

Montana PTA Reflections

Volume 2, Issue 1

May 2021

Congratulations to the 2020-2021

I Matter Because...

Local, State and National Reflections Winners

Around 3,800 local PTAs registered for the 2020-2021 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 900 student submissions from 44 states this year including 16 First Place entries from Montana.

The awards honored creative interpretations of the theme “I Matter Because...”. There were 223 winners announced by National PTA on May 1st and 2 Montana students were among them winning Award of Merit.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Nolan Budge of Billings and

Ava Hall of Bigfork

All national award recipients receive a medallion and certificate and will be honored during the

[National PTA Virtual Convention & Expo.](#)

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



**Montana
PTA**
everychild.onevoice.

2020-2021

“I Matter Because...” National Reflections Winners

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 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 2022 at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC and June 2022 at National PTA's Convention & Expo in Maryland. View national winners here:

[2020-2021 Reflections® student art program National Winners](#)

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. 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

To our amazing local Reflections Chairs and State Judges...

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! We appreciate YOU and are so very fortunate to have you volunteer to run the Reflections program at the local level and to judge the Reflections entries at the State level this year! THANK YOU for all of your hard work! There would be no Reflections program in Montana without the many hours invested by you. This program means so much to the school communities in Montana and we want you to know that your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE STUDENTS AND REFLECTIONS!



2020-2021 Montana PTA State *1st Place* Reflections Winners

Literature:

Macey Marshall	1 st Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Lucas Michael Hurin	3 rd Grade	Giant Springs Elementary PTA
Zoe Hansen	6 th Grade	Riverview Elementary PTA
Jenna Reynoso	12 th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA

Film Production:

Emma Painter	1 st Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Brooke Painter	4 th Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA

Music:

Samuel Jemeljanov	3 rd Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA
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Visual Arts:

Nolan Budge	2 nd Grade	Alkali Creek PTA
Taylee Proud	3 rd Grade	Giant Springs Elementary PTA
Emerson Jacobs	6 th Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Ava Hall	9 th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA

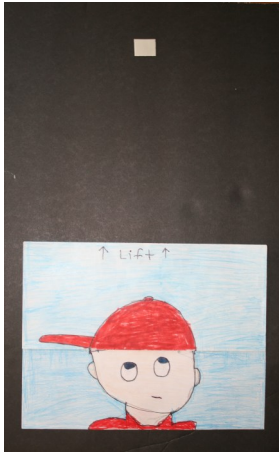
Photography:

Oden Clark	1 st Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Maren Marshall	5 th Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Lydia Comstock	6 th Grade	Riverview Elementary PTA
Francesca Anderson	10 th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA

Dance:

Bronte Evans	3 rd Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA
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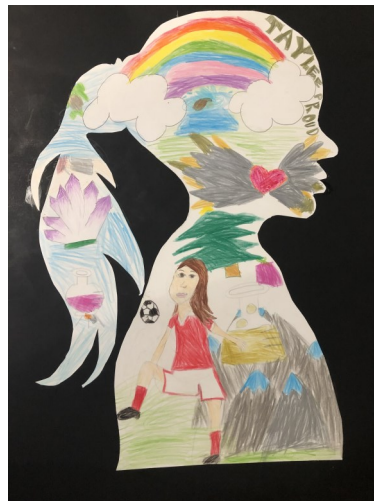


NOLAN — ALKALI CREEK PTA**1st Place in Visual Arts—Primary Division at State AND Award of Merit at National*****A Boy Matters***

I matter because I am a son, a brother, and a friend to others. And, I help others and that matters to me.

Nolan is eight years old. He was born in Billings, MT, and he is the youngest of four boys. Nolan is very creative and has always enjoyed arts and crafts. He can often be found looking at “How to Draw” books, watching videos to learn how to draw or make something, or playing with Legos. He also plays the piano, and he likes All Sports. Each year, he has been excited to participate in the Reflections Program, because he truly Loves Art!

Taylee Proud is a 3rd grader at Giant Springs Elementary in Great Falls, MT. She loves drawing, being creative, science and exploring outside. She is involved in soccer, basketball and softball. Her favorite color is turquoise, she loves Harry Potter and she likes to listen to the Jonas Brothers. She has 2 sisters, one brother and a cat named Cliff.

**TAYLEE — GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY PTA****1st Place in Visual Arts—Intermediate Division*****YOU-NIQUE***

My artwork shows how I am unique. I love to draw, create art, play soccer and hike. I like rainbows, Christmas trees, doing science projects, studying rocks and crystals, the beach and jumping in pools. The heart with the wings stands for my little sister that died when she was a baby in my mom's tummy. I Matter Because nobody else is like me. I am YOU-NIQUE.

EMERSON — SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY PTA

1st Place in **Visual Arts**—Middle School Division

Colors I matter because I am unique. I think it is important to be yourself and not to care what other people think.



Emerson R. Jacobs was born in Minot, North Dakota on July 1, 2009. He moved to Anchorage, Alaska later that year and then to Vandenberg Air Force Base, California in 2012 where he started elementary school at Crestview Elementary. In 2018, he moved to Great Falls, Montana where he attended 4th grade at Loy Elementary School before moving to Sacajawea Elementary where he is currently a 6th grader and was selected to represent his peers as a member of the Sac Pac Leadership Team. Emerson has many passions in life. He enjoys the outdoors: hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. He enjoys history and reading, painting and photography and collecting baseball cards and hats. He loves sports...hockey, basketball, football, and golf...but his number one passion in life is baseball! He is an avid Los Angeles Dodgers fan and a highly skilled player. He plays little league with Riverside Little League and represents the Electric City Baseball Academy as #2 for the Great Falls Lightning 11U team. He is very well rounded and can be found on the pitcher's mound, behind the plate as catcher, at shortstop, at second base, or even in the outfield. Most importantly, he is a team player with an extremely positive attitude and a huge heart. He has dreams of being MLB player one day, hopefully for the LA Dodgers, but if that does not work out his backup plan is to be a surgeon.



AVA — BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA

1st Place in **Visual Arts**—High School Division at State AND Award of Merit at National

Ava Hall is a Freshman at Bigfork High School in Bigfork, Montana. Ava started drawing when she was about 3 years old and has never quit. She can often be found creating something, in many different mediums. When Ava isn't drawing and creating, she is busy playing soccer, basketball and golf. Ava currently has a GPA of 4.0, which she works hard for. She also loves being outside, hunting, fishing,



swimming, water-skiing - pretty much anything on the water. She is always ready for an adventure, with a smile on her face.



Dreams

When I got to thinking about why I matter, I just couldn't come to one conclusion. I matter because of so many more reasons than one. My future, my past and even my present are why I matter. My beliefs, talents, family, friends, and passions are all reasons as to why I matter. The dreams I hold for myself and my life are why I matter.

MACEY — LINCOLN ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in Literature at State—Primary Division

Do You Matter?

I like to write stories. I wrote this because people matter. I matter because people love me. I know other people matter to. I wanted to write a story that talked about this.

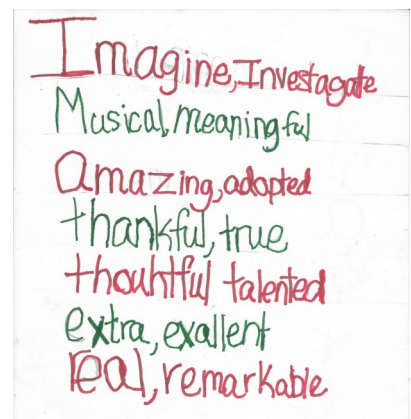
[Macey's Literature Entry - Do You Matter?](#)



Macey Marshall is a 1st grader at Lincoln Elementary in Great Falls, Montana. She loves to do gymnastics, read fiction and draw and design artwork. She is increasingly finding it fun to illustrate her own writings as well! She is full of positive energy, and is quick to make friends with others. Her smile truly lights up a room!

LUCAS—GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in Literature at State—Intermediate Division

Luke Hurin, 9 is a third grade student in Great Falls, Montana. He loves drawing, dancing, and playing with his sister and brother. In the summer he loves to travel and explore. His favorite color is orange and loves to create art and poetry.



I Matter

"I Matter," is a poem that relates to me. The words in the poem tell people about the kind of person I am.

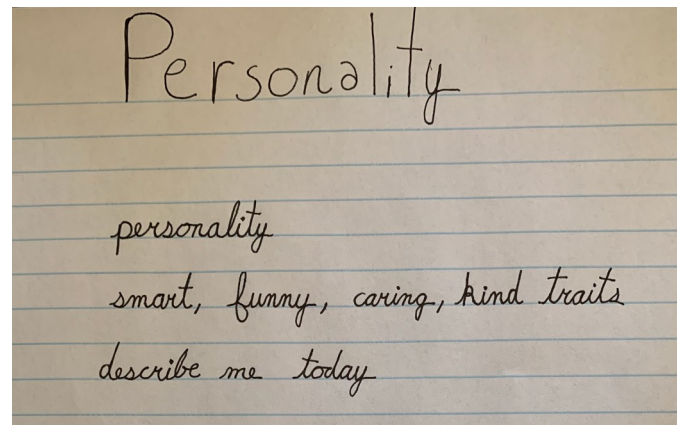
ZOE — RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY PTA
1st Place in Literature at State—Middle School Division



Zoë Hansen is 11 years old and a 6th grader at Riverview elementary school. She loves reading, math and being creative. She enjoys many sports which include soccer, tennis and basketball. When she's not doing any of the above she likes spending time with her friends and family.

Personality

This poem is about how character traits make me who I am. Also because of those traits I have the ability to do things in the world only I can do which makes me matter.



Boulders on Shoulders

Oh hey you remember those days?
 Sitting in the sun having tons of fun.
 But now as I sit here the memories fade
 as the days go on and on and on.
 I wish smiles would never turn afraid.
 I wish time would take a break.
 Because now we're growing we're getting older
 boulders on our shoulders.
 As we're pressured to be better than those before
 but if we try we're dragged back on the floor.
 And I'm trying I'm really trying to smile each day,
 Yet friends drift away as personalities change.
 But you can't hold on to the good old days.
 Because time goes by make no mistake
 it doesn't stop no matter the case.
 No now they say, now is the time to choose,
 make every decision right away,
 Cus the worlds balancing on your hands.
 Wow they can really demand.
 But hey no pressure right?

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



Boulders on Shoulders

I wrote this when I was really struggling. I had a lot of pressure and expectations set on me. I felt as if what I felt and thought didn't matter. Now I know I matter because I have my own thoughts, feelings and goals for myself.

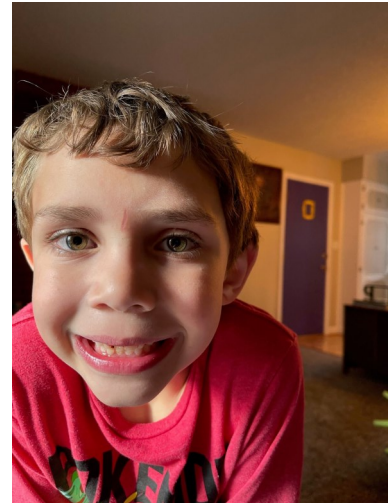
Jenna is 18 and attends Bigfork High School. She absolutely loves being creative either by writing, painting or other means. She is very loving and has a passion of caring for kids. She is known for her companionate and fun spirit. She is always eager to help others, learn, and improve.

ODEN — SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY PTA
 1st Place in **Photography** at State—Primary Division



I matter because Kaiju matter

I matter because I love Kaiju. I love Kaiju and dinosaurs.



Oden is 7 years old and loves dinosaurs and kaiju.

MAREN — LINCOLN ELEMENTARY PTA
 1st Place in **Photography** at State—Intermediate Division



Maren Marshall is a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary in Great Falls, Montana. She is passionate about ballet and piano, and enjoys reading historical fiction 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, as well as her love of music and the arts.

Reflections at the Lake

I took the photo of my reflection in the lake. It relates to the theme because it shows who I am. It shows on the rocky lake bottom the inner parts of me. The photo blocks out all of the world's waves and white caps. It also shows the real me and who I am.



LYDIA — RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY PTA1st Place in **Photography** at State—Middle School Division*I Matter to the People Around Me*

I matter to the people around me. My friends and my family matter to me as I do to them. It is hard to feel like you matter without friends. The picture represents happiness and feeling like you matter. I chose to have blue tones brought out because to some blue is a happy color but to others it is sad. We matter to the people around us. Let us never forget that. I have full permission from Chloe Bergstrom and Madalyn Deiter (C5, Riverview Elementary School) to submit this photo.



Hello, I am Lydia Comstock. I am in 6th grade at Riverview Elementary School in Great Falls. I live with my parents, brother, 2 golden doodles, 2 cats, 2 fish and one turtle. I like to paint, draw, dance, sing, and play tennis.

FRANCESCA — BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA1st Place in **Photography** at State—High School Division

Hello my name is Francesca Anderson. I'm 17 years old and live in Bigfork, Montana. I love coffee, rings, the outdoors, and anything green!

*Make Them Proud*

I matter because I am a friend, student, babysitter, and most importantly a daughter. My mother is very important to me and I know if it weren't for her, I would not matter, or be driven into creativity.

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



I Matter Because

Lots of things are important. I matter because I do lots of important things!

https://youtu.be/zharGLz_rT0

Emma is a first grader from Great Falls and this is her second Reflections project. She likes to read, jump and tumble in gymnastics, and play with her big sister. When asked what her favorite class is in school, she says it is counseling because she enjoys learning about treating others with kindness.

BROOKE — GREAT FALLS

1st Place in **Film Production** at State—Middle School Division

I Matter

"I want to take my own life. It's called suicide. It's my life. Who are you to stop me from doing what I want with it?" is a real question I asked my mom last winter. I wasn't serious, I just wanted to know. The answer is because I Matter. I matter because life matters, but also because I'm me, and I'm important, special, and unique. I created this project to help others struggling to realize that they are important, special and unique too. "I matter because" is the question, but "because I matter" is the answer.

<https://youtu.be/oiOO67be4HU>



Brooke is a 4th grader from Great Falls and has been winning awards for her unique Reflections projects since kindergarten. She loves to read, swim, watch movies, bake, spend time with family and go camping. She also plays piano and has two pets, a cat and a dog. She is most looking forward to visiting Disney World for the first time this summer.

BRONTE — BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA
1st Place in Dance Choreography at State—Intermediate Division

Everyone is a star!

I am a star! You are a star! We are superstars!

Bronte's Dance

Hi, my name is Bronte (pronounced Bron-tay) and I am 8 years old. I was born in Whitefish, MT and now live close to Bigfork, MT. I have one little sister, two cats and a dog. I enjoy dancing, especially to my own rhythm!



SAMUEL — BIGFORK SCHOOLS PTA
1st Place in Music Composition at State—Intermediate Division



The Dancing Man

I matter because I like to make people happy with my music and it makes me happy.

Samuel's Music

Samuel Jemeljanov (pronounced Yemel-yanov) born in Portland Oregon in 2011, where he went to a Montessori preschool and kindergarten. When he was 7 years old, his parents, decided to move to Europe, so he can meet his extended family. Together, they travelled the European continent for two years. This is where Samuel learn to play his first instrument, the Ukulele. He would play, and sing during the long car rides, between Budapest to Lisbon, and the many stops in between. In a few months, he had a repertoire of more than 20 songs. He even performed as a street musician, In the Buda castle in Budapest, accompanied by his older brother and cousin. After living the nomad lifestyle for two years, his family moved back to the US. At this time, Samuel decided to learn to play the piano. He loves this instrument, and takes lessons from her grandmother, who is a piano teacher. He also has a guitar and a mandolin, that he is learning to play. Samuels really enjoys playing music to his friends and family, and having lots of fun creating his own musical compositions. He gets his inspiration watching Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton movies and listening to old George Formby performances.

2020-2021 Montana PTA State *2nd Place* Reflections Winners

Literature:

Samuel Carter Hurin	1st Grade	Giant Springs Elementary PTA
Hailee Elwell	9th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA

Film Production:

Will Reichner	4th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA
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Music:

Carter Marshall	3rd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
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Visual Arts:

Daniel Stinson	2nd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Will Braaten	3rd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Trevyn Mans	6th Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Destiney Shaner	2th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA

Photography:

Eastyn Evenhus	1st Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Drew Hendricks	3rd Grade	Giant Springs Elementary PTA
Silvestre Rodriguez	11th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA



2020-2021 Montana PTA State *Judges' Choice Award* Reflections Winners

Literature:

Macy Rose Hurin 1st Grade Giant Springs Elementary PTA

Music:

Eliza Hansen 3rd Grade Riverview Elementary PTA
Liam Mayes 3rd Grade Laurel Elementary PTA

Visual Arts:

Kyler Proud Kindergarten Giant Springs Elem PTA
Cody Kerr 2nd Grade Poly Drive PTA
Grace Lintz 2nd Grade Bigfork Schools PTA
Pierson Markegard 3rd Grade Laurel Elementary PTA
Delaney Everhart 4th Grade Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Hadley Mosser 5th Grade Alkali Creek PTA
Jasleen Velazquez 6th Grade Giant Springs Elem PTA

Photography:

Macey Marshall 1st Grade Lincoln Elementary PTA
Macey Marshall 1st Grade Lincoln Elementary PTA
Tesla Trystianson 4th Grade Giant Springs Elem PTA
Addyson Keller 4th Grade Bigfork Schools PTA
Maren Marshall 5th Grade Lincoln Elementary PTA
Gillian Sanford 5th Grade Bigfork Schools PTA



2020-2021 Montana PTA State Reflections *Participation Award* Winners

Visual Arts:

Addalynn Meyer	1 st Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA
Ainsley Walker	4 th Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Andrea Garcia	4 th Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA
Aubrey Ard	3 rd Grade	Laurel Elementary PTA
Aylaree Coffee	3 rd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Blakely Brown	1 st Grade	Sacajawea Elementary PTA
Brenden Markegard	Kindergarten	Laurel Elementary PTA
Briah Ard	5 th Grade	Laurel Elementary PTA
Dietrich Schurke	3 rd Grade	Bigfork Schools PTA
Ella Gallagher	5 th Grade	Poly Drive PTA
Ellie Lofink	2 nd Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Emery Mcquillen	2 nd Grade	Giant Springs Elem PTA
Lorelei Samson	4 th Grade	Giant Springs Elem PTA
Mia Nguyen	2 nd Grade	Alkali Creek PTA
Mollie Knowles	1 st Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Ronan Gallagher	3 rd Grade	Poly Drive PTA
Tenley Schneider	4 th Grade	Lincoln Elementary PTA
Violet Miller	3 rd Grade	Alkali Creek PTA



National PTA's **Reflections** program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life.

Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. This 50+ year-old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life.

The 2021–2022 Reflections theme is
I Will Change the World By...



Students submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts. Students participate in the appropriate division for their grade: Primary (Pre-K - Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), Special Artist (All grades welcome).

Now is the time to be thinking about your PTA's involvement in Reflections for 2021-2022. If your **local PTA/PTSA** 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 until February 1, 2022 [Register Here](#) Get more details about the Reflections program here: <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections>

We realize how much work goes into running your Local PTA's Reflections program and we could not do it without the leadership and hard work of our amazing Local Reflections Chairs! Your dedication to the arts in education does not go unnoticed and it is truly important to Montana PTA and National PTA's mission to elevate the voices of all children.

We are excited to begin another Reflections program year with you!



MONTANA PTA

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