

PREFACE

April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day is the world's first and only children's day, gifted to children by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey. This special day began to be celebrated for children in conjunction with the opening of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in 1920.

Atatürk placed great importance on children and youth, showing meticulous care for their education. According to him, children are the guarantee of the future, and their receiving a good education is crucial for the development and progress of the country. The significance Atatürk attributed to children and youth demonstrates that he was not only a statesman but also an educator and visionary leader.

April 23rd is not only a celebration for children but also an opportunity for all children around the world to live in peace, love, and brotherhood. Therefore, April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day is celebrated not only in Turkey but also in many countries as a day for global children to come together in unity.

In the context of this significant day, a painting competition has been organized across the United States by Turkish Women's League of America (TWLA) New York Atatürk School, dedicated by the Founder of the Republic of Turkey, the Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, to contribute to UNESCO World Art Day. The theme of the competition, inspired by the vision of the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, encapsulated in the phrase "Peace at Home, Peace in the World," has been determined as "World Peace."

World peace is one of the most cherished goals for humanity, and teaching our children the importance of peace is of vital significance to ensure that future generations live in harmony. The artworks of all the children who took part in our painting competition themed "Peace in the World," organized for April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day and UNESCO World Art Day, garnered significant attention and were exhibited at the New York Turkish House. The competition will be held among the students of (TWLA) New York Atatürk School and children aged 6-11 living across the United States. Evaluation will be conducted in two different categories: 6-8 years old and 9-11 years old. The competition has been organized by (TWLA) New York Atatürk School.

On special occasions like April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day, the "World Peace" themed painting competition organized in collaboration between the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and the Turkish Women's League of America - New York Atatürk School has provided our children with the opportunity to understand the concept of peace and express their thoughts and feelings through art. Participating children convey a global message by reflecting on the meaning of peace, the beauty of coexistence, and the importance of understanding among different cultures in their artworks.

The works from the competitions held in 2022 and 2023 are included in the online book "Painting Competition Book 2022-2023", which helps children learn values such as empathy, tolerance and cooperation and become future peacekeepers.

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Bedri BAYKAM, the president of our competition jury, as well as to our other esteemed jury members. We extend our best wishes for a fruitful year to all participating children.

Turkish Women's League of America
New York Atatürk School
Assembly of Turkish American Associations

