may be selected to receive national Awards of Excellence.

Option 2. Enter in traditional grade divisions: Qualifying students follow all arts category rules, and may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children, but do receive accommodation to **submit Reflections entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities.** They are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.

**Check List** - As you review the submissions:

Is the Student Submission Form completed including the artist’s statement?

The artist’s statement must explain how the art submission is related to the theme. Half the score should be given to how the student’s statement ties the theme and submission together – this is a significant part of the submission.

Is the Student Submission Form legible?

If you cannot read the form you can elect to ask the student to resubmit the form or disqualify the entry – that is up to you. We need the information to judge the artwork and to contact the parent, if necessary. Please do not send the County any forms that are not legible.

Is the art in the right format, size or length?

Each category has specific requirements (listed below and on the NJ PTA website (<http://www.njpta.org/reflections>).

Is the visual art original?

If a student simply drew an existing piece of art - that is not acceptable. If a student incorporated an existing piece of art into a montage or incorporated into a larger piece of art, that is acceptable.

Is the musical piece original?

Please listen / watch the submission. The music the student is playing must be an original score – a piece of music the student composed. If the student is singing a song, the song must be a piece composed by the student.

Can you hear the music, the song words and/or see the dancing?

You can eliminate some of the art by listening or watching the submissions. On many of the submissions we received last year we could not hear the music or the singer clearly or see the dancing clearly.

**Visual Arts Requirements**

* Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted
* Each submission must be the original work of one student only
* Acceptable art: original print, drawing, painting, collage (cut and pasted materials such as clippings and photos), metal etchings or punch work, fiber work or computer generated artwork.
* Not acceptable art: sculpture, ceramics and other 3-dimensional art work, stained glass, jewelry, reproductions or enlargements of other artwork and power point files.
* Cannot be larger than 24 x 30 inches including matting. Cannot be framed.
* Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material like poster board
* Artwork must be flat and not more than 3/8 inch thick.
* Nothing 3-dimensional can be on the surface of the work such as noodles, beans, beads, etc.he back of the art work must be labeled with the student’s name, school, title of the artwork, art category and grade division.

***For an Visual Arts submissions that will be sent to the County please do paste the Student Submission Form to the back of the artwork – we need to be able to separate that from the artwork. We suggest simply paper clipping the form to the artwork.***

**Literature Requirements** –

* Only original literature written by the student and inspired by the theme may be submitted
* Each submission must be the original work of one student only
* It can be typed by another person as long as the original work is attached. For students in Kindergarten – 1st grade the work can be dictated to another person and printed or typed in the exact words as spoken by the student
* Can be hand written or typed. Must be on 8.5” x 11.0” paper – one sided only
* Cannot be longer than 2,000 words
* Cannot be mounted or bound
* Each page must be numbered
* The student’s name, school, entry title, arts category and division (grade division) must be on the back of the entry.

***For any literature submissions that will be sent to the County – please put the student’s name on each page of the essay (you can just write it on) and staple the pages together. If the pages become separated having the student’s name on each of the pages is crucial.***

**Music Requirements**

* Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted
* Each submission must be the original work of one student only
* Audio recordings cannot be longer than 5 minutes and 1GB (1 gigabyte) in file size
* Middle school and high school students must submit the music score/tablature/notation, either traditional or tablature. Software can be used to create the music score. The file must be PDF or DOC.
* The composer (student submitting the entry) may submit an entry performed by an individual or a group or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score. Student composers are not required to perform their composition. A sound recording of the musical piece must be submitted.
* Audio file format must be MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) or FLAC.
* The CD or DVD or flash drive must have the students name, school, title of artwork, art category and grade division
* Software may be used to produce an audio recording that does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.
* The music must be audible on the recording

***For any music submissions that will be sent to the County – please put the CD/DVD/flash drive and the Student Submission Form in a zip lock bag to insure that the music submission and the form will stay together.***

**Film** **Requirements**

* Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted
* Each submission must be the original work of one student only
* Power point presentations are prohibited**.**
* The video cannot be longer than 5 minutes and 1GB (1 gigabyte) in file size
* Audio file format must be AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
* The use of background music must be cited on the Student Submission Form
* The CD or DVD or flash drive must have the students name, school, title of artwork, art category and grade division

***For any film submissions that will be sent to the County – please put the CD/DVD/flash drive and the Student Submission Form in a zip lock bag to insure that the film submission and the form will stay together.***

**Dance Choreography** **Requirements**

* Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. The choreography must be the work of the student.
* Each submission must be the original work of one student only
* The video cannot be longer than 5 minutes and 1GB (1 gigabyte) in file size
* Audio file format must be AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
* The use of background music must be cited on the Student Submission Form
* The CD or DVD or flash drive must have the students name, school, title of artwork, art category and grade division

***For any dance choreography submissions that will be sent to the County – please put the CD/DVD/flash drive and the Student Submission Form in a zip lock bag to insure that the film submission and the form will stay together.***