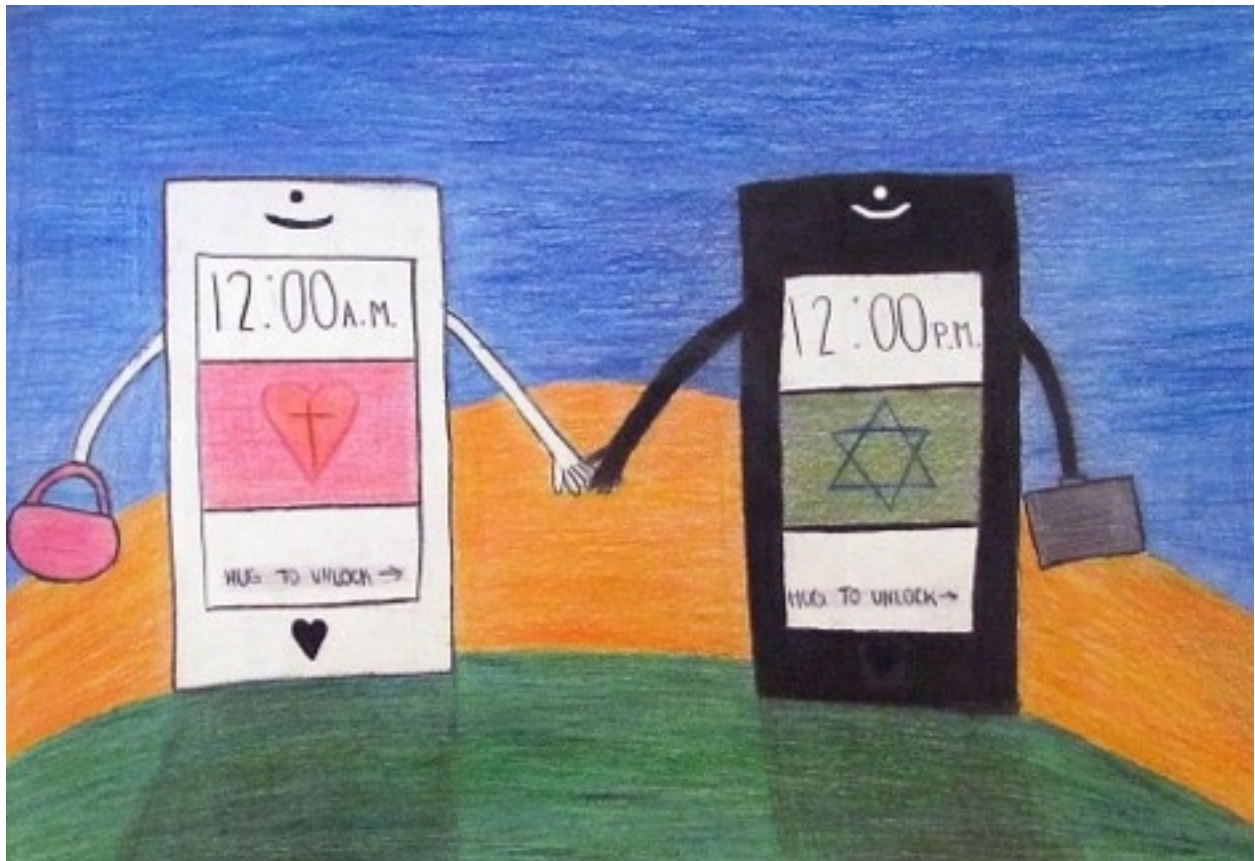


Embracing Our Differences

By Wade Tatangelo , Herald-Tribune
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Bradenton student Elise Raimon's work "wePhones."

The power of positive of images, especially images created by youths, can be striking. Since 2004, Embracing Our Differences' annual juried art exhibit has enriched downtown Sarasota's bayfront with billboard-sized images created by artists, writers

and students from around the world reflecting their interpretation of the message, “enriching lives through diversity.”

Many of the artwork on display comes from right here in Sarasota and Manatee counties. For instance, Elise Raimon, a student at Carlos E. Haile Middle School in Bradenton, won for her work, "wePhones." Her teacher is Joseph Gibson. Each school will be awarded a \$1,000 cash prize to be used in their art programs.

Last year, in celebration of the exhibit's 10th anniversary, the exhibit made a successful debut in Bradenton and returns there this year for an expanded two-month run. The Embracing Our Differences exhibits will be showcased simultaneously in Sarasota's Island Park and at Bradenton Riverwalk, March 30-June 1. For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 404-5710 or visit embracingourdifferences.org.