The March 9 sensory-friendly Children’s Playhouse Theatre performance of “Morgan’s Journey” set the stage for a showcase of elementary students’ artwork in the theater lobby before and after the show. All art on display was part of a drawing contest in which the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center and Pueblo School District 70 honored students from kindergarten through 5th grade who drew their own representations of either the best birthday present they could give or receive, or their best friend. Also awarded to the contest winners were complimentary tickets to see the performance - a captivating exploration of joyous yet challenging childhood experiences. This contest is part of a district-wide partnership with the Arts Center to encourage and reward creative-thinking which includes a “Kids Caught Being Creative” program.

The contest winners are:

**Avondale Elementary:** Miah Armijo (5th), Lidia Valdez-Leyva (4th), Esmerelda Torres-Navarrete (2nd), Lacie McClure (2nd), Margarita H. Gallegos (1st)

**Beulah School of Natural Sciences:** Cloey Campbell (5th), Collin Drummond (2nd), Loa Wieser (1st), Matthew Yunker (K)

**Cedar Ridge Elementary:** Leilah Wells (5th), Taylor Snell (4th), Gianna Eimer (3rd), Jacelen Montoya (2nd), Brody Olsen (1st), Isabella Overbey (K)

**Desert Sage Elementary:** Lillian Henderson (4th), Moriah Janik (3rd), Elizabeth Medina (4th), Henry Harshman (3rd), Lilly Tobin (1st)

**Liberty Point Elementary:** Dallas Brown (4th), Ella Simpson (4th), Aiyana Breceda (3rd), Colton Bastian (2nd), Alivia Valencia (1st)

**North Mesa Elementary:** James Rothbaum (5th), Vanessa Mendoza (5th), Blake Parker (5th), DeSean Hassler (5th), Allison Plinske (1st)

**Prairie Winds Elementary:** Kylee Giconi (3rd), Elizabeth Carter (3rd), Brody Sandoval (3rd), Samantha Carmical (3rd), Zarah Zenner (3rd)

**Rye Elementary:** Hannah Jones (5th), Miriam Peterson (3rd), McKenzie Berkley (2nd), Magdalena J. Thomas (1st)

**Sierra Vista Elementary:** Mikayla Ramos (5th), Hayden George (5th), Isabel Miranda (5th), Cierra Chacon (3rd), Addalyn Kuhn (2nd)

**South Mesa Elementary:** Lillie Mercado (3rd), Jack Mandarich (3rd), Leni Ferry (3rd), Joe Daurio (3rd), Campbell Bowen (3rd)

**Vineland Elementary:** Zach Guerrero (5th), Emilee Bryant (4th), Tristan Trujillo (4th), Avery Genova (3rd), Grace Eastman (2nd), Aubrey Vialpando (1st)

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**About the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center:**
The cultural hub of Southern Colorado, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center gives visitors the tools to think and act creatively through a three building complex including seven galleries offering the best in historic and contemporary art by artists of local, regional and national renown. The Arts Center offers the Buell Children's Museum, recognized as the second-best for art by Child magazine, a 500-seat theater featuring a variety of performing arts programs, both local and national, and two gift shops. Over 100 fine arts, dance, and leisure classes are available quarterly providing unique offerings to everyone from children to adults of all skill levels. Admission to the Arts Center is $8 for adults, $6 for children, seniors 65+, and military. For more information, please call 719-295-7200; stop by the Arts Center located at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., just off of I-25, exit 98B, or visit online at www.sdc-arts.org.

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