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| Dear Bells Mill Families,  The National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual Reflections Arts Program. The Reflections program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: **Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Dance Choreography, Film Production, and the Visual arts (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage). There is also a Special Artist division for children with Special Needs.**  In its 40-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to create works of art. The Reflections Program was started in 1969 by then Colorado PTA President Mary Lou Anderson. Designed to enhance rather than replace a quality arts education, the *Reflections Program* provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts.  Students participate in the *Reflections Program* by submitting entries to their school PTA**. All students at Bells Mill Elementary are eligible to enter this amazing arts competition, and everyone is permitted to submit as many entries as they wish, in as many categories as they want! Just be sure to follow the specific requirements for each category and make sure your creations directly reflect upon the 2014-2015 theme “The World Would be a Better Place If…..” The deadline to submit your artwork is November 26, 2014.**  At the Bells Mill level, we will have a Gallery Arts Show in December to proudly display all of the artwork submitted by our talented Bells Mill Artists. The Montgomery County PTA will host their annual Art Show in the Spring of 2015 where all of Montgomery County contestants’ artwork will be displayed and awards will be given. In 2012, Bells Mill had nearly 20 artists, in 2013 we had more than 30 submissions! I think “**the world would be a better place if**…. more people created more art!” Let’s see how many artists let their creativity and imagination soar and reach for the sky this year!  If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this amazing opportunity further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.  Sincerely,  Stefie Heideman, Bells Mill PTA Reflections Arts Competition Chair  [Stefie@ArtEscapades.com](mailto:Stefie@ArtEscapades.com) Phone: 301.237.4959 |
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