The National PTA Reflections Program was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process which challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art supporting a specific theme.

Depending on local PTA guidelines, students may enter more than one work of art in any of the six arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted.

- Dance Choreography
- Music Composition
- Film Production
- Photography
- Literature
- Visual Arts

Student works are critiqued against others in the same division, as shown below. This allows recognition and judging of artworks by appropriate developmental age and skill levels.

- **Primary**: Preschool-Grade 2
- **Intermediate**: Grades 3-5
- **Middle School**: Grades 6-8
- **High School**: Grades 9-12
- **Special Artist**: Ungraded

The Reflections Program is structured for PTAs to recognize students at the local unit, council, district, state and national PTA levels. Once entries reach the level of the California State PTA, entries may be selected for submission to the National PTA. Award of Excellence and Awards of Merit are recognized at the annual National PTA convention and are displayed as part of the program’s traveling exhibit.

The National PTA is looking for a theme for future Reflections Program. A student’s suggestions for theme ideas may be sent to the California State PTA by the individual student or by a local PTA/PTSA. The theme may include a wide variety of subjects which will appeal to students in preschool through grade 12. The winning student will receive $100 and recognition at the National PTA Convention in June. Visit www.pta.org for more information.

**2012-2013 Theme**

“The Magic of a Moment …”

The California State PTA received over 326 Theme Search entries! These five were forwarded to the National PTA level for consideration.

- **“Someday...”**
  
  Sebastian DePerez
  Fourth Grade
  Valencia Elementary School
  Fifth District

- **“I Believe I Can...”**
  
  Amanda Hiraishi
  Tenth Grade
  South Hills High School
  First District

- **“A Reason to Celebrate...”**
  
  Anna Hoehenrieder
  Twelfth Grade
  Irvington High School
  Peralta District

- **“A Vision of Tomorrow...”**
  
  Jonathan Pfeffer
  Third Grade
  Pico Canyon Elementary School
  Thirty-Fourth District

- **“Through My Eye, I Can See...”**
  
  Paige Shimansky
  Fourth Grade
  Monterey Ridge Elementary School
  Ninth District

**NEW**

**Reflections T-shirt**

Devon Chang
Award of Merit
Primary Visual Arts
First Grade
Alderwood Basics Plus
Elementary
Fourth District

Shirt available for purchase in the PTA store.
LITERATURE

My Baby Sister's Baptism
Riley Ornelas
First Grade
Lomita Math/Science Magnet School
Tenth District

The Magic of a moment is the day when I woke up and thought of all the fun that I was going to have that day.

It was my baby sister baptism day. My mom helped me to get into my tuxedo to go to the church, then my favorite uncle came and we went to the church.

We were waiting for the priest to call our last name and then he called our last name, my mom took the baby’s cloths off then my parents took their shoes and their socks off and they went into the water but kids could not get into the water and the priest hold the baby while singing aleluya and he started to put the baby into the water and out of water and he did like four or five times. Then it was over and my mom dried my baby and then she put on her white clothes.

We took many pictures with our families and friends, then we left to have lunch to a restaurant. My parents let my go into my uncle Sige’s car then we drove to his house and took a little brake after that he took me to the store and got me ice cream.

We got to my house and the jumper was ready to play and I got so exited then I took my shoes and socks off and I run to the jumper and I started jumping up and down and having fun then my brother and some of my friends came in to enjoy the jumper with me. It was time to eat, after I ate we played a little more with my friends. Time for cake! My mom said, we had two cakes but I picked the chocolate and my cousin picked vanilla it was very delicious.

My brother and friends played in the jumper more with me, then my uncle Sige threw money for all the kids. I got some coins. It was real money. Later it was pinata time, uncle Sige asked all the kids to come I got to be the first one to hit it, all the kids hit the pinata, Camilia was the tallest so Camilia broke the pinata, and many candy fell out of pinata, all the kids and me grabbed candy from the floor. had vanilla cake then I brushed my teeth put on my pajamas and I went to sleep.

It was really full day of magic that I won’t ever forget.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Coldest Splooshy Surprise
Augie Altes
First Grade
Charles Helmers Elementary School
Thirty-Fourth District

“I took this photo of my mom sneaking up on my dad and dumping water on him. I really like how it captures a moment we normally don’t see because the water would be moving too fast.”

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

The Cheetah and the Gazelle
Jacob Osterhaus-Flores
First Grade
Beckford Elementary School
Thirty-First District

“The name of my song is “The cheetah and the gazelle.” I was inspired to write this song after watching a TV show called “Wild Kratts.” The song is about a cheetah who chases a gazelle and misses. The magic of the moment is when the cheetah pounces to get the gazelle and misses and the gazelle gets away. In my song I use a crash chord to show when the cheetah pounces and the gazelle gets away.”
VISUAL ARTS

When Leaves Change Color
Darlyng Valladares-Martinez
Second Grade
Emery Park Elementary School
First District

“I like to see when the leaves on the trees change to a million different colors. It’s a magical moment.”

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Give It All for the Moment
Mackenzie Welch
Second Grade
Gallardo Elementary School
Third District

“My dance is about working hard and giving it your all for that one moment in time that is magical to you. My magical moment is dancing on stage from my heart. I helped design and decorate the ballet bar. I hope you enjoy my dance.”

FILM PRODUCTION

Magic Panda Moment
Shannagh Foelster
Second Grade
Golden Oak Elementary School
Thirty-Fourth District

“My brother gave me a panda when I was two, and it was a moment that made me love pandas and want to help save them.”

QUICK FACTS

46,327
Reflections participants throughout California
**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Nature's Camouflage**
Brittney Rego  
Fourth Grade  
Sedgwick Elementary School  
Sixth District  

“Nature has a way of protecting our wild life. I was totally amazed it was like magic when I saw the bird fly into the tree and disappears. I took my pic.”

---

**MUSICAL COMPOSITION**

**I Remember**  
Sunny Keller  
Fourth Grade  
Carpenter Community Charter  
Thirty-First District  

“This is about a moment I had with my Nana before she got Alzheimer’s. I’ll remember it for the both of us.”

---

**VISUAL ARTS**

**My First Note**  
Kyle Wong  
Fourth Grade  
Hidden Hills School  
Thirty-Second District  

“This is a magic moment because it is the first time I played a piano note. I put in the notes because they are musical and it shows I am playing music. I put in the colors of the rainbow on my hands because in piano, there are 7 different notes and there are 7 colors in the rainbow. The flames represent the happiness and brightness of my first note.”

---

**QUICK FACTS**

326  
2014-15 Reflections Theme Search submissions
LITERATURE

Rainbow In a Puddle
Anusha Bishayee
Third Grade
Henry W. Longfellow Elementary School
Thirty-Third District

What a bad day at school,
I think as I walk home.
I’m new to school,
And I feel alone.
The long walk home
is such a pain.
Suddenly, clouds shift
And it starts to rain.
I duck under a leafy tree,
I feel anger in me.
I see an ant, I want to squish it,
But I let it be.
I spy a puddle and want to splash my anger.
A peek in it shows a strange glow,
“It Can’t Be! Surely NO!”
But there it was boldly shining,
The colors of the rainbow!
What a magical moment
that changed my whole day,
Suddenly my home
didn’t seem so far away.

“\text{When I just moved here I was alone. I missed life in Ohio. One time I looked down and the sun reflected off my glasses and I saw a rainbow. Sometimes tiny things lift our spirits.}”

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Magical Moments
Jeekiva Adda
Fifth Grade
Brewer Island Elementary School
Seventeenth District

“In this dance, I’m showing different magical moments that make up our life. They add little sparks to life.”

FILM PRODUCTION

My Magic Movie Mix Up
Lilly Spangler
Fifth Grade
Jefferson Elementary School
Thirty-Third District

“My movie is with all my greatest movies with my friends and family out together.”
**Literature**

**Touch the Flame**
*Alexander Zhao*

Eighth Grade  
La Canada High School  
First District

A spider’s web; gossamer mesh  
Fine like light pale hair  
It glints in the morning sun  
Glimmering and fleeting  
A flash-no more than a shimmer  
Yet how eternal  
How eternal that single web of hair  
Seen now and forever

A flock of birds, dark  
Dark against the sapphire cascades  
Dark against the wisps of cloud  
Yet still so bright with flame  
Bright and burning with fire on their wingtips  
And flame upon their feathers  
Blazing with the arcane power  
We can only watch and wish  
To be one with the fire  
To touch the flame of magic

The woods whisper as the wind  
Brushes through like  
A grating of sand  
A flutter of moths’ wings  
Mossy shadows cast by textured bark  
The woods whisper and we can only  
Watch and wish

Listen and you will hear  
That faint roaring of the surf  
The breath of frosty ice  
That sound of sandy whispers beneath  
The endless dome of cloud and sky  
You will hear that world beside you

Let yourself be lifted and borne up  
By that wondrous cadence  
Hear the note of  
Let that sound of fiery magic fill you  
Let nature carry you  
Reach.  
Reach for the flame.

“My poem expresses how fragile a single scene of nature seems, yet how eternal and how ‘fiery’ it is as it lasts through the ages.”

---

**Musical Composition**

**Mirage**
*Sidharth Subbarao*

Seventh Grade  
Venado Middle School  
Fourth District

“For a weary traveler going on a caravan through the desert, seeing a Mirage is a magical moment! The elusiveness and transformation of mirage is depicted by my music going through different styles.”

---

**Film Production**

**Homecoming!**
*Syndie Ramos*

Seventh Grade  
Twin Peaks Middle School  
Ninth District

“Living near a military community, I see many special moments broadcasted on the local news whenever military people are returning home from the war. I wanted to create something that could show how special and magical this moment in time really is for families. The background music helps express the feelings of emotions. If my dad were gone for a very long time, I know that seeing him would be something I would never forget.”
**VISUAL ARTS**

**The Union of Two Becoming One**
*Cynthia Yang*
Sixth Grade, Etiwanda Intermediate School  
Fifth District

“I started this drawing in July and ended in September, which took me about 80 hours. My drawing is about two diverges, having a festival under blooming flowers and a brilliant blazing sunset. The delicious appetizing food, such as the savory chicken, BBQ ribs, and the colossal fruit cake appeared magically. Notice that there are foods from different countries from the world, such as the Chinese food. The humans and animals are having a fantastic time and are dancing and laughing. The bridge leads from the city to this magical place by the peaceful pond. Tonight, two unions become one.”

**DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY**

**The Magical Gift**
*Kendyl Yokoyama*
Eighth Grade, Chaparral Middle School  
Twelfth District

“The Magical Gift is a dance about a girl who is depressed about her crippled leg. In a few magical moments, she receives the gift of a lifetime...inspiration. My inspiration for this dance came from a lovely girl in a wheelchair who, despite her disability, had the courage to perform in our dance recital.”

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Mid Air**
*Ids Propstra*
Sixth Grade, Sedgwick Elementary School  
Peralta District

“My picture was taken at Ardenwood Farm and my sisters jumped off the haystack. The picture relates to the theme because it looks like they are floating in mid-air. In this picture, that is the magic of a moment. They are only there ‘floating’ for a fraction of a second.”
**MUSICAL COMPOSITION**

*On the Way Home*

Jack Takahashi  
Twelfth Grade, Lynbrook High School  
Sixth District

“As I wrote this music I thought about a traveler on his way home after a long journey. There is both happiness and nervousness in his mood.”

---

**VISUAL ARTS**

*Best You Can’t Be*

Kiana Morgan  
Twelfth Grade, Folsom High School  
Third District

“Revealing your true self despite your surroundings can be one of the hardest struggles to overcome in someone’s life. The environment can’t truly define who you are or what you are capable of. Magic of the moment can inspire those who struggle and bring out the inner beauty otherwise masked. Life can be born from the barren of environments, the greatest magic of all.”

---

**DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY**

*Who You Are*

Kamaya Nicholls  
Eleventh Grade, Citrus Valley High School  
Fifth District

“My interpretation of a magic of a moment is when you learn to stand up for yourself.”

---

**FILM PRODUCTION**

*My Magical Place*

Chase Baker  
Twelfth Grade, Clark Magnet High School  
First District

“Magical moments occur every day, but sometimes it takes the imagination of a child to recognize them.”

---

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Oahu Oatmeal*

John Clinton Cooper  
Twelfth Grade, La Canada High School  
First District

“In Oahu, in the backyard of a small forest bungalow, my father and I were discussing life and the struggles it presented us. We talked about the need for me to distinguish myself against the sea of faces that inhabited the world if I were to succeed. Just then, this beautiful bird flew onto our patio, ate some oatmeal, and perched itself upon the chair, distinguishing itself against the plain, white background that covered the picture. It seemed as if I saw myself for a moment, then I flew away. I loved it.”
We have all heard phrases like “life is what you make of it,” or “enjoy every moment you have.” But really what is life other than a series of moments that take place starting from the time we are born until the time we die. Each moment of our lives may seem rather insignificant, inconsequential, or even mundane. However the moments in our lives are in fact important, essential, and even magical.

This revelation of life’s the magical moments struck me most profoundly in a rather odd way at the most unexpected time. It occurred the moment I noticed him, the thin sad boy about my age and size making his way slowly but decisively through the cross walk on a Saturday morning at the intersection near our church. He looked like a street urchin in old tattered dirty worn jeans, dirty grey sweatshirt, and worn out Vans shoes. His face was just as dirty and he was excessively sunburnt. I couldn’t help staring at him as he made his way across the street. In those few moments I saw him, what struck me other than his obvious pitiful appearance was how similar we looked, about the same age, built, hair and eye color, yet unlike me he looked sad, lost, and forgotten. It was in that brief moment of seeing this unknown person, the revelation hit me. What kind of life did this person have? Where were his parents? Did he have a home? Why was he here? Did anyone know where he was or even care? What was his story? This is someone who I could have been a few months earlier.

After volunteering for a few months I remember asking Phil and Lynn if they ever saw a boy about my size and age with the same hair and eye color. I continued to describe to them what I could remember of the worn and tattered clothing the unknown boy had worn. Neither of them remembered ever seeing such a boy around, but both knew there were many young people’s lives that one person or another avoided the shelter. Some were too scared they would be put into foster care, others were too proud to take help even though they desperately needed it. Still I hoped that one day I could meet and thank the boy who changed my life, who had made me more appreciative of everything in my own. I hoped maybe I could help him even in some small way.

Nearly seven months passed and one day in came a boy with long brown hair and dirty tattered clothing. He looked oddly familiar, but in time I had been volunteering, I had seen many people pass in and out of those doors seeking assistance. Yet there was something strangely familiar about this boy. Then it dawned on me, it was his eyes, similar in color to mine. Could this be the body I had seen so long ago?

I approached him and spoke briefly. I learned his name was Stephen, he had just turned sixteen and he had lived in the community since he was born. His father died from a heart attack when he was ten and his mother developed cancer when he was twelve. Shortly after his mother got sick she lost her job and then their home. A few months later she died. He had no family that he knew of and had lived in foster care for nearly three years, but was abused, so he left and had lived on the streets and with friends for a little more than a year. Although he had not been in school for nearly two years, he was now at an age where he could get a part-time job. He was excited because he wanted to work so he could afford to make some money and maybe get a grant and go to school. He had come to the shelter looking for some clothing and advice on how to interview for a job. I couldn’t help myself, I just knew I had to help him. Since the clothes we had were from people who donated their old things, I told him we were still going through boxes sorting the clothes by size and would have everything out this afternoon. I suggested that he meet with one of the volunteers who taught classes on interviewing, cashiering, or computer skills that was about to begin. I ushered him toward the training center then returned to the distribution room, but asked to take an early lunch break. I had a plan. I took that allowance I had been saving and drove to the mall where I picked out two new outfits. One was a blue suit jacket, white shirt, and blue trousers. The other was a pair of tan pants and short sleeve brown shirt. Then I bought socks and black shoes. I took these back to the shelter with me just as the class were ending. I saw Stephen come out of the classrooms and I called him over and said that I had pulled these items from the donations and I thought he might fit them. His eyes light up when he saw the new clothes. He thanked me several times and I knew this was a magical moment for him. Over the next several weeks I saw Stephen a few more times come in to take classes. After he completed the 6 week training, I didn’t see him again.

Nearly three months passed before Stephen stopped by the shelter again. During that time he had gotten a job and was able to get a small advance on his pay enough to pay for a room. He came by the shelter to thank all of us who helped him to see if he could get a dresser, desk, lamp and chair for his room. In addition to working he was also trying to apply for some grants so he could go to school at night. He looked happy, not like the sad, lost boy I had seen nearly year earlier. His appreciation was genuine. For me it was yet another magical moment. This boy, who had inspired me when he was nameless, now inspired me yet again. He was not angry or bitter. He was thankful. In that moment I knew we had changed his life, just as he had changed mine.

After that day, I never saw Stephen again. Thought I don’t know for sure that how his life has turned out, I am almost certain that he has been thankful for every good thing that has happened to him and possibly even those things that weren’t so great. He is a survivor. Like all of us, we have our good and our bad days, but the magical moments of life, be they important moments like a new job or some new chance for self-improvement, or mundane like new clothes or a simple thank you, these things great and small are magical, they are the moments that we remember that shape us and make us who we are. Life is filled with magical moments, from the time we are born to the time we die. It is up to each of us to recognize these moments, to hold them fast and to appreciate all those who help to create the magical moments that touch our lives.

“*This story is based on an event that has had a profound impact on a moment in my life.*"
**Literature**

**Las Vegas**  
**Ethan Ng**  
Fourth Grade  
Hillcrest Elementary School  
First District

Magic of a moment  
Las Vegas, the city that makes my heart pumps  
The city of good food, long fun, and magic show  
Delicious buffets  
Excited rides in Circus Circus  
And I almost got married to Tiffany in a magic show  
Fun is over  
We go home  
And that the magic of a moment in Las Vegas ended

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**Dance Choreography**

**Born to be Somebody**  
**Jessica Clay**  
Eleventh Grade  
Buena High School  
Twelfth District

“The dance I choreographed is an integrated dance, which includes people with and without disabilities. I love to dance and this is from one of my favorite songs by my idol, Justin Bieber. In the beginning of the song Born To Be Somebody, it is about dreams and wondering if dreams will come true. The ‘Be it.’ I believe is the ‘magic of a moment’. The ‘magic of a moment’ is realizing you could do and be whatever you want to in life and being able to live your dreams.”

---

**Film Production**

**Ethan’s Magical Moment**  
**Ethan Hunt**  
Sixth Grade  
Magnolia Elementary School  
Fifth District

“My film shows how music makes me feel happy, which is my magic moment”

---

**Quick Facts**

30  
Awards of Excellence

81  
Awards of Merit
MUSICAL COMPOSITION

The Magic of the Flying Monarch Butterfly
Graham Stalker
Fourth Grade
Rancho Vista Elementary School
Thirty-Third District

“This is how I wrote my piece. I saw a Monarch butterfly in my Nonnie’s house. I started writing down some random notes. The notes started coming together like the fluttering of the wings. I like the tune and hope you enjoy it!”

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Handshake After the Fight
Deon Sterling
Fourth Grade
West Wind Elementary School
Thirty-Fourth District

“It’s a magic moment when you make up after a fight!”

VISUAL ARTS

Magic of the Rainbow
Shashwat Shrivastav
Third Grade
Henry P. Mohr Elementary School
Peralta District

“‘The moment I see the rainbow, it reminds me of my friends in class, colorful, cheerful, playful as it turns the world colorful with its magic.”

QUICK FACTS

88

Convention Display awards in Photography and Visual Arts
### Award of Merit

#### Dance Choreography

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#### Film Production

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#### Visual Arts

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#### Music Composition

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#### Photography

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Awards of Excellence, Awards of Merit, and Convention Display works are on display at the San Jose Convention Center in Reflections Gallery rooms 231AB.

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The California State PTA extends a special thank you to all of the Judges, Local Unit, Council, and District Reflections Program Chairmen for their dedication, enthusiasm, passion and support of the Reflections Program 2012-2013 “The Magic of a Moment...” and to the 46,327 students who participated throughout California, thank you for sharing your works of art with all of us!