



NESCONSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
*everychild.onevoice*

**Nesconset Elementary School PTA**  
**Gibbs Pond Road**  
**Nesconset, New York**

September 20, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Reflections Program! The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance quality arts education for students by encouraging them to create works of art in the areas of **dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and/or the visual arts.**

The Reflections Program helps parents encourage the creativity and lifelong learning of their children, and offers children recognition for their artistic endeavors. Parents and teachers all play a critical role in providing a positive learning environment for children. Supporting the PTA Reflections Program is one way you can increase student achievement, foster student talents, and promote the arts in your home and in your school!

We are excited to announce that the theme for the 2011–2012 PTA Reflections Program is:

***“Diversity Means... “***

Students are invited to submit artwork which will be judged at the local level. The winning entries will advance to the county/state levels. Top state award–winning entries will advance to the national level of judging

Please be aware that each of the categories present specific guidelines as to content, format, etc.

Below we have presented the **general** rules of the program. Specific rules that pertain to **each** artistic category, can be found on the Nesconset PTA website ([www.nesconsetpta.com](http://www.nesconsetpta.com)) by clicking on the Reflections link. If you do not have access to a computer, kindly contact either Kelly Pickow or Lauren Romano and a copy of the rules will be provided. It is important to note that if an artwork does **not** adhere to the state guidelines, it will be disqualified.

As we are aware that the rules and requirements may appear to be confusing, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns:

Kelly Pickow at 631-979-5557 or [kpickow@metlife.com](mailto:kpickow@metlife.com)  
Lauren Romano at 631-979-6397 or [joelandlauren@optonline.net](mailto:joelandlauren@optonline.net)  
Co-Chairperson(s) Reflections





## **GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES**

Students must adhere to the following **General** Student Participation Rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.. It is important to note that only **new** pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

### **Grade Divisions**

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: **grades K-2**
- Intermediate: **grades 3–5**

### **Arts Areas**

Students may submit works in any of six arts areas:

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

**Only one entry can be submitted for a student for each category.**

### **Originality**

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student's work, but the work itself—the dance choreography or film production (including screenplay, camerawork, and directing) or musical composition (including written score and any lyrics), etc. — must be the creative product of one student only. (See the specific arts area rules for details.)

**It is important to note that if another child appears in a student's work a consent form must be completed for the work to qualify. Consents forms are attached for your convenience.**

Use of copyrighted material (other than recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries) is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

### **Student Entry Form**

All participants are required to complete and sign the Student Entry Form. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may complete the form.

**Beginning in 2011-2012, students must title their works**, and the **title** must be included on the Student Entry Form. For most arts areas, students must also answer a few questions about how they created their works; see Required Information on the Student Entry Form.

All entries must also include an **artist statement** that describes how the piece relates to the theme. Each participant is required to submit an artist statement that describes what inspired him or her to create the work and how it relates to the theme. The artist statement is mandatory for all entries in all grade divisions. The statement may not exceed 250 words (1,000 characters maximum); there is no minimum length.

**Deadlines**

Students must submit all works by **Friday, October 14, 2011.**

**Judging**

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, mastery of the medium, and interpretation of the theme. Mastery of the medium in the context of the national Reflections Program pertains to the level of skill the student demonstrates in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area. However, a well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in artwork. Students who are submitting entries need to meet school and/or local and state PTA standards.

Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of an entry. All decisions of judges are final.



## **PTA Reflections How to Use the Consent Form**

***The use of the Consent Form is mandatory for the 2011-2012 program year. The information provided below offers guidance and provides clarification on its use.***

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Consent Form is to ensure that the children, youth or adults included in Reflections entries, or the parents/guardians of those persons, are aware that their image or voice will be used in the artwork. It is also to help these individuals understand that the entry may be used by National PTA, may be judged at multiple levels, and may be displayed in a number of locations, both public and private.

**Use of the Consent Form:** The Consent Form should be used if a child or adult's recognizable image or voice is included in a Reflections entry. This means, any time there is use of a person's voice or an image of a person from which that person could be recognized, usually involving all or part of the face, then the Consent Form should be used. The form should be used for any person, regardless of age (child, youth or adult). The Consent Form should accompany the Student Entry Form along with the artwork. The use of the Consent Form is most applicable to entries in the Visual Arts, Photography, Film Production, Dance Choreography, and in the Musical Composition categories.

**The Consent Form should be used when an entry features the voice of a person in a Reflections entry.** This is most applicable to the Film Production and in the Musical Composition Categories.

**The Consent Form should also be used if an entry includes the recognizable image of a person.** This is most applicable to the Visual Arts, Photography, Film Production, and Dance Choreography categories. If the image is of a person and is recognizable (including all or part of the person's face), then a Consent Form should be used.

If a person's face is used in whole or in part in a photograph, it requires a Consent Form. If a photo is included in a collage (Visual Arts entry) and includes a recognizable image of a person (especially the person's face), it requires a Consent Form.

### **When is a Consent Form NOT Needed?**

The form is not needed if the entry does not include recognizable images of another person. Images of shadows or that show a silhouette of a person's body or parts of a person's body (e.g. feet) do not need a Consent Form. If an image is drawn of a person (Visual Arts entry) and the image is not recognizable of the person, a Consent Form is not needed.

**Please see PTA website for additional details and examples.**



**PTA Reflections Program  
Consent Form**

**Important note for Reflections Participants:** *This completed form must accompany the artwork submission and Student Entry Form if a person's recognizable image or voice is included in the submission. Signatures are required. If individual is under age eighteen, a parent or guardian must sign the form. **This form is required for the 2011-2012 program year.***

**For Use of a Student's Image or Voice**

I give my permission for my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_(NAME), to participate in the taping, photographing, or audio recording of an entry in the PTA® Reflections<sup>SM</sup> Program. I give consent for the student's voice and or image to be included in the entry. This entry may be used an unlimited number of times in perpetuity in connection with the PTA Reflections Program or other National PTA purposes. I understand that entries may be judged at the local, regional, state, and national level. Entries may be displayed at a school or at another public area, including the Internet.

Name of student submitting the entry: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the rules of the Reflections Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**For Use of an Adult's Image or Voice**

I am 18 years of age or older and I consent to participate in the taping, photographing, or audio recording of an entry in the PTA Reflections<sup>SM</sup> entry.

This entry may be used an unlimited number of times in perpetuity in connection with the PTA Reflections Program or other National PTA purposes. I understand that entries may be judged at the local, regional, state, and national level. Entries may be displayed at a school or at another public area, including the Internet.

Name of Student Submitting the Entry: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_