

“I Can Make a Difference By...”

By Sophie Braccini

How about encouraging our children to thrive in the arts and create just for the pleasure of creation? This is the purpose of the “Reflections” program, sponsored by the National Parent Teacher Association for students in grades K-12th at schools represented by a PTA branch.

Each year, children are given a theme and a choice of 6 different categories in which to illustrate it: visual art (2 dimensions only), literature (maximum 2000 words), photography, music, film/video (5 minutes max) and choreography. The program is in fact a competition, structured by age group, and from School to Council to District to County to State; your child’s art could end up in Washington, D.C.

Every year hundreds of entries are submitted. They are rec-

ognized at each school, in a non-competitive way, and all works are displayed and recognized. The number of participants depends heavily on each school’s staff support. For the 2006/2007 school year, student work from JM Intermediate, Burton Valley Elementary and Rheem Elementary ended up on display at the California PTA Convention in San Diego.

This year’s theme is “I can make a difference by...” Children have until mid-October to submit a piece. Participating in Lamorinda schools are: Burton Valley, Stanley Middle School, Camino Pablo, Rheem, Los Perales and JM Intermediate. Information can be found on the schools’ web sites or by contacting the PTA. The program’s general web site is: www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm



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