

Students will showcase their art at PAArtY

This year, Palo Alto students will skip Reflections and go right to the PAArtY.

Palo Alto students have participated for three years in the California State PTA Reflections program, a rigorous contest and exhibition of the fine and performing arts. And last year, students also participated in the “You Made It!” Jamboree, a free-wheeling exhibition of creativity.

The fine arts and the thrill of sharing it with the public are coming together this year with the creation of PAArtY — Palo Alto Art for Youth. There is an informational meeting on Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Staff Development Center, 25 Churchill Ave. Information and entry forms can be found at <http://paloaltopta.org/arts.shtml>.



PREEVA TRAMIEL

“This program is the fruit of what I learned from running Reflections for the last four years,” said Roxane Mehta, arts chairwoman for the PTA Council.

In Reflections, students submit their best work in the visual, literary and performing arts, and are judged at the city, county and state levels. From 2008 to 2010, Mehta recruited and trained people from each school, found Palo Alto judges to look at the art, and sent the winning work to the PTA’s Sixth District.

“The reason for not having a competitive element is that kids very early on have developed the notion that some people are ‘good at art’ and the rest are not,” Mehta said. “My hope is for everyone to experience the joy of creativity unencumbered by the stress of competitiveness. The message is that everyone is an artist and everyone is a writer, so there are very few rules to restrain the kids. I also hope that kids with different or special needs will enjoy participating.”

Schools can still sign up to participate. All it takes is a parent to talk with Roxane to join the PAArty. Paly, Gunn, Jordan, Terman, Ohlone, Duveneck, Hays, Hoover and Nixon have already signed up.

High school students who are submitting photography and visual art can get gift certificates from University Art at 267 Hamilton Ave., and the opportunity to display entries in the downtown store.

School Matters is happy to hear your feedback. Please e-mail comments to schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org to reach Preeva Tramiel.