

Montana PTA *Reflections*

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2020

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 *Look Within* Local, State and National Reflections Winners

Over 4,000 local PTAs registered for the 2019-2020 Reflections program. Thank you for your tremendous efforts in promoting and supporting the program in our state to provide all children the opportunity to explore and learn through the arts!

National PTA received nearly 1,000 student entries from 47 State PTA Congresses this year including 20 First Place entries from Montana.

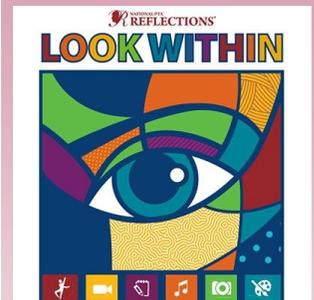
The awards honored creative interpretations of the theme “Look Within”. There were over 200 winners announced by National PTA on May 1st and 2 Montana students were among them.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Award of Merit was awarded to...

Brooke Painter of Great Falls for her Music Composition entry and to **Campbell Bach** of Bigfork for his Visual Arts entry.

CONGRATULATIONS to all Local, State and National winners!!!



2019-2020 “Look Within” Reflections Winners

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Reflections winners on their national achievements in the arts! Stay tuned as National PTA plans to curate artwork for the traveling exhibit this fall to be showcased in January 2021 at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC and June 2021 at National PTA's Convention & Expo in Grapevine, TX. View winners here:

https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/programs/reflections/reflections-2020-2021/winners-list-19-20_final.pdf

National PTA Reflections Awards

Each year, students in Pre-K through Grade 12 are invited to create and submit original works of art in the areas of Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts.

Based on State PTA rules and guidelines, these works of art may be submitted for state and national level awards and recognition opportunities.

Of the national-level submissions, over 200 student Reflections participants will receive the following awards from National PTA:

Merit Award: Bronze Medal; Certificate of Merit; Work featured in the traveling exhibition

Award of Excellence: \$200 Young Artist Scholarship; Silver Medal; Certificate of Excellence; Work featured in the traveling exhibition

Outstanding Interpretation Award: \$800 Young Artist Scholarship; Gold Medal; Certificate of Outstanding Interpretation; Work featured in the traveling exhibition; \$200 Prize for Local PTA Unit



SIMON — GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in Visual Arts—Primary Division

Simon was born in Great Falls, Montana in 2012 and is currently in second grade at Giant Springs Elementary. He loves to write, draw, paint, and create virtual communities in Minecraft with his twin brother, Liam, and his older sister, Tesla. He enjoys playing the drums and helping take care of his baby brother, Dominik. His favorite color is red.



The Brave Wolf

My painting is a wolf that is outside standing on a rock when the moon is out. I did a wolf because they are one of my most favorite animals. I also did a wolf because wolves are brave and I am brave. I also did a wolf because I am like a wolf.



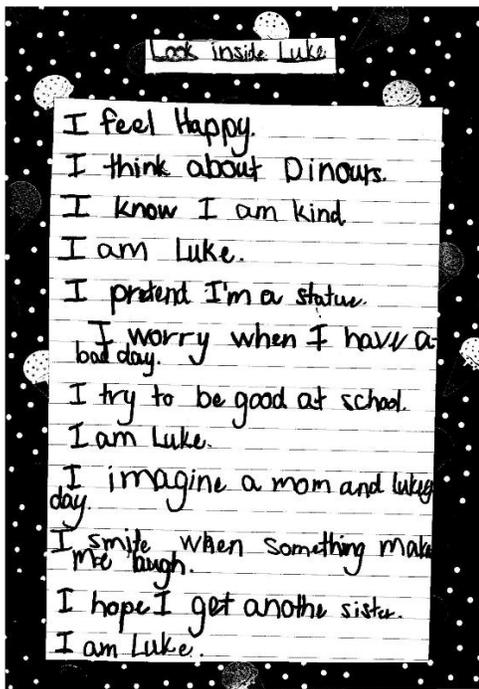
EMMA — LINCOLN ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in Visual Arts—Intermediate Division



Eye Opening

These colorful boxes have the eyes of everyone in my family. Inside the boxes has one thing each one of my family members love. Sometime when you look at the outside of something you see one thing, but when you look within the inside you see something different.

Emma lives in Great Falls and is in fifth grade. She enjoys spending time with her family camping and fishing, playing with friends and her dog Maddie, and crafting. This is Emma's second year participating in the Reflections program. She likes that she gets to show her creativity to other people thanks to this program.



**LUKE —
 GIANT SPRINGS
 ELEMENTARY PTA**
 1st Place in Literature
 Primary Division at State



Luke is a second grade student at Giant Springs Elementary School in Great Falls. He is a great big brother to his two younger siblings. Luke loves to draw, cook, and write stories.

Look Inside Luke

My poem is called Look Inside Luke. I wrote this poem so others can know about me. I hope that the reader can learn about me when they read my poem.

GWENNA— BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA

1st Place in Literature—Intermediate Division at State



To Be Strong

I wrote this poem about when I have worries and doubts I summon confidence and strength by looking within. When I create art and poems it allows me to express what I'm feeling inside.

I may be small,
 But inside I am tall.
 I may be shy,
 But I lift my heart high.
 Bullies words might pierce,
 But I will stay fierce.
 I will grow,
 And so will the things I know.
 I might make mistakes,
 But that's what it takes,
To Be Strong.

**ASPEN —
BIGFORK
SCHOOLS PTA
1st Place in Literature
Middle School Division**

Layers of Lies

Many people, when faced with different challenges, have different personalities. If you stop and try to notice the little details about yourself, you can see your true self. Your true self is just hidden beneath the many different layers that make up you. Each person has different layers that are unique to them. You just need to learn how to see through each layer. When you are able to see all your personalities, you can start to discover who you really are. Discovering yourself is harder than it seems. You need to fight your way through all the fake layers to find the true ones. You need to ignore the criticism and the haters in order to find all of yourself. So, if you look within yourself, who would you see staring back? Would they be an unrecognizable being or a familiar fake disguise? It's up to you to find who you're looking for. It might take you longer than others, but you'll eventually see yourself as the person you are meant to be. You have a choice to be the best you can be. Your layers of personalities can't change who are, they change who you'll become. You could be outgoing and positive on your outside layer, but peel that away and you might be left with someone who has many insecurities and is negative towards all things good. It could be the opposite though, it's all put on your shoulders and the decision is left to you on how you want to be. You just need to fight through all the layers of lies that shield your true self from the rest of the world.



Some of my interests are volleyball, being with my friends and family and listening to music. Some hobbies that I have are swimming, drawing, hiking and of course writing. As a writer, I try to express many different emotions and feelings in my pieces. I also try to bring an overall important theme to my pieces as well, like friendship, trust, and honesty. Most of my stories have a dark twist near the end, but some even lead off with the dark twist. I try to fill my pieces with suspense and some horror, I feel like that's what makes the pieces interesting to read. My genre of writing is horror and fantasy.

Layers of Lies

My work is a literature piece about people's layers of personalities. It relates to the theme because it tells the reader about how you can find your true self and where inside of you it's hidden.



All Around Us

Seven, almost eight billion people on Earth. Thousands in each state, our homes. We see hundreds, strangers, loved ones. How many do we really know? People hide behind masks, concealing their wounds and truths.

These locked up secrets can be dangerous, so take the time, think of others and look within.

**RYAN — BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA
1st Place in Literature—High School Division at State**

Look within, such a strange statement to throw around our busy brain

Often we bustle around hundreds of strangers, from work, home, on buses and on trains

Ok, maybe we were distracted, hungry, or cold from the never-ending rain.

Killing time with endless pages of dogs, food and overused window photos on planes

Wouldn't it be better to know everything? Every experience, feeling, and sin

In every person, they have their own Gemini, a mini-me, a twin

They aren't like what we present, they have different fears, things that make them grin

However these qualities gnaw, oppress, they keep the pain and hidden joy in

Imagine a world where we truly know how everyone's been

Not every smile you see is true, with your help it could be; be yourself and look within

CARTER — LINCOLN ELEMENTARY PTA
 1st Place in **Music Composition**—Primary Division



Carter is a 2nd grader at Lincoln Elementary in Great Falls, Montana. He loves to be outdoors, playing any sport or activity that involves a ball or running. When not outside, he can be found deep into a non-fiction book or exploring some aspect of nature or science. He has a smile that is catching!

When the Chimes Ring

I love piano so much that i wrote a piano song. The was my first time writing a song. I've never done it before. I had to look within my music skills to edit and I found out more skills.

ACACIA—BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA
 1st Place in **Music Composition**—High School Division

My name is Acacia. I enjoy writing music, writing, playing my trumpet, and working on small projects like building wooden models or painting on my computer. I also like to sing and play video games when I am not working on homework.

A Look Within

"A Look Within" is my music piece and it fits into the theme by looking within my childhood up until fifth grade. The song begins in a melancholic tone, then at measure five through 11 there is a hopeful, yet longing sound. This shows a little girl with a life full of hardship and troubles. Starting at measure 17, a huge fire had taken our house on New Years Eve. We lost everything. I have grown, and from measures 21-23 there are notes moving up in hope, that does not last. The original theme plays and the song ends with a drone and silence.



BROOKE — GREAT FALLS

1st Place in **Music Composition**—Intermediate Division at State

AND

Award of Merit at National

Brooke Painter is a 3rd grader from Great Falls. She loves to read, swim, play piano, and create stories. She also enjoys science, school and her family and wants to learn to play the clarinet. She wrote a song, “The Answer to Cancer” for her Reflections project, to focus on the doctors who helped “look within” her mom and help her beat cancer. She said that focusing on these helpers gave her strength and hope while coping with the challenges in her family.

The Answer to Cancer

When I look within my mom, I see someone kind, strong, brave and amazing. I love her so much. This fall she was diagnosed with cancer. My family was really sad about it. My look within project is about all the doctors who helped her get well. I hope this inspires other cancer victims. Enjoy!!!

Lyrics

A radiologist performed a mammogram.
He found an issue
Within her supposedly
healthy tissue.

My family was sad.
'Cuz mom had cancer.
A lot of doctors helped
Find an answer.

**My mom is strong.
My mom is brave.
Gotta stop the bad cells
That want to misbehave.**

Said the pathologist,
Can't fight this with a gun.
One spot is OK,
But the other is enemy #1.

The oncologist said
*Get rid of the bad cells,
That's the battle plan
So my mom will get well.*

**My Mom is strong.
My Mom is brave.
She will expel the cells
That began to misbehave**

The genetic counselor said
It's random bad luck.
Your genes are just fine.
Some people just get struck.

During the surgery,
my family was scared.
We were glad that
The surgeon really cared

**My Mom is strong.
My Mom is brave.
She expelled the cells
That began to misbehave.**

The cancer is gone
But healing was tough
We never gave up
We hope it was enough.

Yay!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I can hug my mom now
We want to celebrate
In Disney World, somehow.

**My Mom is strong.
My Mom is brave.
She expelled the bad cells
that began to misbehave.**

If somebody you know
Is fighting cancer
Just look within, have hope
You can find an answer.

Even if you are scared
Be strong.
You can do this
Just like my mom.

Just like my mom!

LIAM — GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY PTA1st Place in **Photography**—Primary Division

Liam was born in Great Falls, Montana in 2012 and is currently in second grade at Giant Springs Elementary. He loves to play piano, sing, and create virtual communities in Minecraft with his twin brother, Simon, and his older sister, Tesla. He enjoys telling jokes, creating new games for his siblings to play, solving riddles, and helping take care of his baby brother, Dominik. His favorite color is blue.

***Nature in Cerulean Blue***

Look Within. My photo is a picture of birch tree in my front yard. This picture is special to me because I took it from my point of view and I love nature and blue. It makes me think of who I am.

KILIAN — LINCOLN ELEMENTARY PTA1st Place in **Photography**—Intermediate Division

Kilian is a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary School in Great Falls MT. She loves playing sports, her favorite is basketball. She loves playing with her family and dogs in the backyard. She has many pets in her family, including 2 dogs, 2 turtles, 2 snakes, many fish, a ghecko and a guinea pig. She shares her room with her pet guinea pig named Otis whom she loves to carry around and feed lettuce to. Kilian has a love of learning and is always challenging herself with new knowledge growth opportunities.

***Moon at Night***

My photograph "Moon at Night" represents the theme "Look Within" because it captures the calmness of the night sky. When looking within myself, I find the night sky and especially the moon calming. In this photograph the city lights remind me of the night sky's stars. When you look at my photo, I hope you feel a calming sensation within.



CARTER — GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY PTA1st Place in **Photography**—Middle School Division**The Push Off**

This is a picture that I took at Utah's Hogle Zoo of a polar bear. The bear was pushing off the glass to swim in water. When I grow up, I want to be a wildlife photographer.

Carter has always had a soft spot for any kind of creature. He enjoys learning about any and all animals, insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds. You name it, he knows it. From a very young age he has expressed interest in working with animals and that hasn't changed over the years. Unfortunately, when he was around two years old we found out he is HIGHLY allergic to dogs, cats and horses, but that hasn't stopped him from soaking up any and all facts about animals. He follows Robert Irwin on Instagram and aspires to be a wildlife photographer like him and many other successful photographers. He is working hard at school and is involved in many clubs including Leadership Team at Giant Springs Elementary. He is working hard in school so that he can go to college at Montana State University after high school. His goal in life is to work at the Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City, Utah, and take pictures of animals all over the world.

**KATIE — BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA**1st Place in **Photography**—High School Division

Katie

9th grade

Loves the outdoors, hiking
and swimming.

Travel is also a hobby she
plans to do all her life.

**Flower of Memory**

This photograph has hundreds of dew drops. Each one reminds me of a special memory of mine. Then, the petals are the core memories of mine, the ones I remember the most. The petals come alive with the flower that reminds me of what makes me come alive. Not just the petals or dew drops but, the whole flower has a certain part of me from when I was younger. I looked within a flower that looked within me.

EMMA — GREAT FALLS
1st Place in **Film Production**—Primary Division

Emma Painter is a kindergartener from Great Falls. She loves Legos, drawing, movies, reading, camping, school, and playing with her sister. She also enjoys playing with the family pets, Pixel (cat), and Hermes (dog). Her video project, “My Mom’s Cancer,” is her first Reflections project. Her mom is now cancer-free, and Emma is really looking forward to celebrating with her family in Disney World!

My Mom’s Cancer

I hope you like my story. Look within my mom. She is beautiful and healthy and strong because she fought cancer.

Emma’s Film Production entry can be viewed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/w3x9huy4o4gqj3/My%20Moms%20Cancer%20Reflections%2019-20%20edited%20for%20online%20publication.mp4?dl=0>

PERREY — GREAT FALLS
1st Place in **Film Production**—Middle School Division

Perrey has been a cheerleader, dancer, and performer her entire life. Born into a competitive cheerleading gym, she quickly realized her passion for the sport of all-star cheerleading and hasn’t stopped since her first competition at 2 years old. She is a big sister to her 2 younger sisters and a 4.0 student. She is driven, determined, and most importantly, kind.



What I Have Learned

For my film I did a day in the life of a cheerleader. It relates to the theme because when you cheer you have to look within to be good at tumbling.

Perrey’s Film Production entry can be viewed here:

https://youtu.be/P_6mT-VOMB8

FYNNLY — LAUREL ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in **Dance Choreography**—Primary Division

Fynnly is a second grader who just turned eight years old. She is daughter to Kory and Ashlynn. She enjoys all things that include art, music, dance, soccer, basketball, and swimming. She also loves her dogs Penny and Digger, her friends, and her family, including her two little brothers, Scout and Mack.



The Light That Shines Within

We all have a light that shines within and we are all beautiful no matter what the world says.

Fynnly's Dance Choreography entry can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/eWbeyXrdUuc>

MAREN — LINCOLN ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in **Dance Choreography**—Intermediate Division



Maren is a 4th grader at Lincoln Elementary in Great Falls, Montana. She is passionate about ballet and piano, and enjoys a good classic novel any day of the week. She is a great cook and has a gift for caring for younger children. She is known for her kind and gentle demeanor, and is a reliable friend.

My Choreography

I have been dancing for a long time so the next step was to do choreography. This relates to the theme because it takes me another step in my dancing and looking inside myself to see what more i can do. I thought about the music and moves for days and I practiced a lot.

Maren's Dance Choreography entry can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/4u6kudiAD-U>

MARIYAH — GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in Dance Choreography—Middle School Division

I am Mariyah Hicks, I'm in eighth grade, an all A's student, and I'm 13. I go to the Church Alexander Temple C.O.G.I.C. I have been dancing for 3 years. In my life I have my dad, mom, 5 siblings, 2 dogs, and my church family. Dance means a lot to me, and thank you for letting me participate.



He Wants It All

The theme this year is look within, so I chose, He Wants it All by Forever Jones because when God looks at everyone, he looks inside of us, we have great potential inside of us. When he looks at us he doesn't look at the color of our skin or how we think of ourselves or others, he is searching for someone who will praise and worship him. I want people to see and worship God how I do, being myself and not letting others say things to bring me down. Because God wants all of me and what is within myself.

Mariyah's Dance Choreography entry can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/KH0XhkgTyBg>

Now is the time to be thinking about your PTA's involvement in Reflections for the next school year. The Reflections theme for 2020-2021 is "*I Matter Because...*" If your local PTA unit would like to participate, please contact Montana PTA with the name of your local unit Reflections Chair and his/her contact info.

Registration is OPEN from April 1, 2020—February 1, 2021 **Register here**

Get more details about the Reflections program here:

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections>



NATIONAL PTA®
REFLECTIONS®

2019-2020 Montana PTA State *2nd Place* Reflections Winners

Literature:

Maggie McNeil	1 st Grade	Sacajawea PTA	Jen Clark
California Sauther	4 th Grade	Alkali Creek Elem PTA	Sheryn Budge
Payton Kallenberger	7 th Grade	Bigfork School PTA	Amber Britt
Alaura Zarn	11 th Grade	Bigfork School PTA	Amber Britt

Film Production:

Oakley Dvoracek	2 nd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall
Aletta Hagen	6 th Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall

Music:

Lakey Acra	1 st Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall
Elizabeth Haffner	4 th Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall
Faith Elhajj	11 th Grade	Bigfork School PTA	Amber Britt

Visual Art:

Ronan Gallagher	2 nd Grade	Poly Drive PTA	Deva Gallagher
Nevi Bessette	4 th Grade	Bigfork School PTA	Amber Britt
Avery Leritz	6 th Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall
Nathan Rogers	11 th Grade	Bigfork School PTA	Amber Britt

Photography:

Easton Mossman	2 nd Grade	Laurel Elementary PTA	Lacie Markegard
Aspen Fitterer	4 th Grade	Alkali Creek Elem PTA	Sheryn Budge
Britton Weisz	6 th Grade	Sacajawea PTA	Jen Clark
Gwen Wiese	10 th Grade	Bigfork School PTA	Amber Britt

Dance:

Haven Acra	3 rd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall
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2019-2020 Montana PTA State *Judge's Award* Reflections Winners

Literature:

Kannon Henry	3 rd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall
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Music:

Macy Tatman	3 rd Grade	Laurel Elementary PTA	Lacie Markegard
Kennedy McQuillen	3 rd Grade	Giant Springs Elem PTA	Hillary Shepherd/ Heather Hale
Tristan Markegard	4 th Grade	Laurel Elementary PTA	Lacie Markegard

Visual Art:

Macy Hurin	Kindergarten	Giant Springs Elem PTA	Hillary Shepherd/ Heather Hale
Cody Kerr	1 st Grade	Poly Drive PTA	Deva Gallagher
Nolan Budge	1 st Grade	Alkali Creek Elem PTA	Sheryn Budge
Reagan Auer	2 nd Grade	Laurel Elementary PTA	Lacie Markegard
Sophia Spini	3 rd Grade	Laurel Elementary PTA	Lacie Markegard
Iris Gallagher	5 th Grade	Poly Drive PTA	Deva Gallagher
Keegan Budge	5 th Grade	Alkali Creek Elem PTA	Sheryn Budge
Zoe Elizabeth Sellers	8 th Grade	Bigfork School PTA	Amber Britt

Photography:

Oden Clark	Kindergarten	Sacajawea PTA	Jen Clark
Taylee Proud	2 nd Grade	Giant Springs Elem PTA	Hillary Shepherd/ Heather Hale
Jazzlyn Weed	2 nd Grade	Alkali Creek Elem PTA	Sheryn Budge
Maren Marshall	4 th Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA	Jamie Marshall
Lydia Comstock	5 th Grade	Riverview PTA	Tara Hageman
Maicee Helmbrecht	4 th Grade	Alkali Creek Elem PTA	Sheryn Budge
Landry Moog	6 th Grade	Giant Springs Elem PTA	Hillary Shepherd/ Heather Hale



**MONTANA CONGRESS OF
PARENTS & TEACHERS ASSOC.**

P.O. BOX 1269
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everychild.one voice.®

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Congratulations Winners	Page 1
National PTA Reflections Awards	Page 2
Visual Arts—First Place at State	Page 3&4
Literature—First Place at State	Page 5&6
Music Composition—First Place at State	Page 7&8
Photography—First Place at State	Page 9&10
Film Production—First Place at State	Page 11
Dance Choreography—First Place at State	Page 12&13
2020-2021 Reflections Program Year	Page 13
2nd Place State Reflections Winners	Page 14
Judges Award State Reflections Winners	Page 15

