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Hannah Cox,
Grade 3,
Bells Mill
Elementary
School

Children's Almanac 2008

DECEMBER 30, 2008-JANUARY 6, 2009 VOLUME LII, NUMBER 53

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CHILDREN'S ALMANAC '08

POTOMAC ALMANAC EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-917-6431 OR POTOMACALMANAC@HOTMAIL.COM
SEE WWW.POTOMACALMANAC.COM



Jack Dellafiora, Grade 4, Bells Mill Elementary School

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Potomac Almanac turns over its pages to the youth and students of its communities.

We asked principals and teachers from local schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue.

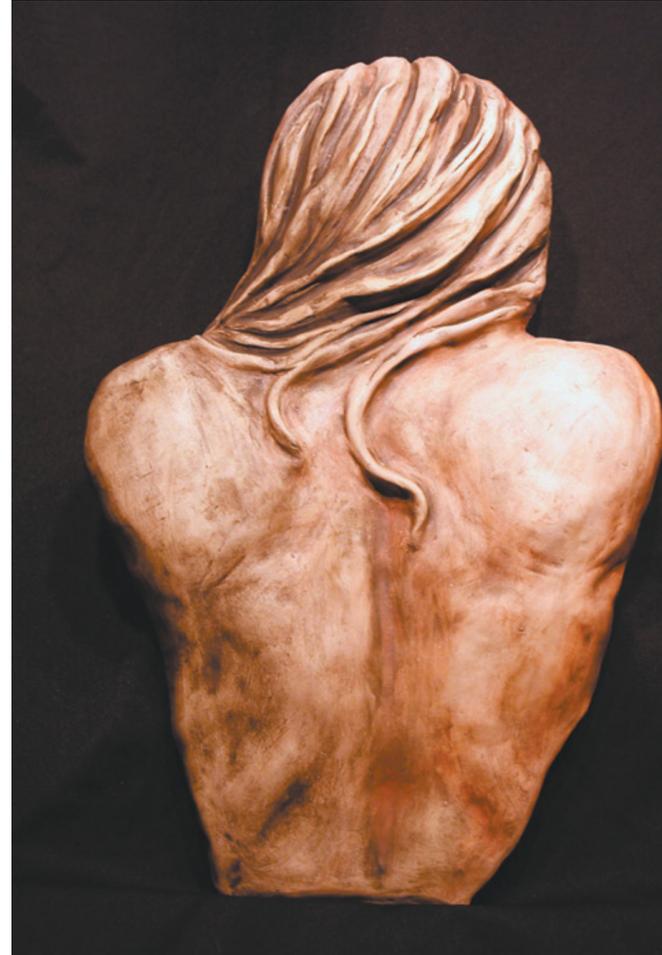
While we are unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We will publish additional student writings and artwork on special pages periodically throughout the new year. We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools

and parents to mark their 2009 calendars for November, when we will ask for submissions for next year's Children's Almanac.

The Children's Issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Almanac 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 Potomac Almanac*, 7913 Westpark Drive, VA 22102 or send e-mail messages to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Assistant Editor Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 or Editor Steven Mauren at 703-917-6431 with any questions.



Human figure relief by Nicole Shorer, Grade 11, Churchill High School



Sebastain Freije, Potomac Elementary School

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Laura Dubus, Grade 4, Beverly Farms Elementary School

POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ CHILDREN'S CONNECTION ♦ 2008 - 2009 ♦ 3

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WORDS & PICTURES



Susanna Yau, Grade 5, The Fourth Presbyterian School



Ginger Looney, Grade 5, The Fourth Presbyterian School

POETRY

Fun on a Snow Day

BELINA PAPAGEORGE AND JACEY MAX, GRADE 4
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Open the door for guests
 Light the menorah on a dark night
 It's snowing it's snowing
 Dancing to music
 Away screams Santa as he and his
 reindeer take off
 Yah! I got the present I wanted
 Stocking hung over the fireplace

Has
 Reading
 In
 Stock
 To
 Make
 A
 Stocking

Thriller
 Every snow every time!
 Real
 Super
 Neat
 Outstanding
 Winter
 Mysterious
 Awesome
 Naomi & Rebeekah

What I Want To Be In 10 Years

BENJAMIN SILLMAN, GRADE 4
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In 10 years from now, I will be 20 years old. I would like to be a football player, because I like to play football. I enjoy playing with my dad in the field every Thursday. I play with my two brothers and other friends and we all together make a team. There are five different teams.

My Teacher's In Mid-air

BY ZOE BOYKIN, GRADE 2
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

My teacher's in mid-air.
 I know I couldn't stare.
 But if I ever did,
 I know she wouldn't care.
 My teacher gave me quite a scare
 When she reached mid-air.

The Winter Story

AUGUSTO IGLESIAS, GRADE 4
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

There was once a little town called Summer. In that town there lived a little boy, his name was Fred. He hated his town because it never snowed. On the 23rd Fred tried to make it snow so the next it could snow because it was Christmas. So he tried but he missed but Santa saw him so Santa made it snow. And Fred started loving his town again.

Winter

ANDREW HONIGMAN, GRADE 4
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

World of Snow
 I get cold
 No School
 Two different holidays
 Easy snowball fights
 Rebuilding snowmen

Dress Warm

BY TEDDY FREEMAN, GRADE 2
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY

It's winter so dress warm. Snow season is here. To be warm you must layer up. First start with your shirt then with your pants, coat and snow pants, boots, mittens, hat and scarf. Winter is here!

Winter Poem

CYRUS SFIRAN, GRADE 4
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

White snow
 Imagination
 Night lights
 Trees, trees, Christmas trees
 Everybody loves snow
 Run, run, he's going to hit you with a snow ball

Priscilla's Acrostic Poem

PRISCILLA-ANN HOLLINGSWORTH, GRADE 4
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wonderful
 Important
 Nice

Acrostic Poem

URIEL GONZALEZ, GRADE 4
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Christmas

Winter Fun

BY MAX KANDEL, GRADE 2
 BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I love the first day of winter because I love when it snows because I get to throw snowballs at my friends! I love going sledding because my driveway is so long the sled goes so fast! I get to make a snowman with my dad and my brother. We use sticks for the arms, it is very easy to find sticks because there are a lot of trees where I live. You can make hot chocolate! Try to have some fun this winter!

IN THE SEA



Molly Olcott, Potomac Elementary School



Aaron Williams, Grade 1, Green Acres School



Abigail Baldwin, Grade 4, Green Acres School. Tide Pools: After studying the work of British artist David Hockney, 4th grade students set out to create the effect of sunlight on water.

Below, Rachel Hyman, Grade 4, Beverly Farms Elementary School



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WORDS & PICTURES

Rose

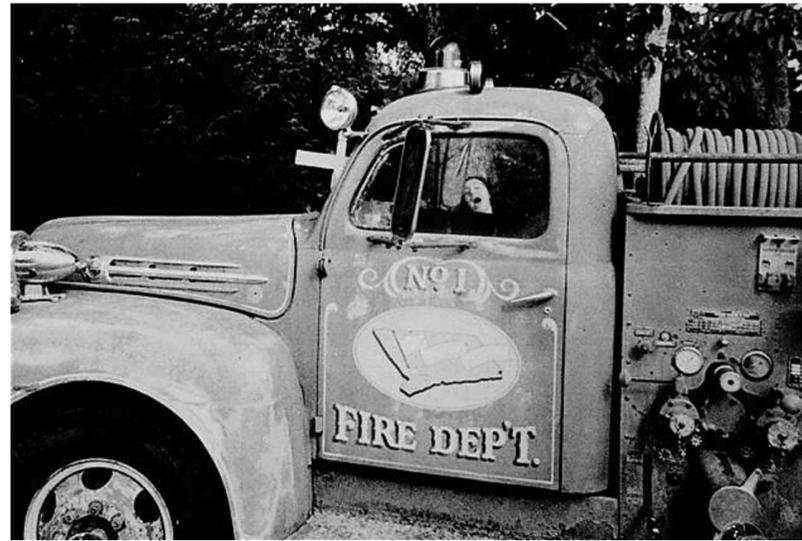
By BRADY BOUDREAU, 5TH
GRADE
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rose, Rose, The beautiful flower.
The key for romance of someone's true love.
It's even better when someone grows one than buy one.
But, who knows the stories of that one rose you have.
But, just wait as that one rose might be coming for you.

The Christmas Tree

By SEBASTIAN FREIJE, 5TH
GRADE
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On and off,
Blink-shut.
Watching those
Lights blinds me of
All around me.
Me, mom, and maybe
Even the covered
Boxes covered in candy
Cane wrappers. Blink-shut.
I watch the magical
Spheres, slowly
Slide down. And
The ribbons riding
The tree, like slow
Sinister snakes, and
The star on top
Master of all other
Blink-shuts. He blinks.
He never shuts.



"Fire Engine" by Hannah Schlaferman, Grade 8, Green Acres School.

Bells Mill Is A Cool School

By LAURA SNELLER, GRADE 2
BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Bells Mill is cool!
There's always friends there!

Bells Mill is a good school!
There's even Bells Mill T-shirts to wear.
Bells Mill is fun school!
The teachers are so nice!
Bells Mill is so cool!
If you don't want your kid to go to Bells Mill think twice!
Bells Mill is a super cool school!

Untitled

By BROOKE BARCLAY,
GRADE 2
BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I'm thankful for my family, my school
and my house. I'm thankful for my

teachers, parent and all the things I have.

I'm thankful for my books, the best one is them all.

I'm thankful for the holidays that I celebrate, the holidays Christmas and Halloween and for my parents, well I think they like to vote.

I'm thankful for my friends and that is probably all.

I Arrive and They Disappear

By BRYAN ENG, AGE 10
CARDEROCK SPRINGS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The circular goodness,
With chocolate chips,
With flavor and freshness.
The melting chocolate and sugar.
They would have been eaten by others,
or shared with a close friend.
But sadly they are eaten,
And gone leaving a jar full of crumbs.
My mouth was directed to it
Eating a bunch at a time.
When the time was right
A monster came out
And ate them all up.
I never hesitate
Taking your flavorful cookies.
I am that creature whose shadow is large
With fangs, who sneaks up to the jar
And skips off with a sticky brown mouth.

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OBJETS D'ART



"Emerging From the Shadows," reliquary by Tal Ayali, Churchill High School



Reliquary by Lara Lieberman, Grade 10, Churchill High School



Canopic A by Gryphon Drake, Grade 11, Churchill High School



Reliquary by Gryphon Drake, Grade 11, Churchill High School

POETRY

From a Star?

By BRYAN ENG, AGE 10
CARDEROCK SPRINGS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

You are a Cyclops with one eye,
Running around and causing destruction.

Was your eye lost in a fight?
Or taken away by another creature.
Is a club your only protection?
Are you vulnerable from someone?
If someone secret did attack you,

Would that cost you a life?
Or perhaps you are your prey
Destroying yourself even now.
And killing things all around you
When your cells and insides die!
You have one eye
And can only see half
Of what an eagle sees,
With its sharp eyes.
Do you remember falling from
An unknown planet
Making craters in the Earth,
Or making friends with other creatures?

Attacking others you don't like.
You are a moving statue
Representing children's nightmares.
We know you as a monster.
But who you belong to
Is a powerful mystery.
How long could you live?
Even with your enemies?
You are a Cyclops with one eye
Running around and causing destruction.
Are you a terror,
Or just here to help me
And show the way?

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WINGED



Amy Li, Grade 5, Beverly Farms Elementary



Rachel Schlager, Grade 2, McLean School of Maryland



Matthew Lukin, Grade 5, Beverly Farms Elementary

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9:00 am Saturday, January 10
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11:00 am The Puzzle of Schools & How Children Learn
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9:00 am Thursday, January 29

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WORDS & PICTURES

BY ABDUL KHANU, GRADE 3
BULLIS SCHOOL

One cold night I woke up from a deep sleep. I heard a soft wind and I saw bright yellow lights that reflected on the shiny, blue water. I ran to see the stars.

BY SAM STASHOWER, GRADE 3
BULLIS SCHOOL

I am on my boogie board, blue water around me, and I'm about to ride a wave as big as a house. It's late afternoon, the sun is low, but the sky is still mostly blue. When I come to the wave, I get lifted like an airplane and then I land and go back to shore. When I get back to shore, I see the tall palm trees, the swaying grass and orange sand.

BY MAYA PINGHO, GRADE 3
BULLIS SCHOOL

My dad woke me up when I was in a deep dream. My family was waiting for me to take a walk. We ambled along the sandy beach, talking about a vacation. The water was cold and calm. The sky was dark blue with stars and a bright moon. Immediately I looked down. I liked the pink shells that were bumpy under my feet.

BY SABRINA HOSMER, GRADE 3
BULLIS SCHOOL

One bright, windy, hot day, my friend and I jumped in to swim in a big, blue wavy lake. The water felt soothing on our bodies. Suddenly we noticed some beautiful fish. Their scales shined as bright as the sky that day. We swam until sunset.

BY CAROLINE ACOCELLA, GRADE 3
BULLIS SCHOOL

On a hot, humid afternoon in June, I was sitting on the smooth warm sand watching the deep blue sea and listening to the crying sea gulls. Under the water there were bright green fish swimming fast. In the background, I noticed trees as tall as giants and clouds as white as snow in the turquoise sky. Next to the tall trees, there were beautiful flowers. It was a calm quiet day at the beach.

BY AMANDA KAY, GRADE 3
BULLIS SCHOOL

On an early spring cloudy afternoon, I was sitting on the warm soft sand making beautiful sand castles covered with colorful sea shells. As I lay back down towards the calm blue ocean, I got sprayed in my mouth by saltwater and it tasted salty. Beside me were strong green trees that smelled minty. Not long after, as I watched the sun go down, I said, "Today was a fun day."

BY NICKY BORDEN, GRADE 3
BULLIS SCHOOL

On a bright early morning in August, I am sitting on a sandy beach with tall trees. In the background, the sun is rising across a calm blue ocean. The beach is sandy and there are no rocks. The waves are a quiet as milk in a cereal bowl. The fluffy white clouds move slowly across the sky.



Carly Bergman, Grade 5, Bells Mill Elementary School

Where in the World Does Poetry Hide?

BY JASMINE N. BATEN, GRADE 5
WAYSIDE ELEMENTARY

In the waves of the deep, dark sea,
Shining in the sun that smiles at me.
In the quick, tiny splashes of the incoming tide,
Where in the world does poetry hide?

In the scent of home sweet home,
In the boiling water's overflowing foam.

In the sound of my parent's long strides,
Where in the world does poetry hide?

On the sparkling pebbles that twinkle and shine,
In the wispy, mystic words of books so fine.

In the morning beams of a sleepy sun,
In the inky, starry sky of a silver full moon.

In something kind of precious,
In something kind of dear,
In someone close and friendly,
In someone nice and near.

On crystal snowflakes of a white, powdery winter,
On cherry blossoms and buds of a lovely spring,
In rays of a scorching hot summer,
In golden leaves of fall, drifting in a graceful string.

Contained in the swelling anger of some unjust affair,
Hiding in the excitement over a gift

wrapped with care,
Sneaking in the melancholy rain of sadness trying to be kept inside,
Where in the world does poetry hide?

Disguised as the sand that a precious pearl surrounds,
Pretending to be a sapphire that makes no sound,
Posing as the fiery glint on a ruby's sides,
Where in the world does poetry hide?

Hiding in the sparkle of a person's delighted eyes,
It's on the tip of your tongue,
It's in your brain that lets you laugh and cry,
In the mind that lets you declare when your poem is finally done.

On the swallows that watch you play at noon,
In the nightingale's song that perches on your bedroom window,
In the wind that swishes by at night,
Where in the world does poetry hide?

Slyly lounging in a lost, pure past,
Speeding into the revolutionary future,
Sitting down in the surprising present,
Finally finding a place at last.

Twining itself in the world around you,
It's in your heart and soul,
One more thing that should be known,
Poetry hides in the fantastic words of your own.

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MYTHIC



Ryan Kaplow, Grade 2, McLean School of Maryland



Brie Ritter, Grade 5, Beverly Farms Elementary School



Kate, Grade 3, Potomac Elementary School



Claire Bork, Grade 8, McLean School of Maryland

Winter

SONYA BERINSTEIN,
GRADE 4
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Snow all around,
Snow angels on the ground.
Icicles hanging the dark of night
Bare trees covered in snow.
Kids laughing as they sleigh down the hills.
I watch as I sip my hot cocoa.
I see Menorahs and Christmas trees glimmering in windows.
I think what a happy and beautiful time winter is.

Sleeping in the Sun

BY NATALIE HWANG,
GRADE 5
WAYSIDE ELEMENTARY

I calmly sleep on the porch hammock
Rocking so softly and light
Basking in the summer sun
No school to my heart's delight

Summer's break is here at last
No burdens, cares, or worries
No spring showers or autumn leaves

Or winter's freezing flurries

My mind is caught in daydreams
My inhibitions gone
My hair blowing in summer breaths
My heart and mind in song

Happily snoring, lightly asleep
That's the main key to fun
Summer's here for another two months

Two months of sleeping in the sun



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WORDS & PICTURES



Elena Milder, Grade 11, McLean School of Maryland

WRITING

Bowling

By BELLA SWAN
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY

Bowling is a lot of fun! My family and sometimes friends go bowling at our local bowling alley. There I eat food, dance, have fun, and of course bowl! My goal is to get at least 5 strikes and 7 spares. Usually, I wear my lucky charm bracelet for good luck. My favorite balls are the pink balls because pink is one of my favorite colors and they are the lightest. My favorite food there is the chips. Bowling is lots of fun for everyone!

Butterfly Flying

By ATOOSA ZARPAK
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY

Butterfly flying high up in the air. When I see you flying I feel like I can fly too. Butterfly you are beautiful when you fly and flap your wings. Butterfly soaring up in the air. You fly like the wind up there.

Butterfly

By MAX BECKER
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY

Butterfly so high in the sky. So many of them go to great heights in the sky. But some go so low on the ground. You are a butterfly in the sky. Don't worry it's not scary, so just fly fly fly. And fly free in the sky.

My Dog Scotty

By CAROLINE MOSHEDI
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY

Scotty is a very good dog. Scotty has never run away. He is a golden retriever. He can play fetch. Scotty is very playful. Scotty is the best dog ever.

How To Play Pool

By ANDREA CAGURANGAN
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY, 1ST GRADE

Pool is a great game. It's like golfing. It has numbers on the balls. I'm good at it. Do you know to play it?

You need a pool triangle and pool stick.

Step 1: Put the balls in the pool triangle.

Step 2: Take the triangle out and get the white ball. Aim it at the balls and shoot. Then your friend goes, and if she or he gets it in look which one you got.

Step 3: You get the black last in.

Don't hit people with the stick. Practice so you can get better. If it doesn't work, you can use chalk.

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Christmas

By NIKITA
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY, 3RD GRADE

Stockings having on the wall,
Christmas trees so bright and tall,
Santa Claus says ho, ho, ho,
Presents tied with a big red bow.
Small white snow is on a tree,
Children shouting out with glee.
This is how great Christmas can be,
If you look closely I'm sure you will see!

Butterfly

By SAMANTHA SCARDELLETTI
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY

Butterfly soar so gracefully in the air.
How did you get so high up there? I saw
you flying most of the day, I told my

friend, he couldn't believe it. You know what he said? He said, "No way." What's that, is it really time to go? Do you have to fly to Mexico?

How To Plant A Plant

By KIMBERLY LU
POTOMAC ELEMENTARY, 1ST GRADE

Plants are pretty decorations. Plants can smell fresh in houses. When they grow they get prettier. It might grow fast or slow. You can put it in your room. It will be a good idea to put in worms.

Dirt, water, seed, cup, paper.
First you pour some dirt. Then you put a lima bean in. Put 8 drops of water everyday. Put it near a window. Make it have very less dirt or soil. Make sure to put a piece of paper under the plant.

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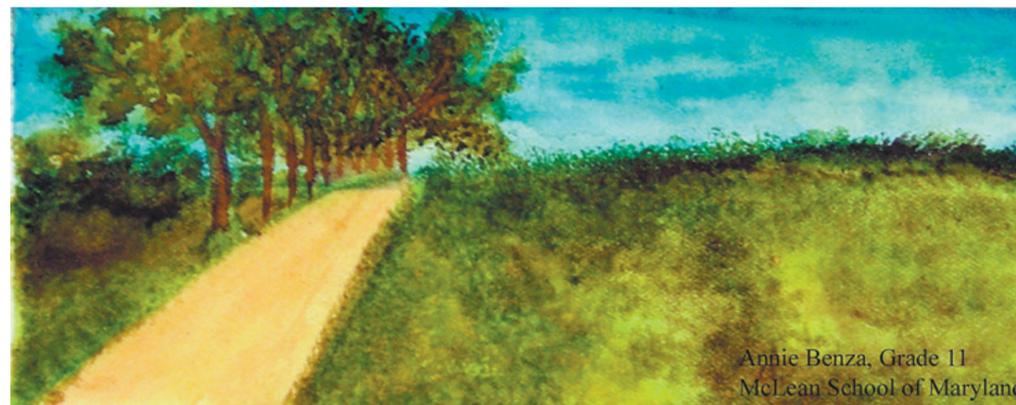
NATURE



Ally Ruvo, Potomac Elementary School



Gabriel Zimbler, Grade 1, Green Acres School. Borrowing from the ideas of Eric Carle, 1st grade students created their own paper, which they cut and glued to create collage insects.



Annie Benz, Grade 11, McLean School of Maryland



Apple in acrylics by David Pitts, Grade 6, Woods Academy



Joanne Nah, Grade 5, The Fourth Presbyterian School



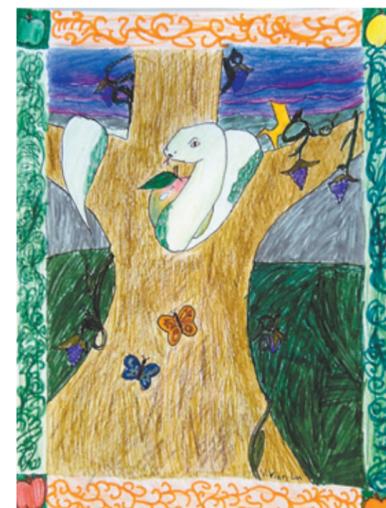
Sheep in acrylics by Annie Virostek, Grade 7, Woods Academy



Maya Bosse, Kindergarten, Ritchie Park Elementary School



Alex Crowe, Grade 7, McLean School of Maryland



Vivian Lu, Grade 5, Beverly Farms Elementary School



David Levy, Grade 4, Beverly Farms Elementary School



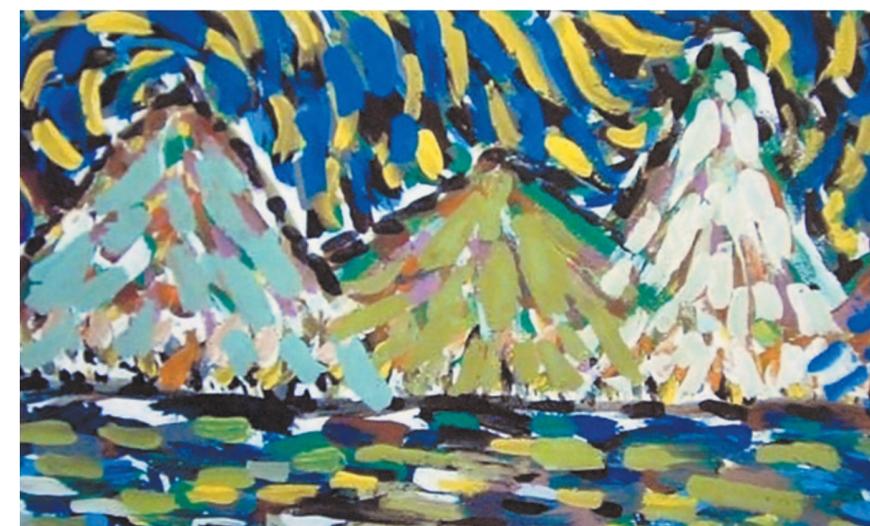
Mariam Jiffar, Grade 5, Beverly Farms Elementary School



Oceanscape in chalk by Patrick Todd, Montessori, Woods Academy



Tiger by Ellen S., Grade 2, Norwood School



Jack Stern, Grade 4, Bells Mill Elementary School

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Julia L. 15, Connelly School of the Holy Child



Darya Aliakbar, Potomac Elementary School



Ballerina by Alva Strand of Potomac, a senior at Lycee Rochambeau, the French International School.



Moore, 12, Connelly School of the Holy Child



"Statue" by Alex Kacher, Grade 8, Green Acres School.



Emilie Butchko, Potomac Elementary School



Natalie Mc., 17, Connelly School of the Holy Child

WORDS & PICTURES

Ten Ways of Looking at A Penguin

BY LAUREN ENG, AGE 10
CARDEROCK SPRINGS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Penguin
A short, small-headed, big body, black and white bird
Staring straight at you
The Penguin
Screaming, "Eek!" as it's pushed into the sea by his loved ones.
The Penguin
Among the snowy, white hills you see a penguin leaping off
Into the deep, dark depths of the ocean
Surrounded by his eager family
The Penguin
Dreaming of soaring in the air like every other bird he knows
The Penguin
Shrieking in melancholy as his precious egg rolls away
The Penguin
Swimming in an underwater wonder
Seeing tons of schools of fish
But then ... he sees a leopard seal ... and it sees him too
The Penguin
Being chased by a leopard seal onto the ice
The Penguin
Just fast enough to overcome the vicious seal's speed
The Penguin
His sleek, smooth body wet with water
The Penguin



Madeleine Morris, Grade 6, The Fourth Presbyterian School

This magnificent creature beautiful, endangered,
And lightning-fast in water

Taking the Cookie from the Cookie Jar

BY LAUREN ENG, AGE 10
CARDEROCK SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I took that tasty morsel of a cookie
Putting it in my mouth
Yum!

But
Oh no!
Mom's coming!
Hide!
Whoosh!
Bang!
"Ow!"
"Lauren?"
Ahhhh!
Get out of here!
Help!
Run!
Move!
Bump! Bump! Bump!
In my room!
Slam! Safe!
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WORDS & PICTURE

Oh Boy, Here We Go!

BY SAMANTHA KLEIN
GRADE 4

"I really don't want to go on the upside-down roller-coaster!" I said to my mom, aunts, and uncle. I was practically yelling it because it was SO loud! I was at Hershey Park for Hershey-Park-in-the-Dark! "I'll pay you \$5 if you go on," my Aunt Lauren said. "I still don't want to go on," I said under my breath. I didn't want to go on because I was terrified! I was scared I was going to fall off! Ah! "Come on Samantha and Jordyn," my Uncle Steve said.

My cousin, Jordyn was scared, also. "Come on, Jordyn I'll go on if you go on!" I said bravely. I could tell Jordyn had to think about going on because after I said that she hesitated. "Fine," she said. We said bye to our moms, and my Uncle Steve, Jordyn, and I went running to get in line. While we were running in line I was panting. Boy was I nervous.

When we finally got to the back of the line, with my luck there was basically no line. We had to wait about five minutes, and we were on. Uh-oh we were on. Jordyn and I sat next to each other and my uncle was sitting right behind us. My second upside-down roller-coaster I've ever been on! We were all belted in. I am terrified I thought to myself! I wonder what Jordyn and Uncle Steve were thinking.

We were all ready, finally! I opened my eyes one or two times and one time I was upside down! Ewe! The ride finally ended! We ran to our mom's and told them all about it! That was quite an experience, an interesting one, though! It was interesting because I went upside-down! I faced my fear of going upside-down! I will always remember Hershey Park! The most fun amusement park, ever!

Death

BY JAMIE KATZ, GRADE 6
HOLTON ARMS

Death is when you are no more, when all of your dreams go out the door, but it also is a new beginning, it is a brand new start of something.

You move on to another place, with another body, another face. Another life, world, and beating heart, a new planet, looks, and a brand new start.

Your family is joining you, little by little, it is not happy, not sad, but in the middle.

I'm not scared because you keep moving on, you never really die, but your body is gone.

A Fall Day

BY NATALIE PERRY, GRADE 6
HOLTON ARMS

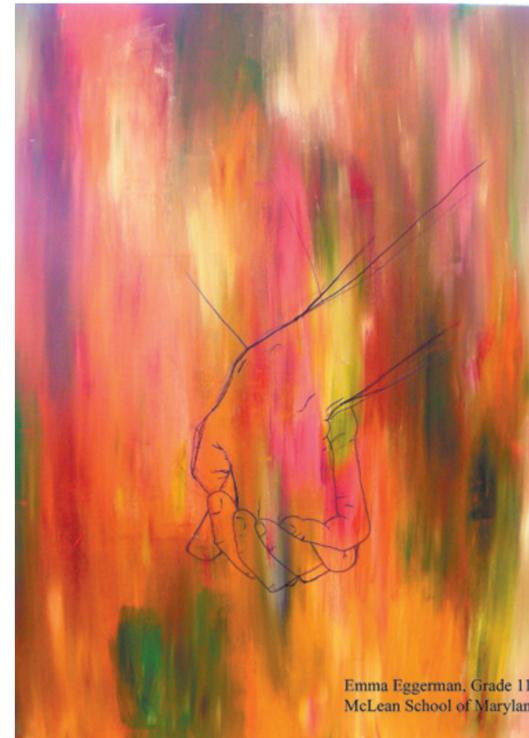
The crisp, chilly air gently caresses my pink cheeks and nose as I walk out to recess.

It hasn't been very long since school started but long enough that the bright green leaves have turned into crimson, honey, coffee, gold and a hazy orange.

I look up to the overcast sky and hug my navy blue sweatshirt just a little tighter.

The sound of laughter is almost deafening coming from a game of freeze play and some girls acting silly.

As I start running, tears sting my eyes



Emma Eggerman, Grade 11
McLean School of Maryland

Emma Eggerman, Grade 11, McLean School of Maryland

and the wind hurts my ears
but I ignore it.
I slow down, seeing my breath come out like fog.

We start building leaf piles speckled with color and joyously screaming.
All too soon, the bell rings and recess is over.

As I look back, I see the playground, once so full of laughter,
but now desolate and deserted
as if no one had touched it.

Ashley

BY ASHLEY WILLARD,
GRADE 6
HOLTON ARMS

I am athletic, special, humorous,
loopy (sometimes), energetic, and young
ATHELETIC because I love sports,
wind through my hair,
so fast my ears scream with the motion,
legs a blur, heart racing

I am athletic, special, humorous,
loopy (sometimes), energetic, and young
SPECIAL because I am myself,
proud, expressive with my clothing,
friendly to everyone and beautiful
inside as well as out,
yet faithful to all I believe in

I am athletic, special, humorous,
loopy (sometimes), energetic, and young
HUMOROUS because I can laugh with anyone,
can find a reason to always be happy,
I am funny at times, yet can still laugh at my own mistakes,
joyful when I am with friends who will laugh along side me

I am athletic, special, humorous,

loopy (sometimes), energetic, and young
LOOPY when I have too much sugar,
almost hysterical,
almost everything is a cause for a joke,
calming down a force to reckon with

I am athletic, special, humorous,
loopy (sometimes), energetic, and young
ENERGETIC when I feel I am needed,
unbelievably hard to make me step down,
my voice proud and clear,
not afraid to be heard

I am athletic, special, humorous,
loopy (sometimes), energetic, and young
YOUNG, even though responsibilities age me,
maturing my actions,
not always the way I feel,
inside I am smaller than I look, vulnerable

Eleven

BY CAROLINE MCTAGGART,
GRADE 6
HOLTON ARMS

There is just something special about being 11.
Whether it is turning 11 or being 11 it is special.

You are older than a decade, and accustomed to the double digits.
Your fingers are useless for showing your age, and you are a palindrome.

Only every 11 years your age is a palindrome
a number that can be read the same forward or backwards.

There is something wonderful about 11,
I can tell you now, I am 12.

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POETRY

For Everyone

WILL B., GRADE 7
NORWOOD SCHOOL

The perfect holiday present,
Inspiring love from nature,
A gift for everyone,
Each utterly unique,
And each exquisitely similar,
They fall,
Together,
Yet apart, like you,
And me.
Each one, as perfect as a diamond,
All making a delicate pillow, as soft as down,
For the next.
A soothing picture,
Without sound,
A slideshow of paintings,
Never to be seen again,
Perfect, different, right, calm, soothing, balanced, touching,
Mother Nature at work,
For everyone.

Brr

BY MICHAEL O., GRADE 7
NORWOOD SCHOOL

Brr!
Freezing
Cold runs deep in the skin
When even hot chocolate can't fix it, you know
you're in trouble
Angry, terrifying blizzards rage
Try to be warm
It's hard
Just looking at the chilling weather

Your red blood turns a deep purple, and you pull
your warm clothes tight
Wrap a thick, big scarf around your head
Before you turn blue
Wear gloves
Don't even think about going outside
It's always much more freezing than you think
The roads are slippery, the winds whip, and you
are stuck in your own home
Wrap yourself up in your safe, warm bed
Cover yourself, and drift slowly away
Like all the powdery white snow
As it blows in the cold breeze
In the freezing outdoors
Let warmth consume
Cold won't win
Brr!

The First Snowfall

BY MATTHEW K., GRADE 7
NORWOOD SCHOOL

As the pure soft snow falls,
As the brown stiff grass dies,
The warm air turns cold,
And the small child sighs.

By the fire's red glow,
In the king bed mom lies,
But sly dad's too excited,
He opens his eyes.

The grand house is quiet,
As dad sneaks out the door,
Young brother wakes up.
With his eyes very sore.

But when he sees dad,
Making tasty snow pies,
He smiles and he thinks,
What a sight for sore eyes.

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have something
to say

I came here not really knowing what to expect, but now, looking back, I realize that I couldn't really see the person I would become. Because of everything I've learned at Madeira, I've started to become the person I always wanted to be.

”

Nelly

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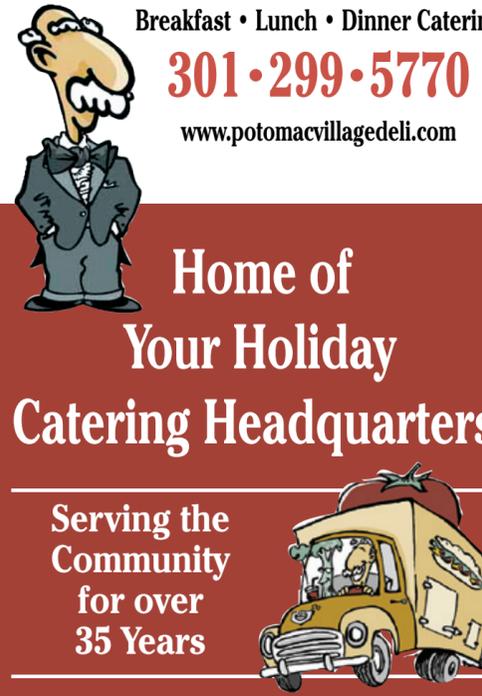




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WORDS & PICTURES



Bettina Papageorge and Jacey Max, Grade 4, Bells Mill Elementary



Caroline Braviak, Grade 6, Green Acres School. Using a technique called blind contour drawing students drew their classmates without looking down and without taking their pens off the page.



Peter Durand, Potomac Elementary



Andy Struss-Reiss, Kindergarten, Potomac Elementary School: It was windy. We were fishing a fish. A person left his dad. We saw the sun. There were clouds. We had fun. We ate.

POETRY

What is the Best Part of Thanksgiving?

HANNA JIA, AGE 11
 HERBERT HOOVER
 MIDDLE SCHOOL

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?
 Mom says, "It is the sweet smells of a pumpkin pie baking in the hot oven."

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?
 Dad says, "It is a good football game on a new plasma screen TV."

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?
 Sister says, "It is the great delicious Thanksgiving feast."

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?
 Brother says, "It is the time when my friends and I play video games in the basement."

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?
 Uncle says, "It is the days off I get from work."

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?

Aunt says, "It is the discount you can get off on things when you go shopping."

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?
 Cousin says, "It is the ice on the pond perfect for skating."

What is the best part of Thanksgiving?
 I say, "It is the thing that matters the most — friends and family that care about you the best."

My Holiday

ASHLYN BANNER, AGE 11
 HERBERT HOOVER
 MIDDLE SCHOOL

We're getting ready for thanksgiving
 Cutting apples for apple pie
 Baking the turkey in the oven
 Putting marshmallows on the sweet potatoes

My mom would say, "I did the same thing when I was a kid."

When the turkey is ready, we all cheer
 I help set up the table for all my guests
 (My mom carries the turkey, of course)

When the guests arrive we all grab a plate
 Fill it up with lots of food
 We finish it up with a big grin
 Later on we clear the table

Our guests start to leave
 All we hear is thanks so much see you next time
 Everyone hates when it's over
 We can't wait until next Thanksgiving

What a Feast!

GIL JACOBSON, AGE 12
 HERBERT HOOVER
 MIDDLE SCHOOL

We
 Are on
 The farm in
 Albany with Relatives and
 Family, we go outside to
 Hunt a bird and go on
 An Adventure, we return home with quite

The bird and 27 feathers we bring it
 In and cook it up so it can be
 Edible, then we go and sit and relax while

The bird is roasting, one by one the feathers cook

And it becomes our dinner, it is 3:00, the
 Feast's approaching and it is time to eat

The turkey, we sit at the table
 And look at the wonderful feast
 We have created, on the table there is Turkey
 Stuffing, Potato Kugel
 Sweet Potatoes
 And
 Dessert

POETRY

“Where Poems Hide”

BY KATE VARGO
WAYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Poems hide in the tip of the new, fresh marker, and they fly away when you open it.

Poems hide in the binding of the old book in the dusty basement, and they sink into the ground when you pull it off the shelf.

Poems hide in the painting in the attic, and they scurry away into the spider webs when you take it off the wall.

Poems hide in the faucet of the sink, and when you wash your hands, they trickle down the drain.

Poems hide in the darkness, where no one will find them.

Shed some light and look for them.

Poems and Places

BY DEVIN BAJAJ
WAYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Where do you think, a poem would be?

Stuck like a cat, up a tree?
Enjoying a ride, on the wings of a bee.

Where do you think, a poem would stay?

In a five star hotel, a mile away?
Or even by the one and only, Tokyo Bay.

Where do you think, a poem would roam?

In the bathtub, surrounded by foam?
Maybe in the hat, of your garden gnome.

Where do you think, a poem would explore?

Maybe at the beach, or in mines filled with ore?
In the page of a book, about folklore.

Where then, might a poem hide?
At the foot of a cliff, under the tide?
Going to Alaska, hitchhiking a ride.

“Where Do Poems Hide?”

BY JESSICA DING
WAYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Where do poems hide?
If you ask a swimmer, they might say poems hide in their tough workout.

Where do poems hide?
If you ask a musician, they might say poems hide in their superb music.

Where do poems hide?
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Where do poems hide?
If you ask a teacher, they might say poems hide in the messy classroom closet at the end of the day.

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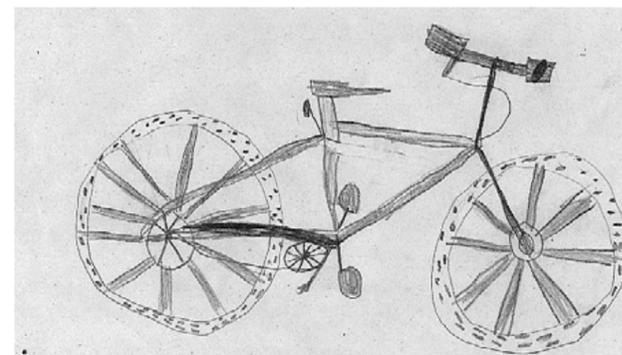
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Grade 6,
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Julia Myers,
Grade 2,
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HOLIDAYS

POETRY

My Holiday Poem

By JULIA McDERMOTT,
AGE 11
HOOPER MIDDLE

We are on our way
To the good old state of NJ
When we arrive people's voices are merry
Because a sauce that tastes of cranberry
Will be served at the feast tonight.
All the children have excitement in their eyes
When a bell rings and a baby cries
And everyone is called to the table
Where we are able to feast and feast until our
bellies are full
On savory stuffing, juicy turkey from the roast
And we like to see who can eat the most
Of potatoes of white and orange and brown
In the whole room, there is not a single frown
When the homemade pumpkin pies are
passed around
And once everyone is served, there is only the
sound
Of anyone gladly chewing
A strange feeling is suddenly brewing
Though everyone is tremendously cheery,
Blissful and content, they are also a bit weary
Of family and friends and good food,
Why everyone has fallen into the mood
Of being grateful, they are living,
That's exactly the mood of Thanksgiving!

Christmas Haiku

By KYLE ZONGHETTI,
AGE 11
HOOPER MIDDLE

Bells ringing very loud
Waiting for Santa to come
People giving gifts

The Man in the Red Suit (Santa Claus)

By ANDREW MARDERS,
AGE 11
HOOPER MIDDLE

Ho Ho Ho
There he goes
Down the chimney
With a shimmy
Giving toys to all
A boy a ball
A girl a doll

As fast as he came
Poof he's gone
Off to do the same
For all



John Shay, age 12, Herbert Hoover Middle



Grant Haskins, age 11, Herbert Hoover Middle



Aaron Fogelson, Mrs. Dryman's class,
Wayside Elementary



Vasiliki,
Wayside Elementary

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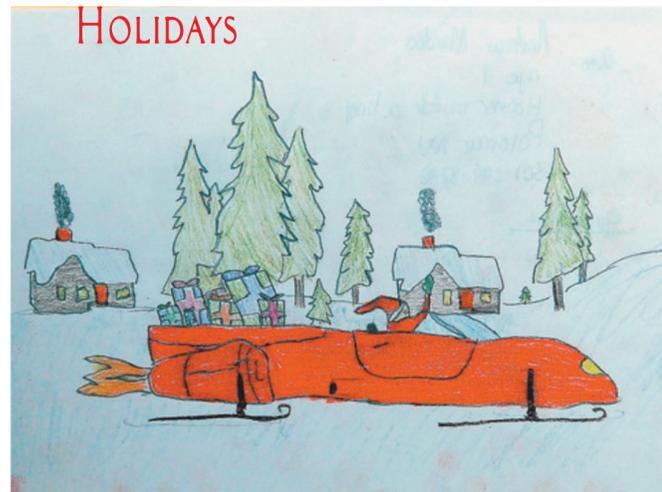
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Andrew Marders, age 11, Herbert Hoover Middle

ESSAY

Eid al-Adha

BY ADAM STAMBOULI

Eid al-Adha is a holiday in the Islamic calendar (also the lunar calendar) celebrating Abraham's loyalty to God by willingly sacrificing his son for the Almighty. A lot of Muslims finish their pilgrimage from Hajj that day. My favorite holiday is Eid al-Adha because I get gifts (money) from people, we eat good food at the feast and, finally, I like to wear my nicest clothes on that day to go to pray in the mosque.

To show their respect, Muslims give a present to their closest friend's youngest kids on this holiday. I normally get \$70.00. I love getting money from people because, afterwards, my parents take me GameStop and I can get a video game for one of my consoles. Last year, I got Madden '08 for the Wii. This year, Eid is going to be December 8th and I am going to get Guitar Hero: World Tour. That is what I do with the money I get in Eid.

For lunch and dinner that day, we eat our lamb that we sacrificed in the morning. As soon as the men come back from the mosque, we all help in sacrificing the lamb

(also camels, cows and goats if we can't afford it) and eat it. My mom's seasoning and spices join in harmony and it's delicious. For dessert, we eat Arabian sweets that my mom prepared the night before Eid al-Adha. The feast on the day of Eid al-Adha is delicious.

In the morning on Eid al-Adha, the men wake up at six and go pray at the mosque. We have to wear our nicest clothes to go and pray. My dad and I go to the Washington, D.C. Islamic Cultural Center, or just the I.C.C. In the mosque, before we start praying, we have to repeat: "In the name of God" and "God is the greatest" in Arabic. Then we pray and after the prayer we make a small donation for a good cause. That is why I like to go to the mosque on Eid al-Adha.

Eid al-Adha brings Muslims from all over the world to unite and make peace. I like Eid al-Adha because of the food, the presents and the prayer in the mosque. Eid is the second and last Eid of the year (the first is Eid al-Fitr). It is a shame not to have everyone a Muslim to celebrate Eid!

Adam Stambouli of Potomac is a Grade 8 student at Lycee Rochambeau, French International School.

POETRY

My Christmas Gift

BY CHRIS HALLOCK, AGE 11
HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

I was sitting at the fireplace
next to the Christmas tree,
thinking of the different ways
to be good as I can be.

I had to be good because
Christmas is coming soon,
but then I realized
something that afternoon.

I was imagining my cool new bike,
because then I could have some fun,
but I was also recalling
all the bad things I have done.

Mr. Erickson's broken window,
caused by my fireworks in the shed,
and Ms. Smith's cat,
who is unfortunately now dead.

But now I'm thinking that
I might still have a chance
to get a good gift this year
instead of a pair of pants.

I will repay all of my neighbors
that I have caused trouble to,
and then Santa could see
all the good things I could do.

I paid for Mr. Erickson's window
with some money I had earned,
and Ms. Smith a new cat,
that for a long time she had yearned.

And then came Christmas Eve,
and I was not nervous in any way,
because I knew that Santa saw me
when I did good deeds that day.

Then the very next morning,
I sprinted downstairs with glee,
and there, in the garage,
was a new bike just for me!

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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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