



Los Altos Historical Commission and Los Altos History Museum
36th ANNUAL MARGARET THOMPSON HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST
For 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders

2020 Theme: "Peek into Your Past"

General Instructions for Teachers and Principals

- 1) READ the attached prompt and rubric before you discuss this contest with your students. You may wish to photocopy both the prompt and the rubric for your students to refer to as they write their essay.
- 2) **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTION: A COVER SHEET WITH PARENT RELEASE and SIGNATURE is required.** Remind your students that the COVER SHEET MUST BE STAPLED to the top of the essay.
- 3) READ the grading rubric to the students. This rubric is used to judge the essays.
- 4) When you receive the completed essays from your students, please put them in a large envelope. Please label the envelope the "MARGARET THOMPSON HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST."
- 5) **Student essays** are due to classroom teacher by Friday, March 6. LASD essays must be returned to the LASD Asst. Superintendent's office by Tuesday, March 10.
- 6) Private school/home-schooled essays must be returned to the History Museum by Tuesday, March 10.
- 7) **Prompt, instructions, and rubric are also available on the following websites: Los Altos History Museum, Los Altos School District, and the City of Los Altos.**
- 8) Essays will NOT be returned. Please ask students to make a copy before they turn in their essays.

All essay participants, their parents, teachers, and principals are invited to attend an Ice Cream Social on May 12. The Ice Cream Social will be on the History Museum Patio at 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of each grade level, 3rd-6th. The 25th Anniversary trophy will also be awarded to the school/schools with the most winners. Following the ice cream social, winners will be recognized at the City Council meeting starting at 7:00 pm. The City Council meeting is televised on cable TV and via streaming video online at www.losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/online.

A note of appreciation from the Los Altos Historical Commission and the Education Committee of the Los Altos History Museum to participating teachers:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this essay contest. We hope that you and your students find it enjoyable and rewarding, and that it encourages interest in the history of our community.
