



OUR MISSION:

To promote quality visual arts education in Texas by promoting visual arts education as an integral part of the curriculum through professional development of knowledge and skills, representation of the art educators of Texas, service and leadership opportunities, and research and development of policies and decisions relative to practices and directions in visual arts education; to sustain and advance professional development; to encourage and promote the advancement of knowledge and skills.

TAEA 📩 14070 Proton Road, Suite 100 Dallas, TX, 75244. 🛊 972.233.9107 🛊 info@taea.org

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Be a part of the next



We invite members to submit articles and events by submitting them to the editor.



Deadline for the next issue:

July 1st, 2025

The e-star is the official newsletter of the Texas Art Education Association and is published four times a year: Fall, Spring, Summer, Winter.

For more information, visit: TAEA E-STAR



Cover Art:
"Chrono"
by Temperance B.
2025 Gold Seal Winner

Chaparral High School Killeen ISD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear TAEA Members,

As we move into the spring season, I am reminded of the incredible resilience, creativity, and passion that define our Community of Artists. This is a time of student showcases, celebrations of achievement, and reflection on the countless hours spent in classrooms, communities, and across the state of Texas. You are the driving force that brings art to life, giving those around you the opportunity to tell their stories through creativity and expression. Your commitment empowers voices, nurtures talent, and strengthens the foundation of arts education in every corner of our state.

This season offers not only the opportunity to celebrate our achievements, but also a time to pause and honor the lives that have shaped our organization in meaningful ways.

It is with a heavy heart that I share the passing of one of our most cherished members and our Executive Director, Sara Chapman. Sara was a passionate advocate for educators, community members, and everyone who crossed her path. Her kindness, leadership, and unwavering commitment to arts education left a profound impact on all who had the privilege of working with her. Whether through quiet one-on-one conversations in the hallways with new and veteran teachers alike, or in powerful discussions with political figures, Sara's influence will continue to echo through the thousands of lives she touched.

As we move forward, we will continue to honor Sara's memory by advancing the cause she championed and upholding the values she so believed in. Let us continue building upon the foundation laid by trailblazers like Sara Chapman, Robert Parker, Joey Doyle, Judy Beckham, and many others whose legacies inspire us daily.

On behalf of the TAEA Executive Board, thank you for your passion, love, and commitment to excellence in the arts. Know that what you do matters. Finish strong and enjoy a well-deserved summer break. I look forward to seeing you at the 2025 TAEA Conference at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock!

- Linh Nguyen



AWARDING EXCELLENCE



Lifetime Achievement Winner:

Abigail Eliezer Klentzman Intermediate School Houston. Texas

An exceptional art teacher always finds a way to engage their students in meaningful ways. Abigail Eliezer, art teacher, Klentzman Intermediate, Alief ISD is just one of those individual who knows how to instill a sense of community and kindness into her teaching approach with students and staff.

As a passionate and award-winning art educator, Abigail Eliezer empowers students through creativity and cultural expression. She is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and inspiring learning environment where students not only create meaningful art but also gain confidence in their voices and identities. Her ability to connect art with real-world impact was showcased when her students' artwork was selected for the Harris County Precinct 4 "Wrap a Bus" contest, turning their

stories, cultures and languages into a moving public masterpiece.

A lifelong learner, Abigail actively pursues professional development through the Center for Education Development in Fine Arts, the Texas Art Education Association and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. She integrates AVID strategies, literacy initiatives, and innovative STEAM techniques into her curriculum, ensuring students engage with both the creative and academic aspects of visual arts. Her dedication during her 30-year career has earned her numerous accolades, including the Alief ISD "Shining Star" Award and Campus Teacher of the Year nomination.

Above all, Abigail believes that art is a bridgeway to connect students, schools and communities. Through her leadership, her students' creativity continues to inspire and shape the world around them.

Other notable art educator finalists include:

Brandy Gonzalez-Kee, Tom C. Clark High School San Antonio, TX **Sara Allen**, Cullen Elementary School, Kyle, TX













AWARDING EXCELLENCE

The H - E - B Excellence in Education program has paid tribute to educators that go the extra mile each and every day to serve their students and inspire their community. Teacher and Principal Finalists receive cash prizes for their schools, as well as for themselves personally. Each year 48 teacher finalists are awarded \$1,000-\$5000 each with matching grants for their schools. The longer you've been an educator, the more you could win. Rising Star: 10 years or less, can win \$5,000 for themselves and \$5,000 for their school; Leadership: 10-20 years experience, can win \$10,000 for themselves and \$10,000 for their school; Lifetime Achievement: 20 years or more, can win \$25,000 for themselves and \$25,000 for their school. Eight individual winners are awarded up to \$10,000 for themselves and \$25,000 for their school. Principals can win \$10,000 for themselves and \$25,000 for their school.

Ten finalists in both the elementary and secondary School Counselor categories will receive \$1,000 for themselves and \$1,500 for their school. The winner from each category will receive \$10,000 for themselves and \$15,000 for the school.

On May 4, 2025 at the Austin Hilton, 30 teachers were recognized for their life work. Three of those teachers are Art Educators. Sara Allen, Cullen Elementary School, Kyle, TX; Brandy González-Kee, Tom C. Clark H.S. San Antonio, TX and Abigail Eliezer.

Mrs. Eliezer won the Lifetime Achievement Elementary Award! As she said in her acceptance speech, "I am the reason why some of my students get up and come to school, my class is their success story." CONGRATULATIONS ABBY! A well deserved achievement!















2025 FALL CONFERENCE

NOV 20-22 ROUND ROCK, TX AT THE KALAHARI RESORT



BOOK YOUR ROOM TODAY!



The Journey to State-Eight Years in the Making.





Art teacher reflects on a milestone moment with student Alaya

For the first time in our school's history, a student from St. Joseph Catholic School advanced to the State Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). As a first-time teacher and participant at the state level, I wanted to share the story—one that began years ago with a talented student named Alaya.

I first met Alaya in second grade while teaching at both the elementary and high school campuses. By third grade, her creative spark was undeniable. In fourth grade, she created a golden lion roaring musical notes for a contest at the George H.W. Bush Library—one of many memorable early pieces. In fifth grade, during our first year participating in VASE and TEAM, her purple and yellow tree earned a top score in TEAM. When she moved to middle school, I did as well, with my position changing to the secondary campus only. In seventh grade, her painting of a piano honoring her grandmother earned top marks at Jr. VASE, and her cut paper art was selected for the YAM exhibition. By eighth grade, she and her peers had grown into the school's strongest artists, a fact confirmed when we took home five platinum medals-including one for Alaya.

Despite entering VASE for five years, we'd never made it to State—until now. With last year's top eighth graders now in ninth grade, I had a strong feeling this would be the year. On March 1, 2025, Alaya's painting Amazon Friends was selected for State VASE.

When I got the news, I cried. It felt like years of work and hope had finally paid off—with a student who would truly benefit. Alaya felt the same way: "My first reaction was genuinely surprised and excited when I had been selected to go to State VASE. It felt amazing that my art work had been recognized."



Preparing for the event was a learning curve. I nearly forgot to submit forms, then had to book our hotel, plan the trip, and register for workshops—things I hadn't considered until they were suddenly urgent. I also discovered that judging at State is completely independent of the student, meaning their artwork must stand entirely on its own.



State VASE began on a quiet Saturday morning with check-in and an opening ceremony. Afterward, we found out Alaya had received a three—not what we had hoped. But the workshops saved the day. Alaya explored pastels and watercolor techniques; I discovered how accessible needle felting could be for my classroom.

The true highlight was the student exhibitions. We spent nearly an hour in the 2D gallery, observing and taking mental notes for the future. I was relieved and proud to see all artworks displayed, regardless of score. Alaya shared: "Attending the event was such a fun, inspiring, and eye opening experience, allowing me to see the creativity of other students from around the state. Exploring VASE gave me more passion and motivation to push myself to compose stronger pieces in the future. I was able to inspire my friends back at home, encouraging them to aim higher in their artwork as well."







Though Alaya left before the final ceremony, I stayed and learned about scholarships awarded to students for unique and compelling work. Watching the winners sparked new ideas, and I'm already planning how to better prepare my students for next year.

I left San Marcos with a full heart—proud of our journey and optimistic for the future. But more than anything, I'm proud of Alaya's growth as an artist and her positivity throughout the experience. She sums it up perfectly: "Overall, I was really privileged and unforgettable experience that left me feeling inspired and a longing to come back to the years to come."







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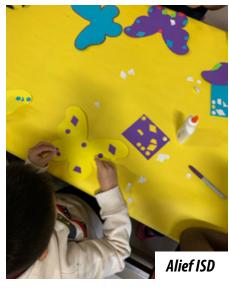


























The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is pleased to announce the 2025 winners of the Texas division of the Wildlife Forever's Fish Art Contest. The contest is housed and administered by TPWD's Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens.

Judges chose 12 of 485 total entries to be featured in the 2026 Texas Fish Art Calendar and be displayed in an exhibit at TFFC, which reopens to the public July 1.

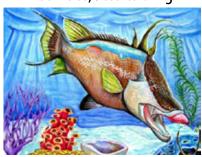
- tpwd.texas.gov

10-12th Grade CategoryJoshua Washington



K-3rd Grade Category

1st Place, Jessica Ding



4-6th Grade Category

1st Place, Kenneth Ge



7-9th Grade Category

1st Place, Rahcel Shen



Your art program builds community.





Professional development for fine arts teachers
Registration open now!

<u>Details at cedfa.org</u>

Texas Fine Arts Education Day 2025:

Advocates Rally at the Capitol for Arts Funding

April 29, 2025 - Austin, TX

On April 29, 2025, the Texas State Capitol became a vibrant hub for arts advocacy as educators, students, parents, and community leaders gathered for Fine Arts Education Day. Organized by the Texas Arts Education Campaign (TAEC) in partnership with state organizations like the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA), the event spotlighted the critical role of fine arts in Texas public schools and urged lawmakers to maintain dedicated funding in the state budget.

The day's activities included advocacy training sessions designed to equip participants with effective strategies for promoting arts education. Attendees enjoyed a selection of art prints from the Youth Art Month 2025 artwork on display in the Capitol rotunda and the rotunda of the Capitol extension. Legislators and visitors enjoyed student performances from across the state, showcasing their talents in music, dance, theater, and visual arts. These performances highlighted the creativity fostered by robust arts programs in schools.



Please scan the QR for the entire encore exhibit from the Youth Art Month 2025 featured at the Capitol on April 29, 2025.

In addition to the performances and training, TAEA representatives and participants engaged in meetings with legislators to discuss the importance of maintaining and increasing support for fine arts education. These discussions emphasized the positive impact of arts programs on student engagement and success.

The Texas Art Education Association (TAEA), dedicated to promoting quality visual arts education in Texas, also played a significant role in the event. TAEA's mission includes professional development for educators and advocating for the integration of visual arts into the curriculum.

Fine Arts Education Day at the Capitol served as a powerful reminder of the collective effort required to ensure that arts education remains a priority in Texas schools. By bringing together a diverse group of state organizations and stakeholders, the event highlighted the shared commitment to nurturing creativity and expression among students statewide.















SAVE THE DATES!

DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION DUE 6/13/2025

CEDFA FINE ARTS SUMMIT 6/15 - 8/15

TAEA CONFERENCE PROPOSAL DEADLINE 7/15/2025

Are you following us?

Click below to follow our accounts!







Upcoming NAEA Professional Learning Webinars



Early Childhood Art
Education in Action:
Stories from the Field
Wednesday, June 4th | 7–8pm ET



Building Drawing Skills for All: Scaffolding Techniques Inspiring K-12 Learners Wednesday, July 9th | 7-8pm ET



Exploring Multimodal
Artmaking for Resilience
Finding Purpose and
Cultivating Well-Being
Wednesday, August 6th | 7–8pm ET

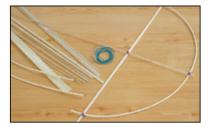
Artful Aerodynamics

Lesson Plan for Grades 5-12





Sketch: Sketch out the basic plan and design for the construction of the kite and create a basic scale model in paper.



Construct: Use reed and basswood to construct the frame of the kite.



Cover: Cover the frame with paper.

The combination of lift and drag that makes kites fly also makes designers' minds soar.

Students learn the basics of kite design before designing one of their own using a few simple materials and a lot of imagination.

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2025 Youth Art Month Spring Exhibition at the Bullock Texas State History Museum

The Bullock Texas State History Museum hosted the 2025 Youth Art Month Spring Exhibition, March 2-29, 2025 in celebration of Youth Art Month. The exhibition features an impressive collection of 176 2D and 3D artworks created by Texas students, showcasing their extraordinary creativity, talent, and vision.

The opening celebration for this year's Youth Art Month exhibition took place on March 9, 2025, at the Bullock Museum in Austin, Texas, where students, families, and art enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the inspiring works of young artists from across the state. The exhibition highlights the dynamic range of artistic expression from Texas youth, and the works on display represent a wide variety of mediums, themes, and styles.

This year's Youth Art Month Exhibition also included a special recognition from Mrs. Cecilia Abbott, First Lady of Texas, who selected 14 pieces of artwork to be showcased in the Governor's Gallery. These selected pieces will remain on display for one year, offering a lasting tribute to the creative achievements of Texas youth. Among these exceptional works, two pieces will be placed in Governor Greg Abbott and Mrs. Cecilia Abbott's personal business offices, ensuring that the art and spirit of Texas youth will be prominently featured in the heart of the state's government. Student artwork from the following districts were selected:

· Alief ISD · Katy ISD · Tyler ISD

Blooming Grove ISD North East ISD Weslaco ISD

Dallas ISD Northwest ISD White Oak ISD

Fort Worth ISD Spring Branch ISD Ysleta ISD

Hays CISD St. Joseph Catholic School

The Bullock Museum is honored to host this vibrant exhibition in support of Youth Art Month, an annual celebration that emphasizes the value of arts education and the role of creativity in the lives of young people. This year's exhibition is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the artistic achievements of students from across Texas, while highlighting the importance of nurturing the next generation of artists and innovators.



















































YOU KNOW THERE IS A PROBLEM WHEN YOU LOOK IN YOUR CLOSET AND EVERY OTHER T-SHIRT YOU PULL OUT SAYS TAEA OR VASE ON IT!

Entrenched in the busy days of Spring in Texas as an Art Teacher, Department Coordinator, Director of Jr. VASE, Artist (desperate to carve out "me" time) I paused and stared (probably out of mental fatigue) at my closet and had one of those moments. If you are reading this, you are most likely to be a creative individual that understands the immense meaning when I say "one of those moments."

In this "moment" I started to reflect on the story that this collection of textile, mass produced, yet meaningful T-shirts hold. How did I end up with soooo many? Do I remember when I got them? When did I start getting them? Why is it soooo hard to throw them away. What stage of shirt are they?

What about you? Are you just starting your collection? Do you even know what you are starting?

Commitment

The first concrete concept that landed was commitment (which quickly was followed by a little voice saying "you should be committed" referring to myself). In reality I have now, through actions, created a commitment to an organization of like minded people that are truly MY people! We help and support others until it sometimes hurts. Then a comparison to those people that I have the pleasure of knowing and am in awe of rises in my mind. People like: of course Sara Chapman, Suzy Greene, Mel Basham, Theresa Yasger, Chris Cooper, Amy, Tracey Hall, Tim Lowke..... I could just about go down the membership list and pull every 5th person LOL! So I am truly sorry if your name was not written but know that I could go on for pages! These people have spent their time in something they believe in and simply CARE. To quote a truly amazing person (see if you can figure them out) there is a GRACE about TAEA for ALL. The simple concept of commitment is left with this question.... What is their TAEA collection like? For Suzy Green I don't think it is T-Shirts but TAEA pins! I could be wrong.

Support

The thought of throwing a TAEAT-Shirt away is really difficult. OK first of all I don't think I am any more a hoarder than any other Art Teacher or Artist. And no, this (thankfully) is not a financial issue. I even have a hard time putting these shirts into the "stain/varnish clean up" pile. There is a thankfulness to the support that this crazy organization has given to not just me but sooo many others. This service of support desperately needs to be continued. Looking at the times we are working in. School Districts dealing with cuts and dwindling budget issues, Where do we find the calibration voices of reason to know that we are not alone in all of this.



Branded

Do you wear your TAEA or VASE shirt out in Public? Have you had the experience of a past participant in VASE come up to you and express their appreciation for the experience? If you thought this did not hold meaning for a community of learners... here is proof beyond measure of how "brand" truly embedded in the culture of Arts Education!

TAEA holds an event in Austin every year for Youth Art Month. Through this event alone TAEA fosters conversation on behalf of ALL Fine Arts in Texas with decision makers for the State of Texas. TAEA is simply known and branded.

I have had the opportunity to talk with a truly like minded friend (Willie Keener) about branding. He sees this priceless piece that I had honestly missed for many years. I have adopted this focus on branding in my own region but yet I translate the myriad of ways that Willie approaches his professional life through the lens of TAEA and what has evolved what seems organically over the years. I know someone just rolled their eyes very dramatically knowing the grit and grass roots efforts to make it seem sooooo smooth. To these people I can simply say.... THANK YOU SO MUCH! I VALUE AND RESPECT YOUR DETERMINATION TO KEEP IT MOVING FORWARD.

Added note: I wrote this prior to the passing of our dear friend and colleague Sara Chapman. She will truly be missed. If you were unable to have a conversation with her and witness first-hand her sincerity and wonderful laugh, do not fret.... She infected us ALL who knew her with a sense of purpose and love for life. Her devotion and love for TAEA and ALL Fine Arts will live on through our memories!

Share your "TAEA moments" with others!

Larry West;

Art Teacher
Artist
TAEA member
Fine Arts Department Coordinator
State Director for Jr. VASE
Fan of TAFA

Great Texas Schools Support Art Education

Texas Fine Arts Summit 26

Building Enduring Fine Arts Programs

Are you:

- Ready to stretch professionally, challenge themselves, and grow alongside their colleagues?
- Searching for ideas for how to inspire students?
- Longing to reconnect to the heart of fine arts practice?

Texas Fine Arts Summit 26—Building Enduring Fine Arts Programs is designed to help art teachers:

- build and maintain enduring practices
- use building blocks for long-term success
- hone critical skills
- measure incremental gains
- build program longevity

From June 15–August 15, Summit 26 will welcome fine arts educators with **integrated**, **asynchronous online presentations**, anchored by four thematic cross-disciplinary sessions. These sessions lay the groundwork for aligned, discipline-specific "deep dives" which will help educators build skills and deepen their teaching.

Great Public Schools Support Art Education! Center for Educator Development in Fine Arts Texas Fine Arts Summit 26 BUILDING ENDURING FINE ARTS PROGRAMS Professional development for fine arts teachers Registration open now!

Details at cedfa.org

Anchor Session 1: Identifying and Using the Keys for Fine Arts Sustainability Deep Dives:

- Expanding Determination and Resilience in Fine Arts Disciplines
- Growing Our Capacity for Sharing Through Fine Arts

Anchor Session 2: Establishing Cohesive Vertical Alignment in Fine Arts Deep Dives:

- Mapping and Implementing a K-12 Vertical Alignment in Fine Arts Disciplines
- Expanding Fine Arts Learning to All Community Members

Anchor Session 3: Building Fine Arts Program Pipelines

Deep Dives:

- Understanding and Leveraging Your Fine Arts Program's Reach
- Differentiating and Positioning Your Program for Success

Anchor Session 4: Integrating the Arts within Campuses and Communities

Deep Dives:

- Interdisciplinary Fine Arts Programs and Placemaking
- Cultivating Creative Communities Inside and Outside the Classroom Walls

Registration is open at www.cedfa.org!

Online learning sessions will be open from June 15-August 15, 2025!

ANGELA COFFEY

YOUTH ART MONTH MERIT AWARD

Angela Coffey, former Vice President of Youth Art Month (YAM) for Texas, was awarded the prestigious Youth Art Month Merit Award! The Vice President of Youth Art Month, plays a crucial role in coordinating events, supporting art educators, and encouraging student participation in the arts.

Ms. Coffey's award-winning contribution came in the form of a compiled scrapbook showcasing the breadth and impact of Youth Art Month celebrations throughout the state of Texas. The scrapbook is a visual documentation of events, student artwork, exhibitions, and community engagement initiatives, featuring submissions from school districts across the state!

Each year, state Youth Art Month programs submit their scrapbook documentation to the Council for Art Education (CFAE). They then select award recipients based on the quality, depth, and scope of the activities showcased. The Youth Art Month Merit Award not only honors Ms. Coffey's leadership contributions but also shines a spotlight on the incredible work happening in art classrooms across Texas!





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Chelsi Johnston

Link Elementary, Spring ISD

Who is your favorite artist?

Bisa Butler is one of my all time favorite women and someone I teach about yearly in the classroom. She's impactful in her subject matter and risky in her technique, both things I find so intriguing in visual art. I also feel my students often see themselves reflected in her work and having those conversations with them is memorable.



Teaching elementary art is special. I work with an age range that is still learning new things and exploring the unknown so everything is exciting! I love introducing new techniques and materials to my kiddos and watching them experience possibilities outside what they understood they could have. I can tell they feel comfortable in our art space, lovingly dubbed The Rainbow Room, and are as happy as me to be there. What more can you ask for from a career?

What is your favorite medium to work with?

Photography is what I hold a degree in and will always hold a special place as my entrance into the arts. In terms of classroom medium and what I work with my students on, it's definitely watercolor. I think it's important to be honest with my young learning artists to say "I'm not great at this, but THIS is what I AM good at" so they can see productive struggles are for everyone. I am absolutely not a sketcher, but hold it down on the watercolor front!





How did you get into teaching?

I've been teaching for a decade now, mainly in my original love, theatre, but never for a district and never in my own classroom. When I turned 30 I had a feeling of unfulfillment and being a person who gains a lot out of my work knew I needed a massive change. Loving fine arts, loving happy moments of creativity with students and loving the promise of a full life for myself and my family, I made the leap to certify and teach in my district of Spring ISD.

Share a special memory/moment from your time as an art educator.

A student of mine went to see her artwork with her family on the First Friday Art Trail. She was so excited to share that it was the first family outing they had experienced together in several years. I have a multitude of additional stories that drive that point home. The Arts bring people together. The Arts strengthen families and communities. The skills that students develop from teachers in Fine Arts classrooms, helps them understand the value of the Arts in our schools, community, and society.

Nominate someone for the next SPOTLIGHT! Click below:

https://tinyurl.com/4ys2eva9











STATE VASE WORKSHOP

Scholarship Winners



















IN LOVING MEMORY



SARA CHAPMAN

February 4, 1943 - April 20, 2025

Sara Chapman lived a long and active life with a fulfilling career in education

Sara was an active member in TAEA. She held numerous offices, to include: Secretary, 1988-1990; President, 1990-1992 and Past President 1994-1996. Sara was nominated and inducted as a Distinguished Fellow in the organization in the early 1990's. She was pivotal in the development of Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). Sara became the association's Executive Director in 2004 and served until her passing

During these years, Sara blazed a trail leaving a rich legacy in the hearts and memories of people from all walks of life and around the world. She always found time to listen, encourage and help others. Sara took pleasure in seeing others realize their goals and dreams including the organization she loved, the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). Her commitment to the organization and its members was a gift given freely and with love. She could share a funny memory/story just as easily as leading an impromptu discussion on the merit of quality arts education programs. Sara made everyone feel important and was truly interested in what they thought and said...she truly listened to everyone.

For someone small in physical stature, Sara Chapman leaves a legacy larger than life. Her commitment to quality Art Education and TAEA was always at the forefront of her accomplishments. Sara Chapman's spirit is in every fiber of TAEA and her legacy of positive leadership will be a guiding force.

Sara will be remembered for her positive attitude, helping others and her love of ART. She was passionate about introducing art and tapping the creative potential to everyone, no matter their age. Sara left this world a better place by helping others and not asking anything in return. If you were a student, friend, a TAEA, or NAEA member she considered you, her family.

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand. That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand; The angel said my place was ready, In Heaven far above, And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love. But when I walked through heaven's Gates, I felt so much at home, for God looked down, smiled at me, And told me "Welcome Home." So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me, I'm right there in your Heart.

Unknown

















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REGION 12

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REGION 13

Open Position

REGION 14

Abbie Sandoval

REGION 15

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REGION 16

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REGION 17

Christyne Hamilton

REGION 18

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REGION 19

REGION 20

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Thank you for reading the



Submissions wanted!

Send student artwork and article submissions to the editor by clicking the link below.











