



**Los Altos Historical Commission and Los Altos History Museum
34th Annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest
3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Graders**

2018 Theme – Spread Your Wings and Fly!

Background:

The current exhibit at The Los Altos History Museum is “Instinct Extinct: The Great Pacific Flyway.” This exhibit is a multi-disciplinary art installation that explores and celebrates the biology, beauty, and bounty of the Pacific Flyway. The Pacific Flyway is a major north-south path for migratory birds in America, extending from Alaska to South America. Every year, migratory birds travel some or all of this distance both in spring and in fall, following food sources, heading to breeding grounds, or travelling to places where they can spend the winter. These migratory birds have the ability to soar and swoop through the sky and with their keen eyesight are able to locate food, locate places for their nests, and protect themselves from danger.

Writing Prompt:

Take a journey in your mind and imagine that you have wings and you can fly like a bird. Spread your wings and soar over your community and describe what you see. Now imagine what additions or changes you would like to see within your community (school, park, neighborhood, or downtown) to make life better or more enjoyable for your family or friends. Take another flight and write about those changes. As you write, describe your journey using interesting vocabulary and communicate your ideas in a creative manner.

Win Prizes

**1st Place - \$50 2nd Place - \$30 3rd Place - \$20
3 Winners Per Grade Level!**