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Three Oregon Students Receive National Honors as Part of PTA Arts Program

Students from Bend, Florence and Canby win art competition

Portland, OR (June 2, 2009)— Three Oregon students received national honors as part of the 2009 PTA Reflections Arts program. This program - themed this year as “Wow!”— has encouraged millions of students across the country to explore their artistic talents for fun and recognition for nearly 40 years.

PTA is recognizing six students as recipients of the Outstanding Interpretation Award—the best-of-the-best in six arts categories. Kai Sandoval and Keely Buchanan are two of these six. They will be recognized during a special ceremony at the 113th Annual PTA National Convention and Exhibition (June 26–June 29) in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. They also will receive cash awards of \$800 and cash awards of \$200 will go to their local PTAs.

Award Recipients:

- Kai Sandoval, age 17, Florence, received an Outstanding Interpretation Award in musical composition, for his piece titled “Sexy You.”
- Keely Buchanan, age 7, Bend, also received an Outstanding Interpretation Award in photography, for her piece title “Palindrome.”

In addition, student, Margaret Phillips, age 7, from Canby, received an Award of Merit in the music composition category.

Their pieces will join other notable awarded pieces in a virtual gallery on the National PTA’s website in July. A complete list of winners can be found on the [National PTA website](#).

“Oregon PTA is thrilled to have three students receiving National awards. As arts programs in our schools continue to be cut, it is imperative that we have programs like the Reflections Art program to help our kids express themselves creatively,” says Sandy Bell, Oregon PTA President. “We’re excited for Kai, Keely and Margaret and the prestigious recognition they will receive.”

The National PTA will recognize a total of 71 students with Awards of Excellence and 119 students with Awards of Merit across four grade divisions—primary, intermediate, middle/junior, and senior—and six arts categories—dance choreography, film/video production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. One national Outstanding Interpretation Award winner is chosen from among all the Award of Excellence recipients in each arts area, regardless of grade division. The national Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients demonstrated the most creative interpretations of this year’s theme, “Wow!”

About the Reflections Program

In its nearly 40-year history, the PTA Reflections Program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. PTA believes that all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works of art in six areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage).

About Oregon PTA –

Oregon PTA, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is the largest and oldest child advocacy organization in the state, representing 23,000 members and 237 local units across the state. For a century, PTA members have used their collective voice to act on behalf of every child of Oregon. PTAs continue to advocate and educate the importance of Parent Involvement, and proudly give back 97% of their proceeds directly to their communities. Membership in Oregon PTA is open to anyone who is concerned with the education, health, and welfare of children. For more information on Oregon PTA membership, please contact the state office at (503) 234-3928, or visit the Oregon PTA website at www.oregonpta.org.

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