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Superintendent's exhibit displays PSD creativity

BY KRISTEN ELLIS for the *Coloradoan*

Laurel Elementary School second-grader Antonia Montoya has never been to the sun-bathed mountains surrounding the azure blue lake shown in her original tempera painting.

The jagged mountains and glittering lake are simply a creative expression of Montoya's imagination.

"I've never been there," Montoya said. "I just thought I would like to paint some mountains and a blue lake with lily pads in it."

Assuring that all PSD students demonstrate a high level of creative skills is part of the Poudre School District Board of Education ends policy, which is underscored by a new exhibit of student artwork that hangs in the board room.

SuperArt! The Superintendent's Art Show, an exhibit of outstanding student art, will be on display from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Friday at the Johannsen Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave. The exhibit includes a full range of art media from ceramic and jewelry designs to drawings, paintings, watercolors, pen and ink, and fiber art.

"The exhibit is a wonderful opportunity for the community to see examples of the varied and rich art curriculum taught in our schools," said Mary Boyts, PSD whole child facilitator. "But it is much more than a display of the creative expressions of our students. It also represents the learned creative processes that will help our students succeed in the 21st-century workplace."

Student artists, their parents and teachers will be honored at a private reception by Superintendent Jerry Wilson and school board members. The reception will be filmed by PSD's Channel 10. Artwork will be aired on Channel 10 and will also be posted for viewing on PSD's Web site at www.psdschools.org.

"Events like SuperArt! are tremendous opportunities to actually see how the teaching and learning efforts generate ideas, experiences and products that help prepare our students to succeed and shine in the 21st century," Wilson said.

SuperArt! features one piece of outstanding artwork from participating schools in the district. This year's artwork will be on display at the Johannsen Support Services Center for one year before it is returned to the student's school.