

NEWS RELEASE
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Avon Lake Eight-Year-Old Wins National Student Art Contest

Student's Artwork is Displayed on Limited-Edition Beverage Label



Redwood Elementary School student Emilia Sansotta, from the Young Rembrandts afterschool program, is one of two winners of Torani's national Art for Kids label design contest. This fall, Torani Raspberry syrup will sport a new, limited-edition art label designed by Sansotta. The eight-year-old's artwork was selected from hundreds of entries submitted by afterschool students around the country, and her work will be celebrated at a pizza and Italian soda party sponsored by Torani at the Redwood Elementary School today.

Torani, the number one specialty syrup in North America, donates five percent of all limited-edition Art for Kids Raspberry and Sugar Free French Vanilla flavor syrup sales, September 1 through December 31, 2013, to the Afterschool Alliance. The beautiful artist series bottles can be purchased online at www.torani.com, in store at Walmart, Cost Plus World Markets and other retailers, and can be spotted on shelves in cafes and restaurants nationwide.

This is the ninth year that Torani has sponsored the Art for Kids contest in support of afterschool. The other winner this year is from a New Mexico afterschool program; eleven-year-old Lizzy Begay from the Farmington Public Library afterschool program designed the label for Torani Sugar Free French Vanilla syrup.

"Each year we are even more impressed by the amazing art youth in afterschool programs create," said Lisa Lucheta, Torani principal and family-owner. "Torani has a long history of bringing splashes of color and creativity into people's everyday lives. We are thrilled that our partnership with the Afterschool Alliance and the Art for Kids contest allows us to brighten many more lives, and helps young people throughout the country participate in exciting, colorful experiences after the school day ends."

"This contest and Torani's remarkable generosity support the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "As budgets have tightened and many schools are being forced to cut back on the arts and limit creative opportunities, afterschool programs are embracing the arts. These colorful labels provide a perfect way to showcase the talent nurtured in afterschool programs."

Young Rembrandts Program Director/Owner Megan Henkel said Sansotta had been attending the art program since she was four years old. Sansotta said that she was proud to win and that

from attending the afterschool program she learned “to go step by step,” and to “practice and get better.”

“It has been a joy to work with not only Emilia, but her younger sister Tara as well, since they were both in preschool,” Diane R. Wyant, Young Rembrandts Assistant Program Director and Master Teacher said. “When Emilia moved up to the Elementary Afterschool Program after taking Young Rembrandts for two years at her preschool, it was impressive to see her draw at a more refined level than our typical kindergarten student. She has always been very eager to help in class and she takes great pride in her finished work. I am very proud of her for this accomplishment.”

Young Rembrandts offers weekly afterschool drawing classes at local elementary schools for children ages 3½- to 12-years-old. Young Rembrandts is an acclaimed, step-by-step drawing method that uses a one-of-a-kind, innovative art curriculum developed internally by a team of educators and artists. The multisensory approach to learning meets every child at their unique ability level. Henkel operates the Greater Cleveland – West and Columbus franchised territories, reaching more than 100 elementary school partners and 1,200 students weekly. For more information on Young Rembrandts, please visit www.youngrembrandts.com.

Torani’s Art for Kids contest supports afterschool programs, which offer young people safe, enriching, fun and engaging places to spend their afternoons. Youth in afterschool programs have been shown to perform better in school and have greater expectations for the future, while children who are unsupervised in the afternoons are at greater risk of becoming involved with crime, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

Many more students across the country need access to afterschool programs. More than 15 million school-age children – more than one in four kids in the United States – are unsupervised after the school day ends. The parents of 18 million children say they would enroll their kids in afterschool programs – if programs were available

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org

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