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GRAFTON — St. Mary's Elementary School student Lydia Tomasi's drawing of Santa's reindeer was chosen for the cover of Northumberland Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi's 2010 Christmas card.

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Grafton student wins card contest

DESIGN TO GRACE LOCAL MPP'S CHRISTMAS CARDS

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GRAFTON — Lydia Tomasi never expected her comical drawing of Rudolph would one day be in the hands of the premier of Ontario when she drew it for a class assignment.

"My friend asked me to draw him a reindeer," the Grade 7 student explains of her design,

which was chosen as the winner of MPP Lou Rinaldi's Christmas Card Challenge.

"I just did it for him, we were kidding around. I was surprised that it went through because I didn't realize my teacher had entered it, and I'm not really an artist. I like to draw and do art, but I don't do it that much."

The drawing of a googly-eyed, bright-nosed Rudolph will now grace the cover of Mr. Rinal-

di's holiday greeting card, which will be distributed to more than 2,200 people, including MPPs at Queen's Park and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

"This card is quite circulated so I'm kind of worried you're going to be more famous than me," Mr. Rinaldi joked during a presentation to

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CONTEST

Comical drawing of Rudolph a 'treasure', says MPP Lou Rinaldi

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Ms. Tomasi in front of her class at St. Mary's Elementary School in Grafton, on Dec. 3.

"It was a real tough decision when we had to pick this one but the red nose really made it stand out."

"You've got a hidden talent here."

More than 60 schools across Mr. Rinaldi's Northumberland-Quinte West riding participated in the challenge, which invited students to submit a design for consideration as Mr. Rinaldi's holiday card.

The entries were then judged by acclaimed Canadian artist Beth Hoselton, who narrowed the field to 20 entries, said

the local MPP.

Those entries were then posted on Mr. Rinaldi's website and Facebook page, where constituents voted for their favourite.

"The artistic talent displayed on the Christmas cards submitted by these young students was remarkable," Mr. Rinaldi said.

"It made the decision very tough for Beth to narrow the choices down to 20 finalists and I thank her for sharing her artistic expertise."

"Lydia's comical drawing of Santa's reindeer is a treasure."

"I am grateful that she agreed to share her design for use on my Christmas card this year."

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