

The East Cobb County Council of PTAs Celebrates the Arts!

Creativity is intelligence having fun. -Albert Einstein

As parents and teachers, we cherish our students' creative endeavors -- from the homemade gifts and cards they make, to the countless dance, band, orchestra and choral performances we attend. We turn the images into coffee mugs, frame the brightly colored pictures and share the photos and videos we take with friends and relatives. Their art, in whatever medium they choose, is a reflection of who they are. Let us celebrate that!

Each fall, local PTAs and the East Cobb County Council of PTAs (ECCC PTA) participate in and support the National PTA Reflections program. For over 45 years the National PTA has promoted arts appreciation and recognition as part of its mission to ensure that all children receive a quality education, including an arts education. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade have the opportunity to enter original works of art in six categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. In this school year, entries will be judged on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme: ***"The world would be a better place if..."***

Reflections' entries are first recognized, judged, and celebrated at each local school. Selected entries are then chosen to represent local schools at the ECCC PTA level. Thereafter, ECCC PTA award recipients proceed to the Georgia PTA competition, and subsequent winning entries move on to the National PTA Reflections contest. Five students from East Cobb public schools (Rocky Mount Elementary School, JJ Daniell Middle School, Dickerson Middle School and Wheeler High School) advanced to the National PTA competition level last year.

Taking part in the Reflections program is a powerful way for students to engage in and explore the arts. Our East Cobb community is a better place because of our students' talents. This time of year we see and hear incredible performances from our high school marching bands. Year-round we marvel at students who receive invitations to display their talents around the world. As a community, let us continue to help our students express themselves creatively by showcasing their art in our workplaces, by volunteering as judges, and by supporting the Reflections program. As Maya Angelou once said, "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."

For more information on the Reflections Program, please visit:

<http://ecccpta.org/reflections>.

Patty Pace and Cindy Goolsby
ECCC PTA Reflections Co-Chairs

Patty Pace is Reflections Co-Chair for the East Cobb County Council of PTAs. She lives in Blackland Ridge with her husband, Montie and son Alex, who is a student at the Wheeler Magnet. Her daughter Jennifer is a Walton graduate.

Cindy Goolsby is the Reflections Co-Chair for the East Cobb County Council of PTAs. She lives in Lakewood Colony Subdivision with her husband, Ira and two daughters, Danielle and Sara, who are students at Keheley Elementary School.