

NEWS RELEASE
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Parma Student Wins National Student Art Contest

For Second Year in a Row, Local Youth's Artwork is Displayed on Limited-Edition Beverage Labels; Torani to Donate Percentage of Proceeds to the Afterschool Alliance

Young Rembrandts Greater-Cleveland West afterschool program has drawn a winner for the second straight year. This fall, Torani Raspberry Syrup will sport a new, limited-edition art label designed by nine-year-old budding artist Julia Grzep. The fourth-grader'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 her afterschool program today. Torani, the number one specialty syrup in North America, will donate five percent of the product's sales from September through December to the Afterschool Alliance.

"For the past six years, Torani has sponsored the Art for Kids contest for afterschool students, and year after year we are amazed and impressed by the results," 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 Art for Kids and our partnership with the Afterschool Alliance allows us to brighten many more lives, and help young people everywhere participate in exciting, colorful experiences after the school day ends."

"Too often we hear about schools having to cut back on the arts and limit creative opportunities for students. In some cases, afterschool programs are the only places left where children can find creative outlets. That is why we are once again delighted to partner with Torani for Art for Kids," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "These colorful labels provide the perfect venue to showcase the incredible talent nurtured in afterschool programs each day. This contest and the Afterschool Alliance's longstanding partnership with Torani support afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help families."

Those who know her say that Grzep has always enjoyed art. Because her school did not offer an art program last year, she chose to attend the Young Rembrandts program as part of her Christmas gift. Her winning design shows a talent far advanced for her young age. "When I was in kindergarten, my teacher's favorite animal was a giraffe, and I started liking them too. They're now my favorite. It's why I picked it for my label. Everyone really liked it."

"I remember when she made it how proud she was of her giraffe! She was so excited to show her mom her final piece," said Young Rembrandts Master Teacher Michelle Hess. "I think that afterschool activities are important to a student's learning, whether it's sports, music, drawing, or other clubs. It is important for students to have activities that are not related to their academics. Then they can learn without even knowing it. That is the best, and most fun way to learn," added Hess.

Young Rembrandts Greater-Cleveland West provides afterschool art classes for students in elementary and middle school. Last year, a Young Rembrandts student from the same Parma program won the Torani Art for Kids contest, creating the design for Torani Sugar Free French Vanilla syrup. In 2007, another Young Rembrandts student of the Westlake program won the contest, creating the design for Torani Italian Eggnog syrup. Three years ago, a Young Rembrandts student designed the Afterschool Alliance's national *Lights On Afterschool* poster.

This is the sixth 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; she designed the label for Torani Sugar Free French Vanilla syrup.

Afterschool programs 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.

Research conducted for the Afterschool Alliance has shown that only 12 percent of Ohio's kindergarten to 12th grade students are in afterschool programs, while 30 percent care for themselves after the school day ends.

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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

Torani/R. Torre & Company - For over 80 years, familiar Torani labels in bold shades of red, gold and blue have been visible in coffeehouses, restaurants and consumer kitchens. Torani, the premier brand of R. Torre & Company, is the number one flavored specialty syrup in North America and its products have spanned generations and inspired creativity. For more information or recipe inspiration, visit www.torani.com or call 800-775-1925.