

# The Arlington Connection

## Children's Connection 2009



"Self-Portrait,"  
Janey Riddick,  
Washington-Lee  
High School

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2009

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Arlington Connection 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 Connection. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

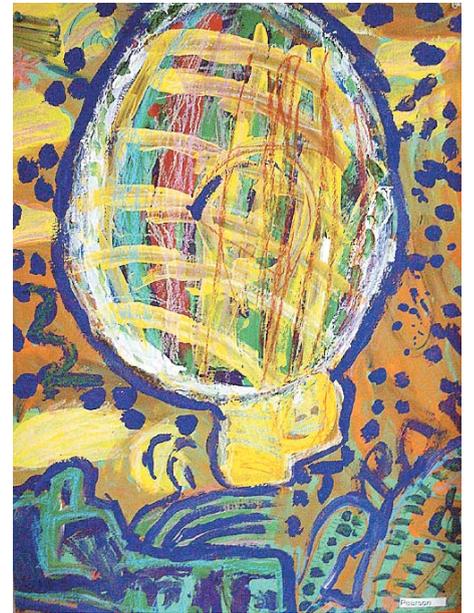
The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools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

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

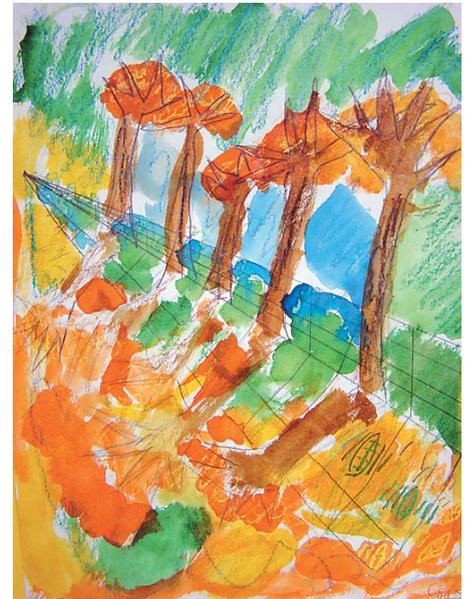
EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN



Sydney McMahon, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, McKinley Elementary School



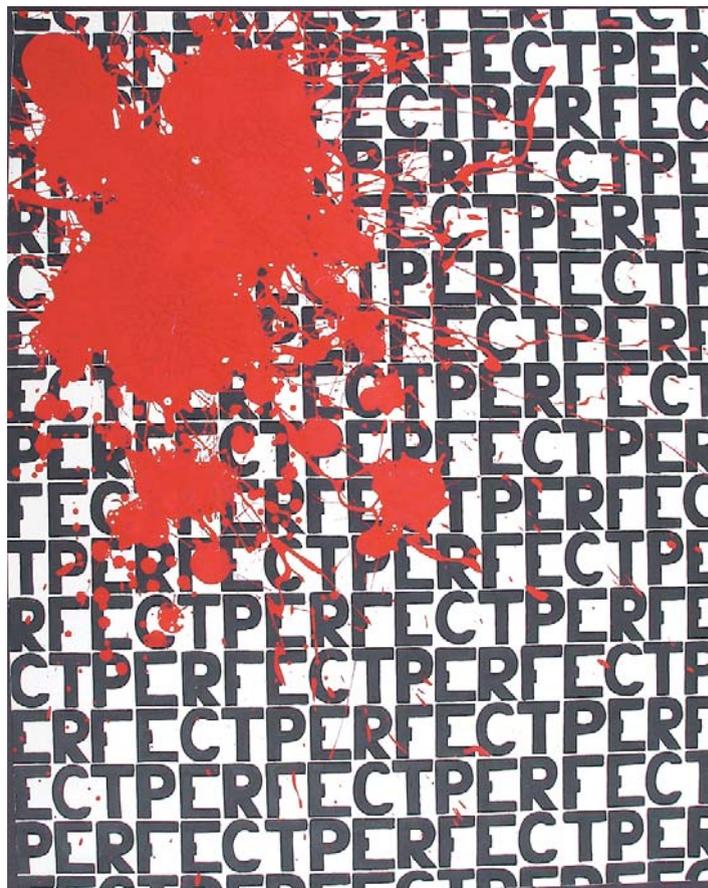
Pearson Frank, Campbell Elementary School, Kindergarten, 5



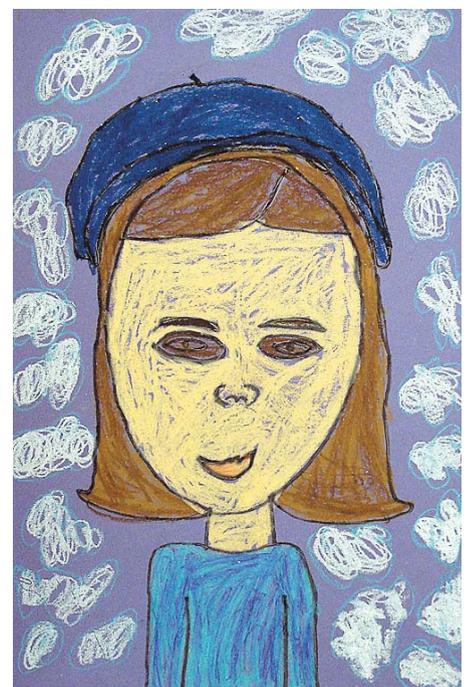
"Fall Reflections," Chase Dillard, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Nottingham Elementary School



5<sup>th</sup> grade mosaic, all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, McKinley Elementary School. Art teachers: Ms. Mautawalli & Ms. Libson; Visiting artist: Hillary Sloate.



"Perfect," Kate Fleming, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School



Lizzie Durgavich, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Campbell Elementary School

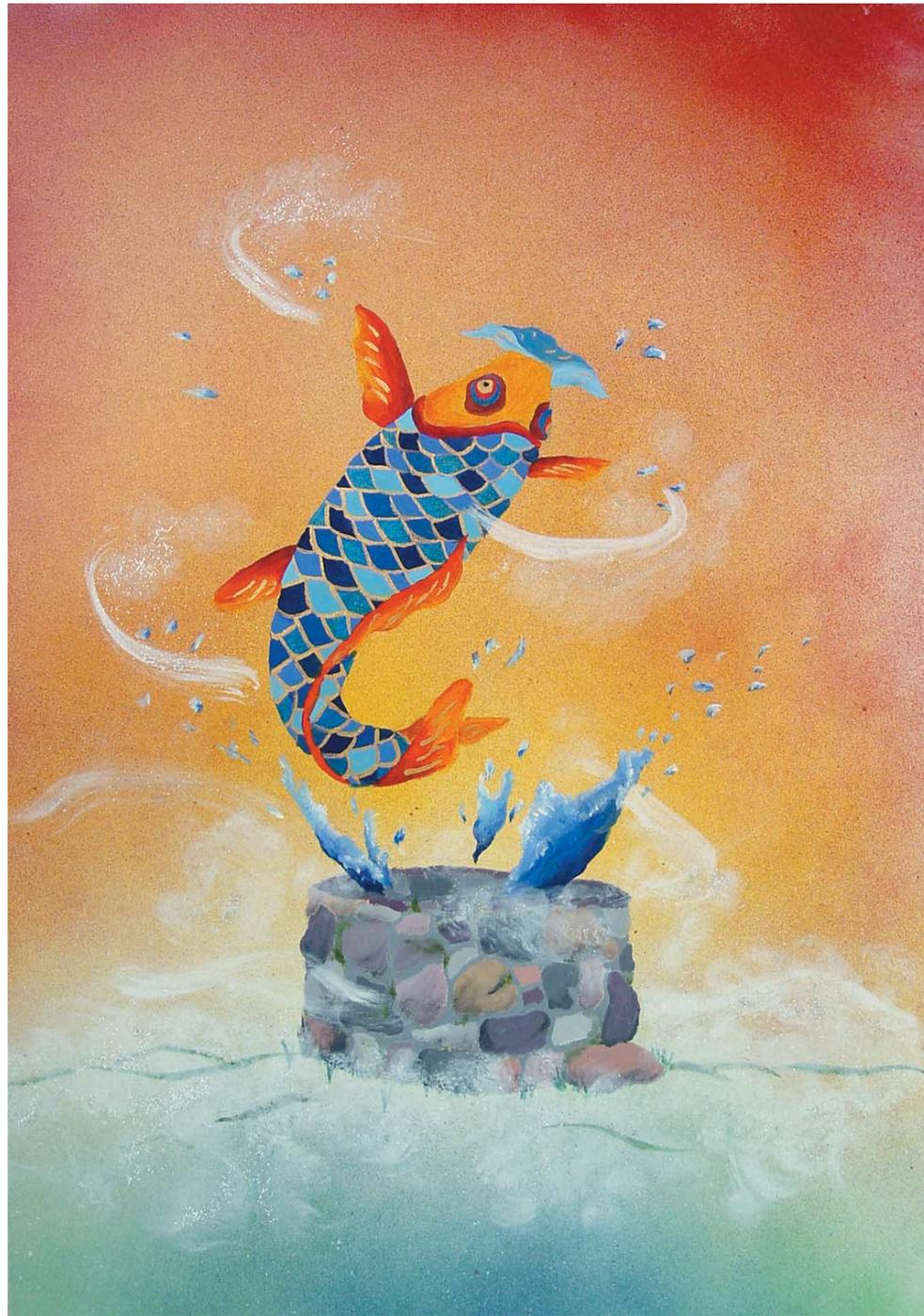
# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**Muhammed Mustafa, 1st grade,  
Campbell Elementary School,**



**Shelby Deegan, 3rd grade,  
Campbell Elementary School,**



**"Koi," Tom Mytke Koi, Washington-Lee High School**



**"Repousse Sun," Cassidy Young,  
3rd grade. Nottingham Elementary**



**Morgan Birkenstock, 2nd grade,  
McKinley Elementary School**



**Francis Malone, Washington-Lee High School**



**"Cat," Elena Laswick, Washington-Lee High School**

# CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## List of Ways to Get Away From Girls

1. Run fast
2. Use tricks
3. Yell for friends
4. Stand then run
5. When they catch people, take sweatshirt off
6. Go under stuff.

**Blaze Gambla**  
grade 1, age 6  
Campbell Elementary School

## My First Candy Shop Experience

Have you ever known what a kid's haven is? Here's a hint. You go and get vividly colored bags full of sweets. No, it's not 7-11. It's a candy shop! When I went to Williamsburg I went to one candy shop called Wythe Candy Shop.

When I stepped inside the warm sweet air caught my attention. An old fashioned bell announced my arrival with a loud, alarming BRRINNG! As I stepped inside, all the different sounds and smells hit me. There was talking, laughing, begging and the smells of fudge, caramel apples, gummy animals and many more sweets being made. When I scanned the rows for delicious goodies to fill my aqua blue candy bag, I saw, Twizzlers, Air Heads, M&M's, Gummies, Jelly Bellies, Razzle Dazzles, Bottle Caps and many more. It was hard to pick. I wanted EVERYTHING! So, I just closed my eyes, spun around and ended up with a headache and with one pound of sweets. When I went to the counter to pay, the register lady gave me a free sample of their chocolate cherry fudge. Mmm! Yummy!

After that taste I thought — what the heck, make it more than one pound of candy. The delicious homemade fudge was warm and gooey and chocolaty and had cherry goo inside of it. It felt like heaven to my hungry belly. Then, when I left the shop, all my relatives were chowing down on candy or waiting for me on the bench where it shaded them from the hot, boiling sun. I liked it better inside the candy haven. I got outside, and all my cousins and I had a "candy munching contest."

P.S. My cousins and I all had stomachaches from eating candy too fast.

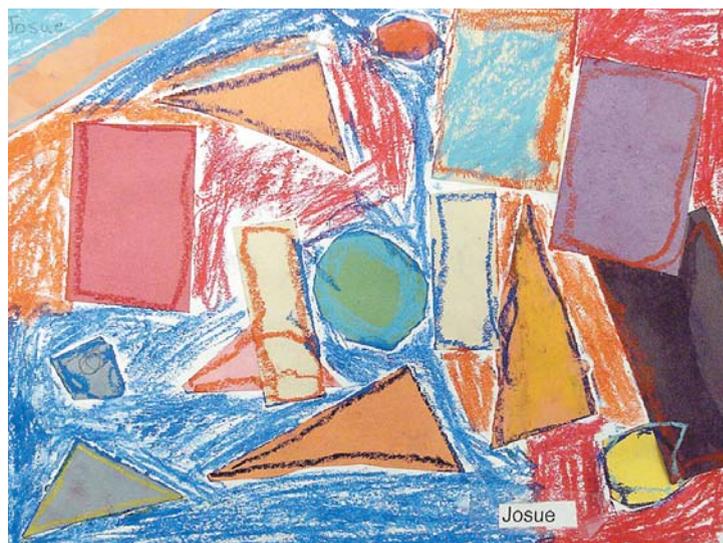
**Finona Turner**  
grade 5, age 10  
Campbell Elementary School



**Khushleen Kaur Pannu, Kindergarten, Campbell Elementary School**



**Digital Map, Gabby Portillo-Ortez, 4th grade, Campbell Elementary School**



**Josue Benitez-Jarquín, Kindergarten, Campbell Elementary School**



**Kimberly Argueta, 3rd Grade, Campbell Elementary School**

## Diving Board

Splash! I watched as my friends dove off the diving board in terror. I was in fourth grade. In January, my class went to Wakefield High School pool for a week to learn how to swim. I was so excited because I had never been to the pool with my friends in my class. All week I was so happy until Friday.

Friday was a terrible day for me.

I felt like it was the end of the world. I need to jump off the diving board. I was so scared because I never jumped off the gigantic diving board. I only went off the little one. Then it came time to go off the big one. When my turn came, I got on the diving board and I heard the girls in line shout, "Go Martha, Go Martha!"

I got the goose bumps.

I jumped and — SPLASH! I felt like water was in my nose, and I thought I'd never be able to breathe normally again. Then I swam all the way to the stairs. Everyone cheered. Then I went again one more time. I would have gone again but it was free time and I had to go to the shallow end.

This experience taught me that most things aren't as scary as they seem, so try even if you're afraid.

**Martha Hernandez**  
grade 5, age 10  
Campbell Elementary School

## My Big Surprise

Finally I've got it. I rush to my mom's bedroom and take it out from under the bed. My mom has just given me permission to take her \$100 Lego set in exchange for finding her \$400 watch that she lost a month ago.

The Lego set is awesome. I rip open the box and tear apart the bags holding the Legos. I felt like a king. My new Lego Chewbacca is shiny and dark tan. I look over all the pieces, a bow and arrow, Han Solo and R2-D2. They smell new and plastic.

My brother rushes to my side. My eyes stop looking at the pieces and at my brother.

"My first chewie!"

"Quiet, go away, it's mine," I say, annoyed.

"He's mine too," my brother yells.

"Fine," I say.

That day, I put together a catapult and two speeders. The next day, I do the rest — a base and little walker thing and a glider. I mount the pieces on a downstairs shelf. My favorite is the Ewok. I bring down the speeders to play with and then put them up and take down the other stuff. I then put it back and go to sleep. It is really hard to sleep because of all the excitement. I was so glad I just played and played with it.

It's good to know that moms sometimes give good rewards for helping them.

**Noah Sampson**  
grade 5, age 10  
Campbell Elementary School

# MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Snow

It all started when we were putting up the Christmas tree. All of a sudden, my mom was calling to me and yelling, "It's snowing!" I was so excited that I jumped up and down. I wanted to see what it was like in the back yard. But I decided to see if my dad would come too. We quickly pulled on our coats and hats, and were out the door. We made a snowman with a nose made out of a stone. Then we built a house out of snow too. We played house in the house. When we were totally exhausted, we ended the day with mugs of hot chocolate!

**Genevieve W.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School



**Jake Wiersburg, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, McKinley Elementary School**

## City Museum is Awesome

There's a place in St. Louis, Missouri, that's out of this world. It is called the City Museum. There is even a place on the roof you can go up to. The part that was really cool was the seven-story tall slide. It was curly and twisty. It took me two whole minutes to get down. There was another part that was like a maze. Once I got in, it was

hard to get out. You can go in the floor, through a tunnel, and come out in the maze. Outside, there was a ball pit that was seven feet deep! The good thing was that there was a ladder on the side of it, so I could climb out. For lunch we went across the street to Crown Candy! I got a turkey and melted cheese sandwich and a vanilla shake. (It was great that we got bracelets at the City Museum, so we could go back for free and have some more fun.) It was awesome!

**Ben N.**  
Grade 2  
McKinley Elementary School

## Skateboarding on My Gluteous Maximus

Hi. My name is Camden, and sometimes my neighbors and I like to go to the skate park in Domin

SEE MCKINLEY, PAGE 16

# Happy New Year

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# NOTTINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Natural Perfection

BY CHLOE DILLON

Have you ever loved someone so much you would give them everything even though if you asked them the same thing they would give you nothing. When you look at them the aspects of their body and features it looks like Natural Perfection in every way. When they hurt you would stand beside them forever. Have you ever felt their pain for them or shared it with them? Because if you have you will know in every way why this poem is the way it is. Listen ...

The tears,  
are running down her face  
one drop at a time.  
Each drop is a bomb,  
It's unleashed from her eyes  
it drops and then breaks on my neck.  
Her heart,  
Beating right next to mine,  
every strained breath she takes it  
beats faster.

Her neck and throat,  
shriveling up,  
struggling for clean oxygen.  
The sweat,  
rolling down her forehead,  
drizzling down her spine,  
crying for mercy.

Her veins,  
running through her weak tiny wrists  
leading to her head twisting in knots.

Her hair,  
swiveling and fighting the wind,  
gliding across her neck.

Her legs,  
Wanting to take a step but the cuts  
and blood beat the urge and will.

Her feet,  
wanting to dance and flex her fragile  
toes.

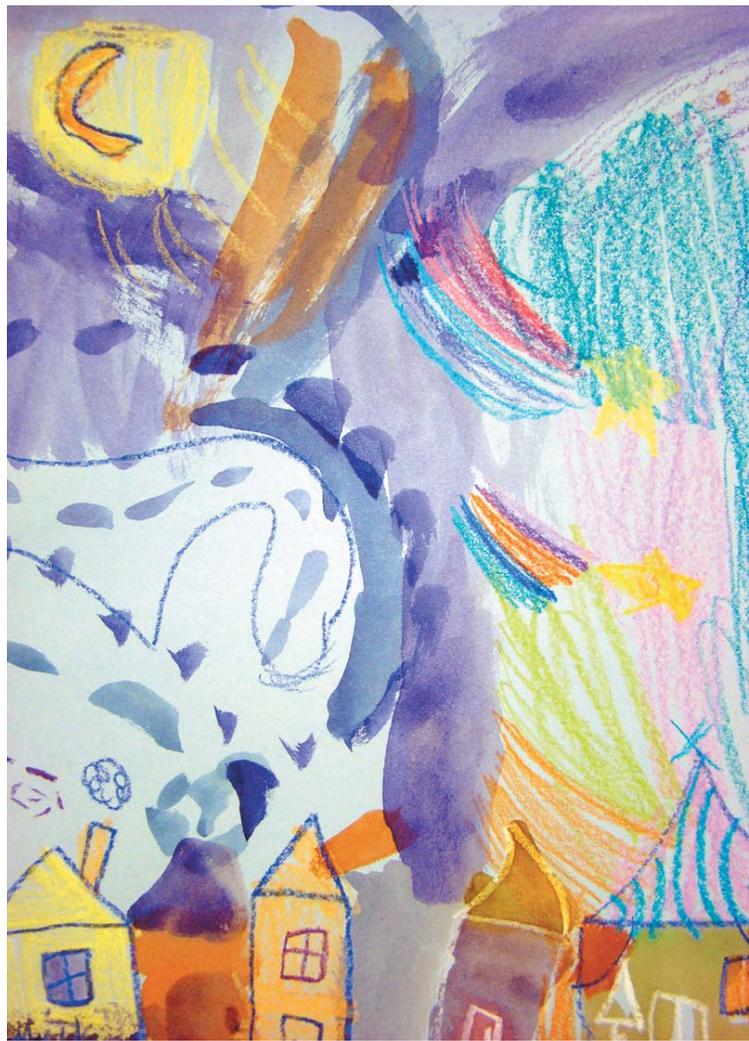
Her nose,  
helping the breathing mouth exhaling  
and inhaling.

Her fingers,  
thin and frail  
leading to her nails that curve into  
the perfect shape.

Her eyelashes,  
a damp tear frozen to the eyelash,  
wanting to open and be free like but-  
terflies.

Her ears,  
blocking out the voice and whisper of  
me trying to sooth her.

Her back and stomach,  
locked down my clammy hands push-



**"Starry Night," Emily Higgins, Kindergarten, Nottingham Elementary School**

ing her against the concrete.

Her hands,  
ready to grab a pencil and out match  
my poetry.

Her lips,  
blood red,  
like a piece of wood,  
out stretched and perfect.

Her dress,  
blue and stuck to her figure,  
ending at her circular knees.

Her united body,  
collapsed, weight and all depended  
on me

she's not ready to support herself.  
My pupils focused on her motionless  
body  
I'll be here till she wakes up for eye-  
lashes to open and to smile her exotic  
smile.

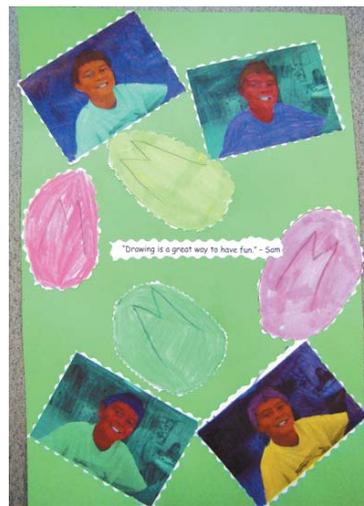
## Burdens

BY KATE BURKHOLDER

I look ahead  
To the cities near  
And feel nothing but regret.  
I know they are close  
And I could reach them easily  
But I stay frozen in the ground.



**"Virginia Landscape," Ryan Jones, Fourth Grade, Nottingham Elementary School**



**"Andy Warhol Self-Portrait," Sam Dokken, Fifth Grade, Nottingham Elementary School**

I have done too many bad deeds  
And am too guilty to move on.  
I can feel the wind blowing gently on  
my face,  
So cold,  
So alone,  
My burden feels like a thousand  
pounds of gold lying upon my back,  
Dust falling off its golden edges,  
And I can not touch them  
Even though  
I am longing

## Summer

BY KATE BURKHOLDER

Summer is ...  
A dream.

Summer is ...  
The firefly's neon light,  
Against the dark indigo sky.

Summer is ...  
The moon,  
Casting its' shadow down across the  
ocean.

Summer is ...  
A sunset,  
Fiery orange,  
And a deep crimson red setting upon  
a hill.

Summer is ...  
The crickets,  
Chirping softly late at night.



**"Guitar," Chris Hopper, Second Grade, Nottingham Elementary School**



**"Bird in Flight," Nathan Dent, First Grade, Nottingham Elementary School**

Summer is ...  
A dream

## Cities

BY KATE BURKHOLDER

I look ahead  
To the cities near  
And feel nothing but regret.  
I know they are close  
And I could reach them easily  
But I stay frozen in the ground.

I have done too many bad deeds  
And am too guilty to move on.  
I can feel the wind blowing gently on  
my face,  
So cold,  
So alone,  
My burden feels like a thousand  
pounds of gold lying upon my back,  
Dust falling off its golden edges,  
And I can not touch them  
Even though  
I am longing to.

## The Brush

BY RACHEL CLEVELAND

I feel my owner's moist, squishy palm  
grip my hard wooden handle,  
She has calmed down  
and is ready to try again.  
I know what is about to happen.  
I can feel her slow breathing  
ruffle my silky bristles,  
Then my bristles are dipped  
into the smooth, glossy paint,  
They are coated evenly  
with the wet brown,  
Each getting its fair share.  
She pauses, letting the excess paint  
slide cleanly off my bristles.  
I get butterflies in my stomach  
as inch toward the wrinkled paper,  
As I touch down,  
I feel the dry paper stealing  
my bark brown right off my hairs,  
absorbing it greedily,  
As I was gliding across the flat paper,  
I hear jingling,  
All of a sudden a cat  
jumps up on the table,  
which emits a groan.  
It knocks the paint over  
onto my creation.  
As I am taken to the sink,  
my heart feels lonely without  
my wonderful creation.  
I am ... a paintbrush!



**"Grand Old Tree," Mary Bernadette Brady, First Grade, Nottingham Elementary School**

# HOFFMAN-BOSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## I Am Happiest When

I am happiest when I am around my mom and brothers. When I am with someone else, I miss my mom unless I call her. Then I feel happy, and I don't worry. Sometimes my mom doesn't want me to go because we kind of don't spend time together. She goes to work sometimes in the morning, afternoon and in the night. Sometimes, I would be happy if my dad never went to heaven, but that is life.

We are all going to heaven.

**Marvin Cedillos**

Hoffman Boston Elementary School  
grade 5, age 11

## Salvador Dali

I read a biography about Salvador Dali, and the book was written by Mike Venezia.

Salvador Dali was a Spanish painter. He was born in Figuera, Spain, in the year 1904. He was an unusual painter, and he had a big imagination.

Salvador loved painting. He was very creative. Salvador Dali believed in himself. He was hard working, and he had his own personality.

Something that I really liked

from the book was when I saw Salvador's painting because they looked interesting. I could see he was creative, and he loved painting.

I enjoyed reading this biography about Salvador Dali. It made think how much work he put into his work when he was painting and it inspired me a lot. I would like to paint like Salvador Dali.

**Camila Sahagun Camacho**

Hoffman Boston Elementary School  
grade 5, age 10

## One Thing I Do Well

One thing I do well is cartwheels. I was in cheerleading since I was 4 years old and stopped at 9 years old. I do cartwheels all the time. When I was in cheerleading, I was always the cartwheel person. I did the one-hand cartwheel. I did a regular cartwheel. I even did a cartwheel with no hands. I also did round-offs, two-hand springs, back flips and front flips.

I love doing cartwheels because it's fun and not a lot of people can do them. I learned how to a cartwheel when I was 3 years old. My aunt taught me how, and now she is trying to teach her daughter how to do them.

My cartwheels have been a big part of my life, and I hope I can still do them when I get old. Oh, and I can't do the no-hand cartwheel anymore or the back flip or the front flip because since I stopped at age 9, I have been scared to do them.

**Jasmine Newman**

grade 5, age 10  
Hoffman Boston Elementary School

## Barack Obama

Barack Obama is the president of the United States. He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 4th, 1961. When Barack was younger, he wanted to be the first African-American president. Today, Barack Obama has accomplished his goal and is now the 44th president of the United States. Barack made his important speech on how and why he wants to be the president on Feb. 23, 2007 in Austin, Texas.

My favorite part of the book I was reading about Barack Obama is when people would say "Barack who?" They would call him "Barack Yo Mama" or "Barack Alabama." I think people should call him by his real name and not make up last names.

If I could become more like

CONTINUED, PAGE 19



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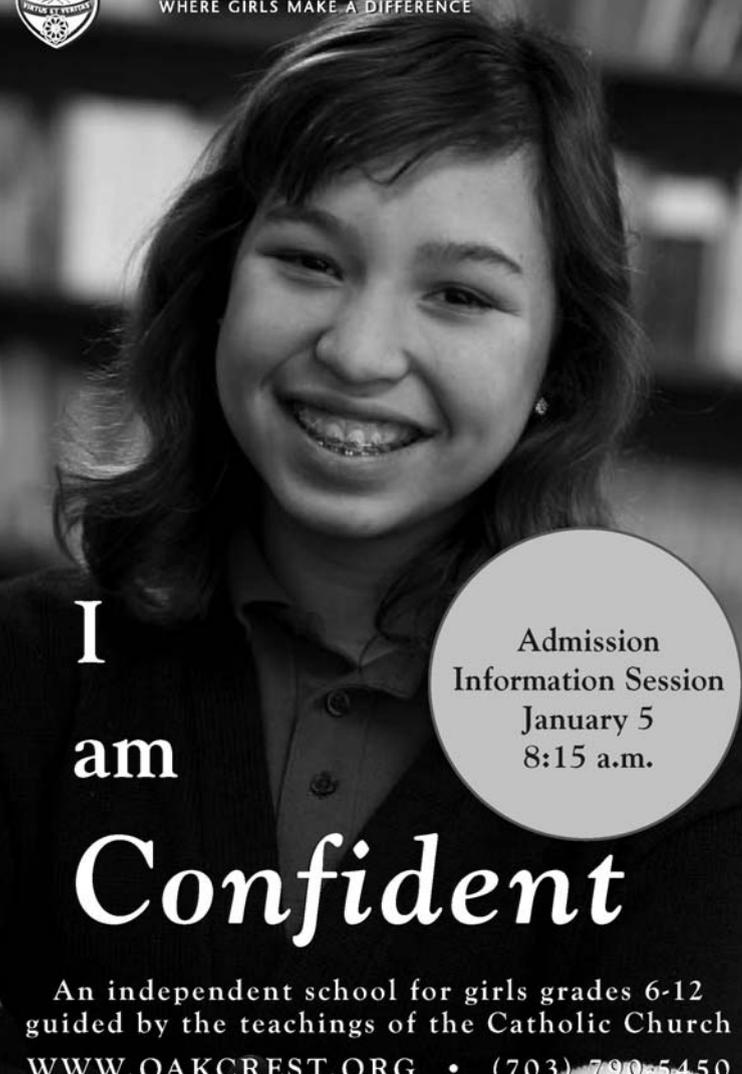
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# IN BLACK & WHITE



**Allison Fontaine, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School**



**Kelsie Vick, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School**



**Alexandra Rodriguiz, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School**



**Eli Mills, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School**



**Indra Nowakowski, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School**



**Lelia Troiano, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School**



**Josie Towmey, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Washington-Lee High School**

# ARLINGTON SCIENCE FOCUS SCHOOL

## Susan B. Anthony

Today and tomorrow everyone will be treated equally. But a couple hundred years ago, only white men were treated fairly. It may sound unfair, but that is the way things worked. The law makers thought they would never change the way life worked. But a woman who fought for equal rights changed their minds.

Susan B. Anthony was a strong and brave woman who spent a lifetime fighting for women to have the right to vote. That may

sound impossible, but she never quit.

Her family was just as amazing as she was. Her father was a Quaker, which meant he didn't believe in slavery. It also meant Susan wasn't like other girls. Back then, people who were Quakers believed in fairness between men and women. Susan knew that no one should be left out.

In her day, Susan B. Anthony and all the other women didn't have the right to do anything unless they liked housework — and not just making up the bed, taking out the trash, but real, hard, housework. It was

especially hard when you had no electricity, no soap or anything. Everyone thought women were too delicate to work, but taking care of a house and a family was harder.

Susan B. Anthony tried her best again and again. She formed meetings, but the people booed her and didn't give her the right to talk. Finally, Susan B. Anthony had enough of it. She voted! As great as it sounds, it wasn't. In 1862, she got arrested. It may sound crazy, getting arrested for voting, but that's what happened.

After long years of hope, Susan B. An-

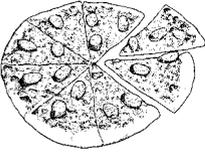
thony died. She died without seeing her dream come true. Fourteen years later, she finally won! Women got the right to vote, work, and do anything. We will always remember Susan B. Anthony because of her brave personality and her fight for women's rights.

**Dasha Khristich**  
Grade 3, age 8  
Arlington Science Focus School

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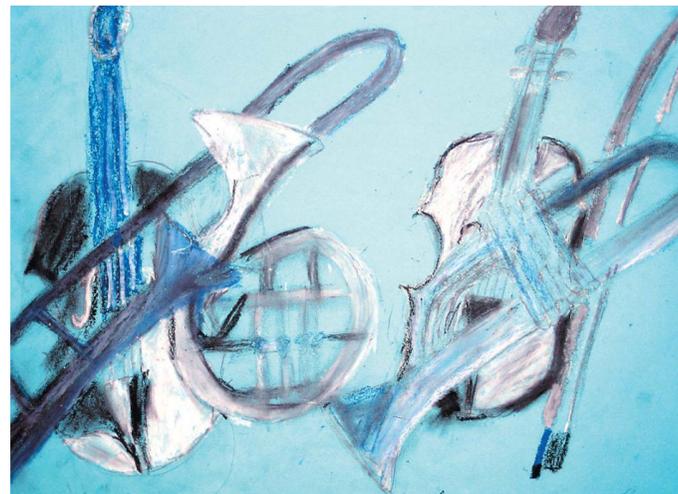
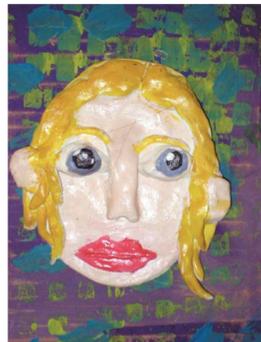
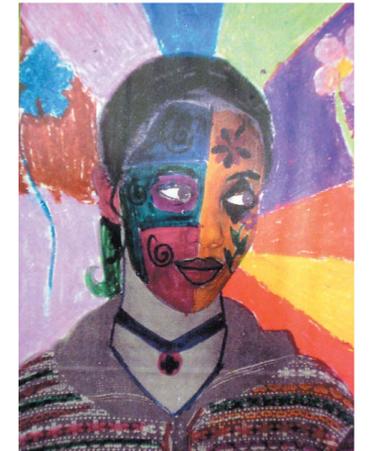
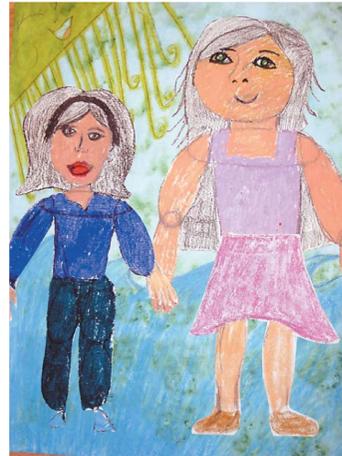
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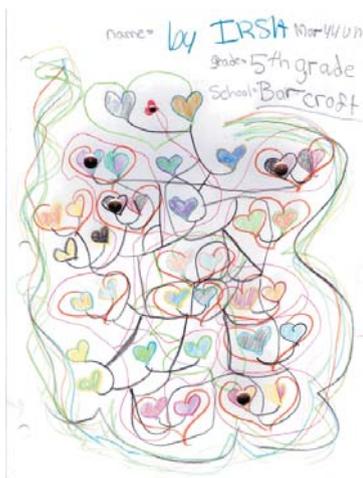
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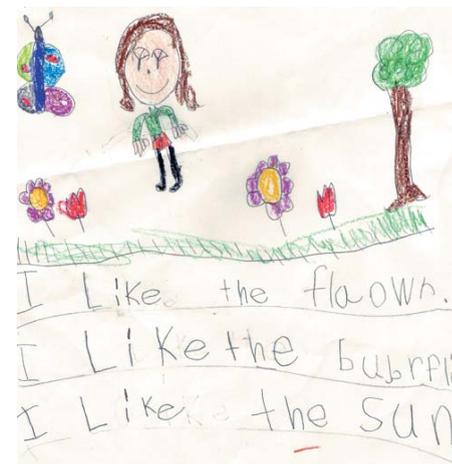
# BARCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Ode to My Bike

I love my cool bike.  
It is so smooth  
With its black handle bars  
And black seat.  
I've had you  
For three years  
And you have always  
Been like a small lion  
Resting in the night.  
I have ridden  
On long rides and you  
Have always turned  
Out fine like hard rock  
That won't break.  
I remember you  
There when I  
Was learning  
How to ride a bike  
With your black wheels  
And yellow paint.  
You can go on  
On any surface  
Like a wild cat  
That won't stop.  
**Naomi Urrutia**  
Grade 5  
Barcroft Elementary School



Irsa Maryyum, Grade 5,  
Barcroft Elementary School



Carolina Mora, Kindergarten,  
Barcroft Elementary School

## Ode to Deodorant

After my shower  
I put this  
Stuff on.  
It makes my  
Arm pits smooth  
And greasy.  
It tickles sometimes  
But I don't  
Mind it  
At all.  
When I sweat  
It saves me  
From people with

Really strong noses.  
Deodorant, you're awesome!  
You make  
My life easier.  
After running a mile  
I'm still comfortable  
Inside  
My arm pits.  
Deodorant  
YOU ROCK!  
**Jake Karton**  
Grade 5  
Barcroft Elementary School

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# NOTTINGHAM ELEMENTARY

## Banned

BY ZACH ROSENTHAL

### Beginning of Part 1 ... Test

It was done, over. The final seconds of the test, I knew I would fail but I didn't really want to ditch school today. I'm the top student in my class but I have a terrible teacher, Mr. Gregor. Even though I was sick, Mr. (Gross) Gregor didn't give me another day to study. He just gave me a test, with questions I didn't know. It didn't help that Jeremy Squeal was sitting next to me. He had always annoyed me, picking my last nerve, blabbing about his 'awesome' Playstation 3 and he would snicker whenever I got one thing wrong, in other words, he was a big nub.

"Time's up!" Mr. Gregor bellowed as he went around the room to collect the papers. I groaned, gave him my test and tried to walk casually out the door. "Mr. Chapman?" Mr. Gregor called. I turned around to face him. "Your first answer was way off. You should really know these simple questions. Remember the worksheet? Well, I guess it's too bad, I'll have to give you your first ever F!" He seemed happy, I looked up as if there was going to be balloons and streamers falling from the ceiling. I watched as his ballpoint pen moved ever so closer to the paper, then I whispered, "I was out sick?" "Excuse me?" Mr. Gregor whispered. "I was out sick," I said much louder this time. "What?!" He said more severely. "I was out sick!" I yelled. "Mr. Chapman!" Mr. Gregor said as if he was taken aback, which he wasn't, he was absolutely gleeful, "March your self to Principal Dickens!" He said in a sing-song tone. Then I went outside, and banged my head against the wall.

### End of Part One ... Start Part 2 ... Dickens

Dickens, how to describe him, he's hairy, scary, and harsh. For example, this kid named Henry Lattice went up to his office for chewing gum, he came back with a police record, which had his fingerprint on it. He is one tough dude. So I was preparing for the Clarkvill Detention Center, I took a deep breath, and walked in. I sat down one of those waiting chairs that they have right outside of principal's doors. It makes you feel all guilty. It made me, but I didn't know why, it wasn't my fault I got strep. In fact, it was so bad, I went to the hospital. There's been a really bad strep epidemic going on in the greater Clarkvill area. In fact, I heard Mr. Gregor's son had a minor case. "Lucky him" I said aloud. "Lucky who?" Principal Dickens said as he suddenly opened the door. Let me give you a quick description of Dickens, pudgy cheeks, a little chubby, and a grump. That's the modest description. "Well," I said, "My friend Jeremy is going to Disney Land and I was really sad I wasn't going so I was like, lucky him!" "Oh just come in!" he mumbled as he pushed me through the door. "Why are you here Renny?" He said calmly. "I got an F." He laughed. "Really Renny, tell me why you're here." He said with clear amusement. "I got a bad grade." I said. "Was it a B, or maybe a C?" He's toying with me, I realized, I shouldn't give him the satisfaction. "I got a F." I said calmly. "Did you study at all?" He asked. "Well ... Yes I did, but it was only for 10 minutes." "Do you realize this test is the base of your final grade? The one that gets sent to middle school?" I started to answer but he cut me off, "You know what? You're smart; I don't expect a lame excuse. According to the school records you were out yesterday. Did you go to Disney Land?" "I

was out SICK!" I yelled out way too loud. Dickens smirked. "I just got an email about a noise complaint. Anyhow what's your punishment? How about ... No after-school classes for a month!" I stared at him. He smiled. He knew after-school classes were my life! I was signed up for one every day of every month. It was because my parents wanted me to be good at a lot of different things, but I enjoyed it. "What about, Tennis?" "No" "Soccer?" "No" "Rock Juggling?" He thought. "No." "Ohhh." I groaned. Then I fainted. Well it felt like I fainted as I walked clumsily through the halls.

### End of Part 2 ... Part 3: Tucker

I went home, ran upstairs and slammed the door. "Want some cookies?" My mom yelled up. "No thanks!" I yelled back down. The first thing I did was call Tucker, the king of the brats. Tucker and I were close in an odd way, he was a nub, like Jeremy, but yet, we got along. The issue was Tucker's mom always listened in on private conversations, so we always have to talk in an odd top secret code. "I got in trouble with the Dread," "What?" Tucker said "Mr. Dick gave me the tick," "What?" He said. I was seriously getting irritated. "Dickens gave me the boot." I said as I was getting really exasperated, "Ohhh!" He said. "So ... want to come over and play?" I groaned and hung up. Then I cried. It was morning, I hadn't told my parents about being banned from all after school activities, even Rock Juggling. If I wasn't banned from everything, today would be chess. Laugh all you want but chess is a highly strategic and fun game. You should try it. Then a thought popped in my head, it was an idea that I'd shortly regret. In the back of the school there is this forest that has a small dirt path that seems to go to nowhere. There seems to be nothing on the other side, there's no road, no building, no nothing so I didn't see why the teachers wouldn't let us back there. "Well," I said. "I guess it's time to find out."

To be continued ...

Zach Rosenthal, Nottingham Elementary School, Grade 4

## Confidential

One of several parts in the making  
Written in Nottingham Elementary  
BY BEN ROSENTHAL

### Chapter 1: First time to spy

My name: Confidential. My age: Confidential. My job: Confidential. I live in Arlington, Virginia, in the year of 2013. The president is President Malloy, and he has the honor of living in the Black House. He was the first president to live there, and I was the first worker to enter, as I entered now. "Agent 2323442424928338294, I have your first mission. A poisoned soda has been going around and it's been making people terribly sick," President Malloy explained. "It's been going on for over a year, and no one has noticed. And luckily for us, we have a list of the top 4 suspects."

He handed me the list.

1. Jeff MacMacafee, scientist for world star company Xplore. Also a famous chemical scientist.
2. Clara Lureheri, scientist for Fakeapedia, also a chemical scientist, and last but not least, a dang good smoothie maker.
3. C. O. Jackylisey, creator of yours truly, Wizberry Soda, the sickening soda.
4. Jack Malloy- Butler.

All of them were scientists, except

SEE NOTTINGHAM, PAGE 14

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With Janet Thompsen, RN MSN

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	2221 North Pollard St. "Lee Heights"	Days on Market: 5 Listed \$700,000 Sold: \$715,000	A+
	3081 North Pollard St. "Bellevue Forest"	Days on Market: 71 Listed \$800,000 Sold: \$767,500	B-
	2420 North Lincoln St. "Dover Balmoral Riverwood"	Days on Market: 12 Listed \$700,000 Sold: \$715,000	A+
	3111 North Monroe St. "Bellevue Forest"	Days on Market: 134 Listed \$2,399,000 Sold: \$2,116,000	A+
	1510 North Abingdon St. "Waycroft"	Days on Market: 21 Listed \$1,199,000 Sold: \$1,129,900	A
	5530 MacArthur Blvd. "Palisades"	Days on Market: 21 Listed \$900,000 Sold: \$915,000	A+
	2725 North Fillmore St. "Woodmont"	Days on Market: 32 Listed \$1,000,000 Sold: \$940,000	B
	1600 Clarendon Blvd. "Wooster Lofts"	Days on Market: 60 Listed \$799,000 Sold: \$720,000	B
	1312 Mass. Ave. "Midtown"	Days on Market: 17 Listed \$300,000 Sold: \$304,000	A+
	2373 North Danville St. "Woodmont"	Days on Market: 14 Listed \$700,000 Sold: \$700,000	A+

Averaging 98% of List Price  
Median Days on the Market: 19



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## NOTTINGHAM ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 13

Jack. "Thank you for the mission, Sir," I said. "You're welcome Agent 2323442424928338294." Jack C. M. His brother. I've heard stories about him. Bad ones.

The airport was crowded. Planes leaving for North Dakota were rushing everywhere. But the busiest city of all? Crazinsville, my destination. "Do you want a Wizberry?" The woman at the food cart said. "Not thirsty," I lied. It was my first time to spy, and even when you are thirsty, poison is not the way to go. It was my first time to spy, and I would not fail.

### Chapter 2: The White House

White. What was white? White was the house the taxi driver was heading to. No one has painted their house white since 2012 when president Malloy was elected. He said white was a disgraceful color. Not even a color. "I want my house to be painted a color!" he said when he saw the house. I was imagining him standing outside this house like I was.

Jeff McMacafee was a crazy man. Hopefully he was crazy enough to believe my disguise.

1. Eyeglasses.
2. Fake mustache
3. Top hat.

"Just like McMacafee's boss!" Pres. Malloy said. How did he know? If he knew the White House still existed, he'd freak.

10 MINUTES LATER ...

"Come in boss!" McMacafee said.

"I am here to discuss serious business!" First of all. Who painted your house," I said.

"Me"

"Well it's terrible!" I said.

"So?"

"Anyways," I said, "I am here to talk

about even more serious business. But first, I'm thirsty! How about some Wizberry?"

"Sure," he said.

I poured a glass for him. He spilled the glass on my new tux. I was pretty sure that was on purpose. "That actually wasn't part of the costume!" I screamed.

Jack raised an eyebrow. "Costume?"

"Uh... no..." I lied.

"This isn't either. Say hello to the boot of kicking!"

"Hi ..."

"Awkward ... snap out of it Jeff!" Jeff said.

"Am I talking to my self aga-argggg-what-don't get me ther-oh just kick him Jeff! End of discussion!"

"Still talking to yourself!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" I screamed as the boot of kicking sent me out the door. "White is so ugly on houses you know!" I screamed. That was one of the last things I said before getting knocked out cold. The last thing I remembered was saying, "stupid tr-"

### Chapter 3 Stupid Trees

"The last thing we need is a spy who gets caught like that!" President Malloy would have said. "If he was the bad guy-oh gosh- can you say tied to a rocket going to outer space where you get sucked into a black hole? This is just what we need on the team James. There I said it. Your real name James, your real name James. Do you want to know what happened to the last spy who had his real name spoken in here?" I started to speak, but he answered for me. "No James, you don't!" That was what he would've said.

I woke up. "es." I have a great memory. Remember earlier when I crashed into a tree? Yeah, you do. I probably would've had a concussion, and I probably did. But I'd notice it if I

wanted to notice it. And I didn't. Injury was all in the mind. If you noticed it, you'd be scared, and call 911 and overreact. If you stayed calm, you'd call for help, and then call 911. And if you pretend it's not there, you try to keep going. And that's what I tried. "Stupid trees, stupid trees, stu..." I hit another tree. "Stupid..." Another tree. I walked like that all the way to the airport. The old boot of kicking kicked my wallet out of my pocket. Or maybe I thought it did. Sooner or later I'd call the Mythbusters for this one. I had enough time to think about that before I hit another tree. I must really have a concussion. I stopped there and called the office. The secretary answered. "Tell President Malloy McMacafee knew the soda was poisoned. At least I'm pretty sure." She called back 2 hours later. "President Malloy says to check out the WSS, World Soda Society. His brother Jack Malloy will be there." In my one year of working for Mr. Malloy, he never mentioned a brother. He had pictures of his family back in 2010. A man with grey hair, and way younger woman, probably his sister. His mother was away in Sacramento on vacation with his unknown brother. Smack! A tree. Bound to happen sooner or later.

"Why is that office never filled?" I asked the president in March.

"It's C.O. Jackylisey's office; he's away on business often." Mr. Malloy answered. "Should I believe him?" I wondered then.

I sat down in the 12th row; and it was 5:30 p.m., so it's around 7:00 at home. I wasn't used to that. Good thing I was flying to Fakensville, time would be the same then. Then I looked to the seat next to me. I had a hallucination of a tree.

**Ben Rosenthal**, Nottingham Elementary School, Grade 4.

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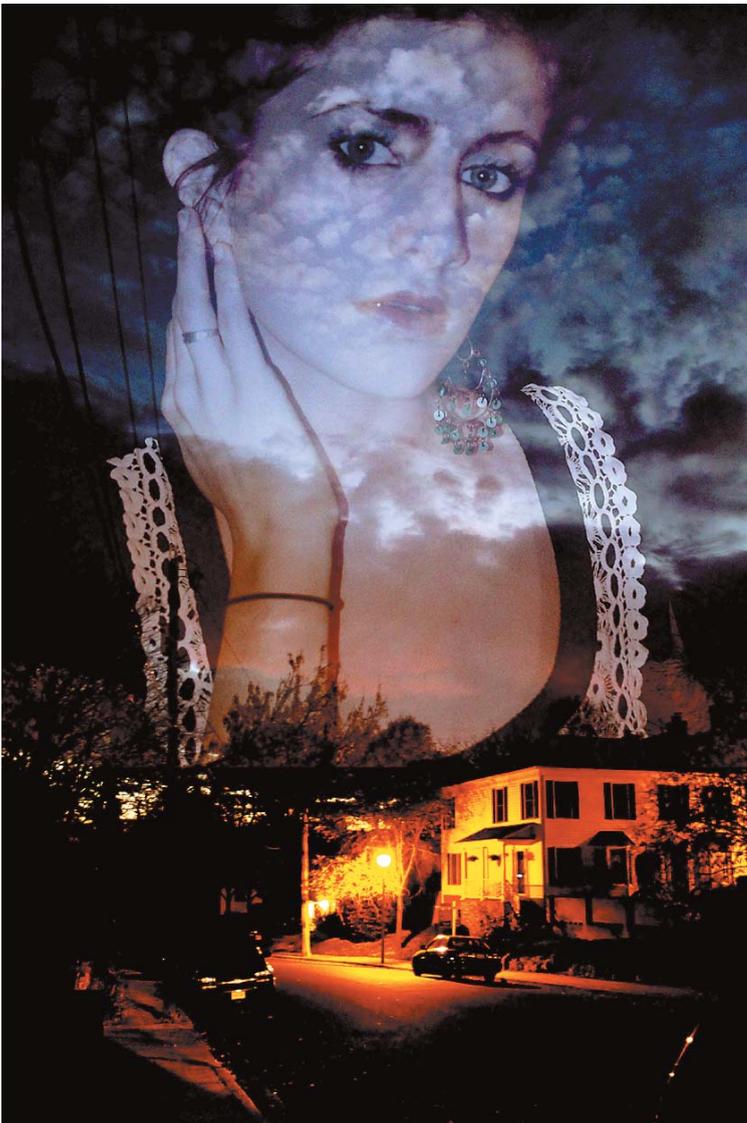
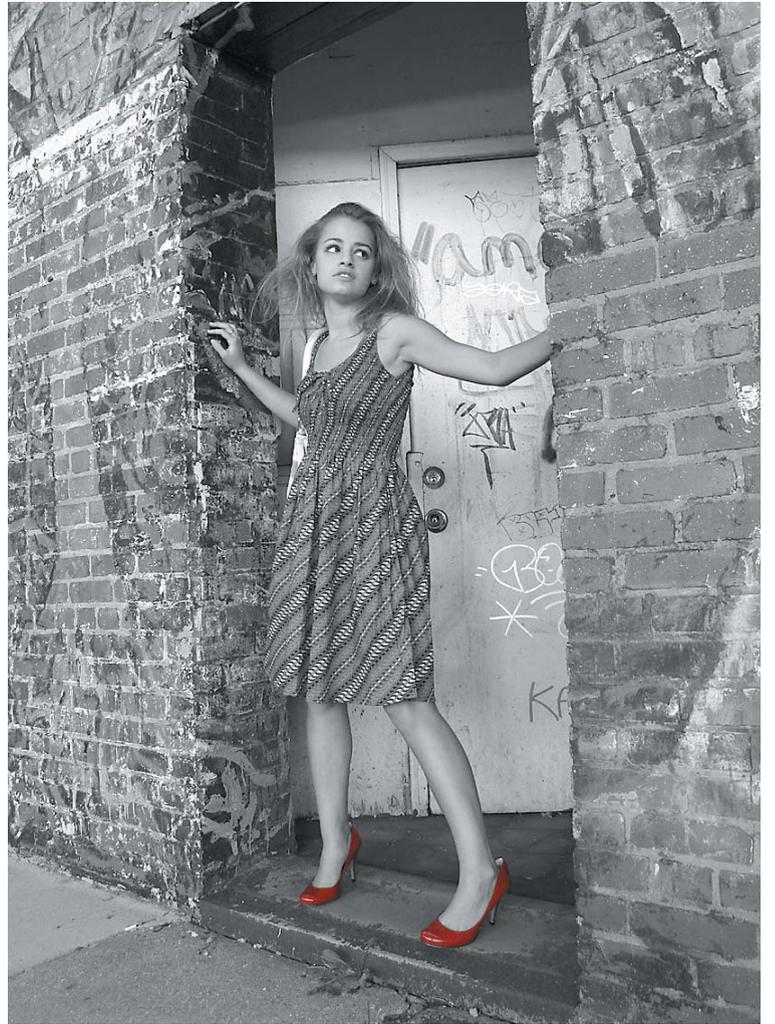
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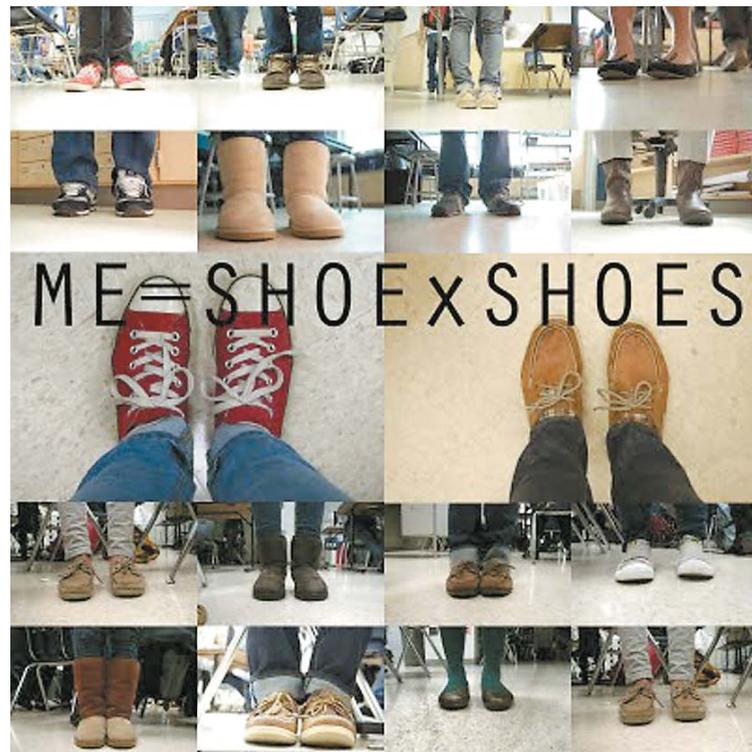


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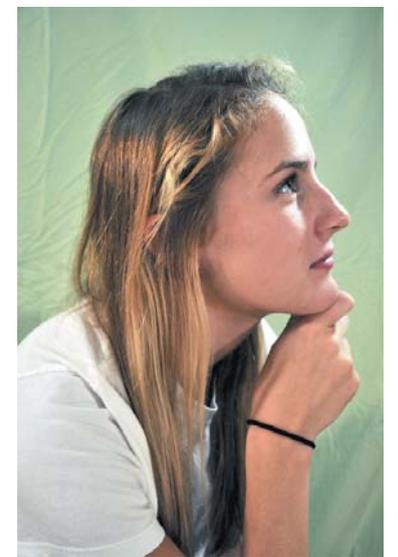
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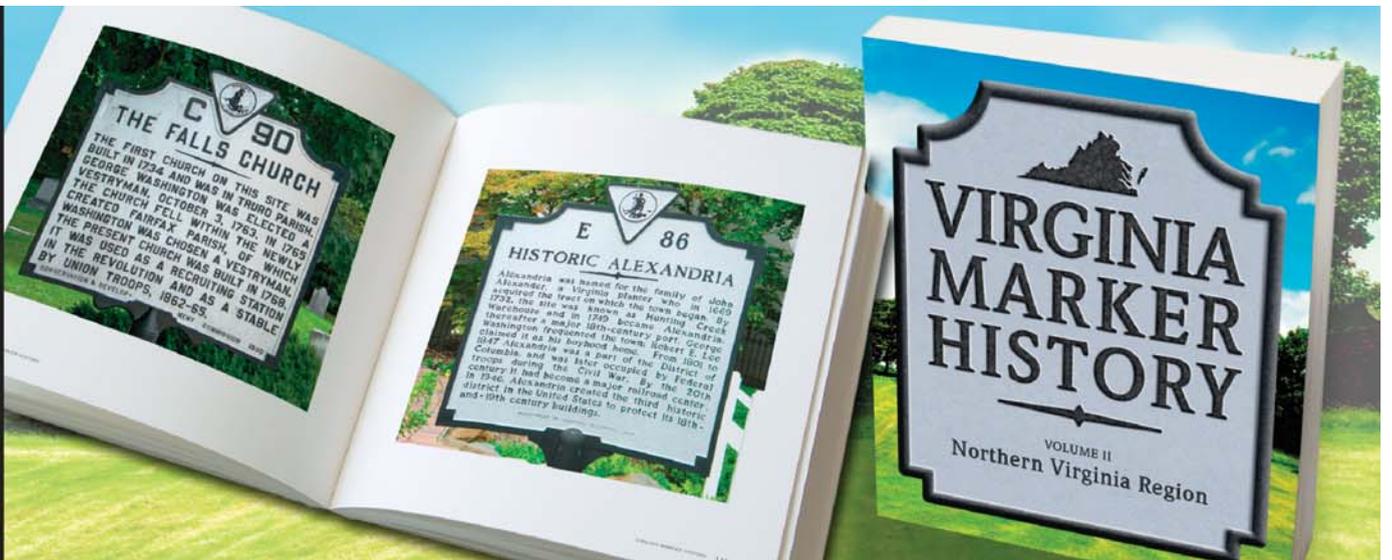
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# MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 5

ion Hills. In the morning, you can bring anything on wheels — like a razor bike or a skateboard. So I usually bring a bike in the morning and my skateboard for the afternoon. Once when I was on my skateboard and trying to steer it, the board went up and I landed you know where.

Sometimes I just watch the older kids doing fancy tricks like 360s and ollies. I'm thinking one day I'm going to do that too. The best thing about the skate park is you don't have to pay. The skate park is absolutely my favorite place to go!

**Camden B.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School

## Bowl America Rocks

Strike! I am at Bowl America for Jaden's bowling birthday party. There are a lot of funny things here. Like, whenever you get a split, a hockey player pops up on the screen, and a hockey puck hits him and makes his teeth fall out. The sound I love to hear is the rumbling of bowling balls. And I love to wear the comfy bowling shoes. I scored 60-something with my black and green-lined ball. Not bad! Time at Bowl America couldn't be better!

**Chris G.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School

## Scoop Beauregard's Tastiest Ice Cream

Scoop Beauregard's is so awesome! Scoop's has millions of tasty flavors of ice cream. My favorite



**Emery Ax, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, McKinley Elementary School**

flavor is s'mores. Going there in the Summer rocks! While I enjoy other ice cream shops, I can never pass up Scoop's. They are very kind because on hot summer days they leave bowls of water for dogs. They also put benches out front for people to sit and lick away. I repeat, Scoop's is awesome!

**Emma S.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School

## Let's Go Golfing!

My favorite summertime place in Arlington is Upton Hills. It's great mini-golfing there with my family and Grandma. My grandma always picks a red ball. I sometimes pick blue or yellow. Once, my grandma's ball fell into the water.

SEE MCKINLEY, PAGE 17



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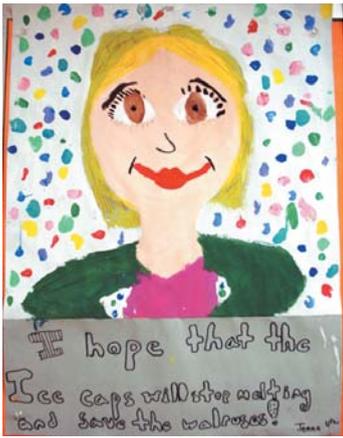
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# MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**Jenna**



**Fiona**



**Sophia**



**Jac**

FROM PAGE 16

The best part of the course is the huge hill. You have to run down and see where your ball landed. I feel the wind in my face when I run. Sometimes we'll swim or get ice cream. Mine is always chocolate. That's why I love Upton Hills so much!

**Isabel D.**  
grade 2, age 8  
McKinley Elementary School

## The Growing Environmental Building

I love being in the United States Botanic Garden, especially during the holidays. There are festive trains chugging all around the central room. In the jungle room, you can go on a balcony overlooking a forest of green. There are mist things that spray to help the plants grow. There are different rooms with different environments. The desert room looks and feels like Hawaii. The jungle looks and feels like, well, a jungle. The botanic garden is such an enchanting place to visit!

**Graham L.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School

## Stomping like Elephants at the Museum of Natural History

Roar! If I had a free day, I would definitely go to the Museum of Natural History in D.C. When you walk in, it doesn't look like a museum with fake animals. Far into the building you can feel the stomping of the elephants and hear the sound they make. Later in the museum you see a tiger that looks like it will jump on you. In a different room there is a giant elephant as big as a house! You can also see animal footprints like deer. There are many other magnificent things to see in the building. When you think you are finished, there are always other enjoyable places to explore in the Museum of Natural History.

**Julia T.**  
grade 2, age 8  
McKinley Elementary School

## Having Fun at

## McKinley Playground

I have so much fun at the McKinley playground after school. The zip line is my favorite spot. It's fun doing it with one hand. The other thing I really enjoy is the monkey bars. Back and forth! I like to see how many I can skip. My record is four. I also love just sitting up on top, feeling like the queen of the playground. Other times I even do summersaults on them.

**Kathryn F.**  
grade 2, age 8  
McKinley Elementary School

## The Grand Slam Stadium

The National's Stadium is great! Let me tell you about it. It's really huge, and when you go in, you can feel the excitement. My dad has season tickets that are close to the action. Usually balls fly near our seats. Sometime, I'd sure love to catch one!

Another reason I love their stadium is that they have great food. The chicken nuggets are the best. We eat them with ketchup and mustard. I usually say, "It's awesome here!" They also have video games, and a playhouse before the game starts. It's great from start to finish at the Nationals Stadium!

**Max N.**  
grade 2, age 8  
McKinley Elementary School



**Liam Norman, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, McKinley Elementary School**

## Dominion Hills is da Bomb!

The very best place to be in the summer is the Dominion Hills pool. I enjoy doing tons of belly flops off the diving board. When I get out of the pool, I am saturated, so I jump in again because it feels so cool. I always buy something from the snack machine. Sometimes I get cookies, and sometimes I get a Snickers bar. I also like playing Ping-Pong with my brother, Bennett. I serve the ball — smack — and he hits it right past me. Dominion Hills pool is da bomb!

**Owen M.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School

## Ice Skating Comes in First Place for Me

Kaboom! I just fell down while doing a sharp turn on the ice at the Kettler Ice Rink. I took lessons at the ice skating camp, and I'm getting really good at whizzing around. I can even do a little spin on ice, but it isn't really that that good yet.

It's also really cool just watching when the Zamboni cleans the ice. Afterward it's as smooth as glass. I also like when the real ice skaters go on the ice doing all those spins and jumps. I think the Kettler Ice Rink is the best place to be.

**Piper D.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School

## Naturally, Potomac Overlook is Amazing!

Rustle, flip, flap, flip, flap, flip. Thup! Hello, it's me, Sarah.

You thought that was a bird didn't you? Well, you're right. And this is Potomac Overlook. It's the home of beautiful wildlife like barn owls. There are also five-lined skinks everywhere! One time, I spotted a baby snakeskin! Another time, my mom and I were walking and we saw a deer sprint right in front of us. Potomac Overlook is naturally amazing!

**Sarah Z.**  
grade 2, age 7  
McKinley Elementary School

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## Oil's Well That Reads Well



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In the pantheon of things (subjects) with which I have absolutely no knowledge (and even less interest) are cars and more specifically – and especially, their repairs. The head of a pin would likely provide sufficient space for that knowledge. So when something as routinely simple as an “Oil” light illuminates on my car’s dashboard, my immediate reaction/assessment is “Oh...! Now what do I do?” What little I do know to do, reactive though it may be (as opposed to proactive as it should be), is to consult the owner’s manual provided by the dealer/manufacturer. However, since there are 352 pages in that manual, I’m not instinctively able (even though oil begins with the letter “o”) to seek and find the answer to my question. That question being, as simply as my limited knowledge can determine is, “What kind of oil do I put in my car’s engine?”

Knowing what information I wanted though, did not assist me in finding it as I flipped through the hundreds of color-coded and headline/categorized pages/sections, so I went to the back of the manual, the glossary of terms if you will, to see if the very specification information for which I was looking was somehow identified. Sure enough, it was. Oh boy, was it!

The terms are listed alphabetically so I scanned/flipped the pages until I found the grouping for the letter “O.” And there, to my nearly uncontrollable joy, I found the exact answer I was looking for. And found it in such Kenny-level English that I thought it worth mentioning and focusing on as fodder for this week’s column. Reading the listings under “Oil,” from top to bottom I read, “Oil Changing;” “Identification Symbol;” and then the *pièce de résistance* and the choice I could not actually resist – or believe my eyes – which enabled me to find the answer to my oil question, was printed the following: “What kind of oil do I put in my engine?” Can you believe that? A manual written just for me, and a category/answer to my question that was so perfectly suited to its owner’s minuscule level – and total lack – of knowledge, that it prevented even a “Bozo” like me from clowning-up this much-needed repair/replenishment. You can’t imagine (although maybe you can) the sheer joy and relief I experienced, when after stressing-up the usual anxiety brought on by these kinds of car-related conundrums (the appearance of an “idiot” light; aptly named), and then holding this voluminous owner’s manual in my hands as well with a simple answer apparently not in the offing, that I was able to, in relatively short order, find the answer and find it so obviously stated that, my usual mental anguish concerning this mechanical mishmash was completely eliminated.

When I saw in the owner’s manual that the section/page that I needed to get to was in fact the exact question to which I was desperately seeking a simple – and quick – answer, I busted out laughing and said, “Finally, a manual that I can understand.” Simple pleasures for a simple person. Now that’s what I’m talking about!

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

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# WORDS & PICTURES



**Samantha Haga, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, McKinley Elementary School**

FROM PAGE 7

Barack Obama, I could become the first Latina president or study to be a lawyer and go to law school. I will do my best in school so I can go to college and study to be a lawyer.

In conclusion, my class was working on biographies. I picked Barack Obama. I think Barack Obama is a very creative and fascinating person. Most of all, Barack Obama is an inspiration to me.

**Jessica Centeno**  
grade 5, age 10  
Hoffman Boston Elementary School

## Rainbow Day-Dream

Hi! I'm Velma. Currently struggling in math and science. I hate Social Studies, but I do great in it. And, you know, surprisingly, I am the second smartest in my class. Wait, no third smartest.

Right now, I'm in class learning science stuff like, ya know, Roy G. Biv (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet) wavelengths and frequencies — stuff like that.

Everything is going in one ear and coming right out. I begin to wander in a day-dream. Well, I think ...

"Omigosh, where am I?" I say to myself. I saw a cute little walking rainbow thingy. It was the color indigo, I think, and it said to me, "You just in time for the fight! Oh and by the way you are at the great Woy G. Biv (she means ROY G BIV) laboratory. I'm Indigo. Please call me Indie." She sounded like a cute little baby.

"OK, Indie. What do you mean by 'I'm just in time for the fight?'" I asked her, puzzled. Before she could respond, the lights were turned off and there were two spotlights on other rainbow thingies and — hey — there were my favorite colors: red and violet in the boxing ring.

Everyone was completely silent and Indie somehow disappeared. I looked around and it was pitch dark everywhere except the two spotlights shining on red and violet. They were jumping around a bit and then there was single ring of a bell and the fight began.

I think they were fighting over which one was better — weird!

Red began and shouted at the top of his lungs, "I am the best because I come first in the acronym Roy G. Biv, and I have the longest wavelength! Ha! Beat that!"

"Fine, I will beat that," Violet said with all the dignity she had left. "You may have

that, but I have the greatest frequency. Plus, the smallest wavelength is always the favorite. Ha ha ha. You beat that. Violet sounded like a maniac.

Then I heard a shout. I looked around worried, and Indie whispers to me, "The professor!"

I heard whispers saying, "Busted!" I wonder why.

Then the professor appears out of nowhere and shouts, "Break it up you two or I'll put you all back into the prism!"

Next thing I know I'm in class and everyone is laughing at me. I say to myself, "This is the weirdest daydream ever."

**Maria V. Mobley**  
grade 5, age 11  
Hoffman Boston Elementary School

## Paper Dance

I am a tree. I provide oxygen for all plants, animals and humans. It is a nice, sunny day. Soon a truck with lots of people come. The people scare me. They have very big axes.

Ouch! I am being cut down. Slice! Crunch! Bang! My bark is breaking. My insides are breaking. My leaves are falling off. Help!

Later I am sent to a store. I am in this paper box. It is very dark. Soon a family pays money and buys me. I travel in a machine the humans call a "car." I travel to this nice house. I am carried inside the house.

A human is drawing beautiful pictures on me. There is a house, butterfly, grass, sun and a stream. Later the humans put me in this thing they call a "recycling bin."

Soon I travel to a factory where I see that humans are making old paper into new paper. I am clean and brand new again. I fly away in the wind I fall onto a bench. I watch a soccer game. The humans played well. The team called Blue Summers won.

I fly away in the wind again. I fall inside a factory. It is the same factory I went to some time ago. I turn into new paper. I am the color brown now.

A human prints words on me from a machine they call a printer. Now I have black liquid stuff all over me. I have words that humans can understand. I am in a school. I have some homework directions written on me. Later I am put into a recycling bin.

Then I am recycled again. That is my entire life, and this is the paper dance.

**Prashanth Kallat**  
Hoffman Boston Elementary  
grade 5, age 10

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**-William Van Horne**

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**21 Announcements**

**OBITUARY**

Christal Ann Sudduth, 77, of Oceanside, CA passed away on November 25, 2009. Mrs. Sudduth was born on July 1, 1932 in Los Angeles, CA. She earned a Bachelor's degree from UCLA in 1954 and later taught pre-school for many years. Christal married then-Lt. JG Roger Sudduth on June 5, 1954. They travelled the world together, both in the Navy and as civilians, with Roger retiring as a Captain in 1977.

**21 Announcements**

She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Roger of Oceanside, CA; daughter, Lesley Barnard of San Diego, CA; son, Lawrence Sudduth of Arlington, VA; sister, Joy Denman of Washington D.C.; grandchildren, Devin Elliott of Ft. Myers, FL, Allyssa Sudduth and Robert Sudduth both of Marlborough, CT. She was preceded in death by a son, Darryl Sudduth, in 2001.

**21 Announcements**

A Memorial Mass was celebrated at 5:00pm, on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church on Balboa Island, CA. The Committal will be held on Tuesday, April 13 at 11:00am at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. Arrangements are by Poway-Bernardo Mortuary.

**21 Announcements**

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

**-William Van Horne**

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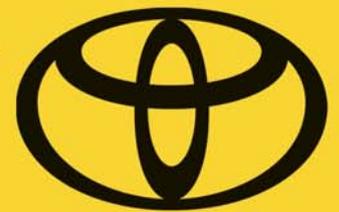
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