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Brooks Elementary Student's Art on Display in School



Brooks Third-grader Selea Rodriguez with her painting.

The artwork of third-grader Selea Rodriguez is on display in the halls of her school, J. H. Brooks Elementary. Last spring, faculty and staff of Brooks selected Selea's painting, which features two red cardinals on tree branches dusted with snow.

The Traveling Art Gallery (TAG) of Brooks Elementary, a program of the PTC, will sponsor the display. The PTC approached Brooks art teacher Steve Izzo at the end of last school year and asked him to help select a piece of student art to be professionally mounted and framed for display in the school. Izzo reviewed the artwork from his yearly art show, for which each student submitted at least one piece of art, and

chose 15 pieces to be voted on by faculty and staff. Of those 15, Selea's earned the most votes.

Selea, who was in second grade when she created her painting, lists art as one of her favorite classes in school. About the honor of having her artwork displayed, she said, "I was really, really happy and excited, especially when my mom congratulated me." Selea's favorite medium to work with is paint, and she encourages her fellow classmates to try their hardest while making art.

Izzo was also excited by the PTC's idea. "My students work hard to get ready for the big art show at the end of the school year and this award added something extra special," he said. "I am so proud of Selea. She's a great kid and art student."

Brooks Elementary TAG Program Coordinator Jen Robinson first approached Izzo with the idea. She said their goal was to place emphasis on the value of arts education through creative projects. The artwork of selected students will hang alongside such famous artists as Van Gogh, Cassatt, Tanner, and others in the school's art collection. Robinson adds, "that way it can inspire the artistic spirit of our students and affirm their talents."

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