

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

VOL. CCXXV, No. 52

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DECEMBER 29, 2009

Lauren Ashkenazi,
Alexandria
Country Day School



*Children's
Gazette Packet
2009*

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CHILDREN'S GAZETTE PACKET 2009

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Gazette Packet turns over its pages to the youth and students.

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

The response as always was enormous. While we were 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 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 2010 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Gazette Packet. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

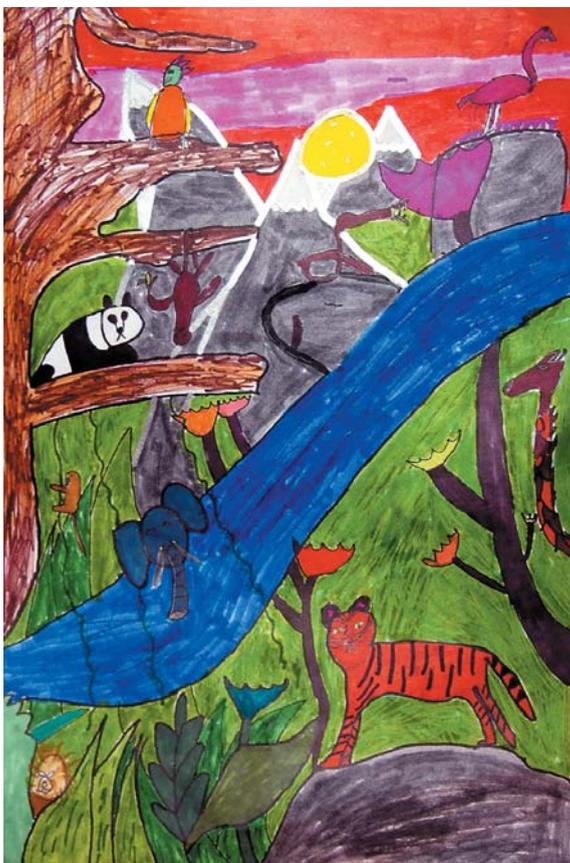
The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Gazette Packet welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

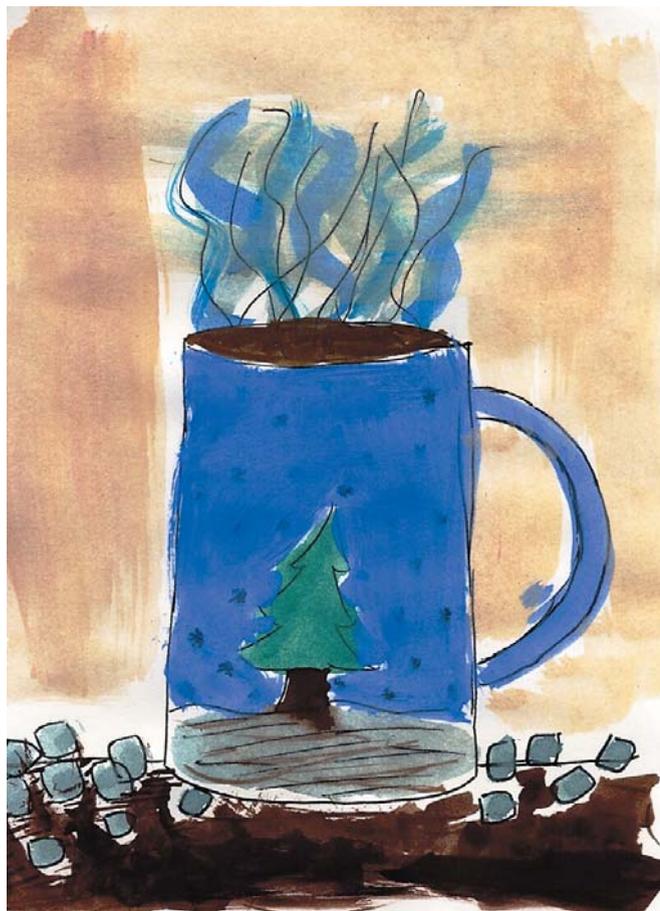
— EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN



**Ben DeVine, 10, 4th grade,
Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy**



**Eva V. Phelps, age 9, 4th Grade,
Georgetown Day School, Alexandria**



**Abby Miller, 5th grade,
Alexandria Country Day School**



**Veronica Najarro, 4th grade,
Polk Elementary School**

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A Special Tribute

My mom is my super hero. She does everything for me. She motivates me to excel in everything I do. She make sure that I'm trying my best to be the best that I can be. My mom is hardworking, funny, and independent.

To begin with, my mom is the most hardworking person in the world. My mom wakes up every morning at seven o'clock to be at work by eight. Some days she work a 12-hour shift. My mom is the director at the Mott Community Center in Fairfax. Being a director comes with a lot of responsibility and I believe my mom is doing a great job at it.

On top of her being a director and having to work a lot, she always finds time for me, she is my personal chauffeur, tutor, cook, house keeper and most importantly my cheerleader. Even with her demand career she rarely misses a game, concert, or conference.

Secondly, I believe that my mom is the funniest person that I know. She always makes funny comments. Another thing that's funny about my mom is that she tells the truth all the time. Once my friend spent the night at my house and was singing in the bathroom and my mom was like "girl you need to stay in school because your singing career might not be successful." I was laughing so hard because I thought it was hilarious. My mom is the only mom I know that speaks like a teenager. Trust me when your mom is speaking like you there is a problem but all you can do is laugh.

Lastly, my mom is a independent woman. She has her own house that she pays the bills for. My mom drives her own car that she had for ten years now. She loves that car with all her heart. My mom is a single parent. She has been taking care of me for thirteen years.

In conclusion, My mom is hardworking, funny, and independent. She is a busy business lady with two jobs; work, and taking care of me. My mom will always make you laugh with her great sense of humor. Also she does whatever she needs to do all by herself to live. My mom is a once in a life-



**Isabella Hubble, 3rd grade,
Alexandria Country Day School**

time mother that everybody would want to have in their life.

— SIERRA TURNER

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Tribute To A Loving Father"

"You are my hero dad you're my secure foundation. When I think of you, I'm filled with love and fond appreciation," Joanna Fuchs. I know my father loves me by the smile on his face when I see him. My father is the person that helps me cope with all the drama from my mama. My father can be over protective especially when it comes to boys. A special person in my life is my father, because he is caring, loving, and fun to be around.

Firstly, a special person in my life is my father, because he is caring. He makes sure I have everything I want and need. He talks to me about my problems he is very involved in my life. I didn't always feel like he cared. But in these past couple of years he's shown that he really does care. He is my since of support and I feel comfortable talking to him about almost everything.

Additionally, a special person in my life is my father, because he is loving. Almost every day I get a text or a call from him saying how much he loves me. They are the inspiration for me to have a good day. If I were to get in trouble he would listen to my side of the story and not just come to conclusions. He makes time in his busy schedule to see me at least once a week and the days I don't see him we talk on the phone.

Furthermore, a special person in my life is my father, because he is fun to be around. Most of the time we are together we are having a good time laughing and joking around. I love the time we share even if we're just watching the game. We go go-cart racing, to the movies or out to eat a lot. We have so much fun together.

In conclusion, a special person in my life is my father, because he is caring, loving, and fun to be around. He cares about what I do and if I'm doing well or not. He is lov-



**Lauren Ashkenazi, 5th grade,
Alexandria Country Day School**

ing; he shows me that he loves me all the time. He is fun to be around, especially when we are having a good time just relaxing in the house. I love my father and I love to be with him.

— SIERRA TURNER

GRADE 8,

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Tribute To My Father

Someone who is very influential on my life is my dad. He not only is my father, but he is my friend. I always know I can go to him when I have a problem. However, he always knows when to put his foot down when the situation calls for it. I can only hope that when I am older, my attitude toward myself and toward others mirrors his. My dad has many qualities that make him the obvious choice for a tribute; these include his ability to listen to people, his dedication to everything he does, and his fathering ability.

Firstly, my dad is a great listener. Whenever an incident occurs in my life, be it good or bad, he will listen and give me his feedback. Sometimes life brings about drama, and middle school doesn't make matters any

better, and I need someone to talk to. He'll also listen to me when I explain homework that I need help with to him. This can be very helpful because I often need help in school.

Secondly my dad is dedicated. I have seen him miss about three days of work because he was sick. To me that is dedication, for no matter how bad my dad was feeling he would just put his brave face on and drive to work. He also won't stop working until a job is done. I will never forget the time that my dad couldn't fix our front door. He stayed up until 3 a.m. tinkering with it until he finally fell asleep on his toolbox.

Thirdly, my dad is a great father. He would do anything for his family. He, also, knows how to apply rules fairly without being harsh, which I think is very important. Many teens resent their parents, but I am fortunate enough to have a laid back father who I can tell everything to. He would support us until he is on his death bed.

In conclusion, my dad has many qualities that make him the obvious choice for a tribute; these include his ability to listen to people, his dedication to everything he does, and his fathering ability. My dad is one of those rare people who you meet once and feel the ever flowing warmth he spreads to everyone who has met him. Some people joke and say "You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your relatives." Well, I would probably pick my dad to father me if given the chance.

— KACEY SUMTER

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Admiration

A person that I admire is my guitar instructor. My guitar instructor's name is Steve. He teaches at the Del Ray School of Music, also known as the Acoustic Axis. Steve is the current owner of the store. He has been playing his entire life, since when he was about 12. Steve is a master guitar player, an extraordinary teacher, and a great person.

First, Steve is the best guitar player I know. He can look at any solo and play it when he has never even seen it before. He knows how to apply music theory into any chord at any second. He once told me that he was always figuring out his other band members' parts for them because they could not read music as well as he could. To me, he is definitely one of the best guitar players in the state.

Secondly, Steve is a awesome teacher. He can be funny, but still teach very well at the same time. That makes the lessons a lot more fun. He doesn't just tell you what you are doing wrong, but how to correct your wrong-doings, why it is wrong, and why this is the right way. Instead of just sitting there working out of a book, we also do exciting things. Some of them are playing a rock song of our choice, having recitals in front of a large crowd, and playing songs for the occasion (for example, Christmas songs during Christmas).

Additionally, Steve is a great person. He knows how to handle things all the time. He can run a store, give lessons to about 10

SEE WORDS & PICTURES, PAGE 17



**Charlotte Taylor,
Alexandria Country Day School**

WORDS & PICTURES

The Christmas

John Burtwad got up in the morning really tired. His eyes popped out from what he remembered, it's Christmas Eve! Excited, he ran out of the room right into the slammed door, not paying any attention that it was closed.

"Owwwwwwwwwwwwww!!!" he screamed. He hit his head on the door and was hopping around and fell on the floor. John's day was not starting off well. His toe and face were as red as an apple. He was almost crying, but remembered it was Christmas Eve, who could feel that bad? This time, John opened the door and walked through it like any normal person. He found his brother, Abe, who was supposed to be brushing his teeth, but he was dancing and singing.

"Ohh, ohh, ahh ... it's almost Christmas! Oh, Abe.

Presents! Santa! Tree! C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S. All the birdies agree that Christmas is the best. Yeah," sang Abe.

"Abe, brush your teeth and stop singing," called Mom.

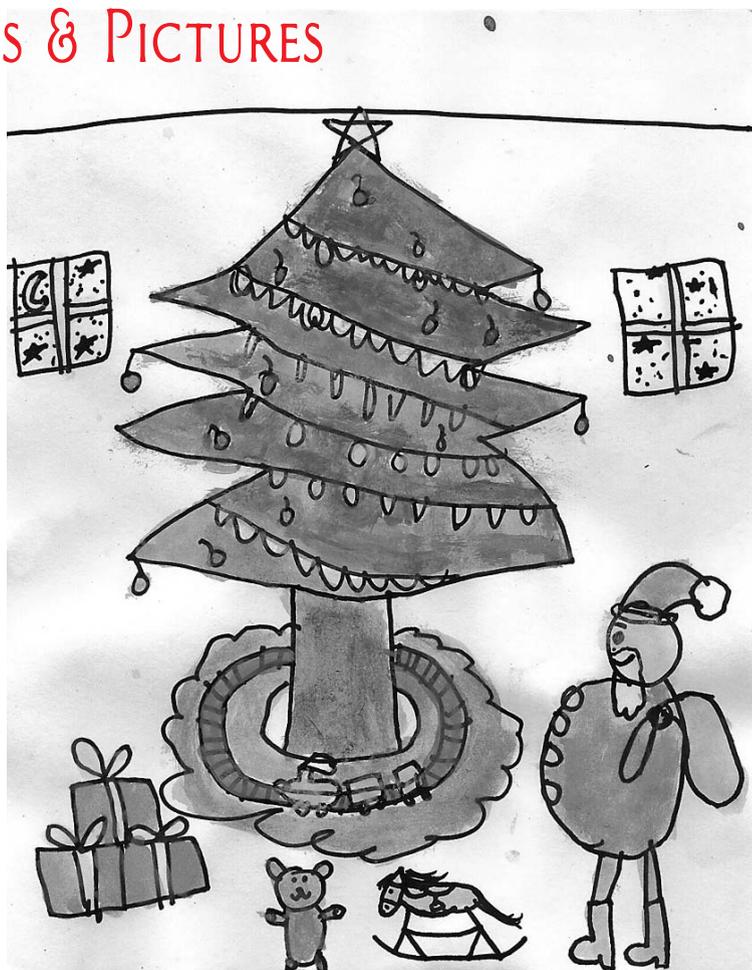
John put on his shoes, coat, and scarf and ran out of the house to his friend's house. A fresh coat of snow was on the ground. "Snowball Fight!" yelled John. George and John had a huge fight throwing snowballs at each other. George fell down, but luckily was not hurt.

It was lunch time and both boys heard their moms calling them to come in. John ran to his house where lunch was on the table. He sipped his hot soup right up. John decided to do some of his homework so he could play with his new toys that he would get tomorrow. Do you believe John's teacher gave them homework over Winter break? In fact, he had an avalanche of homework. It took John five hours to complete the homework. It was time for bed and dream about tomorrow — Christmas.

John woke up and he opened the door this time before he ran out of the room. He ran straight to the Christmas tree where a bunch of presents were stuffed under the tree. He ripped open each one and marveled how each one got better and better.

"Yep," he said to himself, "this is the best Christmas ever."

— JANAKA MILES
GRADE 4
JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL



**Cameron Wallace, 5th grade,
Alexandria Country Day School**

The Christmas Hat

Our story begins in Washington, D.C., 12 nights before Christmas. A little girl is walking with her mom. "Mommy, I'm hot" she whines. So the little girl takes off her hat and stuffs it in her pocket. She stops with her mom to look in the shop windows, and as she walks her hat falls out of her pocket.

A homeless man stoops down to pick it up. He looks it over once then immediately puts it on. He slowly walks to a park bench to begin his cold, hard sleep. As he drifts to sleep he shivers in the cold. In the morning, he goes into a store to steal his meal. As he is walking over a bridge a policeman tackles him to the ground. In this event the hat flies off and lands in the water below. It slowly drifts off down the icy river.

A man bundled up in winter clothes sits by the icy river fishing. As the hat goes by, it snags his hook. The man reels it in thinking it's a fish. As it emerges out of the water, his face shows much disappointment, but he puts it on anyway. As he walks to his house he begins to talk to himself in a low, gruff voice. As he reaches his log cabin, he starts having a coughing fit. When he finishes he goes into the log cabin. After he makes himself some tea, he goes to bed. He leaves the window in the kitchen open. During the night,

a large moose sticks his head in, takes the hat and leaves, chewing it. The hat now has two holes in it. In the morning the moose gives up and drops the hat.

The hat sits there all day until a gust of wind comes and blows it into town. A group of carolers are caroling under the stars. As the hat goes by, a boy about twelve grabs it. His ears are bright red with cold. He laughs merrily and throws a snowball at his sister. He is so happy he has a hat on. After a while, his sister hits him on the head with a hard snowball and the hat falls off, but he does not notice. The hat starts to get covered in snow as the snow falls, until the hat is completely covered.

Back in Washington, the little girl walks up to Santa at Macy's, sits on his knee and whispers in his ear: "All I really want for Christmas is my hat."

In the morning, the snowplow comes by and knocks the hat into the air. The man steps out and thinking he hit a bird, looks around. All he can see is the brightly decorated shops until his eyes meet the hat. He walks over, picks it up and carefully examines it before shoving it on his bald head, for he too is cold. That night the man stuffs the hat in his bag. The next morning, he goes to New York City. After checking in at his hotel he goes out for a walk. A taxi

Santa Claus

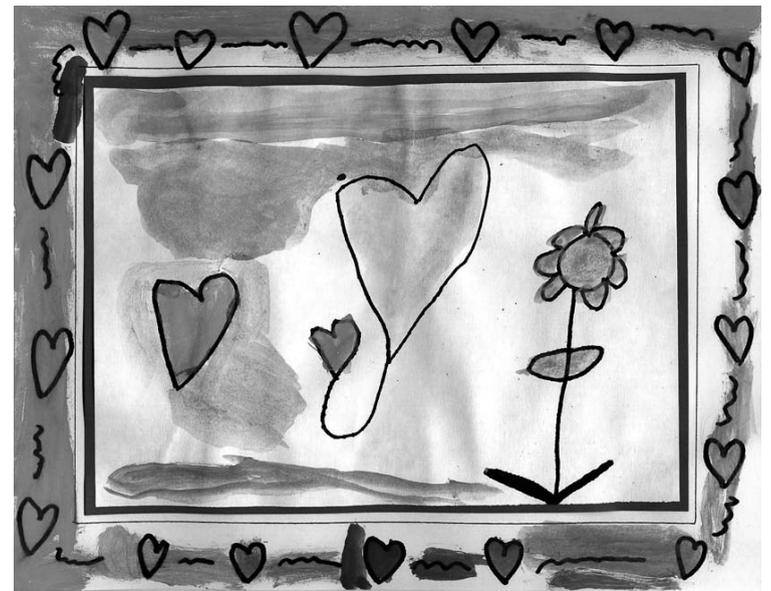
He's as fat as a potato,
and as red as a tomato.
And guess what?
He's coming tonight!
He's round like a ball.
You can see him at the mall.
What is he called?
Santa Claus

SAVANNAH HALABUK
GRADE 5
JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Winter Is My Favorite Time of Year

It's winter and it's my favorite time of year!
So cold and chilly here.
Snowflakes are as gentle as flower petals.
Falling on my head!
It's winter and it's my favorite time of year!
Sitting at home watching movies,
while drinkin' hot cocoa that's burnin' in my mouth.
It's winter and it's my favorite time of year!
Children playing happily having snow fights and making snowmen.
Sledding down that steep hill!
It's winter and it's my favorite time of year!

— AFNAN ALI
GRADE 5
JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL



**Isabelle, 1st grade,
Alexandria Country Day School**

speeds by him as he stares at some windup toys. The hat sails through the starry sky, and lands on a snow drift. Later that night a bad snowstorm blows the hat around.

Santa is sitting in his parlor eating his usual cookies and milk, when the hat catches his eye. He runs outside and catches the hat. Something tells him this is the hat he needs. He sends it to his elves to be fixed.

On the night of Christmas, he packs up his sleigh and sets off, calling his reindeer by name: "On

Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer, on Vixen; on Comet, on Cupid, on Donner, on Blitzen. Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!" as they disappear with a flash of light.

On his last stop Santa goes down the chimney of the little girl. He gently puts the hat on a bear, as he softly whispers "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

— NATALIE TURKEVICH
GRADE 5, AGE 10
BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL

WORDS & PICTURE *Cyborg Extra-terrestrial*

A Prince Becomes The Buddha

Siddhartha's mother had a dream. It was about an elephant that struck her side.

Distraught, Siddhartha's mother went to her husband.

Does Siddhartha become a great king or a great teacher?

He is trapped in a palace with no suffering.

All his needs were attended to by servants.

Rolling around town in a chariot, was he.

How could the ascetic live with no knowledge of suffering?

The prince sees a man of old age, sickness and death.

A driver took the prince to a forest to become an ascetic.

Great poverty, he did live in.

An alms bowl is the prince's prized possession.

Unsatisfied, the prince was not enlightened.

The prince decided to live in a middle-way.

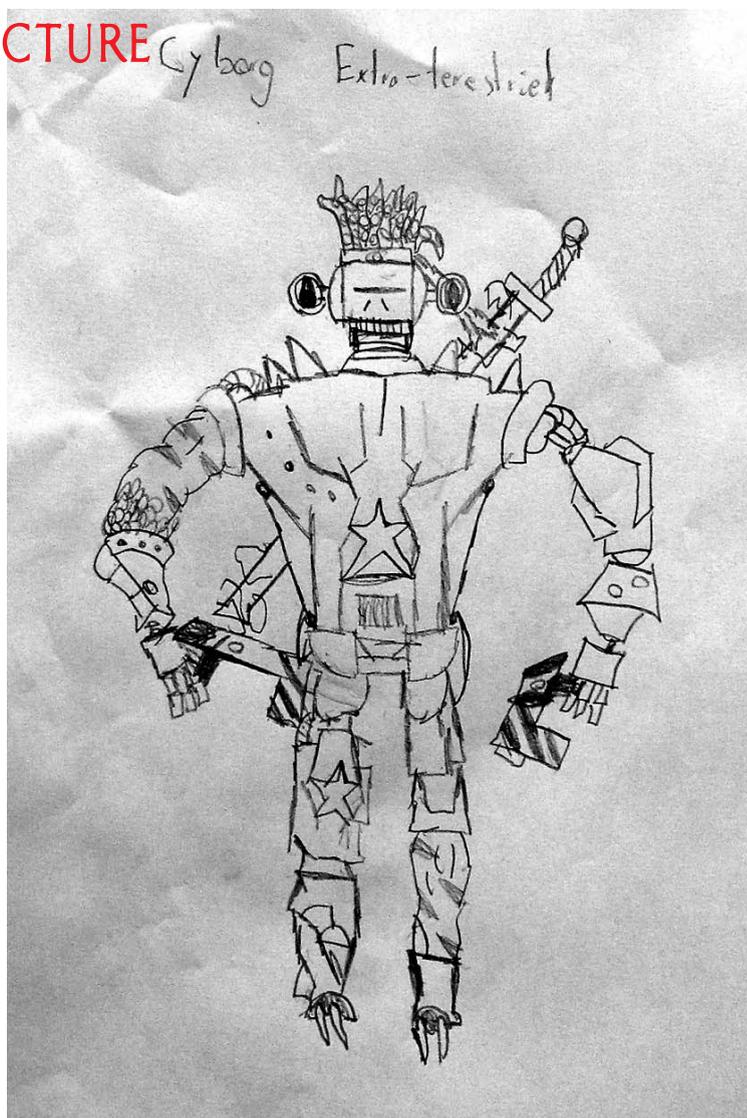
And so the prince went to the Bodhi Tree.

Meditation led the prince to become enlightened.

After that night, the prince becomes the Buddha.

— **Hannah Semmes**
grade 6

Alexandria Country Day School



Cyborg Extra-Terrestrial - Will Phelps, 11, 6th Grade, St. Albans School, Alexandria

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Stroke Awareness Seminar

An informative seminar hosted by
The Washington House

What are the warning signs of stroke? What can you do to decrease your risk? Join us for a Stroke Awareness Seminar at The Washington House. This informative presentation will be led by Janet Thompsen, RN MSN. She will discuss how to maintain a healthy heart free from stroke, as well as diet, exercise and the latest therapies.

Sunrise Senior Living is committed to furthering the knowledge of senior living topics through events and seminars designed to help and inform seniors and their caregivers.



EVENT DETAILS

Stroke Awareness Seminar
With Janet Thompsen, RN MSN

Thursday, January 7th
10:30am - 11:30am

RSVP by January 5th to
703-845-5075.

Sunrise Senior Living is committed to furthering the knowledge of senior living topics through events and seminars designed to help and inform seniors and their caregivers.



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POETRY

Things I Like About December

Things I like about December
Are red, white and green,
Presents on the twenty-fifth,
Berries, snow and evergreen.

Long nights and short days
Which let holiday lights gleam
Bagpipes and checkered kilts
And candy in a stream.

Boats on the Potomac
Flickering like a dream
Looking hard for Santa
And red, white and green.

— OSCAR LLOYD
AGE 6
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Winter Is

Winter is a real cold time,
snow is falling down,
Winter has the trees all covered,
And the ground wearing a snow gown,
Winter is a time for fun,
Winter is so cool,
There's no time to go in the pool,

Winter is such a good season,
This is the reason,
Christmas comes, with Winter break,
Presents, presents, you will take.
Winter is such a splendid time,
And it seems it is all mine!
I go outside and play,
And sled the day away.
Winter's such a good time,
Every single Winter day.

— EMAN AYAZ
GRADE 4
JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Winter Snow

Winter snow,
Snow so bright.
Winter snow,
Snow so white.
Christmas time,
Presents here.
Christmas time,
I want a big bear.
Cold in the winter,
Hot chocolate to drink.
Cold in the winter,
Ice skating rink.
Season is winter,
Snow boots I put on.
Season is winter,
A tissue I blow on.

My nose so red,
My nose so cold as the winter snow

— MICKAYLA BRANDAO
GRADE 5
JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Winter Bells

Fall is almost over,
but I don't
get mad.
I just think of Christmas and opening pre-
sents
with a nice cup
of joe.
As the sun rises up,
and the bells
stop ringing
the Christmas fun is ending
and so is my fun.
Winter bells,
winter bells,
Oh well,
I will have to wait for next year
to hear the winter bells.

— ODELL E. SIDBERRYII
GRADE 4
JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What may be this wonderful hat?
Must've been a yodeler's cap
Dropped on the ground where he sat,
To take a brief, quick nap.

Oh no, I dropped the neat, stiff hat!
On it's way down, resuming fall.
It landed on a flying-by mat!
Later, it was in a someone's hall!

"A hat!" he said, a trying it on,
Unaware of to whom it belonged.
To this day, there's what all Yodeler's
dawn,
"Keep close your caps! They will be
longed!"

— BEN DEVINE
AGE 10
LYLES CROUCH TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

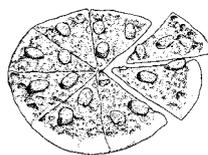
Racoon

The animals' bandit —
Swift and smart.
Undetected — the un hunted hunter.
The black tracks.
Nature's stealthness.

— BEN DEVINE
AGE 10
LYLES CROUCH TRADITIONAL ACADEMY

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GALLERY



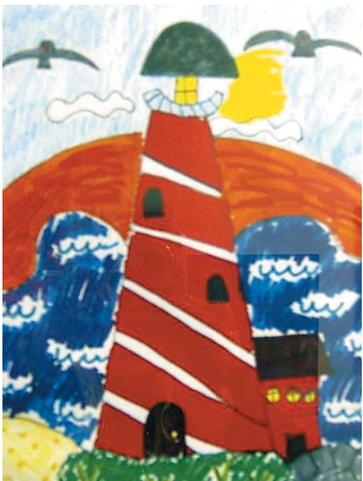
Caroline Hill, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



Annalise Roberts, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



Christian Vergason, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



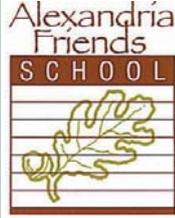
Julia Ruffino, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



Lauren Beale, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



Beatrice Campagna, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



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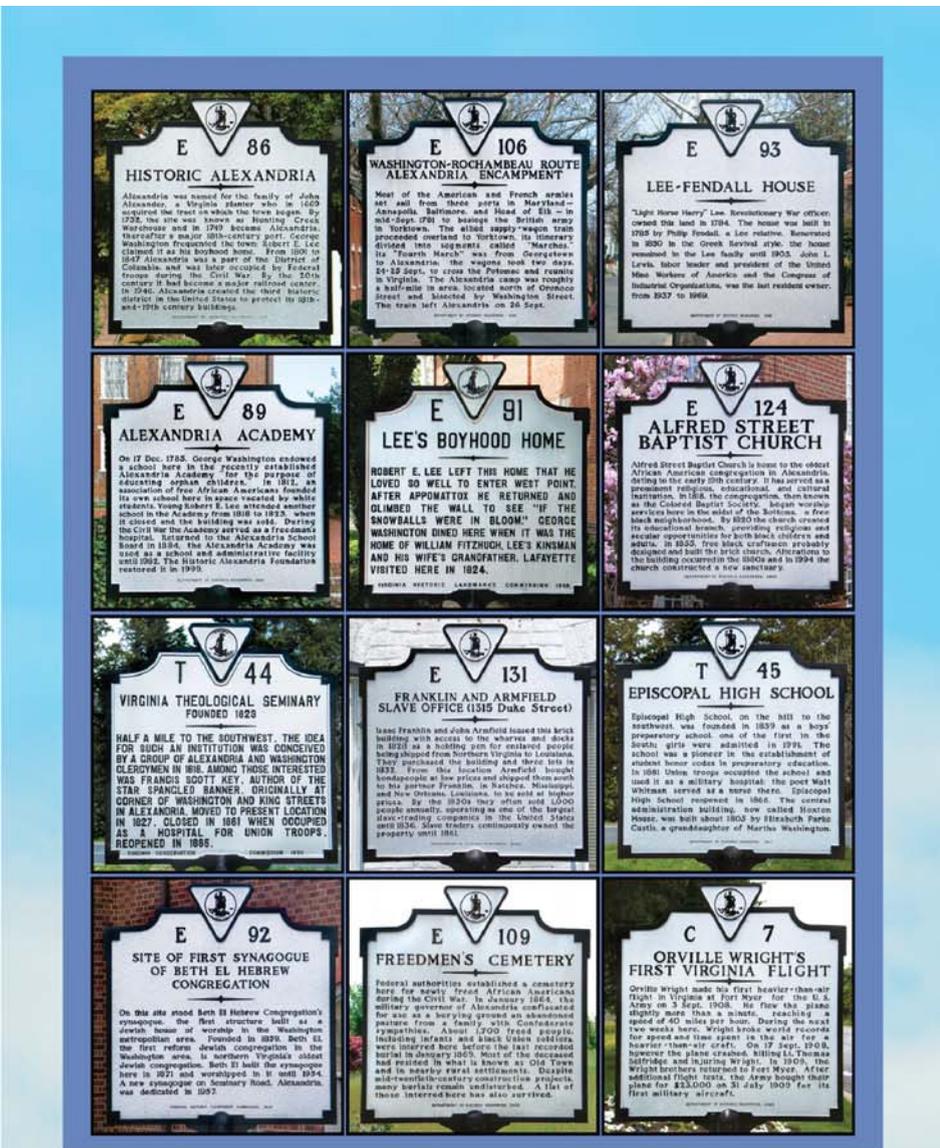
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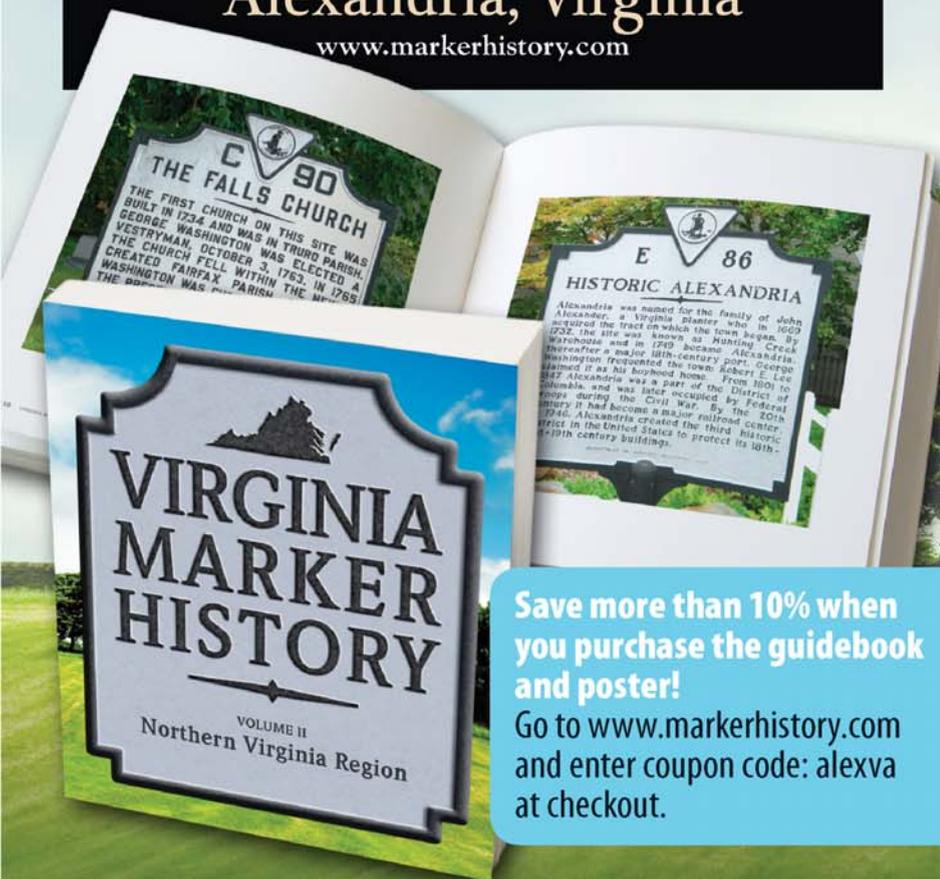




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—Dr. Joseph Arzadon

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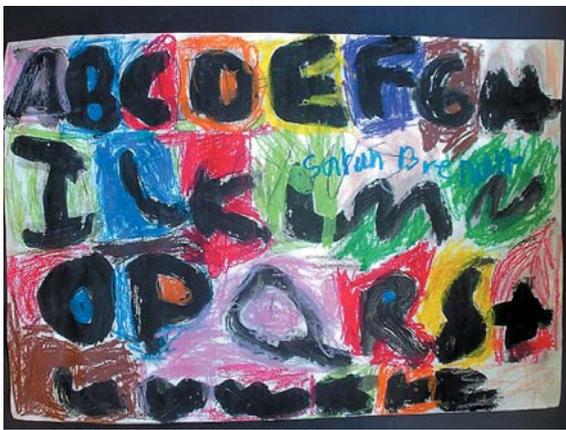
GALLERY



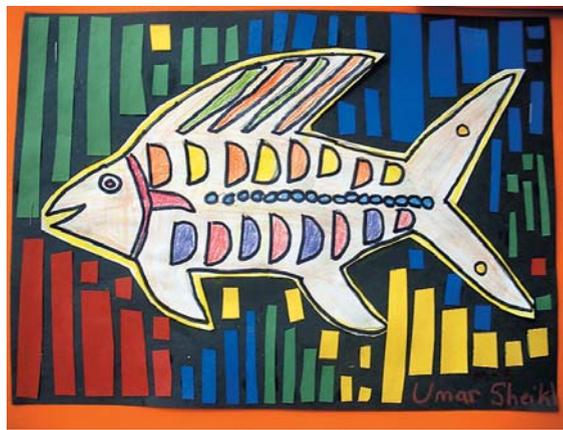
Naod Araya, 1st grade, Polk Elementary School



Michaela Reed, 4th grade, Polk Elementary School



Sarah Brennan, Kindergarten, Polk Elementary School



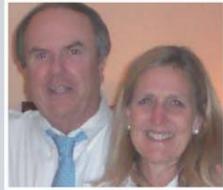
Umar Sheikh, 5th grade, Polk Elementary School



Catherine Sedwick, 5th grade, Polk Elementary School



Christian Pino, 1st grade, Polk Elementary School



CHRIS WHITE

Happy New Year from Chris & Peggy White!



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3102
Waterside Lane
\$798,500

Waterfront Value!
Updated and expanded home on gorgeous elevated grounds overlooks Little Hunting Creek! Private dock, custom glass

walled family room, updated kitchen with granite, stainless & custom cabinets, hardwood floors, two car garage and much more! Unique opportunity - do not miss out!



3906
Rive Drive
\$998,500

Stunning Property!
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls

including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site.



4816
Stillwell Avenue
\$525,000

Renovated!
Unique opportunity! Exceptionally large 5/6 BR home is located in a gorgeous setting on a 1/2 acre lot bordering acres of county parkland.

Renovated throughout, it features an updated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level, in-law suite and large deck. A recently remodeled home of this size in a premier setting creates a truly one of a kind value!



9316
Allwood Drive
\$540,000

Stunning!
Home features bright, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings in the main living area. This fabulous property has

been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more. Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mount Vernon.



7501
Park Terrace Drive
\$1,150,000

Stunning!
Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal

river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, high ceilings and expansive glass window walls capture the natural beauty of the grounds. Off GW Pkwy just 3 miles from Old Town. (Adjoining 1.18 acre available for \$975,000.)



4401
Jackson Place
\$475,000

Special Value!
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace,

covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!



1208
Tatum Drive
\$875,000

Villamay!
Magnificent Colonial in exceptional condition on one of prestigious Villamay's nicest streets! Three finished levels, large room sizes,

updated kitchen and baths. MBR suite has private balcony which provides panoramic vistas of the area with seasonal river views. Elevated grounds afford the ultimate privacy with gorgeous custom pool.



1810
Hollindale Dr
\$625,000

Gorgeous Setting!
Estate sale of spacious rambler on gorgeous 3/4 acre grounds in premier location just minutes from Old Town in prestigious Hollindale/

Mason Hill area! Home features five bedrooms, three full baths, large room sizes, open floor plan and oversized two car garage. Fabulous potential to remodel or build your dream home on this special site with rural ambiance in "close-in" location convenient to everything!



4413
Ferry Landing Road
\$559,900

Yacht Haven!
Recently installed top quality gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets & granite counters, hardwood floors, large deck & covered parking.

Bright, open floor plan overlooks gorgeous half acre grounds in one of the area's leading waterfront communities! Less than 5 mins from Ft Belvoir, GW Pkwy, Mt Vernon Yacht Club & Mansion House Club. Home warranty!



8108
East Boulevard Dr
\$2,395,000

Premier Property!
Custom Boucher built classic on magnificent full acre lot just 3 miles to Old Town! Spacious residence with elegant Colonial detail, custom

brick exterior, 3 finished levels, handcrafted cabinetry and brick work, gourmet kitchen, 4.5 luxurious baths, high ceilings, 4 frpls and 3 car garage. Magnificent private setting on professionally landscaped grounds, convenient to everything!



8311
Mount Vernon Hwy
\$779,000

Brand New Home!
Stunning opportunity! Leading builder's model home has been loaded with options and was planned to sell for over \$1,000,000! Fabulous

special features include: bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, four levels, upgraded kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, custom trim detail, spacious screened porch and two car garage. Prime location convenient to everything!



5205
Polk Avenue
\$999,000

Brand New Home!
Top quality luxury home in prime west end Alexandria City location for under \$1,000,000!

Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, luxury baths, 4BRs upstairs including stunning master suite and oversized side load garage. Prime location on rare almost half acre "in-town" lot. Pre-construction special allows maximum customization!



313 CAMERON ST
Old Town
\$1,200,000

Commercial-Residential
Circa 1800 - retail or office, family residence or combination of retail and residence - 3 levels - 4 fireplaces - original wood floors - incredible rear garden - expansion possibilities - 3BR, 1BA

Norma Gants 703.408.2560



700 MILLER LANE
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\$1,090,000

End unit town home - 4 levels - 9' ceilings - 6 burner stove - roof top deck - winter views of US Capitol - gas fireplace - 2 car garage - 4BR, 4.5BA

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426 ALFRED STREET
Old Town - \$899,900

New & expanded - refinished/remodeled top to bottom - top of the line appliances - Patio & landscaped bkyard - 2 car off st parking - 3BR, 3.5BA

Mary Taylor 703.785.5619



202 SOUTH ST ASAPH STREET
Old Town - \$2,685,000

Circa 1793 - 4 finished levels - wide planked heart pine floors - 2 fireplaces - private brick patio - 40' pool & gazebo - 2 off street parking spaces - 4BR, 4.5BA

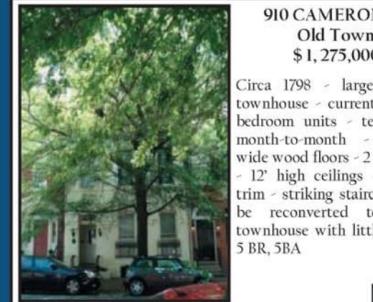
Anne Hambley 703.946.7266



555 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET
Old Town - \$1,775,000 #101 & \$1,975,000 #102

Circa 1790 - 3 finished levels, 3,812sqft or 4,123sqft - wood floors - 4 FP or 3 FP - 9' ceilings - gracious outdoor space - 2 car detached garage - 3BR, 2.5BA or 3BR, 3.5BA ... General Washington Club Condos

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



910 CAMERON ST
Old Town
\$1,275,000

Circa 1798 - large 4 level townhouse - currently 3, one bedroom units - tenants on month-to-month - original wide wood floors - 2 fireplaces - 12' high ceilings - original trim - striking staircase - can be converted to single townhouse with little effort - 5 BR, 5BA

Ann Kavaljian 703.626.9171



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There is no time more fitting to say

"THANK YOU"

to our agents and our community for your generosity toward the charities we supported this year.

We wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with health, happiness and prosperity!



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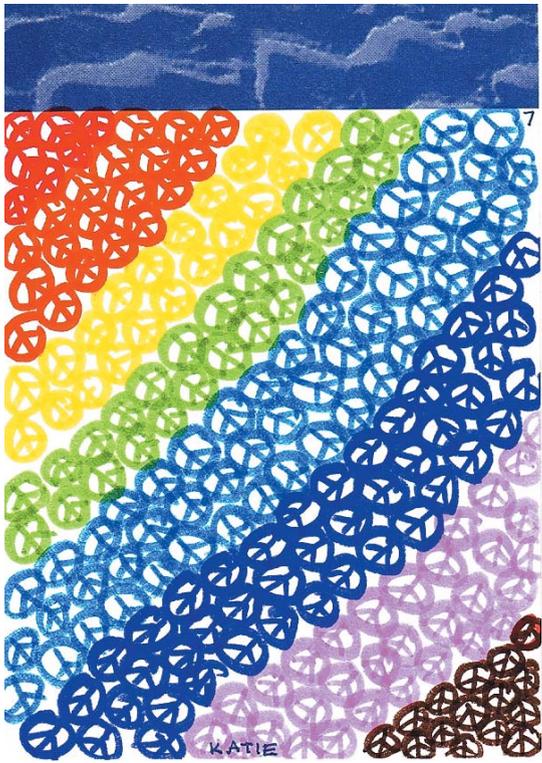
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Katie Gallagher,
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Amanda Simmons,
5th grade,
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Daniel Baskin,
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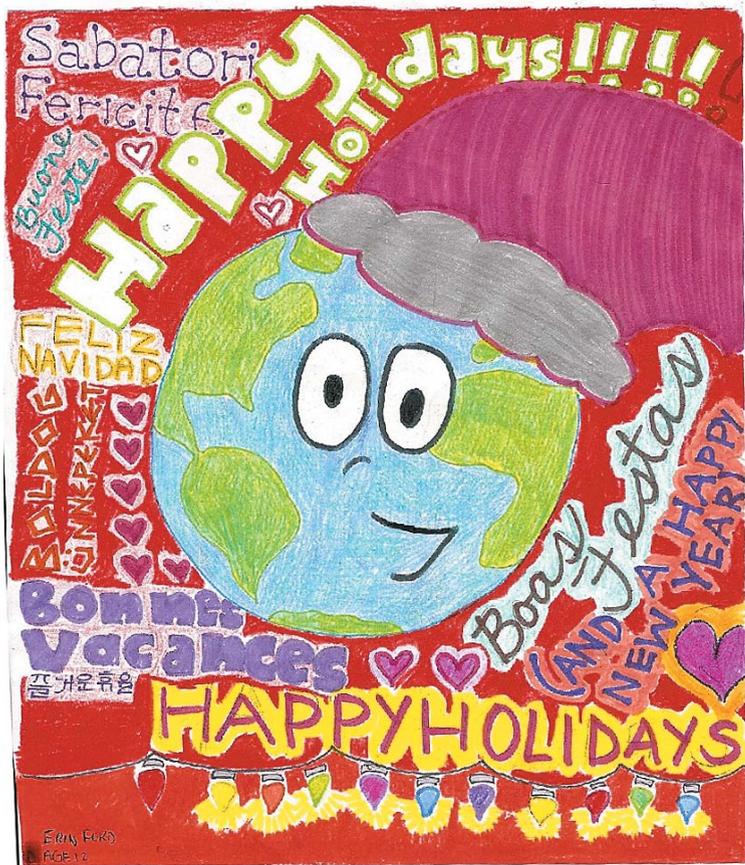
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WORDS & PICTURE



Erin Ford, 12, Grade 7, St. Mary's School, Alexandria

POETRY

Winter Snow

(Chorus)
Hop out of bed,
hat on my head.
Tie my boots tight
Cotton in my pants,
Some sort of trance
I fell under just last night.
I don't know why,
I would cry if I could not take a
step outside.
Mom knows I want to go,
Play in the winter snow!
Winter snow,
so icy,
so cold.
One would guess this is the
weather I love best.

End of day,
Wish I could stay in the winter
snow.
Don't want to go,
No tears in my eyes.
I step inside,
No longer in a trance.
No cotton pants, hat off my
head.
No boots on tight,
Hop into bed.
And it's time to say good night,
and it's time to say
GOODNIGHT!
(Chorus)

— CAMERON MINLAND
GRADE 4, JOHN ADAMS ELEMEN-
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Our four convenient locations in Northern VA offer many opportunities for extended learning at museums, farms, and nature centers located nearby.

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Our schools have open enrollment as long as there is space available.

For more information on which of our centers best meets your families needs, please contact:

A Child's Place Fairfax (since 1983) 703.698.8050	Country Woodland Springfield (since 1978) 703-256-9400
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4th Week Free – New Enrollees Only, Infants Not Included

First Night ALEXANDRIA

An Old Town New Year's Eve Party SCHEDULE

Spotlight One ★ LOWER KING STREET

- 1 Torpedo Factory** 105 N. Union St
(Hot dogs for sale at cart behind the building)
- The Grandsons,
Hip-shakin', finger-poppin' Americana 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Bill Kirchen, Roots rock 'n roll 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 2 Alexandria City Hall** 301 King St
Curtis Blues, Acoustic Delta blues, one man band
7:45-11:00 pm
- 3 Athenaeum** 201 Prince St
Eric Scott, Catchy, soulfull, funky pop 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Frank Solivan Trio, New acoustic American roots music 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 4 Old Presbyterian Meeting House** 321 S. Fairfax St
The Stairwells, Perennial favorite all male a capella singers
7:00; 8:30; 10:00 pm
Al Petteway & Amy White, Grammy-winning,
contemporary Celtic acoustic groove 7:45; 9:15; 10:45 pm
- 5 St. Paul's Church** 228 S. Pitt St
Illuminare, Early music vocal ensemble 7:00; 8:30; 10:00 pm
QuinTango, Tango music with strings, piano 7:45; 9:15; 10:45 pm
- 6 Little Theatre of Alexandria** 600 Wolfe St
Mike Rose, Interactive comedy magic show 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15,
10:00 pm

Spotlight Two ★ MIDDLE KING STREET

- 7 Lyceum** 201 S. Washington St
Cletus Kennelly & Lori Kelley, Folk/pop with beautiful harmonies
7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Not So Modern Jazz Quartet, Traditional jazz from the 20s, 30s and 40s
7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 8 Washington Street United Methodist Church
Sanctuary** 115 S. Washington St
Susan Jones Jazz Quartet Jazz violin group 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Musikanten, A cappella choral chamber ensemble 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 9 Christ Church Auditorium** 118 N. Washington St
Billy Clements and the Pickups Classic country 7:00, 8:30 10:00 pm
Zydeco Crayz, Zydeco dance music
from Bayou Potomac 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- Christ Church Sanctuary**
Welcome the New Year with a 30 minute service beginning at 10:00 pm in
the church of George Washington and Robert E. Lee. Sing, pray and meet
your neighbors in this beautiful and historic church. 10:00 - 10:30 pm
- Word-Beat Tom Teasley and Charles Williams, World
percussion with spoken word 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Jason Konopinski, Traditional-style didjeridu 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 11 Nickells & Scheffler** 1028 King St (This venue sells food)
Jeff Stapleton, Fingerstyle guitar 7:45-11:00 pm
- 12 Imagine Artwear** 1124 King St
2nd Story Band Duo, Sassy world beat blues 7:45-11:00 pm

Spotlight Three ★ UPPER KING STREET

- 13 Hooray for Books** 1555 King St
Mrs. Livingston, Interactive storytelling 6:00-9:00 pm
- 14 Jefferson Houston School** 1501 Cameron St
Lobby ★★
Amazing Clowns, Balloon sculpturers 6:30-9:30 pm
Mister Don, Interactive children's music 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Cafeteria ★★
Face Painters, Amateur face painting for children 7:00-10:00 pm
Seaworthy Small Ships, Model boat building and sailing!
NOTE: extra charge for boats 7:00-10:00pm
Auditorium ★★
How-To Cowboy: Jokefest, Interactive
children's entertainer 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
EJ and Buddies, Let's dance, sing, be silly 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 15 Durant Memorial Center** 1605 Cameron St
Eddie the DJ & Karaoke, Outstanding
disc jockey with karaoke 7:00 - 11:30 pm
- 16 American Academy of Otolaryngology**
1650 Diagonal Rd
Choreographers Collaboration Project
Modern dance performance 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Roxy Vice, Teen singer songwriter with guitar and piano 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 17 Embassy Suites Hotel** 1900 Diagonal Rd
Gina DeSimone & the Moaners Blues, swing 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Folsom Prisoners, Classic country/honky tonk 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- 18 Alexandria Union Station** 110 Callahan Dr
Robert Tobias, Magic and comedy 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Karen Ashbrook & Paul Oorts - Celtic Café, Celtic,
Flemish and French folk music 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
- Spotlight Four ★
GW MASONIC MEMORIAL**
- 19 GW Masonic Memorial** 101 Callahan Dr
(There will be food for sale in the dining room)
- Assembly Hall** ★★
Amazing Clowns, Balloon sculptures 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Face Painters, Amateur face painting for children 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Dining Room ★★
Elizabeth Stone Storyteller, Dragons, Fairies and Lullabies -
Story reading/telling 7:00 - 10:30 pm
North Lodge
Janna Audey Duo, Soulful, melodic pop, rock, lounge 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble, Classics,
pop & swing...on bells! 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
South Lodge
Wayward Street Players, Genuine vintage
Americana variety show 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 pm
N2N Band, R&B, jazz, blues 7:45, 9:15, 10:45 pm
Theater
Virginia Coalition, Rock 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 pm
Front Steps
Stairwells, All male a cappella 11:20 - 11:59 pm
GW Masonic Memorial Front Lawn
Spectacular Fireworks Midnight

★★ Although many activities are suitable for both children and adults
these are especially for children.



We have a creative, new way to kick-off New Year's Eve this year!

The First Night Fun Hunt will start at 2:30pm, December 31. It's a scavenger hunt with fabulous prizes for three lucky winners. Details can be found at FirstNightAlexandria.org and on the clue sheet available from 2:00-3:00 pm, December 31, at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street.



WORDS & PICTURES

FROM PAGE 5

people everyday for forty-five minutes, and still play with his band occasionally. He is very generous as well. He takes up so much of his time that he rarely has time for himself, just so that he can teach a bunch of kids how to play guitar. That is very selfless of him. Of course he has some fun doing it though.

In conclusion, Steve is a proficient guitar player, a fantastic teacher and a wonderful person. He is a very passionate guitar player. He enjoys music and takes it seriously. That might be one of the reasons why he shares it with the residents of Alexandria. I will surely continue to take lessons there until he is gone.

— GEORGE RHODES

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

My Father

My father, Don, plays a special role in my life. He is such an exuberant person that has influenced me in numerous ways throughout my journey of life. He continues to be the person who lends me support. This is why I'd like to take the time to go back and reflect on the charisma my father gives off. Don is an amazing man who is a hard worker, is friendly, and pushes you towards your goals.

First, my father is well known for his hardworking determination. Many people will focus on the negative of a situation, instead of grabbing the positive. My father is the one who analyzes the positive, applying it to the situation so he can come to a conclusion. This makes him an exceptional person to work with whenever you're troubled. Whenever a job needs to be done, I can assure you my father is willing to participate, despite the obstacles he may face.

Additionally, my father is a friendly person that can accept anyone. Don has met many people throughout his life that come from a variety of backgrounds. He is also deeply involved with knowledge, making sure to learn something from every experience. This makes it easy to carry a conversation with him, knowing much about multiple topics. He also gives off a certain vibe, one that gives you a somewhat cozy feeling. This is why I find my father to be a friendly person to interact with.

Finally, Don is also someone who pushes you towards your goals. He knows just how to hook you, teasing you with both hints and questions to help you reach success. This shapes your learning experience in a much more natural way, as opposed to the much more demanding school. I find this method to be much more interesting in the long run, and I thank him for introducing it to me. My father has helped me further develop my learning skills and deal with failure.

In conclusion, Don is an amazing man who is a hard-worker, is friendly, and pushes you towards your goals. My father continues to be an amazing man that lives an interesting life. His bank of knowledge has taught me much, from simple fixes to large subjects. His bright spirit has also shaped my personality. I'm grateful for my father and am anxious to learn more from him that



Doug Baskin, 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day School

I may find useful in current and future situations.

— ALEX APLIN

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Special Person

A special person in my life is my grandmother Tsheay. Her name is Ethiopian, and it means golden sun. She is not only my grandmother, but my role model; my best friend. Her character and personality is so down to earth and pure, that sometimes I question myself if I am living in a utopia. She has many traits that make her worthy of a tribute; starting from her generosity, her courageous behavior, and her positive attitude. Firstly, my grandmother is beautiful on the inside and on the outside. She is the kind of person that gives more than she receives. My grandmother would help anyone, regardless. Her love of helping out others, has been a continuous trait that she has had, ever since she was a little girl. There was never a time when I have seen my grandmother Tsheay sit down at the table to eat, without making sure everyone else has taken enough for themselves. Her philanthropic behavior is loved by everyone; especially me.

Additionally, my grandmother is also a type of person that has tremendous courage. She is a very audacious, valiant and unabashed person that always looks forward and never back. Whenever me and her are walking at night, I sometimes get nervous because of how dark it is, but my grandmother keeps telling me to not be scared and that freaking out will do me nothing, but just damage my self-esteem. It surprises me, how there isn't anything, or anyone in the world that she fears. Never have I seen her get intimidated or manipulated by anyone. Her headstrong behavior is one of her traits that I deeply admire.

Furthermore, my grandmother always has a high and positive attitude. She is always thinking in a confident and unequivocal manner. Even in the worst situations, grandmother Tsheay is continually calm, and relaxed. Nothing ever seems to freak her out, or cause her to go berserk. She is always

telling us to not go insane or lose control, because it will make the situation worse than it already is. I acknowledge that dearly, and respect her words because I know that this woman knows what she is talking about. Her breeziness behavior is also another characteristic about her that I really glorify.

In conclusion, my grandmother is a person worthy enough for a tribute; starting from her generosity, her courageous behavior, and her positive attitude. She is one of those kinds of people, who are loved by everyone and are respected dearly. Her remarkable personality makes her truly one of a kind. Grandmother Tsheay, is a person I will never forget, and always love.

— ADEY FENTAW

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Tribute to My Dad

A good dad should be able to support their families, be intelligent, and also be very kind. They should encourage their children to go to college (or at least graduate high school). They should also have a good job that makes enough money for their families. They should be nice and polite. My dad is smart, hard working, and a good person.

To begin, my dad is a very smart person. He was educated at University of St. Andrew, Columbia University and Georgetown University for law school. He has written speeches for multiple distinguished people including Congressman Tony Beilensen and Senator George Mitchel. He has also represented a few large companies including Hershey.

Secondly, my dad is an extremely hard worker. He usually leaves for work around 7:45 am and gets home "at the regular time" (we really don't know what this means considering he usually comes home sometime between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.). He is currently holding down three jobs. He is a partner at a law firm called DLA Piper, president of a nonprofit organization called MEII (Middle Eastern Investment Initiative, a company that is working to help the Israel's

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ADVENTURES

Scuba Diving

When I went to Vietnam, me my mom my dad and my brother went to go scuba diving. So we went back to the hotel and put on our swimming suits and went to the boat. There were two men that drove us to the ocean. My dad went in the water first then every buddy followed. I couldn't put on the diving mask so I put on my goggles. My dad and I were holding on a life raft, and I just dumped my head in the water. There were so many pretty colors on those fish! Some were thick and some were wide. The funny part was I was the only one who started to blabber about fish. After me and my brother were done we went in the boat and ate some refreshing watermelon and langoustine. When my mom and dad were out and in the boat my brother actually started to drive the motor boat. While he was driving the men took out a brown coral and put it in a box full of water. Then they gave it to my mom. And I got to drive the boat too. When I came back I saw a jumbo size jellyfish right next to me. It was really creepy. Then we got out of the boat and went to the hotel. We changed out of our swim suits and I was really happy. I would love to go again.

— RACHEL SULEYMANOV
GRADE 3
ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Boogie Boarding

When I was camping at Chincoteague all of us rode bikes to the beach. We rode up hills and down hills. The worst part was up and over a bridge. Once we were on Assateague there were a lot of mosquitoes. While we were riding the mosquitoes were

biting us. Our family used about half a can of bug spray a day. Finally we got to the beach. Most of the waves were pretty big. If my brother said the wave was not good enough to ride on we will have to wait for another wave. Some times my brother will take a break. So my dad will boogie board with me. It was lunch time. I had a ham sandwich. After that went back to boogie boarding. When my brother was finished with his break my dad would take my boogie board, and I will boogie board on his back. If I took a break I would dig for sand crabs. Later on we saw dolphins in the water! Then it was time to go back to the campsite. Up and down hills over the bridge again, and back to the campsite.

— OLIVIA BEARMAN
GRADE 3
ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Moo!

"Alex get down here grandpa and Megan are going to be here any second now!" my dad called from downstairs. "Be right down" I yelled back. If you are wondering I was just about to go to my uncle Kenny Junior's farm for my great uncle's funeral. The funeral started at six and it was eleven but we had to drive to New Jersey and we wanted to play on the farm. "Honk, Honk!!" I heard from outside. I dashed to my window and pressed my nose to the cold glass. It was the only thing that separated me and the freezing rain as it poured from the sky. I realized I was late so I darted down the steps and onto the slippery porch. I cautiously walked down the steps be

SEE WORDS & PICTURES, PAGE 22

KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR



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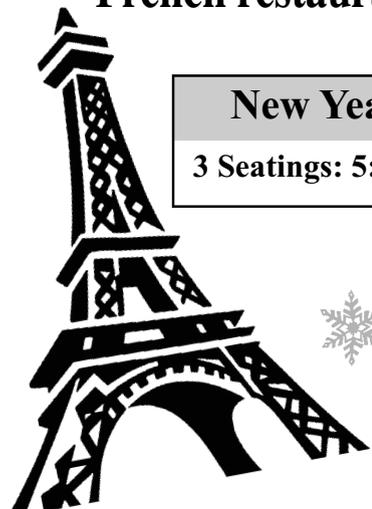
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economy and create jobs for the people there), and he is the General Counsel for the Aspen Institute. At the law firm, he used to be a lobbyist, but now works as a federal affairs lawyer. He also has to travel to Israel and other places in the Middle East on a regular basis.

Finally, my dad is a wonderful person. One of my dad's first jobs was a camp counselor, so he is very good with kids. When my brother and I were little, he often had to leave his softball games early just so he could read to us each night. He commonly plans vacations for our family and our friends in his little free time.

In conclusion, my dad is smart, hard working, and a good person. He has been educated on many levels. He has three good jobs and works very hard at them. He is also an incredible person that cares very much about his family. I love my dad because of his many wonderful personality traits.

— KATIE PICKUP

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Tribute

One of the most special people to me is my grandmother. Her name is Mary McQuillan but I call her Mama. I am so lucky to have her in my life. There are many things that make Mama amazing but there are three that really stand out to me. The three characteristics that make Mama special to me are her selflessness, friendliness, and energy.

First, Mama is the most selfless person I know. I have never known someone who does more for their family and community than Mama. One of the things she does to help her community is work at a thrift shop. All the money that the thrift shop earns goes to a local hospital. Mama also does a lot of volunteering at her church. Volunteering and donating at the church is a big deal because the church helps many people in need. One thing that I notice most is that although she raised six kids, she still takes care of all her grandkids. When my parents go away or something of that sort she drives all the way down here from Connecticut.

Second, Mama is extremely friendly. Her friendliness makes everybody want to be around her. There is never a dull moment when I am with her. One factor that makes everybody want to be with Mama is her sense of humor. She always has something funny to say in a conversation. One thing she cannot do is tell a joke. Whenever she tries to tell a joke she ends up laughing too much and cannot get the words out. The best thing about Mama being friendly is that you can always talk to her whether it is something light or deep.

Last, a great characteristic Mama has is her energy. She is always keeping herself busy whether she's gardening, out with friends or helping others. If someone asks if she wants to do something, she says yes right away. She plays a lot of golf in her free time and is very social. She still has parties sometimes also. When I am at her house or when she's at mine she insists on cooking, doing the dishes, cleaning and doing laundry. If someone else tries to help, she will not let them.

To conclude, mama is selfless, friendly and energetic and these are the qualities that make her the best grandmother ever. It is hard for me to believe that one person could be so great and have so few flaws. Mama is the person in my life who deserves a tribute most. I am so happy to have a grandmother who is kind and fun to be with. I cannot think of anybody I would rather write a tribute to.

— JACK VROOM

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

My Tribute

My tribute is going out to my cousin, Joel. I loved him dearly, and he was like my best friend. My cousin was someone who I would have liked to be like when I grow up. My family and I miss him so much. Joel can never be replaced in my heart, forever will he be missed. My cousin Joel was a very generous, sweet, and the funniest person I would have ever known.

Firstly, to top it all off, Joel was a very generous person. He was well liked by many for his kind ways. I remember all the times he gave the most fun pool parties at his house. He always had fun family events planned. Joel did whatever he could to make sure just about everybody showed up. Doing anything with my cousin was always amazing!

Secondly, my favorite cousin Joel was the sweetest person I knew. He never had anything bad, or rude to say about people. My cousin knew how to keep his mean thoughts to himself, no matter how funny, or mad he was. Joel showed everybody he cared, no matter what the problem was. Everything he said was serious and meaningful. Joel always was there for the family and me.

Further more, my friend, Joel was the funniest person alive! We always use to crack wise jokes and pranks on each other. Every time he saw me, he yelled out, "There go Ceiley." He called me that because of Ceiley, off "The Color Purple." I use to get so mad, and then laughed it off. My cousin was always lifting weights, and going out for runs. Joel use to walk around my great Grandmother's house flexing his muscles. He always thought of being in a pageant of some kind.

In conclusion, my cousin Joel was a very generous, sweet, and the funniest person I would have ever known. He always brought a smile to someone's face. Joel was a rare diamond, shining down on everybody. Everybody that knew him loved and liked him. Knowing that every day, waking up and going out, I can never see, or talk to him again, it still hurts. But one day, I will have hoped to see him again. Until that day comes I am going to continue to live the life I am living, and know that I once knew someone like him and make him proud.

— KHADIJAH MARTIN

GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

My Tribute

A special person in my life is my auntie Meda. She is such a good person. In my opinion she deserves the best in life. If you're having a problem, you would easily be able to talk to her. No matter what, she would understand. The most important thing is that she has so much love to give. She has such a loving heart. I want to dedicate this to my auntie Meda because she is caring, she is like a second mom to me, and she keeps our family together.

Firstly, my aunt cares about everybody. Every Wednesday, she goes to the church and donates food for the homeless. Her heart is so big. My aunt doesn't like to see anyone struggle. Yes, there's a lot of struggling people and yes, she can't help them all, but she does her best to help as many as she can. She is so inspirational. Everybody loves her.

Secondly, have you ever had someone who cares about you like a second mother? That's exactly how I think of my auntie Meda. She's just like a second mother to me. Anytime I need something or someone to talk to, she's right there. Every time I go back to Chicago, I usually stay with her. I even have my own room at her house and the crazy part is, she doesn't have to let me have my own room, but she

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WORDS & PICTURES

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loves and cares about me so much that she allows me to have that. I'm not sure if she thinks of me as a daughter, but I definitely think of her as a second mother.

Lastly, my auntie Meda's strengths is what keeps our family together. Our family sometimes has a problems and my aunt is the first person they go to. That's exactly where her strength comes in. She brings us back together. Every holiday, we have family dinners at her house. We have so many good memories at that house and all of them include my beautiful-hearted Auntie Meda.

In conclusion, I dedicate this to my auntie Meda because she's caring; she's like a second mother, and because of her strength which keeps our family together. My aunt should be a role model for everybody. I love everything about her and so should everyone else. I'm so glad to have her as a auntie. She has always been there for me and I hope I can be there for her in the future.

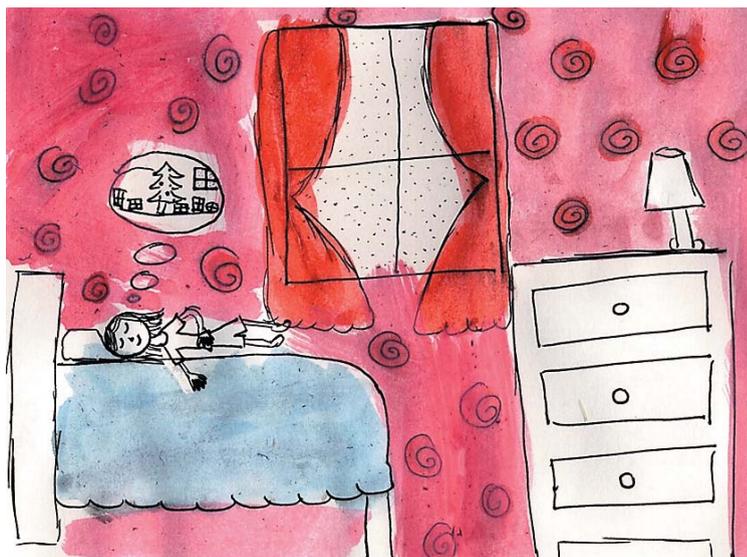
— ARTESHA SANDERS
GEORGE WASHINGTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Tribute

A very important person in my life, and my role model, is my dad. My dad is someone to be admired. Not only is he a great father, but he is also like the older brother that I do not have; the older brother that I could tell things that I would never be able to tell anyone else. He is truly an extraordinary person. My dad is my role model because of his hysterical personality, how considerate he is towards others, and his leadership.

First, my dad has a hysterical personality. He can always make people laugh because he is naturally funny. He can also laugh at himself every once in a while. He never takes friendly jokes seriously. Also, my dad is a fun guy to be around and people always enjoy spending their time with him, including me. I know that when I spend time with my dad, I always enjoy it and never regret it!

Additionally, my dad is considerate towards others. He is always willing to give people second chances. When my brother and I get into trouble, he almost always gives us another opportunity to fix what we did wrong. My dad never judges a book by its cover, he always accepts people for who they truly are. Also, my dad helps others even if it means putting himself in danger. He served in the Army for four years as a soldier and during Desert Storm, which



Abby Miller 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day School

is the sign of a person who puts others before himself.

Finally, my dad is a leader. He is a leader because of many reasons. My dad owns his own company that he started after settling in and having his first child, me. He also teaches me wrongs from rights and guides me through the obstacles of life and problems that are thrown at me. And he is strong because as a kid at the young age of 11, he lost his own father to heart disease, and leaders must be strong. All this experience has been very inspirational to me.

In conclusion, my dad is my role model because of his hysterical personality, how considerate he is towards others, and his leadership. I am grateful he is involved in things I love like baseball. One day, when I am older and out of college, I hope to be successful and be like my dad. Or maybe run my own business one day! Perhaps a lot of kids say the same things about their dads, but I really do mean it.

— NOAH RAY
GEORGE WASHINGTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Special Person

"Did you turn off your radio?" This is a quote I hear over and over from my dad. He says this to me because he teaches me those little things on life that will help you later. He shows me the good side of life. My dad is a special person in my life because he provides for me, teaches me the values of life, and shows me how to be a responsible adult.

Firstly, my dad provides me with everything I need. He is successful in his job so we have what we need. Every year, he has to pay for both my swim team and soccer team, plus the uniforms and spirit wear for the high school sports. My dad also, makes sure we always have something to eat in the morn-

ing, lunchtime, dinner and even snack. He has extra food just in case. He makes sure everything I need is there for me every time. My dad makes sure that every time I need something, I have it.

Secondly, my dad teaches me the values of life. He tells me not to get mad over silly things in life. An example would be to not get mad at the McDonald's employees because they gave you a Coke instead of Diet Coke. He also shows me what to do in different situations. He shows me right from wrong. My dad helps me with my homework without giving me the answers. He fully explains the problems first. My dad tries to help me be successful in my life by teaching me its values.

Thirdly, my dad is a special person in my life because he shows me how to be a responsible adult. He tries his hardest at work to do as much as he can for the company. His hard work eventually paid off because he is now "the Boss." My dad also does not get a lot of tickets. He stays almost at the speed limit. Finally, he is responsible by making sure he does all of his "chores" around the house. He always takes out the trash without being asked. My dad tries to be the best he can be.

In conclusion, my dad is a special person in my life because he provides for me, teaches me the values of life, and shows me how to be a responsible adult. My dad makes sure he provides for me because he is successful at his job. He also, teaches me the values of life because he wants me to succeed in life too. Finally, he shows how to be a responsible adult by not getting mad at the McDonald's employees when they mess up your order. I do not know what I would do without my dad in my life.

— EMILY CHURCH
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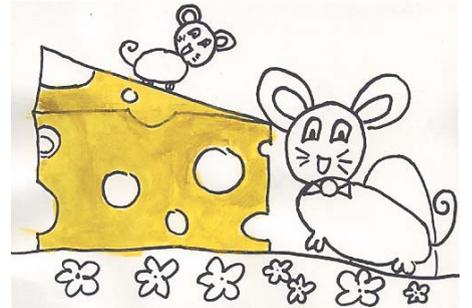
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Alexandria Country Day School**



**Gabi Bruehs, 2nd grade,
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**Karina Papke, 4th grade,
Alexandria Country Day School**

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cause last time I paid a visit to that farm I slipped and fell. Let me tell you, I don't want a repeat of that. I ran into the car and was greeted by a "what's up?" from my 15-year-old cousin. "Nothing really" I grumbled. If you are wondering, I was pretty disappointed that it was raining because I really wanted to chase the chickens. As the hours passed I drifted off to a lovely place called dreamland. "Moo" "Oink" I woke up with a start, looked around and inhaled a deep breath of New Jersey air. I hopped out of the car and all I could see was animals, silos, haylofts, stables, fields and piles of hay. This is definitely not D.C., my brain told me. I didn't know

where to go first.

Thankfully my dad read my mind. "You want to go to the hayloft first?" he asked. "What's so special about the hayloft?" was my reply "you'll see," he said, "just follow me." He started running to a barn looking building with hay surrounding it. Reluctantly I followed. When I finally met up with my dad all I could see was hay, a loft, and a ladder. "What am I supposed to do?" I questioned him. "This" he replied. He climbed the ladder onto the loft stood at the edge and jumped. "Awesome!!!" I cried and followed his path up stood at the edge and deliberately jumped. Now I understood why the hayloft was so cool. I wanted to go again but if I thought that was lame before the stuff I think is awesome now will be even cooler. After

several debates with myself I decided to go to the stables. On the way there I saw a cat that just had a litter of 12.

"Awwwww," I gushed, "they are so cute!" "Can I have one?" I asked my dad using my best puppy dogface. "What do you think?" was all I heard as my dad grabbed my foot and ran into the wet muddy fields with my shoe. Normally — when the ground is semi-hard — I would run after him, but since it just rained I knew I had no chance. Then an idea popped in my head. "Megan!!!" I yelled "can you get my shoe back??!!" "Sure" she yelled back. She ran like a cheetah after my dad. He was too busy congratulating himself of his so-called success that he didn't notice her. Once he noticed he was being chased he climbed one-tenth up the nearest silo

which works out great because Megan's afraid of heights. Thankfully my uncle came and told us to get ready because it started in 10 minutes. Whoops. I ran to the house and into the bathroom which took about five minutes. I dashed out the house and into the truck. The funeral lasted about two hours. After the funeral we went to the dining hall and had dinner. My great uncle was Italian so we had pasta, pizza, and meatballs. The dessert was also Italian. We had gelato, cake, brownies, and crepes. After dessert we sadly had to go home. I hopped in the car and prepared for the second longest ride of my life.

— ALEX MATHEWS
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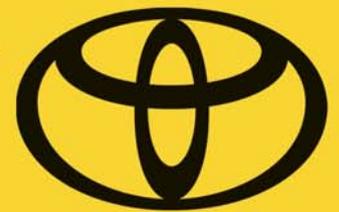
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