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# Cascades

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Michael Tomney,  
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# Children's CONNECTION



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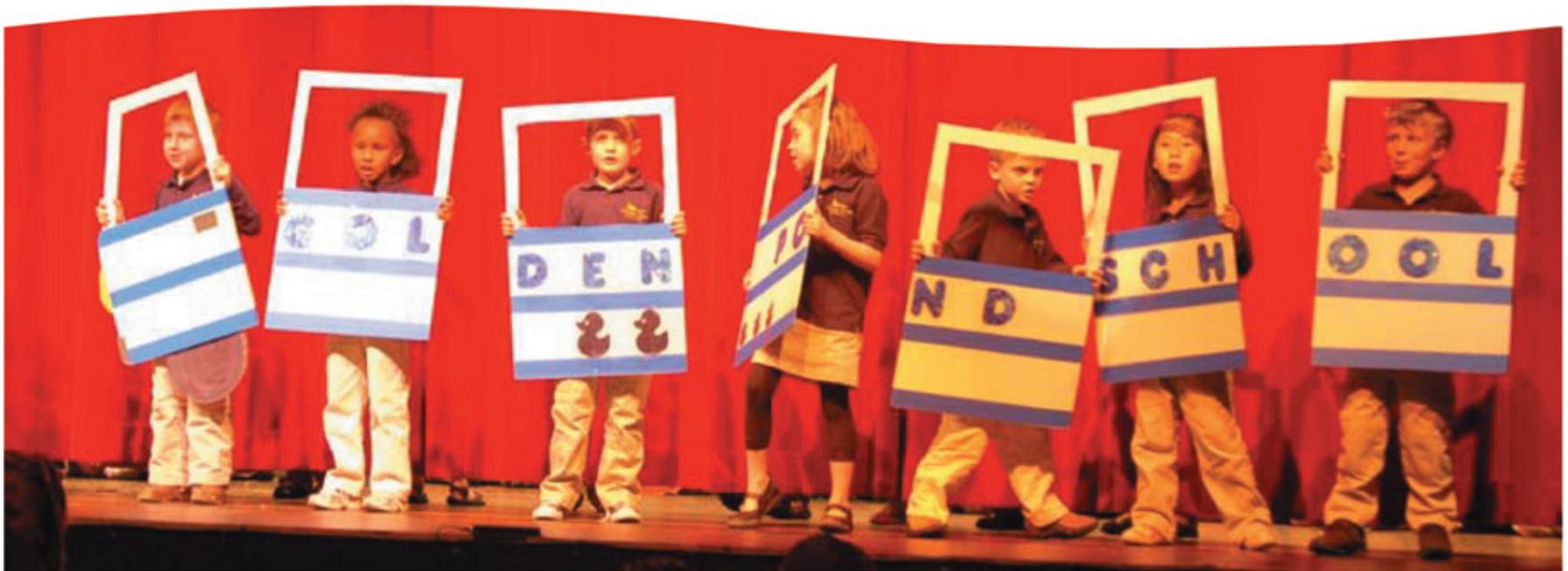
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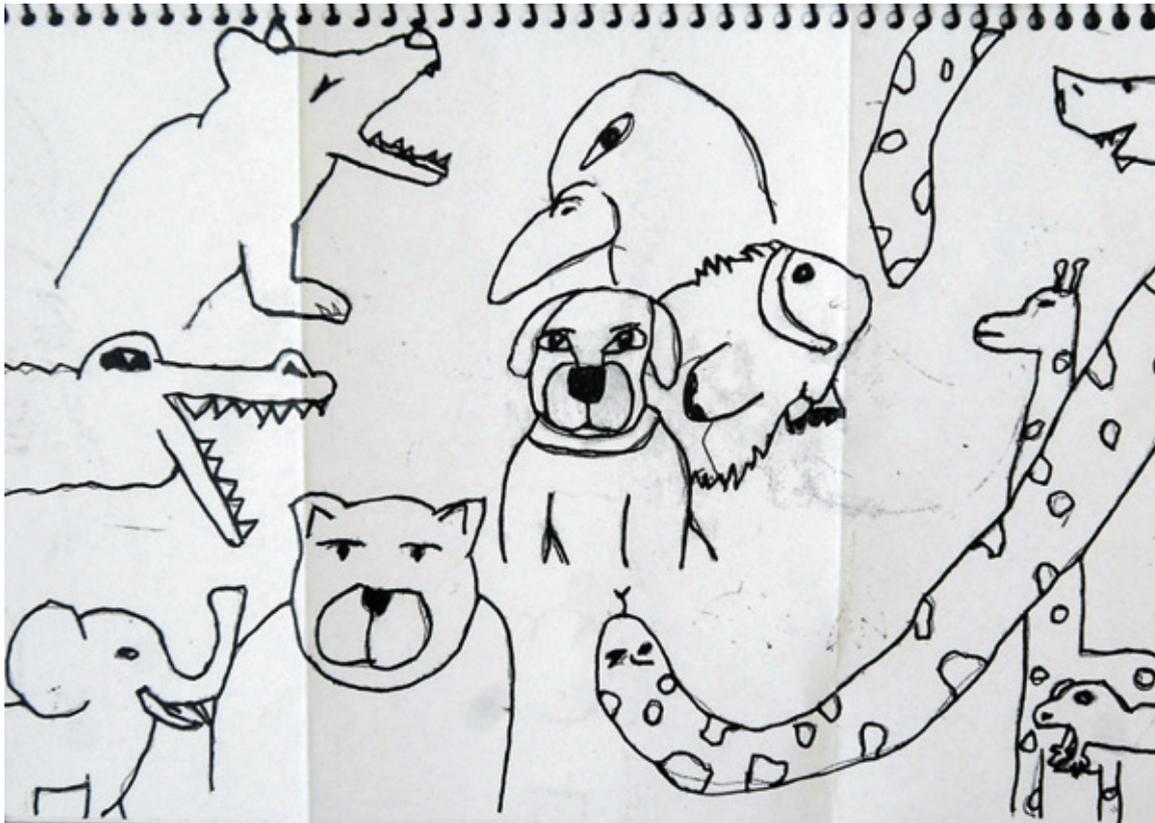
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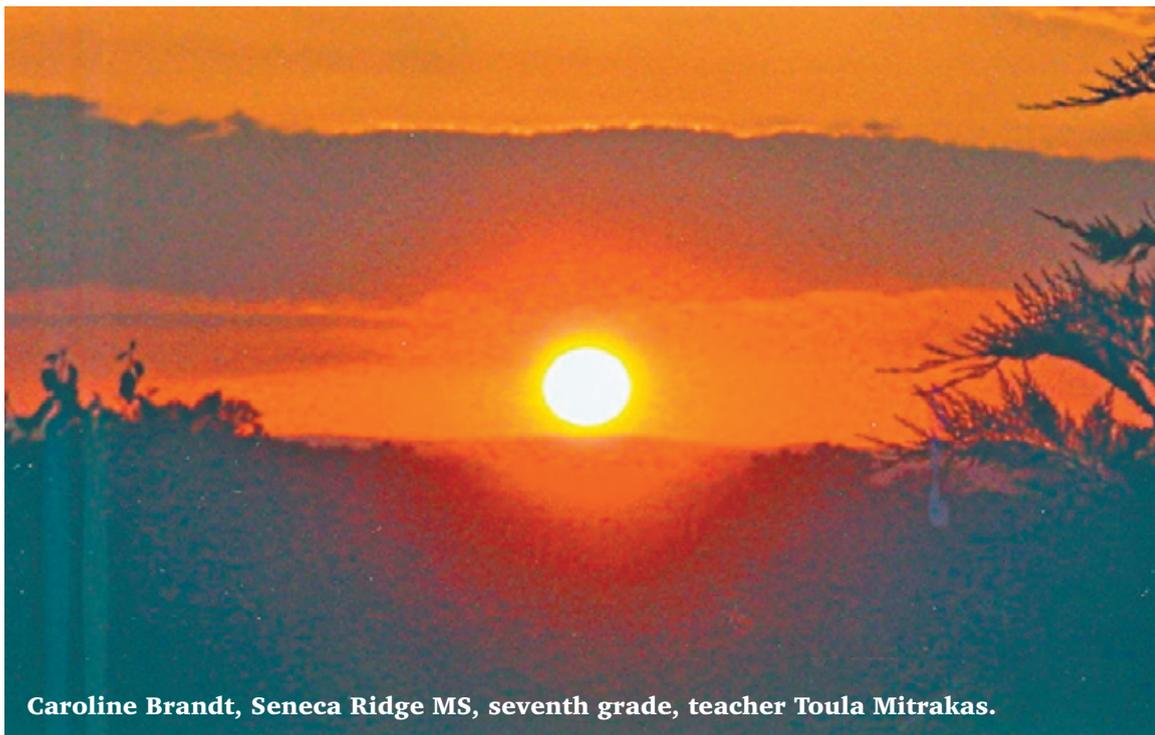
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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

LOUDOUN CONNECTION EDITOR JENNIFER LESINSKI  
703-917-6454 OR  
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**Cesar Canuto, Sterling MS, sixth grade, teacher Mrs. Roosma.**



**Caroline Brandt, Seneca Ridge MS, seventh grade, teacher Toula Mitrakas.**



**Parisa Djavadi,  
Seneca Ridge  
MS, seventh  
grade, teacher  
Toula Mitrakas.**

## Welcome

Dear Readers:  
**T**his week, the Cascades Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students of its communities.

We asked principals and teachers from our local schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue. As well as a general call for submissions from the community through editorials.

The response this year was tremendous. As a result, we were able to publish only a fraction of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art in this issue.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the

materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays.

The annual Children's Issue is only part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, The Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome.

Send information to: The Cascades Connection, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or send e-mail messages to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com.

**Jennifer Lesinski,**  
Editor



**Johnny Thongdyarath, Potowmack ES,  
fifth grade, teacher Karen Dagley.**

### If I Was the Teacher

If I were the teacher I would teach the class. I would be a pretty teacher.

**Jackie Carter**  
First Grade  
Mrs. Shires' class

### I Wish You Were Here

I talked with my mom and she told me that my uncle was very funny. This is why I wrote about him. My uncle was born in 1966. He had a huge moustache and he was very skinny and tall. When my uncle was alive he went skydiving for fun. He was in the army for most of his life. He was in a war in Iraq. The president of Iraq shot my uncle.

I was only four years old when my uncle died. My mom told me that when I was little I used to go under his bed and scare him. My uncle thought I was a silly little kid. I wish my uncle was still alive today.

**Saif Qraeen**  
Third Grade

### If I Was the Teacher

If I were the teacher I would have a new name of Miss Young. I found that I love Miss Young. I read at school. School is so much fun. Miss Young loves me. I would teach the kids to learn how to do calendar time. I would be a good teacher. My favorite part of being a teacher would be taking pictures of the kids. I would like being the teacher.

**Karina Canas**  
First Grade  
Kristie Young's class

### I Wish You Were Here

My mom and dad told me about my grandpa, so I put it on paper. My grandpa was born in 1932. My grandpa died in 1973 because he got sick.

My grandpa lived in Phnom Penh in Cambodia. My grandpa was tall and had lots of black hair. He was a pilot when he was alive. My grandpa played football for fun.

If my grandpa were here he would think of me as a special kid. These are all of the reasons why I wish my grandpa were here.

**Srey Hai**  
Third Grade

### If I Was the Teacher

If I were teacher I would be Mr. Gabriel. I would play with my friends. I would go to P.E. I would go to art with the kids. I would give the kids homework. I would love the food for lunch. I would like to be the teacher. Help me learn to be a teacher!

**Gabriel Cespedes**  
First Grade  
Kristie Young's class

### Things That Are Dear to Me

One thing that is very special to me is my little pet Chihuahua. I like her because she likes to play with me a lot. I like when she runs around. Her name is Minnie.

**Dennys Cerritos**  
Third Grade

### If I Was the Teacher

If I were the teacher I would be a nice teacher. The kids could go outside two times a day. I would let the kids have free time. The next day they would go to P.E. and library. When they are done we would go back to the classroom. I would be a great teacher!

**Ram Luetkemeier**  
First Grade  
Kristie Young's class

### My Mom and Dad Are Dear to Me

They help me with my homework. They help me do the right thing. They know what I have to do. They love me and I love them too!

**Alex Bonilla**  
Third Grade

### Things Dear to Me

My mom and dad are dear to me and money could not replace them because they love me more than anything and treat me very special.

**Carolyne Bates**  
Third Grade

### My Mom Is Dear to Me

My Mom is nice to me because she bought me a PS3. It is tight. When I had pink eye, my Mom bought me medicine at the pharmacy.

**Eric Barrera-Luna**  
Third Grade

### What Is Dear to Me

My Memaw is dear to me because she has cancer. She is almost dead. She can't walk that good. She always sends me a birthday card.

**Jake Luetkemeier**  
Third Grade

### Things Are Not That Important

Things are not important because they can break. My PS2 broke easily so I got a new PS2 because the games didn't work on the old one. My bed is important because I don't want to sleep on the floor.

**Jack Stewart**  
Third Grade

### Things That Are Dear to Me

My family is dear to me. My happiness is dear to me and my friends are dear to me. My friends' happiness and my puppy are dear to me. When I always go to the movie theater with my family and my friends, it is special.

**Jesia Alvarado**  
Third Grade

### Things Dear to Me

My family is dear to me because they care about me and they love me, like if I need something or want something they would get me whatever I wanted.

**John Robinson**  
Third Grade

### My Two Dear Friends

Rex and Riona, two of my cats, are dear to me. We got them at the Herndon Petco parking lot. I played with them when my mom brought them into the car. They made me feel happy. They are two years old now. I love them a lot.

**Jora White**  
Third Grade

### Things That Are Dear to Me

the thing that is dear to me is my family because I love my family. They are really special to me. My country, El Salvador, is dear to me because I was born there and I still like to visit.

**Juan Jose Ayala**  
Third Grade

### Things Dear to Me

My dog and cats are dear to me. They bring me happiness. My friends are dear to me. They are the best friends I have. My friends will look out for me. I used to have two Labradors, but when I was five they both died and I still miss them. Their names were Aja and Otis.

**Kaela Henon**  
Third Grade

### Money Cannot Buy

Money cannot buy my mom, the women who made my life.

Money cannot buy my dad, the man who made me, Me.

SEE ROLLING, PAGE 19

## ART GALLERY



**Amanda Nielsen,**  
Rolling Ridge  
ES, first  
grade, Mrs.  
Barrett.



**Diana Fuentes,** Rolling Ridge ES, first grade, Mrs. Barrett.



**Sray Hai,**  
Rolling Ridge  
ES, third  
grade.



**Eddie Avila,** Rolling Ridge ES, first grade, Mrs. Barrett.



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# ART GALLERY



**Arthur Yuan-Chen Wang, Potowmack ES, fifth grade, teacher Natalee Mapp.**



**Bradley Alfred Pierro, Potowmack ES, fifth grade, teacher Andrea Schmidt.**



**Alexandria Bryce Richmond, Potowmack ES, fifth grade, teacher Andrea Schmidt.**



**Danielle Marie Roche, Potowmack ES, fifth grade, teacher Karen Dagley.**



**Reanna Kathleen Panagides, Potowmack ES, fifth grade, teacher Dale Nodell.**

# WORDS

## Lost in Darkness

I find myself in the throes of darkness  
Surrounded by countless figures  
I can't remember where I am  
Can't recall yesterday or even the last  
hour

It feels as if I dropped out of the sky  
With no past; no present  
A feeling of panic takes over  
I begin to walk  
With no destination in mind  
I hear a howl from the darkness  
My steps falter, I fall to the ground  
I feel myself land on a bed of leaves

Still wet, the  
leaves hint of a  
past rain  
Reaching out  
to touch

Whatever is near  
The fear of anticipation  
I cannot bear  
My reluctant fingers are met with the  
roughness of bark  
As my mind perceives of the sur-  
roundings

My throat constricts  
In newfound terror  
I sense the unfamiliar sensation on  
my leg  
I feel the twinge of sharp hair on my  
skin

It seems to be traveling up my limb  
I brush off my leg  
What seems to be a creature on many  
legs

With a reluctant violence  
The fear finally takes over  
My mind dims  
Darkness much familiar sets over  
Engulfing me  
I feel myself fading away  
And I feel no more  
I open my eyes  
Not afraid anymore  
I reach out to touch  
Everything is as I remember  
Just as it was last night

FATIMA HAQUE, 17  
12TH GRADE

## Banana Bob Goes to Australia

Banana Bob lived in a big superstore. But he was planning on going to Australia and meeting a kangaroo and riding one. Banana Bob was packing his bags when Opal the Orange came by.

"What are you doing?" she asked.  
"I'm going to Australia," Banana Bob explained.

"Australia? Can I come?" asked Opal.

"Well, you did help me with the bully grapes. Sure, why not?" said Banana Bob.

The next day, the two friends snuck on a plane to Australia. The ride was so long and boring, Banana Bob thought he might grow a beard!

When they finally got to Australia, they saw a koala and a kangaroo! But the kangaroo was hungry so they ran!

"Let's go!" said Banana Bob. "We saw everything!"

They ran fast, but the kangaroo was faster! "Help!" said Opal. But no one came.

"Help!"  
They hid in some grass.

"That was close!" said Banana Bob.  
Quickly they went on a plane and left for home.

KIARA NAGELE  
THIRD GRADE  
MR. JONES' CLASS

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# IN THEIR WORDS

## Turkey Acrostic

Thank you  
United States  
Roast turkey  
Kind  
Eat together  
You and me

**Lynne Thao**  
**Caitlyn**  
**Lily Quinones**  
**Nebiat Tesfaye**  
**Chinmayi Kompella**  
**A Kindergarten Collaboration**

## Doing the Laundry

First I get the dirty clothes and I carry it downstairs. Then I open the washing machine. Next, I push the big button and I wait until it's done. Now put my clothes in the drier. I wait for five minutes then I fold my clothes. I put the clean clothes in the basket upstairs.

**Trini**

## Dear Farmer Brown!

I'm too thin to be eaten. I'm too thin to be eaten because I don't eat as much as the other turkeys do. Besides, I'm on a diet. I'm not fat and fat turkeys are yummy. So I think you need to find another turkey that is fat.

**Dorian Rittenhouse**  
Third Grade

## Beware

Bad people  
East of the border

## ART GALLERY



**Anna McDuffie, Lowes Island ES, fourth grade, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.**

Where nobody goes  
Appalachian Plateau  
Rated M for mature  
Eeeeeeeeee  
**Jaden**  
Fourth Grade

## A Hammer Hears

A hammer hears the door opening then the garage door opening. It hears a woman shouting "Where are you going, honey?" Then the husband shouting "To the mines, sugar-bunches!" And then it hears the whooshing of itself being lifted. It hears the truck door slamming. It hears the rumbling of the unpaved road.

And then it hears the car door slamming again and then the slamming as if on rock. Then the snap! It's screaming "My back broke!"  
**Alexander Carpenter**  
Fifth Grade  
Mrs. Ballard's writing class

## Bowling

First, go to Bowling America. Type your name on the computer. Next get an orange bowling ball. It will be heavy so make sure you can hold it. Then start bowling. You roll the ball down the lane in the middle. When you make a strike check how many points you have then keep going. The winner is the one who gets the most points.

**Furquan**

## The Thanksgiving Problem

Dear Farmer Jack,

If wanting to take a nap, read this. I'm so generous that I'm going to help run your farm so you might not want to eat me. I'm too good at math. I can tell you how many eggs you have to sell. I will wash the pigs every other week so they look brand new. I will clean your fish tank once a month. So as you can see, I will count the eggs, wash the pigs and clean the fish tank so you can take your nap. Sincerely, Julia the Turkey.

**Julia Rizzo**  
Third Grade

## Music

It's great.  
I love my school.  
Singing in chorus rocks.  
I sing with my best friends a lot.  
Music.

**Lauryn Helstrom**  
Fourth Grade

## What the Puffball in the Desk Hears

Tick tock tick tock goes the clock  
I wait till recess  
Rrrrrrring goes the lunch bell  
The swish swash of pencils stop  
and talking children pile into the halls.

I am left alone with the sound of rain on the ceiling.

I climb to the top of the mountain where I rest scratch scratch crinkle-crinkle I brush my wild mane click clock shoes are coming  
I jump to my bed, plopp plop the fountain says  
I climb again, swish I turn a book page

rrrrrrrring the recess bell rings finally I scurry to the desk, someone grabs me  
think I hit the ground, but I'm finally

outside.

**Tea Barndt**  
Fifth Grade  
Mrs. Ballard's writing class

## Shadow

My dog is a pitbull. He loves pizza and dog food. Pizza is not good for a dog. He is black and white. He is medium size. He sleeps downstairs.

**Diego**

## You Don't Want to Eat Me Because I'm too Smart and Skinny.

Dear Farmer Joe and his family (if he has one),

You never want to eat me, not even in a hundred years! First I do lots of jumping jacks, that makes me thin and skinny. But you want a big, fat, juicy turkey right? So lets continue on with the first reason. When I was one year old I went to medical school, so that means if you're sick or if one of your family members are sick(if you even have one) I'll take care of you. 2nd reason, if you haven't gone to school, I can teach you Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and so on. 3rd reason, I can buy you books and read it to your children (if you have any) which makes me smarter. Also, I will get you the fattest turkey.

Sincerely,  
Richard the Turkey  
(The Insanely Smart Turkey)  
P.S. You are never going to eat me.  
Ha Ha Ha.

**Richard Robles**  
Third Grade

## Gossip

I'm Gossip and my enemies are caring, and I have no friends.

I'm Gossip and I live in a big dark house. You can find me in my room Gossiping on the phone.

I'm Gossip and my sport is nothing. I'm Gossip and I wear black clothes and black lipstick with black eye shadow.

I'm Gossip and my favorite song is rock.

I'm Gossip and my parents are messy.  
**Deanna Perales**  
Fourth Grade

## Wisdom

Wisdom is someone who leads  
But takes courage to follow  
Wisdom always shows good and bad  
But takes good  
Wisdom seeks truth and good for everyone

**Andres Merida**  
Fifth Grade  
Mrs. Ballard's writing class

## A Loose Tooth

Once I had a loose tooth. I always took a look at it. I looked at it in the bright of morning, the cold of the afternoon and the dark of the night. When is it going to fall off? I thought. Since it was a loose tooth, I often touched it all the time. I wiggled it here and there! I even wiggled it in and out. I was so scared because I thought it would hurt. Then I ate my favorite food, a hamburger with egg. What is this white stuff doing in my food? OH MY GOSH! It's my tooth! I went upstairs and spit. Blood was everywhere. Then I went to sleep. I brought my tooth with me! I gently put

SEE STERLING ES, PAGE 16



**Carlos Justo-Jaume, Lowes Island ES, third grade, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.**

## LOWES ISLAND ES



**Grace Cook, Lowes Island ES, third grade, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.**

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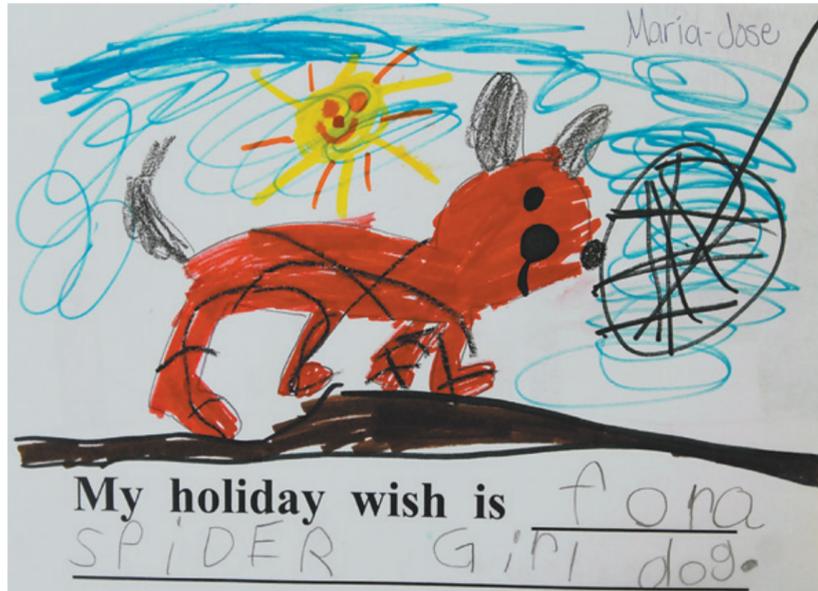
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# ART GALLERY



Maria-Jose Lema, Guilford ES, kindergarten.



Allison Freiberg, Lowes Island ES, third grade, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.



Jackson Steele, Horizon ES, third grade, Mr. Jones.



Monica Stefanelli, Dominion HS, 12th grade.



Aleena Shahid, "Tunnel Book," Guilford ES, fifth grade, teacher Mrs. Zachmann.



Madison Mulhearn, Horizon ES, kindergarten, Mrs. Dettmer.



Nicole Samantha Jackson, Potowmack ES, fifth grade, teacher Andrea Schmidt.



Dorothy Bonica, Dominion HS, 11th grade.

# IN THEIR WORDS

## Fall

Find a great pumpkin  
Also rake the leaves  
Like to drink hot cocoa  
Like to get pumpkins

**Kelly Orelbra**  
First Grade

I'd use a magic wand to poof myself anything or poof myself to any kind of planet. If I'm going to the sun I would need a really really armored suit and a non-melting suit.

**Victor Martinez**  
Second Grade

## Color Poem

Yellow is like the sound of quiet at night.  
Yellow is like the smell of burning wood in the fireplace.  
Yellow is like the taste of sour lime candy.  
Yellow is like the feel of happiness of joy.

**Ebonie Powell**  
Third Grade

## Native American Lifestyle

I would like to tell you about the Native Americans' food and shelter. Did you know that beans, squash and corn were called the three sisters? They grew well during the summer. The Native Americans harvested crops in the fall. In winter, they hunted deer, turkey, elk and turtles. Virginia Indians also ate nuts, fruits and berries.

If you were an Indian and you had a small family, you would live in a dome-shaped house. If you had a bigger family you would live in a long-house. This is what the Native American people are and where they lived.

**Isabel Delao**  
Fourth Grade

Falling leaves  
Air is cold  
Leaves  
Likely to pick pumpkins

**Dimetrio**  
First Grade

When I grow up I'm gonna get a T-Mobile phone that comes with a built in camera and somewhere to hold my saved phone numbers and pictures. My brother's gonna get an I-phone.

**Dan Ashat**  
Second Grade

Blue is like the sound of rain dripping to the ground.  
Blue is like the smell of a relaxing day.  
Blue is like the taste of a sour gum drop.  
Blue is like the feel of the morning wet grass.

**Linda Byrd**  
Third Grade

## American Indian Food

The American Indians grew corn, squash, beans and tobacco. In spring, women and girls picked nuts and berries. The men and boys hunted birds, deer, elk, bear and beaver. In the summer, girls and women planted crops. They would fish in spring, summer and autumn. In autumn, girls and women would harvest the crops. The men and boys would hunt all year long. They would hunt the most in the winter because they had less to eat then.

American Indian Clothing  
The American Indians made clothing

## GUILFORD ELEMENTARY

out of animal skins. They used every part of the animals to make clothes. In winter and fall, American Indians would wear a lot of animal skins. In spring and summer, they would wear very few animal skins. The more important an American Indian was, the more feathers, seashells, pearls and animals they wore.

American Indian Shelter  
American Indians women and girls built the houses. The houses were made out of wood, twigs and leaves. A large family has a longhouse. A small family as a dome shaped house called a round house. A bug hole would be in the middle of the roof. A fire in the middle of the house would keep them warm. The fire's smoke would go out of the hole. When it rained, the American Indians would have to cover the whole with animal skin.

**Amy Luu**  
Fourth Grade

## Hi, My Name Is . . .

My favorite foods is chicken. It belongs to the meat and bean food group. It is good for me because it makes my muscles stronger.

**Kaitlyn**  
First Grade

I like asparagus because the tops are salty.

**Jamie Miller**  
Second Grade

First, a boy was born who would become a famous American. His name was John Smith. Next, an Indian princess was born in the house and was called Pocahontas. Then, John Smith became a famous explorer and explored places near England. Finally, Pocahontas and John Smith got married and began living in England.

**Hanna**  
Fourth Grade

My favorite food is cherries and orange juice. It belongs to the fruit food group. It is good for me because it helps to heal my cuts.

**Kassandra Berg**  
First Grade

My grandma loves to plant flowers. Also, I help her and she plants sunflowers. She plants sunflowers with my grandpa and me. And we do it in the front of the house.

**Sarah Angelina**  
Second Grade

## My Haunted House

My haunted house is cool. First, I will put mummies hanging from the ceiling. Next, I will put zombies walking upside down. Then, I will put vampires sucking blood. Finally, I will put scary masks.

**Gema**  
First Grade

The Lakota are one of the groups that use horses! The Lakota were the largest Native American group on the great plains. And they hunted buffalo and made teepees with them.

**Tea**  
Second Grade

My haunted house is cool. First, I will have a vampire dance to the music. Second, I will have a witch, she looks like a ghost. Third, I will have a wolf he is running around. Last, I will have a ghost. He is sleeping in a bed.

**Mario**  
First Grade

# IN THEIR WORDS

## SENECA RIDGE MS

### Phantom Horse

I saw a horse.  
It was midnight in the dark eerie woods.  
This horse or creature was elusive  
I watched it shriek like the thunder around me.  
It was bucking and kicking as if a devil was taking its soul.  
The phantom horse was as black as midnight itself.  
Then there was lighting and it vanished like a ghost.  
The phantom horse.

**Callie Hollister**  
Seventh Grade  
Toula Mitrakas' class

### There Never Seems to be Enough Cheese

There seems to not be enough cheese in the world. Whenever I'm in the mood for that certain dairy product, it is nowhere to be found. Sure, you can buy it at the grocery store, but it's never as good as freshly made, eat-it-at-the-farm, cheesy cheese. Cheese comes in so many varieties. There are different smells, tastes, textures, looks, and even ages. My personal favorite is aged cheddar. Cheese can be eaten in so many different ways, it's hard to count. By itself, melted on bread, shoved on a cracker, and sprayed from a can. Cheese is a wonderful culinary creation. There never seems to be enough cheese in the world.

**Audrey Newman**  
Katherine Dalland's class

### Morning

Every Morning the sun steadily rises over the golden horizon as the mist of gray fog covers the world. Every strand of grass is covered with little droplets of dew. The birds sing and the flowers raise their sorrowful heads as if they are rising for the suns awaking. It's a new beginning as the moon says good night and world awakes from their slumbers.

**Katie Strycharz**  
Seventh Grade  
Madelyn Hetherington's class

### The Jewel

An eager hand clasps the jewel. The girl lets her body gracefully land on a soft, blood-red bench. The hand gently strokes it as if it were the key to life. In a sense, the jewel is the key to life. It contains things necessary to fulfill her existence. Mystery leaves the jewel, and swirls through the arid air, leaving answers to soak into anything hungry for it. Wisdom springs from the jewel and sits perched like an owl atop her shoulder. Cries, laughs, and sighs escape the jewel, quickly filling the room. Looking around, she sees the many things this precious gem has to offer. Anticipation curls in the girl's stomach. This is the moment she has been waiting for. Her hand slowly opens the jewel to uncover a smooth page full of life-altering words. With a grin, the girl begins her adventure.

**Meena Nayagam**  
Seventh Grade  
Toula Mitrakas

### My Family

I am from a family  
With a lot of love  
I am from a place where we care  
That's why we see each other so we

can share  
I am from a family  
With my mom, and my dada and  
My sisters Nabeeha and Hurmat  
Who are always the opposite of sad  
I have an aunt, an uncle  
Who have three girls who are really sweet  
Whenever they come, my mom makes treats  
When they come over we play all day  
We ride our bikes and play Twister and Pictionary to  
We watch scary movies after we eat  
All that soda, rice, and meat  
We leave some room for ice cream  
And sometimes my dads special tea  
But most of all we love to see  
The movies on lets watch!  
I can't wait the next time  
We see each other who  
Knows-we'll have a sleepover!

**Jannat Asim**  
Katherine Dalland's class

### White

White is the snow,  
that's falling from the sky.  
White is the dove,  
that spreads its wings to fly.  
White is the ghost,  
that gives everyone a fright.  
White is the moon,  
on a starry night.

**Sydney Shepherd**  
Seventh Grade  
Madelyn Hetherington's class

### Pray For Me

I felt the whole world crumblin' down  
I just lost hope

Bungee jumpin' off bridges without a rope  
Darker than darkness seen in the back of my mind  
When I did I hope I'm-a die high  
I could kill my pride and walk with slim pockets  
So Jesus, please step outside if you hear me knockin'  
I've been runnin' from the truth since 2001  
Screamin' at the top of my lungs  
The devil think I'm comin'  
So please, please just  
Pray For Me

**Tony Richardson, 13**  
Seventh Grade

### My Puppy and I

May, a sweet, cute, adorable, Chinese Crested, and she's all mine! We rescued May from A Forever Home, a company for adopting and fostering dogs and cats. At the time we were planning on only fostering her. May was rescued from a Puppy Mill in West Virginia including 1000 other dogs! At first she was scared of everything that moved, now that it's been a few months she's doing better. What I like most about her is that she loves to cuddle up in my lap and snuggle her little nose in my chest. Also when I come home from school she gets SO excited she's literally bouncing off the walls and tripping over her own paws! I love her and I can tell she loves me back. When she first came into my house a sudden bond started between us and it's still here.

**Hailey Corboy**  
Katherine Dalland's class

### Butterflies

Butterflies, Butterflies  
They fly so high  
In the sky  
They go North  
They go South  
They go East  
And they go West  
Bt it's time to go cause winter is near  
But we'll be back sooner than your hear  
So when it is time  
I will see you again ...

**Rachel Peterson**  
Seventh Grade  
Madelyn Hetherington's class

### Super Metal Monkeys

What would you say, if you were suddenly transported to an unfamiliar planet, told you had to fight monkeys in shining metal armor, had no popcorn left, and really had to go bad? Sounds fun, right? You would hope you get picked, right? Well that is how the game Super Metal Monkeys works. So you play tons of games trying to win a million dollars if you win all the games that is exactly what you get.

(Please note that the IRS can take a large sum of the money earned on the game show, Super Metal Monkeys, (in tax money), and can not be held responsible for any large amounts of money losses).

Remember to read the fine print.

**Nicholas Glasgow**  
Katherine Dalland's class

### U.S.A.

This country is so, so great  
That we shouldn't have any hate  
We now have a new president named Obama  
I hope we find that terrorist named Osama  
We have to take our troops out of Iraq  
Because a lot have already left in a black sack  
This country has a problem with obesity  
We should give the food to people with necessities  
The US economy right now is doing very bad  
That this Christmas some kids will be very sad  
The car dealerships are running out of buyers  
So the people working there are now criers  
We are all the same, we should help each other  
Is that the way you would treat your mother?  
Tribute to all soldiers fighting overseas for this wonderful country

**Isaac Ramirez**  
Seventh Grade  
Madelyn Hetherington's class

### Memories

As quiet as the wind in the grass  
As comforting as a fire in winter.  
As wonderful as the star at night  
These are memories  
Material things can come and go  
Friends are supposed to never leave  
One thing you'll always have  
Memories will always stay

**Catherine Messerly**  
Seventh Grade

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## ART GALLERY

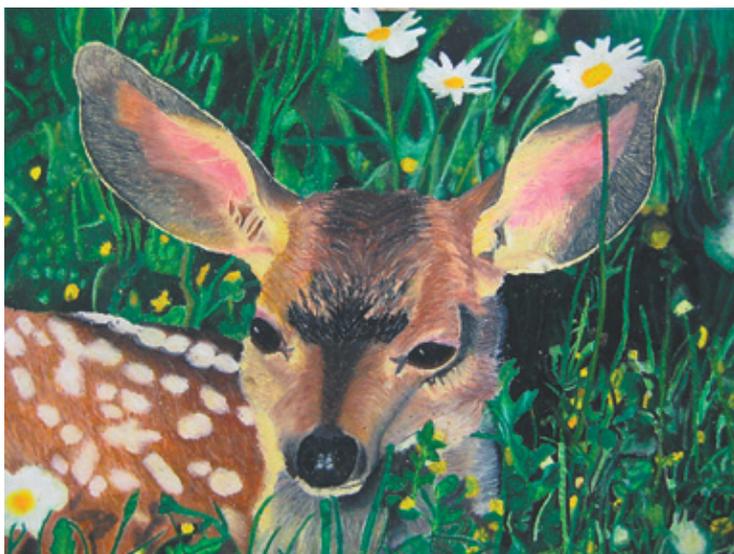
### DOMINION HS



**Jennifer Huaman, 12th grade.**



**Pilar Morfin, Dominion HS, 12th grade.**



**Taylor Poole, 10th grade.**

# WORDS

## Winter Mood

You wake up in the morning to hear the sound of wind on your window. You put on your winter clothes and you slide down the banister to the front door. You put on a cozy winter jacket and open the door. First, you feel a blast of cold air then there is a blanket of white snow, like a quilt. You step on it and see those fresh tracks of snow prints you're leaving behind. When you gingerly walk on the snow it is tightly packed. You stay out there never wanting to come inside.

**Steven Velasquez, 11**  
Sixth Grade  
Mrs. Roosma's class

## What Would I Wish for if I Could Make Our World a Better Place To Live in?

For better or worse, one wish can alter a lot of things. If I could make a wish that made the world a better place to live in, it wouldn't be as simple as "world peace." I'd wish that everybody at least had the tools and skills to survive happily. There is a quote that says, "Give a man fish, he'll be back later. Show him how to fish, and he'll fish for life." And that quote was the foundation of my wish.

**Sarah Phung**  
Eighth Grade  
Fatima Scherer's class

I would wish for racial discrimination to stop. I think we all have been discriminated at least once in our lives because where we come from. At least I have. I remember once my friends and I were crossing the street and we were yelled at with insults that hurt us a lot. We heard "... go back to your country." Were those words really necessary? This meanness needs to stop. If it does, this would be a better world to live in. You should treat people the way you want to be treated. So, let's start together and put an end to racial discrimination.

**Reyna Salazar Castillo**  
Eighth Grade  
Fatima Scherer's class

If I could make one wish to make the world a better place, I would wish that everybody could have a functioning body. That everybody could see, smell, walk, move their arms, and more. I don't want to see babies legless and people unable to see. It is just so depressing. Just imagine a world where nobody had a mental illness or handicap. My wish could be wonderful for so many people. It would be good not only to the person but to their families. I have a handicap great uncle but he is just the best. I hate to hear him tell me he couldn't get a job because of his problem. He barely gets any money from the government and they were about to put him in a shelter which I don't want to see. With my one wish a lot of people would be greatly helped.

**Marcus Turner**  
Eighth Grade  
Fatima Scherer's class

I wish that everyone could have loving, close, strong families. Many people don't come from caring families, and this impacts the entire world. If everyone had a good family, then I believe that crime and violence would be reduced, and so would many other problems that occur all over the world,

SEE STERLING MS, PAGE 15

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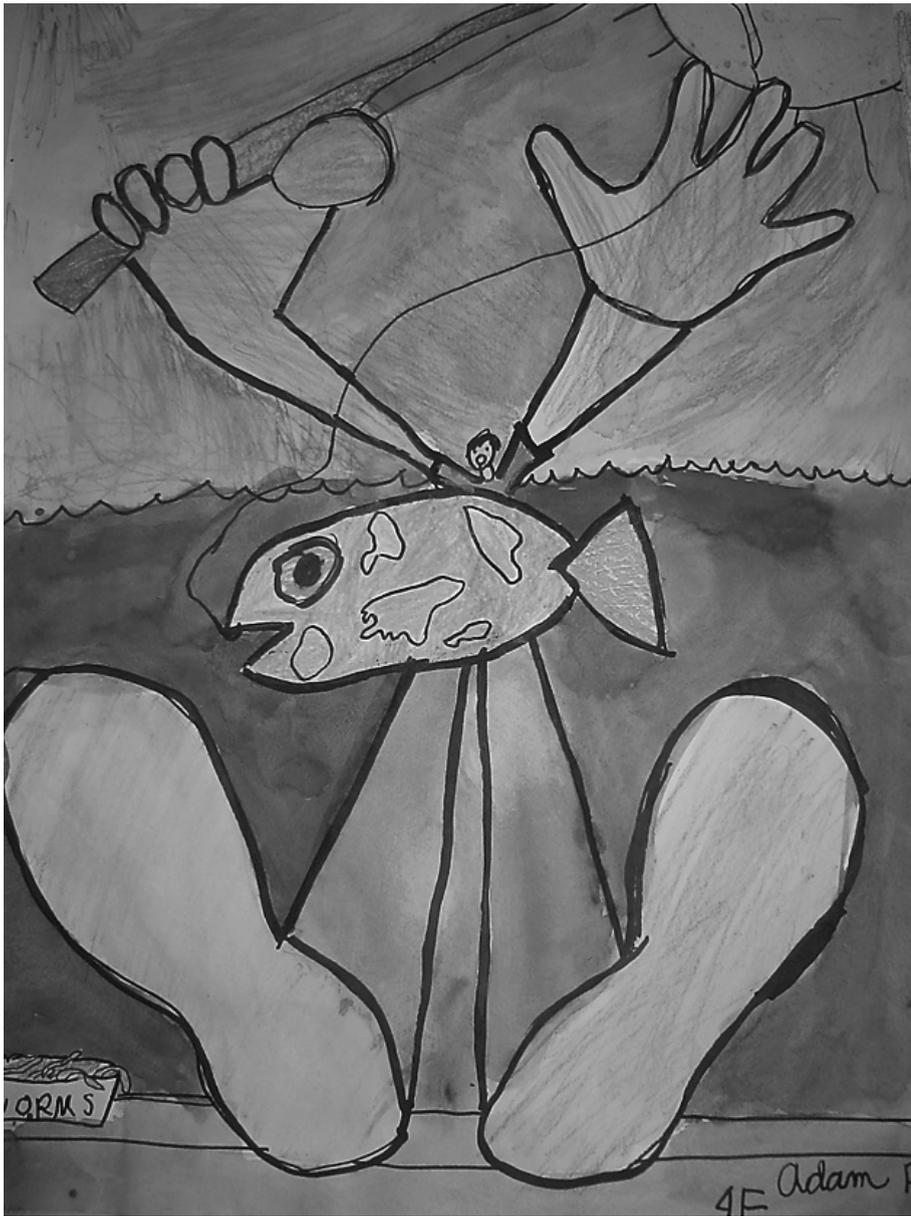
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**Dr. Tracey Nguyen**

# ART GALLERY



Adam Poindexter, Lowes Island ES, fourth grade, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.



Collin Williams, Lowes Island ES, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.



Becca Cole, Lowes Island ES, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.



Zach Feldmeier, Lowes Island ES, fourth grade, teacher LeAnne Poindexter.

# WORDS

## STERLING MIDDLE

FROM PAGE 13

such as poverty, and many government problems we have like welfare and social security. If you come from a good family then you won't have the need or desire to do bad things or fit in with others who do those things. Your family would watch over you when you are in need, and you would most likely do better in school, and then be more likely to succeed in life. Everything starts with your home, and I honestly think the whole world would benefit from it.

**Kallie Walter**  
Eighth Grade  
Fatima Scherer's class



**Sandra Rose Ranic,**  
Potowmack ES, fifth grade,  
teacher **Andrea Schmidt.**

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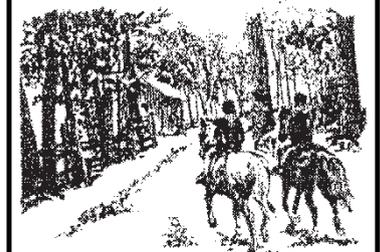


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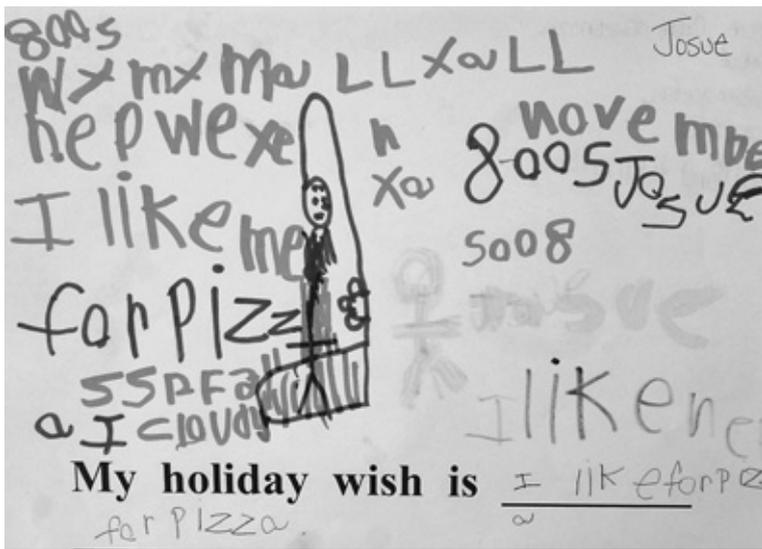
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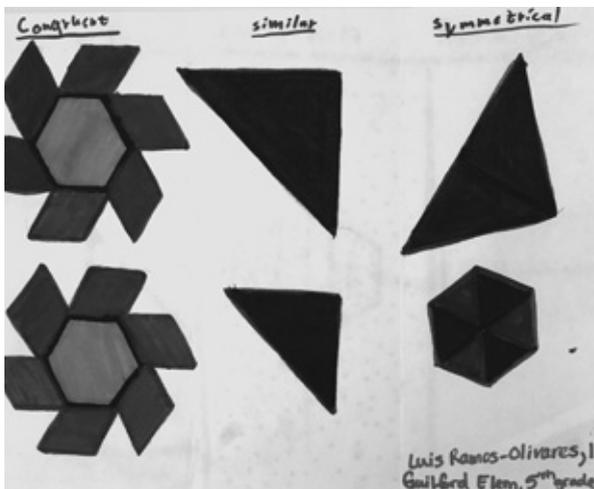
# ART GALLERY

IN THEIR WORDS

STERLING ES



**Josue Cruz Inestroza, Guilford ES, kindergarten.**



**GUILFORD ES**

**Luis Ramos-Olivares, Guilford ES, fifth grade.**

FROM PAGE 8

it under my pillow. The next day, when I woke up, I checked under my pillow for my tooth. I felt paper. I pulled my pillow out. 100 dollars.

That's how my tooth fell out.  
**John**

## Don't Eat Me

Dear Farmer,  
I heard you want to eat turkey, you don't want to eat me because I'm way too small for you. So my friends might be juicy. If that is not enough I will give you as many of my friends as you want. Just please do not eat me! Every turkey I know is hilarious. And I'm very annoying. You don't want to eat a non-stop talking turkey. Hey! I know a guy that is in band. If you don't like bands you can eat the whole band. I heard the drums guy is very, very fat. So you don't want me to be eaten! I have an idea! I will work out some more and I can do anything you want instead of getting fat. Either way, I am the fastest turkey you can find. You can't find me anyway so ha ha ha.

From: Turkey  
P.S. Don't eat me!  
**William Ward**  
Third Grade

## Trash Boy

Sadly I'm a trash can. I'm waiting for Friday to be emptied out so I won't be so stinky! I'm so full if I eat one more thing I will explode. I'm filled up with week old bacon and pumpkin seeds.

**Trey**  
Fourth Grade

## Bravery

A sleek, quiet Indian Brave faces danger without a flinch, rides his war horse proudly into battle.

Bravery, a warm welcoming person.  
**Brian Knapp**  
Fifth Grade  
Mrs. Ballard's writing class

## The Super Zoo Trip

Last summer I went to the zoo. We went to the reptile house. I saw lots of creepy crawlies. I got grossed out because there were a lot of snakes and spiders. They were EVERYWHERE. YUCK! Then my dad said "don't worry they will not get out." Then I said ok. After that we went to the Monkey House. I loved seeing the gorillas and the Spider Monkeys. The funniest thing was the Howler Monkeys. When I looked at them they went ahhh goo wah. After that we went to the elephant cage. He swung his trunk at me. He was huge. He was bigger than my house! When it was time to go I said good-bye to all the animals. While we were going the pandas and birds were all sleeping and that was my super zoo trip.

**Logan**

## An Autobiography

My name is Leah Elizabeth Hanna. I am a student at Sterling Elementary. This is my story.

I was born in America. I want to be a teacher and I want to be an author. I don't know what I want to be.

I have a big family. I have two brothers. One is 12 and the other is one. I

have two sisters. One is 18 and the other is 15. I have a niece who is four. I have no dad, just a mom.

When I was a little girl, I played school. I would grab a box and put it upside down and make a desk. I would put papers and pencils in it. Then I would imagine people sitting there. I would read a book to them and show them the pictures. I would read them a funny story and I would imagine them laughing. I would laugh back.

Now that I'm getting older I like to draw. Playing school is boring.

Now I'm in third grade. I'm learning new things and my friends are nice to me.

That is my story.  
**Leah Hanna**  
Third Grade

## Summer

Summer is like a hot blazing meteor heading down to Earth.

A child splashing in the pool and laughing out loud.

Summer Camp starting with laughter and friends.

Summer is children screaming because school is out.

When you are outside the summer sun is like a thousand large lights.

Fireflies twinkle like a million stars on a summer's night.

**Alida**  
Fourth Grade

## The Roller Coaster

The roller coaster was as exciting as falling off the Eiffel Tower without any parachute or safety gear to protect you except for a PSP to play on the way.

**Anoop Sana**  
Fifth Grade  
Mrs. Ballard's writing class



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### James Ditaranto, D.O

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Dr. Ditaranto's special interests include pediatric and adolescent health care. His other interests include Attention Deficit Disorders in children and adults. Dr. Ditaranto also includes a special place in his practice for all his geriatric patients.

### Mary Anest, FNP-BC

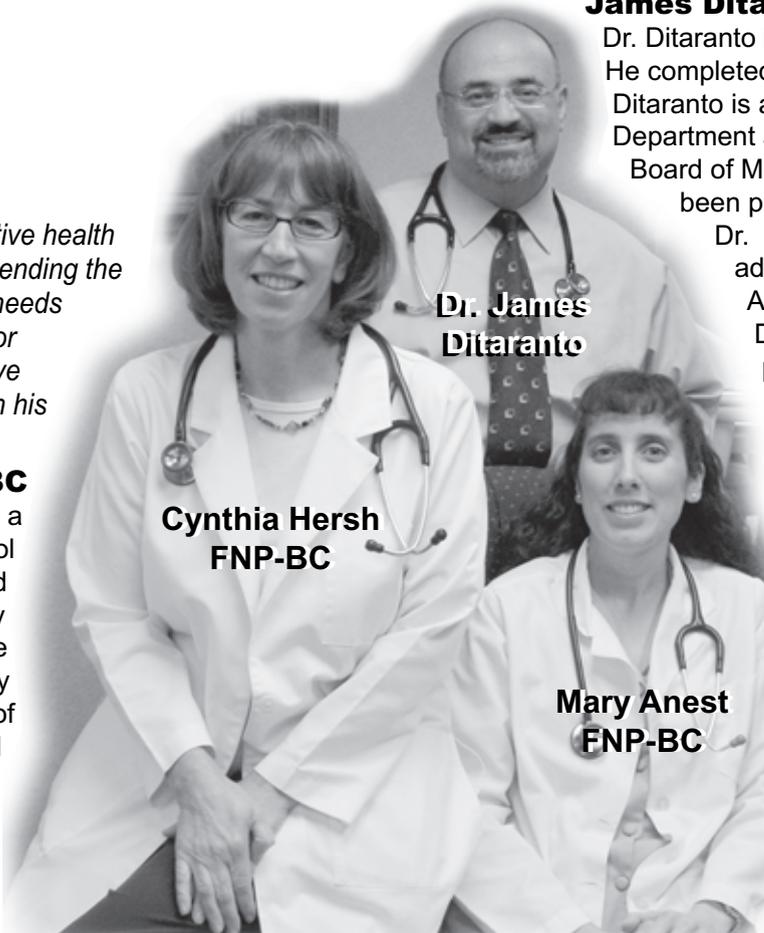
Mary is a family nurse practitioner with board certification from the American Nurse Credentialing Center. She received her undergraduate nursing degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, in 2003. After working on an orthopedics unit and then a high-risk obstetrics unit, she attended Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY, for her graduate nursing degree. She worked as a teaching assistant during her graduate studies. She received her Master's degree in 2006. Her marriage in 2007 moved her to Allentown, PA, where she worked in the central education department of St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network in Bethlehem, PA.

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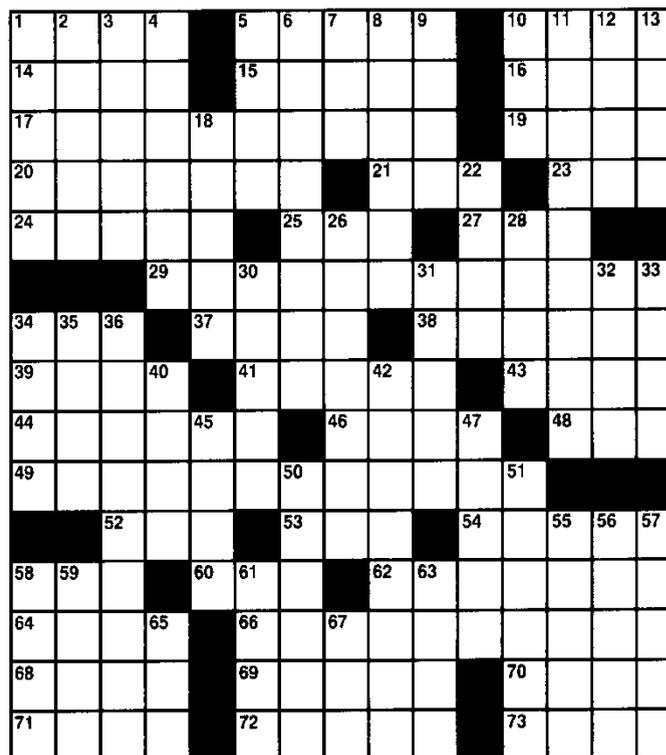
Nothing is too  
small to know,  
and nothing too  
big to attempt.

-William Van Horne

# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0414-1



Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

## ACROSS

- 1 List ender
- 5 Most populous member of the British Commonwealth
- 10 Sneakers brand
- 14 Part of the Hindu trinity
- 15 Booze
- 16 Door sign
- 17 Leisurely lyricist?
- 19 Playground cry
- 20 Teacher
- 21 Place for a nap
- 23 Mischief-maker
- 24 Intravenous injection
- 25 Mouths
- 27 Center
- 29 Side view of a composer?
- 34 Coal carrier
- 37 Did in
- 38 Arousing
- 39 Actor Guinness
- 41 Burdens
- 43 "Could be better"
- 44 Knock down
- 46 March org.
- 48 Led
- 49 Cheerful composer?
- 52 Back at sea
- 53 Kind of tax
- 54 La Scala offering
- 58 Before toweling off
- 60 Hermit's home
- 62 Movie promo
- 64 Graph line
- 66 Assault on a lyricist?
- 68 See
- 69 Nash of note
- 70 Place for embroidery scissors
- 71 Polo need
- 72 Sympathy
- 73 Bruce or Laura

## DOWN

- 11 Show participant
- 12 Carpe — (seize the day)
- 13 Measure
- 18 Wheels for big wheels
- 22 Norse hammer thrower
- 26 Perks
- 28 Saucers, maybe
- 30 Church leader
- 31 Remainder, in Rouen
- 32 Actress Kudrow
- 33 Greenspan concern: Abbr.
- 51 Treated maliciously
- 55 Tickle pink
- 56 Come again
- 57 Actor Alan
- 58 Stinger
- 59 Northern major-leaguer
- 61 "Look out . . ."
- 63 Go on and on
- 65 Hardly a neat house
- 67 Vitamin info, in brief

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

L	I	A	R	S	R	A	P	S	R	O	S	A
A	N	G	E	L	I	S	E	E	O	W	E	S
S	C	A	P	E	C	A	R	T	U	N	I	T
T	H	R	O	U	G	H	P	U	T	G	E	N
			T	O	E		L	E	H	R	E	R
P	O	N	C	H	O	C	L	E	A	R		
O	N	E	O	N	E	H	I	S	I	E	N	A
S	C	R	U	B	A	I	M	E	D	G	E	D
H	E	D	G	E	S	L	A	B	E	G	A	D
			H	A	I	T	I	E	R	R	O	R
V	E	R	D	U	N	A	T	E				
E	M	I	R	D	O	U	G	H	F	A	C	E
N	O	G	O	O	G	R	E	O	R	A	T	E
U	T	E	P	O	L	I	N	R	E	N	T	A
E	E	L	S	R	E	S	T	M	A	T	E	R

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# Gumming Up the Future



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

With respect to the importance one gives their teeth; their appearance, their color, their together-ness, their bite, etc., I have been very lucky. Lucky in that doing little, other than brushing regularly, visiting (I use that term loosely) my dentist semi annually — at a minimum, and wearing braces as a child, has resulted in a lot of nothing. Thank God! Nothing as in, as of age 54, other than the standard and reasonably expected cavities and crowns, I have had no extractions (wisdom teeth or otherwise) and no root canals; in fact, I've had no periodontal work at all and no dental plates, partial or otherwise as well; nothing really to complain about, all potential dental procedures considered.

However, during my most recent dental appointment, my dentist, Dr. Janowitz and my long-time hygienist, Sandy, both gave me the word, words, actually; unless I floss and "sulkabrush" my teeth and gums and the spaces in and all around my wisdom teeth, I will be in for periodontal pain and suffering (and that doesn't even include the cost). Now whether the pain and suffering would be permanent, or just chronic — or whether it would be merely temporary, so long as the pain management — Novocain, gas, pills, paste, gel, etc. — works, was not discussed, but the message was nonetheless made very clear: take care of your teeth or your teeth will take care of you, to the tune of years of discomfort and thousands of dollars. The former being something I don't want and the latter being something I don't have (dental insurance notwithstanding and/or not reimbursing beyond a \$1,000 maximum, that is).

And so I got the message, loud and clear, along with a "goodie" bag filled with the usual amenities — dental floss, toothbrush, mouthwash, sulkabrush, etc., that it's time to finally accept what's good for my gums/teeth and integrate their care into my daily routine. Otherwise, the warning shot fired across my forehead by my team of dental professionals will have served no productive purpose other than as fodder for a not-healthy and not-fit column. And since teeth don't exactly regrow, though they certainly can be replaced (for a substantial price), it would seem prudent that I care for what God has given me and try to avoid what man and machinery can provide in their absence.

Given all that we can't control concerning our own health and welfare, it seems foolish to not try and control what little we can control. And though dental is not as life threatening as medical, dental still significantly contributes to one's overall health and well being, and being well is its own reward. And despite the fact that you can't spend your health, you can certainly spend a lot of money trying to maintain it. Moreover, if maintenance of your health, and by association, your teeth and gums, is somehow, somewhere, within your reach, you should grab it and understand that what's been given to you can certainly be taken, especially if you act as if it can't.

It's said that fame is fleeting. Heck, good health is fleeting. Just because you feel good — or look good today, means nothing so far as tomorrow's health is concerned. Nothing is guaranteed. Well, not exactly nothing. If I don't follow my dentist's orders, my teeth and gums will be in worse condition in six months than they are now. And that's a guarantee I can take to the bank (because I'll need the money) and to the periodontist.

*Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.*

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—Robert Frost

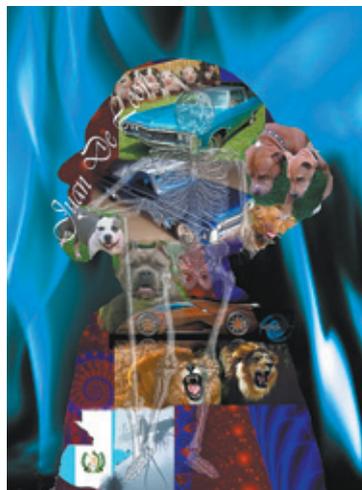
## ART GALLERY



Michael Godek, Horizon ES, kindergarten, Mrs. Dettmer.



Christopher Kang, Horizon ES, kindergarten, Mrs. Dettmer.



Juan De eon, Dominion HS, 12th grade.



Alexis Timus, Dominion HS, 12th grade.

### IN THEIR WORDS

FROM PAGE 4

Money cannot buy my sister, the girl who always shows her friendship.

Money cannot buy my family.

**Keira Womack**  
Third Grade

that is so dear to me is my mom and dad because they always take care of us. The most important thing to me is my whole family which is more than 50 people loving me!

**Mayra Velasquez**  
Third Grade

### Dear To Me

When I was little, I had a dog named Hailey. She was a yellow Labrador. After a few months, my dad gave her to his friend. I really miss her because she used to run with me.

**Kyle Nathanson**  
Third Grade

### Things Dear To Me

One thing about money is that it is really not important. My family is important because they respect me and I respect them. I love them and they love me.

**Mohanned Yasin**  
Third Grade

### Things That Are Dear to Me

The thing that is so dear to me is my little brother, Daniel. Something else

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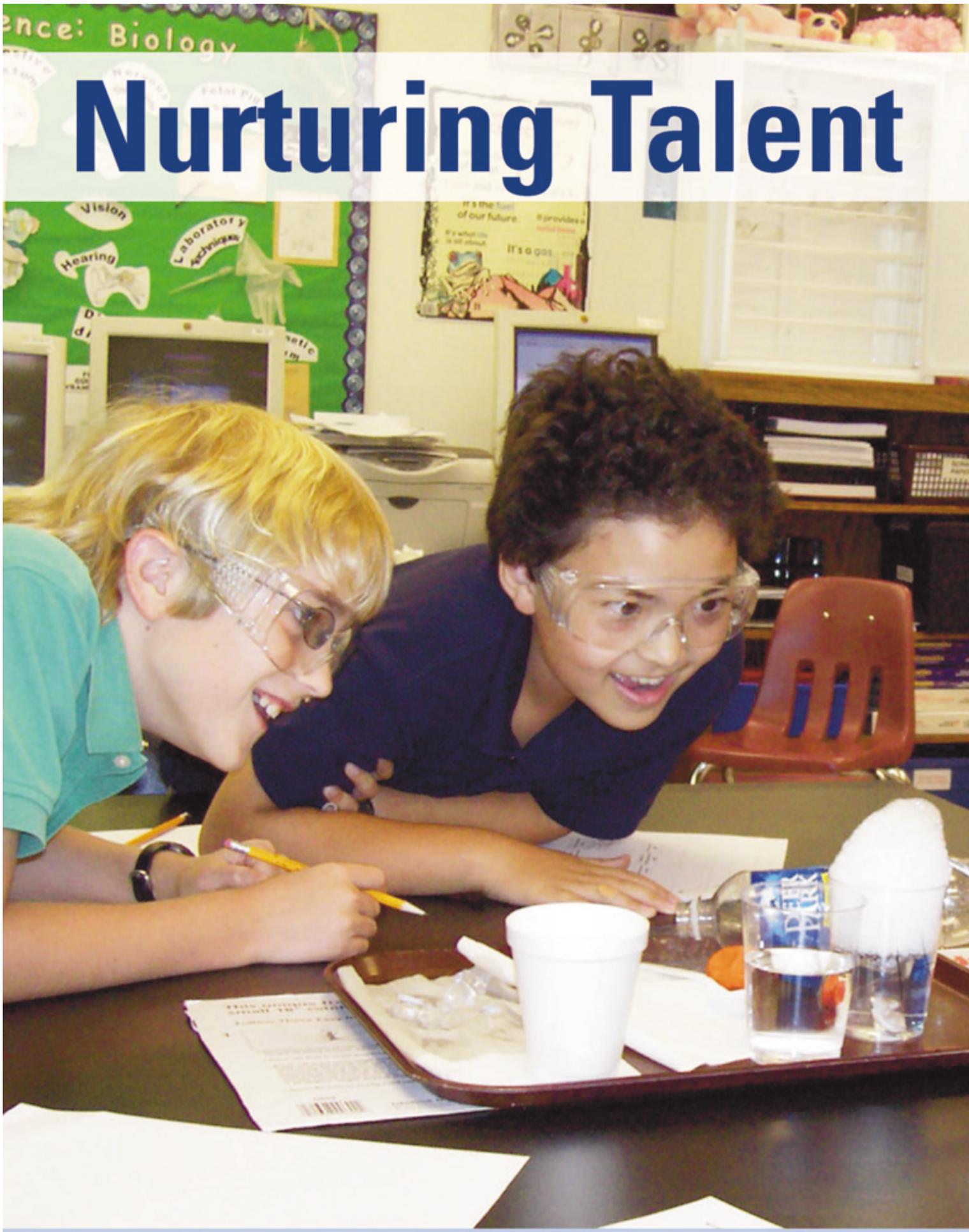


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