

Congratulations to all our Council Reflections Winners! Feel free to click on the title to see their artwork.

BURBANK COUNCIL PTA REFLECTIONS AWARD WINNERS 2025-2026



I Belong!

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Division	Student Name	Title	Artist Statement	School	Award
Accessible Arts (6 - 12)	Timothy J Mockett	I Define My Harmony	Believing in myself brings me joy when I dance. I chose the song <i>What It Sounds Like</i> because it tells us to stop lying to ourselves and trying to change to be something we aren't. Belonging comes when you accept yourself and bring together the light and dark in yourself. No one is perfect. Our demons are the lies and negative thoughts that get in the way of each of us living our best life and being true to ourselves. I feel supported by my family and friends. I know I'm not alone in my journey through life.	Burroughs	Award of Excellence & Award of Excellence at First District PTA
Primary (PK - 2)	Nara Messerlian	Dance	I love dancing and I have choreographed my own lyrical dance for this year's Reflection. I am small and young but that doesn't mean I can't do what I love to do which is dancing and choreographing.	Jefferson	Award of Excellence
Primary (PK - 2)	Kriithi Nangunoori	Dance	I belong in my family. When my mom kisses me, my dad smiles and my grand parents hug me, I feel safe and happy. I belong with my friends at school. We play, share crayons, and help each other learn. I belong in nature — with the trees, the flowers. I belong in dance- with devotion and dedication. Sometimes I feel small, but I know I am part of something big — my family, my school, my dance, my world. Belonging means being loved just the way I am. That's why I say proudly, "I belong!"	Bret Harte	Award of Merit
Primary (PK - 2)	Harper Hall	I Belong	Sophia was adopted by a royal family. She is singing about how she belongs in their family now.	Roosevelt	Honorable Mention
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Melody Bowser	You Do You Dance	How it connects with this theme because its meaning you do what your heart tells you. You don't have to be embarrassed if you like something no one likes. There will be always someone who likes it too. No matter what you do you belong.	Miller	Award of Excellence
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Aria Whitt	Side by Side	Side By Side dance piece pertains to being inclusive and allowing everyone to feel like they always belong no matter what the circumstances are. Love Do expresses love and affection. With love and affection brings in a different sort of community. A community of love, engagement and inclusiveness. Aria expresses a combination of mobility and stillness. When someone is need sometimes all they need is for you to be side by side during times of stillness and creating a space for the person to allow movement for growth and include them when ready.	Stevenson	Award of Merit
Middle School (6-8)	Myla Russo	My Light	This piece represents how I feel when I dance. I let go and be free of whatever good or bad things have happened throughout the day. I often have fear and feel like I want to curl into a ball and melt away. But I push through that shadow. I pick myself up by dancing and letting go. If I were to let fear overcome me, the world wouldn't see my light. My light belongs to the world. Without it, an important piece is missing. The world doesn't shine as bright.	Huerta	Award of Excellence
Middle School (6-8)	Ruby Webster	This... Is ME	This is a dance about being who you are and not letting anyone change that about you. It's about being true to yourself no matter what anyone else thinks—accepting that even though there are bad times and not everything is perfect, you can still be yourself and carry on.	Luther	Award of Merit

FILM PRODUCTION

Division	Student Name	Title	Artist Statement	School	Award
Primary (PK - 2)	Lucy Bladt	Ice Cream Wars	I like chocolate ice cream a lot. I don't understand people who don't like chocolate ice cream. So I made a movie about it. Two people can come together by talking about it. Their opinions are different. That puts them in different categories. But they can belong in a new category together.	Stevenson	Award of Excellence
Primary (PK - 2)	James Page	The Frilled Dragon	This work is about a frilled dragon. He learns that being different is not bad. He learned that he belongs. Other lizards accepted him when he was helpful.	Emerson	Award of Merit

Primary (PK - 2)	Kayla Alberdi	Brianna Belongs	<i>Brianna finding her friends to pick them up for a little playdate, to have their parents come over to a special little tea party, and when they picked up the other people, they accepted together, they belong together.</i>	Providencia	Honorable Mention
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Kaelyn Murri	I Belong	<i>This video was created as a reminder that no matter who you are and where you come from, you belong. We are loved for who we are.</i>	Roosevelt	Award of Excellence
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Lila Davoodi	I Belong	<i>I Belong is a story about a girl who is different and has a hard time finding friends and only has an imaginary one. One day she dreams of an imaginary friend that that helps her understand that she belongs in this world.</i>	Miller	Award of Merit
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Violet Loyd	Timmy	<i>My movie is about a blob named Timmy. I was inspired to make this because sometimes I feel like a blob that is trying to find a place where I belong. I don't always feel like I belong at school. I like the library, but not the reading part. I love singing but sometimes my voice cracks? And that's embarrassing. I love being on a softball team, but I always get hit by the balls. But I always know that as long as I have a friend with me, that's a place that I belong.</i>	Stevenson	Honorable Mention
Middle School (6-8)	Amara Chidgey	I Know I Belong	<i>My animated film "I Know I Belong" fits the theme of I Belong, because it tells the story of a bird named Piper, trying to find her flock. or just a place where she knows that she fits in. She finds a new friend, then by the end of my film, her dream comes true and she realizes her goal – finding a flock that accepts her and appreciates her as she is, finally giving her a place where she knows she belongs, hence the name of my film.</i>	Luther	Award of Excellence & Award of Excellence at First District PTA
Middle School (6-8)	Jake Hlubik	Everything Belongs	<i>I shot this film in the nature since nature is where I belong. With a guitar in hand and in the place I love, I can't belong more. I made a music video of my song since music is all about the differences in every instrument working together to form a melody. Everything in music belongs. and films are the same. Everything plays a part to form a movie. The lighting, the sound, the shots, everything plays a role that is needed just as much as the other. Where I belong is in nature and with music.</i>	Huerta	Award of Merit
High School (9 - 12)	Shaylee Osborne	I belong	<i>My film titled, "I belong" is about a young man who is going through the psychosis of losing himself and not knowing who he truly is. He only belongs when he can entertain others, but this is just a dark fantasy.</i>	Burroughs	Award of Excellence

LITERATURE

Division	Student Name	Title	Artist Statement	School	Award
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	Colton Jue	Different	<i>This poem is related to the theme "I belong" because it's about a kid who initially feels like he doesn't belong, but then changes and he finally feels like he belongs.</i>	Edison	Award of Excellence & Award of Excellence at First District PTA
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	Maxwell Simon	The star that couldn't belong	<i>I wrote this story because I've been bullied a lot and i didn't fit in with that group of kids. But then i saw a nicer group of kids. They seemed like friends i could hang out with. Then I finally figured out what friend group I belong in. Now I feel really really happy and included.</i>	Jefferson	Award of Merit
Accessible Arts (6 - 12)	Abi Alcheh	I Belong at School	<i>School is good for you. It was the one to have an effect on me.</i>	Huerta	Award of Excellence & Award of Merit at First District PTA
Primary (PK - 2)	Ruby Schwaid	Everyone Belongs in Our Community	<i>In first grade, when Sr. Gutierrez read a book about Ruby Bridges, I realized how unfair it was for Black people back then. But then I thought about it now. Everyone can go to the same school now! Ruby Bridges changed the world. During the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we read a book about him, and he changed the world to make it more equal too. They made everyone feel like they belong in our community.</i>	McKinley	Award of Excellence
Primary (PK - 2)	Devon Simon	The Story of the Unicorn	<i>The unicorn didn't feel like she belonged but then she got help and then she did belong. it's a story about belonging and how to feel like you belong. if someone else makes you feel like you don't belong you can get your friends.</i>	Jefferson	Award of Merit
Primary (PK - 2)	Matilda Ferullo	The Quest They Had To Prove	<i>The story is about two sisters who go on a quest and prove they belong. There's also a cute evil kitten who belongs being evil!</i>	Roosevelt	Honorable Mention
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Auggie Marshek Gertner	Long Hair, Don't Care	<i>I am a boy who has long hair and painted nails, and I often get misgendered. I have great friends, and a family who support me, so I never feel like I don't belong. But many kids don't have that same situation. I wrote this story to honor kids like me who don't have the support that I do.</i>	Edison	Award of Excellence & Award of Merit at First District PTA
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Corinne Greene	I Truly Belong	<i>This poem is a list of places where I feel at home. It is a group of moments where I feel quite marvelous.</i>	Roosevelt	Award of Merit
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Darsha Pahawatta	I Belong	<i>My short story about Maggie relates to the theme because it is about someone who realizes she belongs in a new place. To me everyone needs to go through this stage until they accept that this is their place and this is where they are. Making friends with Lydie, Isabelle, Tanya, Valerie and Anna helped Maggie belong.</i>	Miller	Honorable Mention

Intermediate (3 - 5)	Adeline Fraley	Kitsune	<i>When I created "Kitsune" I thought how some people don't feel like they belong, or that they never see the good in anything I based my story on that, how a kitsune a mythical creature is leaving home to go hunt for food, and she doesn't feel like she belongs, but over time she sees the beauty in things, it makes her feel happy, and makes her feel like she belongs to those things.</i>	Stevenson	Honorable Mention
Middle School (6-8)	Ellie Tsai	Belonging (A Reverse Poem)	<i>Belonging doesn't always mean changing yourself—sometimes all you need to change is your perspective :)</i>	Muir	Award of Excellence
Middle School (6-8)	Olivia Jue	Is Earth For Me?	<i>This poem highlights individuals who feel excluded and believe they don't belong. However, this poem is a reminder that no matter what you look like, where you come from, or what you believe, there is always a community of people who will accept you. It relates to the theme because it shows that everyone belongs somewhere, like the alien finding his own place where he is not judged.</i>	Huerta	Award of Merit
Middle School (6-8)	Ruby Webster	Luna and Olivia: Finding Where You Belong	<i>Even though this is a fictional story, it is based on my real hopes and dreams. My family is planning to get a dog, but we're trying to find the right fit, and we haven't found her yet. I know she's out there waiting for us to find her. My story discusses the concept of finding where you belong, not being perfect, but still having love and compassion. There is always someone out there for you.</i>	Luther	Honorable Mention
High School (9 - 12)	Astrid Lindquist Newman	No Home for Humbugs	<i>The them of "I Belong," is expressed through the whimsical and often comically dark musings of a young adult, who finds her self-worth through piecing together fragments of her life—only to conclude that she is right where she needs to be—to "Belong," and be content.</i>	Burroughs	Award of Excellence
High School (9 - 12)	Johann Hedayati	Who am I to Belong?	<i>To belong is an elusive thing. On one hand, everyone wants to be part of a whole like they belong inside the whole but on the other hand, sometimes we blend in so much that the boundaries become suffocating and only when we break out of the boundaries, and even not belong, can we find our true selves. I have struggled with this idea, going back and forth, in and out of the boundaries for as long as I can remember and I still do not know which is better, to belong or not to belong.</i>	Burbank	Award of Merit

MUSIC COMPOSITION

Division	Student Name	Title	Artist Statement	School	Award
Primary (PK - 2)	Devon Simon	we belong	<i>I thought of making a song and i did. It was really fun so I'm glad i did it. The song is about me and at the end it is about everybody because it's saying that we all belong on earth at the end of the song.</i>	Jefferson	Award of Excellence
Primary (PK - 2)	Cate Yusah	"You Belong."	<i>I belong everywhere. This song makes me feel all kinds of feelings. It is fun to sing and play the guitar.</i>	Bret Harte	Award of Merit
Primary (PK - 2)	Emilia Aghamalian	Piano	<i>Started playing piano few months ago. Very passionate about it.</i>	Miller	Honorable Mention
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Vivienne Staggs	Views	<i>My song "Views" is about how belonging is understanding and connection. Sometimes I feel alone and misunderstood like when someone makes fun of me for having two moms or calls my friends weird. But then someone understands. This is what belonging means: when someone understands you, without needing to change who you are. With my chorus "I understand" and "I know your point of view," I wanted to show the feeling of people who make you feel safe. I feel safe knowing that they will be here for me, which inspires the promise "I will always be here."</i>	Edison	Award of Excellence & Award of Merit at First District PTA
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Max Isler	Quest	<i>This song is about the quest for belonging. Humans need to be seen and understood, and that leads to belonging. Me sharing this song with others through the Reflections program is an act of wanting to belong. Music is my way of connecting with other people. I hope that when other people listen to this song, it helps them feel as though they belong.</i>	Stevenson	Award of Merit
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Nate Maoz	Here's A Spot For Me	<i>In this song, I say, "Is it in the United States? Is it in Mexico?" and "Where is the place I need to go?". When people hear me ask these questions, I encourage them to guess the essential question I'm asking. The main question I'm trying to ask myself is "Where do I fit in? Where is my place?" But throughout the song, I realize, the place where I am is my home. And when I'm with my family, friends, and my community, that's all I need.</i>	Roosevelt	Honorable Mention

Middle School (6-8)	Jasper Johnson	<u>Belonging</u>	<i>I am Jasper Johnson, and my piece is named Belonging. It tells a path of feeling like you belong through different levels of intensity throughout the song. At the beginning, which represents young age, you feel like you belong. But as the song progresses, and as you grow a little older, you have doubts about whether you belong or not. This is represented by an increase of volume. But as you get even older, you learn more about yourself and start relaxing a little. You never go back to that feeling of complete belonging, but you feel like you belong.</i>	Huerta	Award of Excellence
Middle School (6-8)	Amara Chidgey	<u>To Belong</u>	<i>My violin solo "To Belong" fits the theme of I Belong, because it tells a story of feeling alone, then finding your friends and no longer feeling alone.</i> <i>I chose violin as the instrument for this piece, because violin is an emotional instrument with a hint of sadness, to create the feeling of melancholy and loneliness.</i> <i>The repeated groupings of 4 notes together (da da da daaah) represents my group of friends and how we come together and support each other. Together, we make each other feel seen, heard and understood, so we all know we "belong" and are loved.</i>	Luther	Award of Merit

PHOTOGRAPHY

Division	Student Name	Title	Artist Statement	School	Award
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	Jordan Todd	<u>In Nature</u>	<i>I belong in Nature. The Redwoods make me feel happy and calm.</i>	Providencia	Award of Excellence & Award of Excellence at First District PTA
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	Noah Garibaldi	<u>My Voice Belongs</u>	<i>I am strong. I am brave. I belong. My voice belongs.</i>	Edison	Award of Merit
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	Maxwell Simon	<u>Belonging</u>	<i>This picture shows all the different abstract colors blending in nicely. It reminds me of people getting along and having a fun time being belonged. The lights at the top represent feelings from inside.</i>	Jefferson	Honorable Mention
Primary (PK - 2)	Sanya Bera	<u>My Indian Culture</u>	<i>This is a photo showing me in my Indian cultural outfit. Being with my Indian community gives me a sense of belonging.</i>	Miller	Award of Excellence
Primary (PK - 2)	Richie Morales	<u>These Stuffies Belong Together</u>	<i>These are my favorite stuffies because they are a family. They are all different but they belong together just like I belong with my family!</i>	Bret Harte	Award of Merit
Primary (PK - 2)	Soren Epstein	<u>"Soren Wearing Rainbow Sunglasses at Pride in the Park"</u>	<i>I took the picture at Pride in the Park. It's me taking a picture of myself with rainbow glasses on. You can be different and proud. People should not be mean or say bad words to people who are different. My sunglasses are cool and rainbow in the picture. Rainbows are cool and shiny and they are Pride in the Park.</i>	Emerson	Honorable Mention
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Emery Russo	<u>The Piece</u>	<i>This is the picture I took, but it's a part of a bigger puzzle. It doesn't show the whole story, like me. I'm just a piece, but I belong in this world. Without me, the world isn't complete. This picture shows that. The water could be an ocean, a lake, anywhere...It could even be a puddle on the ground after a storm. This picture is just a piece of the puzzle, and so am I.</i> <i>I discovered a box of crayons as I was waiting for my doctor appointment. As I looked at them I started to think that if every crayon was exactly the same color, how boring the picture you created would be. But, because there are so many different options, the picture you create will be much more interesting. I feel like this box of crayons represents endless possibilities. People are unique and different, just like the colors of these crayons, but everyone still belongs in this box and can be a part of any picture. Suddenly, the world becomes more interesting.</i>	Stevenson	Award of Excellence
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Kian Patel	<u>Box of Diversity</u>		Emerson	Award of Merit
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Jovanne Everette Equila	<u>Mesmerized by Jellyfish</u>	<i>Walking through the immersive, aquarium is like walking to a different world. I was mesmerized at the beauty of the marine marvels, and something caught my eye, a bell-shaped translucent jellyfish. I was captivated by the jellyfish's astonishing beauty. I love how it could speak through its poised, elegant body language. It was moving in a graceful and steady manner as if it was telling me "I BELONG here." I realized, I belong wherever i may be as long as I thrive & drift along with the flow, just how the jellyfish danced with the rhythm of the powerful currents.</i>	Bret Harte	Honorable Mention
Middle School (6-8)	Amara Chidgey	<u>Where I Belong</u>	<i>I feel like I belong, when I'm with my friends. They make me feel happy and appreciated. We all "get" each other. My photo represents this, because it shows me with my friends who make me feel like I belong.</i> <i>We are standing by each other's side, supporting and protecting each other, having each other's backs. The line of water on the ground is like a river that connects us.</i> <i>I feel like I belong with them. I dedicate this picture to my friends.</i>	Luther	Award of Excellence

Middle School (6-8)	Lucy Rubiner	the choir	<i>I don't always feel like I belong. People in middle school rarely do. But when I'm singing in choir, everyone belongs. All of our voices are contributing to this beautiful piece of art. Singing in a group is the best sense of community I've ever felt. We are a team. I belong in choir. Everyone does.</i>	Huerta	Award of Merit
High School (9 - 12)	Emma Stricker	Cake	<i>This image shows how even with challenges in your life if you keep fighting you can overcome anything. This image is of a young girl who has a form of dwarfism. Doctors told her mom she wasn't gonna make it through infancy, but here she is a few years later celebrating with her family.</i>	Burroughs	Award of Excellence

VISUAL ARTS

Division	Student Name	Title	Artist Statement	School	Award
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	José Drake	Belonging	<i>This is a picture of my family. The family is together and it is a nice day.</i>	Providencia	Award of Excellence & Award of Excellence at First District PTA
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	Maxwell Simon	My Beautiful House	<i>I think this picture represents me belonging because it has all the stuff that my family does that I love inside the windows. It has all our plants that we pick and eat. It has lots of different details that describe how our family is and how I belong in it. I added Dada going to work because it's funny.</i>	Jefferson	Award of Merit
Accessible Arts (PK - 5)	Ciaran Chidgey	Beautiful Flowers	<i>In my painting, I'm in front of my house with my sister and we have beautiful flowers in front of us. We belong together, and I belong in this beautiful place with her and my whole family. She says "I like it," and I say "I know", because I know my sister loves the flowers and us being here together. I am happy because I know this is where I belong.</i>	Roosevelt	Honorable Mention
Primary (PK - 2)	Isabella WuGee	Music-o-ball	<i>There's music and people dancing and playing with a ball. Everyone is different, and everyone belongs here.</i>	Roosevelt	Award of Excellence
Primary (PK - 2)	Anukasan Clifford-Navas	The River of Belonging.	<i>I painted a River because I feel at peace in nature, water moves swift between rocks. I belong because we all belong. I honor my ancestors by singing their songs that I share with friends. And by our giggles and laughs we all belong together into the same song. I drew a campfire scene and musical notes to represent my Lakota songs. At last, I drew an Eagle (my Native name) flying above the sunrise, because there's a new one every day, and like the river changes, so do we, because we all belong together in this world.</i>	McKinley	Award of Merit
Primary (PK - 2)	Leo Aquino	Leo the Artist	<i>This painting is basically me as an artist. Even if I'm only 6, I belong as an artist.</i>	Disney	Honorable Mention
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Nathan Andrade	Owls Belong Together	<i>I drew different types of owls together on a tree branch to show that even though the owls are different that's what makes them interesting. Snowy owls are big and white and live in the artic. Elf owls are small and brown and live in the desert, but they all belong together because they are all owls. Humans are all different too. Someone might feel like they don't belong because they look or feel different, but like owls, what makes a person different makes them interesting. We all "belong" together just like owls.</i>	Stevenson	Award of Excellence
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Ani Khachatryan	What Makes Me, Me	<i>This artwork is about me and my hobbies. Each circle in my hair shows something I love like nature, reading, painting, horses, dance, and French fries. These are parts of my world that make me happy and peaceful. The theme "I Belong" means feeling connected to who I am. I belong to my hobbies because they express my true self. They make me feel free, creative, and alive.</i>	Emerson	Award of Merit
Intermediate (3 - 5)	Eiree Tsai	I Belong? Do I belong? YES! I belong!	<i>My piece of art describes them looking down at their shadows and remembering how they used to feel like they didn't belong and they didn't fit in, and now they are standing with their heads held high, feeling like they do belong. We always belong, just depending on what angel we looking at things.</i>	Jefferson	Honorable Mention
Middle School (6-8)	Eleonore Gomez	Out of Place	<i>My artwork explores "I Belong" through two opposite figures. The bottom is drawn in deep, dark colors, standing in a bright colorful room, asking "Do I belong anywhere?" While the top is full of color, and in a pitch, black room, replying, "You belong everywhere." The contrast explains the quiet struggles many people face when they feel out of place in a beautiful world, but they can't feel it. The colorful figure in the dark shows how belonging can come from within, even in emptiness. The piece is a reminder that feeling at home starts with accepting yourself.</i>	Huerta	Award of Excellence

Middle School (6-8)	Maia Page	Coming Together	<i>This work represents everyone belonging together and connection with each other. Although there are different parts, all unique in their own way, they are all connected and have a place on the page. First I painted circles on the page, then I drew the people, adding layers of drawings with different paper and mixed media (marker, pen, pencil, water color). The letters BELONG are placed throughout the drawing and connected by a blue ribbon.</i>	Muir	Award of Merit
Middle School (6-8)	Sydney Chavey	My Perfect Planet	<i>My Perfect Planet I am in a friend group where most people identify as being in the Pride Community. So, I have made a Perfect Planet to represent all of them. On Earth, some people are excluded and made to feel like they don't belong. But on my Perfect Planet, EVERYONE BELONGS. My Perfect Planet represents the full spectrum of the LGBTQ+ Rainbow of Flags such as: Progress Pride, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Non-Binary, Bisexual, and many more! Made of mixed media (clay, watercolor, with a center of recycled plastic bags.)</i>	Luther	Honorable Mention
High School (9 - 12)	Vita Mireles	Daisy Chains	<i>Daisy Chains is representing the feeling of belonging only to yourself. Often when others do not understand you, it can be isolating, but it can also be freeing to truly understand who you are. The two girls are my self portrait, and their hair being connected shows the infinite tie a person has with themselves. No one can take your soul away. The daisies being placed in my hair shows the comfort found when you finally understand yourself. To be understood is to belong.</i>	Burroughs	Award of Excellence
High School (9 - 12)	Esther Jun	Together, We Hold Hands	<i>In today's world, belonging often centers on where I fit in or am accepted. But true belonging isn't about me, it's about us, and it begins when we reach out to others. In my art mosaic, "Together, We Hold Hands," I explore belonging as something we build collectively. Through imagery of people helping refugees, the homeless, the elderly, and those from diverse cultures, I show that belonging grows through compassion and connection. The theme of adoption symbolizes chosen family and shared humanity, reminding us that belonging is created through care and inclusion, bonding us together.</i>	Burbank	Award of Merit

The 2026-2027 Reflections theme is coming soon...