

# Alexandria Gazette Market



## Children's Gazette 2010

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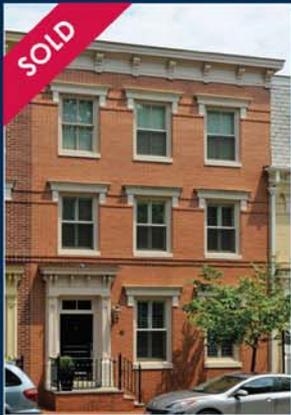
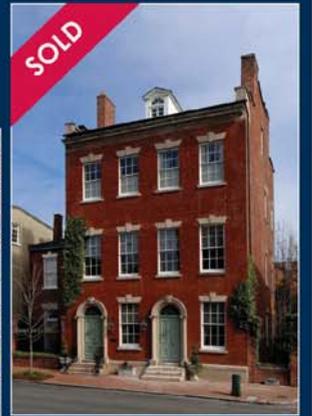
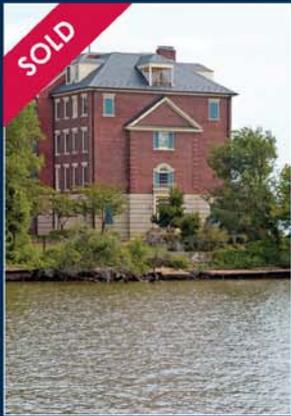
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## Welcome

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 2011 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](mailto: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



**Stacy Kiklis, 15, Grade 10, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.**



**Marcela Estrada Zepeda, 4th grade, James K Polk ES**

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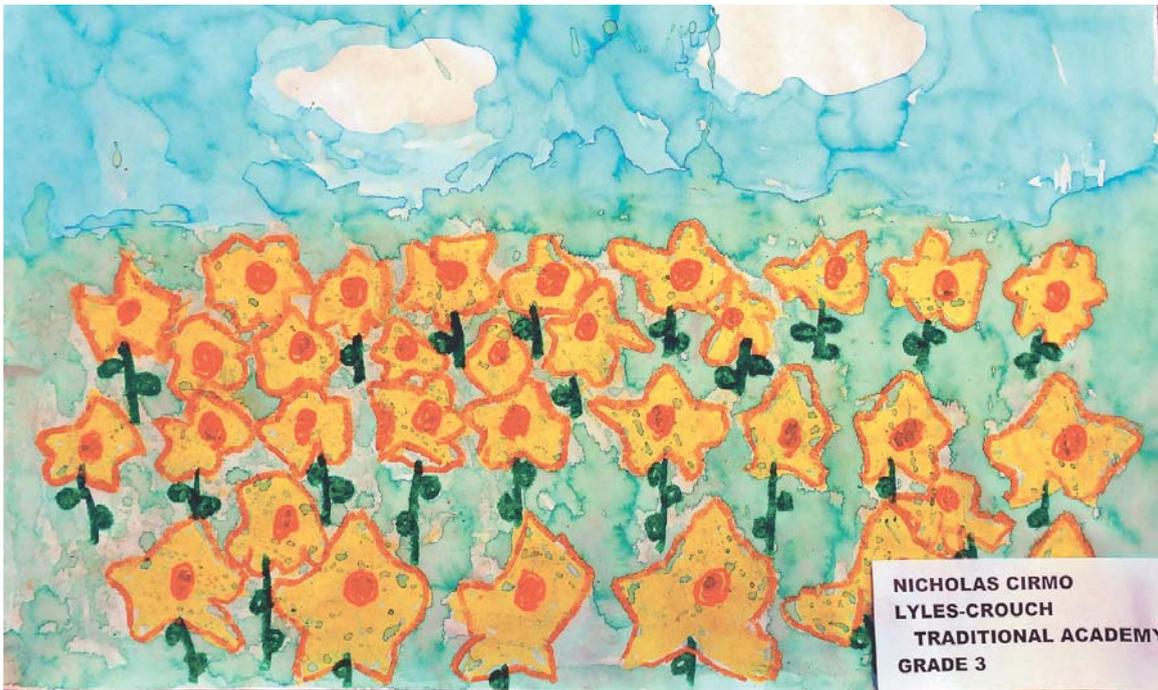
**Caroline Roda, grade 4, Charles Barrett ES**

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ CHILDREN'S GAZETTE PACKET ♦ 2010 - 2011 ♦ 3

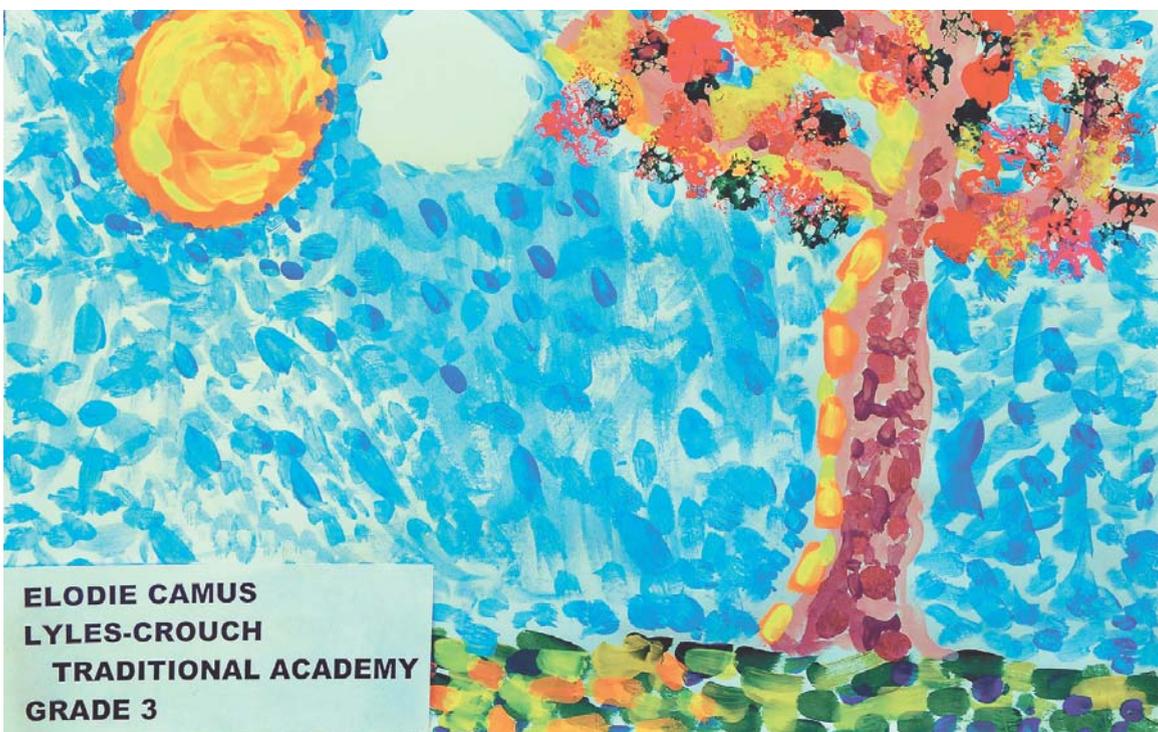
# NATURE



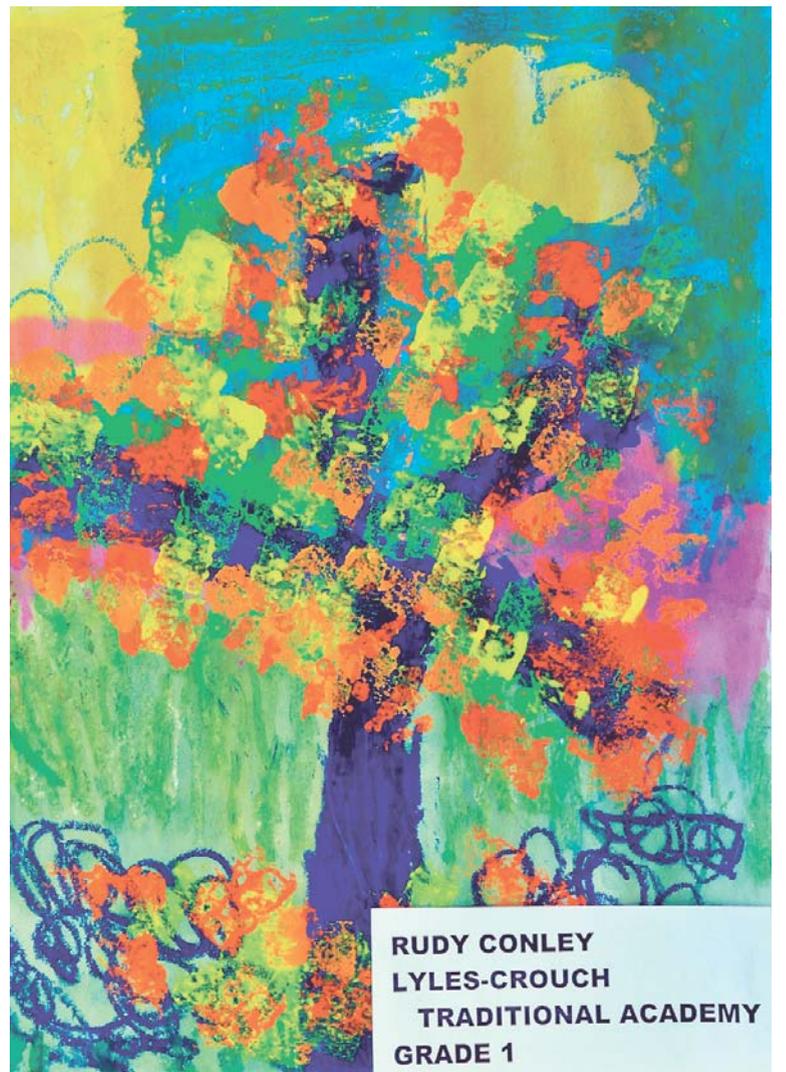
Lydia Greenwood, grade 3, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.



Nicholas Cirmo, grade 3, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.



Elodie Camus, grade 3, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.



Rudy Conley, grade 1, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.



Lindy Moss, grade 4, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

# PERSPECTIVE



Nicole Leal, 16, Grade 11,  
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School



Rachel Movius, 17, Grade 12,  
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

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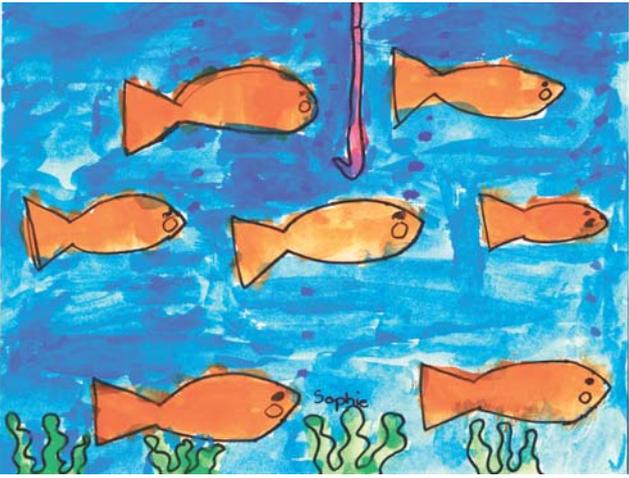
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# GALLERY



Sophie Brzezinski 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Lauren Ashkenazi 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Isabela Dunlap 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Larkin Massie 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Lily Altree 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Sarah Wetherly 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



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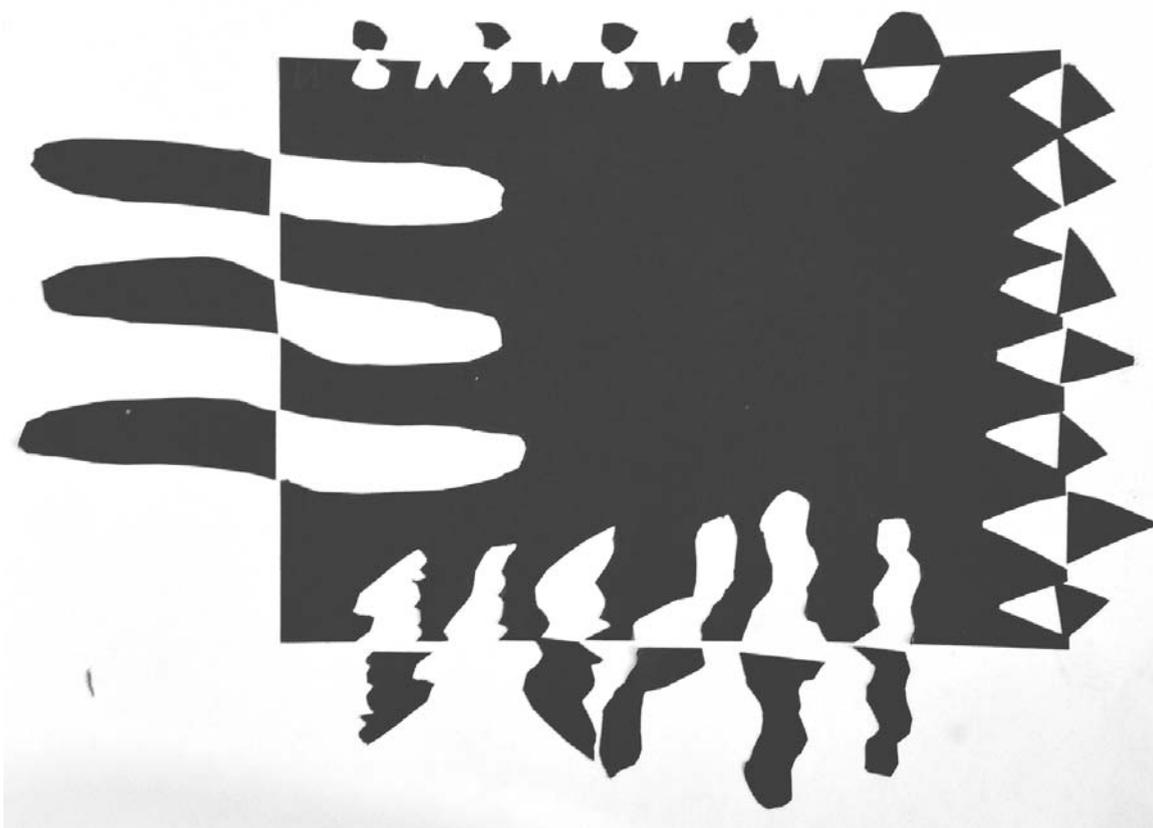


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# POETRY



Keimani Johnson, grade 5, Charles Barrett ES

## Stop Bothering Me!

Please stop bothering me,  
I've told you a million times,  
Because if you do,  
I'll start saying rhymes.

— **Catie Hoffman**, 8th grade,  
George Washington MS

## Hope

Hope is a whisper of promise, the  
wish of a better future, a chance for in-  
nocents abroad to create a better life.  
Hope is the twinkle of a star in the night  
sky, and hope is a feeling that flies  
around on angel's wings. We would be  
nothing without hope, we are hope.

— **Matthew Richardson Floyd**,  
George Washington Middle School

## Joy

Joy is a thing that lights up our world.  
It makes us who we are.

Without joy the world would be  
gloomy and we wouldn't be where we  
are.

Joy is what makes life worth living.  
Joy can come from family,  
friends, and God.

— **Liam Bowman**, George  
Washington Middle School

## Inside Out

I feel inside out and upside down,  
My mind's in a twist,  
I'm wearing a frown.  
My heart on my sleeve,  
My thoughts in a bind.  
I'm about to go crazy, it's only a mat-  
ter of time.

I feel so strange,  
Inside and out.  
My mind is filled with too many  
doubts.

Lost and nervous,  
My mind's in a twirl,  
I think I'm gonna hurl.  
I feel inside out and upside down  
My mind's in a twist,  
I'm wearing a frown.

— **Grace Kennedy**, age 13

## Identity: My Mirror Image

If I look in the mirror, who do I see?  
Do I see him or her?  
Nope, it's just me.  
Who am I? Who am I? I hear myself  
ask.

Discovering your identity, is a very  
difficult task.

Black or white, red or brown,  
Or whatever color you may be,  
The question is not "Who am I?"  
It's "Who are We?"

— **Catie Hoffman**, 8th grade,  
George Washington MS

## In the Early Days

In the early days  
I yearned for the winter  
With eyes of a newborn child  
Looking upon the world  
Then effortlessly came Fall  
Bearing summer away  
Attacking us with  
BONE CHILLING DAYS!!!!  
Next is approaching  
Threatening and quick  
Frost lay between my fingers  
And ice?  
Oh so slick!  
My knees tremble like an earthquake  
has hit them

For my body is slapped by the wind  
My legs are icicles now  
Disobeying, refusing to bend  
Warm serene faces Zoom  
And whiz by  
Whoosh!! The air says  
"Oh no!" school teachers cry  
"Old Man Winter has finally arrived!"

— **Nicolette Thomas**, George  
Washington Middle School

## List Poem

Black shoes— Converse  
White and Black shirt  
Black pony tail  
A gold bracelet I bought for my 9<sup>th</sup>  
birthday  
A pair of blue jeans, pockets on back  
and front  
A gold nickels with an elephant on it  
Green socks-put on this morning be-  
fore school  
One black under shirt  
Twenty dollars in my left back pocket  
My black phone in my right back  
pocket  
All the bags in the van  
A white sweater  
Three keys in my front pocket for my  
apartment  
Every one in the van  
Two words I wanted to remember all  
the way.....  
New Jersey!

— **Mely Paz Cruz**, George  
Washington Middle School



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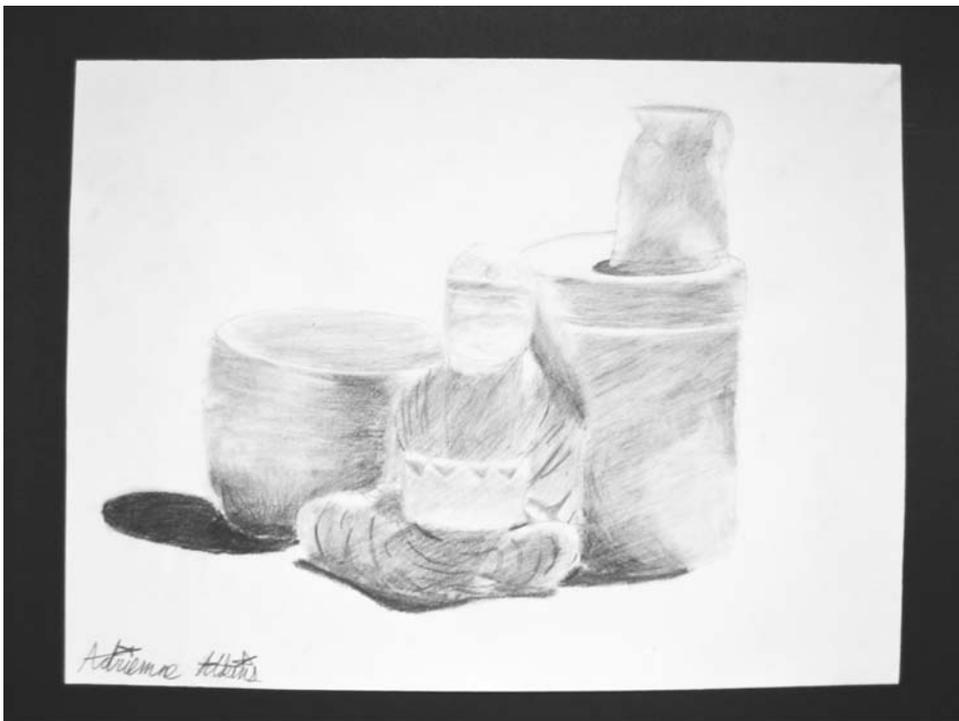
# WORDS & PICTURES



Sarah Griswold, 13, Grade 7, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School



Nathan Pugh, 11, Grade 6, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School



Adrienne Atkins, 13, Grade 7, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School



Ashley Jones, 12, Grade 6, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

## WRITINGS

### What Is Blue?

Blue is a calm feeling  
 A cold parrot's feather  
 A clear waterfall  
 Blue is a beautiful silk dress  
 A paint box  
 The dark night sky  
 Blue is a crayon that says Crayola  
 A blue book on a shelf  
 That teaches you how to cook  
 Blue is a tiny blueberry  
 A planet named Uranos that is upsidedown  
 And a Morpho butterfly that flutters  
 Blue is a mailbox  
 And a blue shark  
 "Can you imagine living in a world without blue?"

— Alexander Huang, William Ramsay ES

### What Is Golden ...?

Golden is the color of Apollo's sun  
 Or like sea nymphs having fun  
 Golden is the color of Poseidon's mighty trident  
 Which is as strong as a full grown Titan  
 Golden was a wish that King Midas made

That turned his daughter into a golden display  
 Golden is a coin you need to give  
 To go see Hades if you no longer live  
 Golden is the color of Zeus' lighting bolt  
 If he gets mad, he will jolt  
 Golden is the color of Athena's shield  
 With Medusa's hideous face revealed  
 Golden is the color of Pan Pipes  
 Put your lips to them and swipe  
 Golden is the color of the ring in the Minotaur's nose  
 Which is as golden as his filthy toes  
 Golden is the color of Aphrodite's hair  
 Which will blind all who dare to stare.

— Sidrah Hamid, William Ramsay ES

### What is yellow?

Yellow is Apollo shining bright,  
 Yellow is Aphrodite's beauty's light,  
 Yellow is Athena's mighty shield,  
 As well as Aesclepius's power to heal.  
 Yellow is Hesperidins' golden apples,  
 As well as Ares' mighty tackles,  
 Yellow is Persephone's beautiful daisies,  
 And gentle Hestia's warming gazes.

— Yasmine Mitchell, William Ramsay ES

### The Bad Child

"I will never be good in school," Licery cried out.  
 "Why can't you be good like your brother?" her mom whined.  
 "No, Never, never in a century!" Licery yelled.  
 "Get ready for school, Licery!"  
 "Ok, fine don't have to yell." Licery opened her clothes drawer like a turtle, and ate her Cheerios munch by munch and then she marched to school.  
 "Teachers are dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb," Licery sang walking around her classroom, "especially Mrs. Izly."  
 "Sit down and read a book!" Mrs. Izly ordered.  
 Licery sat down and read her favorite book: The Girl Who Got Lost in the Wild. Right behind Mrs. Izly, the principal walked in.  
 "H-h-hi' Mr. Green," Mrs. Izly was trembling, Licery was giggling.  
 "This is the third time I heard you yell! This time I even heard you from two rooms down! What is the matter with you?" Mr. Green asked in a irritated voice.  
 "N-n-nothing," Mrs. Izly looked worried.  
 "If you hate that child so much then send her to another class!" Mr. Green screeched.  
 "Thank you, I thought I was stuck with her," Mrs.

Izly said in relief, but Licery wasn't too satisfied.  
 The next morning Licery ran to her busy mother and said, "Mom, Mom, we're having a field trip to the wilderness! Can I go?"  
 "How long is it?" Her mother asked.  
 "Two days!" Licery replied.  
 "Yes, please go, go forever," and her mother smiled. Licery was puzzled.  
 On the day of the field trip the bus ride took two hours, because there was traffic. "Were going to the wild where bears eat meat and lions and attack humans." Licery tried to scare her new classmates, but she only scared herself.  
 "Were here!" the bus driver called across the bus.  
 "You have to learn how to survive here. Me, I already know how," Licery bragged.  
 "Really," her new teacher Ms. A said.  
 "Yep, I come here all the time," Licery bragged some more, but she was really scared. In the morning Licery was expecting her teacher to wake her up, but she didn't. Later Licery thought her classmates would be singing campfire songs already, but they weren't. At 1:00 p.m. Licery was worried that they had gone to the lake without her. When Licery got out of her striped tent, no one was there. Only her, her tent, and a couple cans of

SEE WRITINGS, PAGE 26

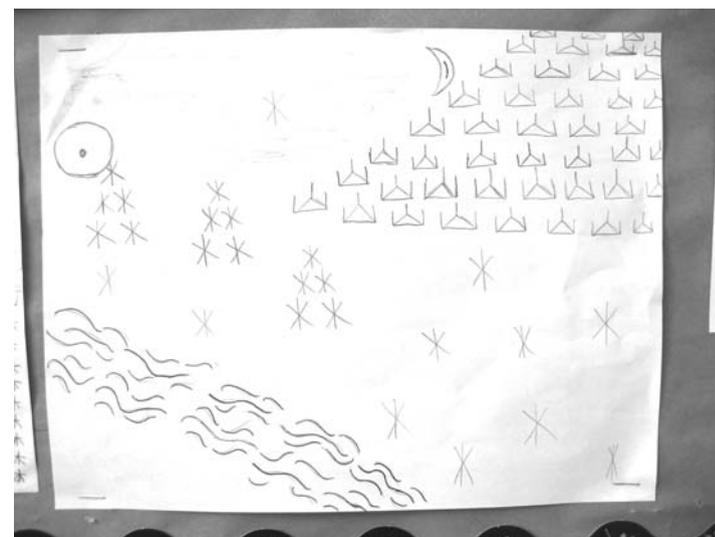
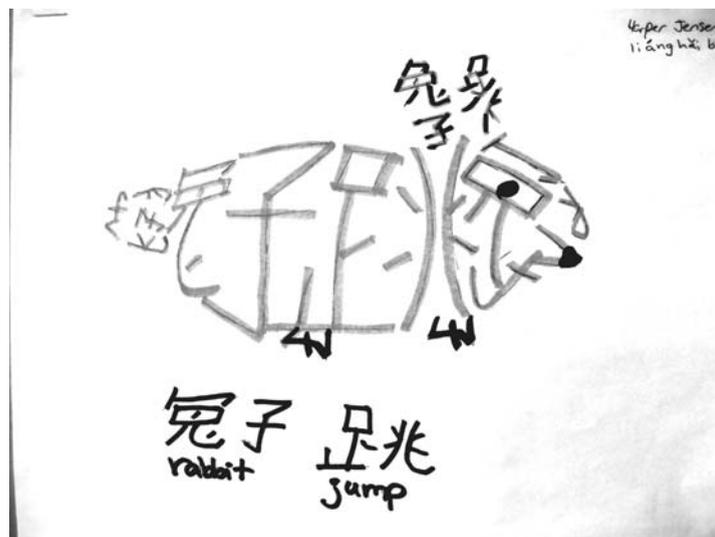
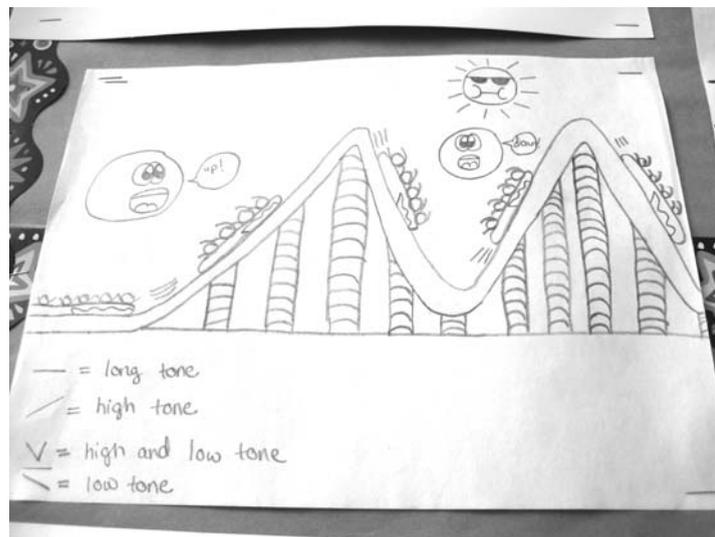
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# WORDS & PICTURES

## Winter Coming Near

Seasons are changing all around us.  
 Wonderful white snow  
 Instant hot cocoa  
 Nearing closer to Christmas  
 Too cold to play outside  
 Evenings as dark as night  
 Resting, resting, and sleeping through the snow.  
 The holidays are around the corner.  
 Fall is fading quickly away  
 Winter is just around the corner.  
 The freezing cold is nearing  
 Light – shorter and shorter each day.  
 Thanksgiving is gone  
 We are nearing Christmas at last!  
 — **Melissa Halabuk**, age 10, John Adams  
 Elementary, 4th grade

## Christmas

The leaves stopped changing colors and are gone  
 Everything is going to sleep.  
 The white beauty falls from the sky.  
 Everyone's guardian angel is lying on the ground.  
 People sledding down hills of pure white  
 People coming inside for hot chocolate  
 Tomorrow is Christmas I have to go to bed  
 Good night.  
 — **Rico Amero**, age 10, John Adams  
 Elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## Bringing Beings Joy (A Song)

Snow ball fights.  
 Christmas lights,  
 What a pretty sight!  
 You wake up in the morn,  
 with Santa to adore.  
 Bringing people presents.  
 Hooves and bells you hear all night jingling  
 all the time!  
 — **Isabel Sparks**, age 10, John Adams  
 Elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## Christmas Adventure

A 10-year-old named Joe wanted to meet Santa,  
 he ask his mom if he could go to the North Pole.  
 "Honey, why would you want to go on a wild trip  
 like that?" asked his mom.  
 Joe ignored her and got ready for dinner. He ate  
 a lot since he hadn't eaten his breakfast. He  
 watched T.V. until he was tired. Then he noticed  
 that his mom was asleep in the big stuffed chair.  
 Joe put on his clothes and went outside. There

were reindeer on the top of his house. Joe climbed  
 on the roof and got in the sleigh. He heard foot-  
 steps and hid in an empty bag. Joe heard a jolly  
 laugh.

"Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas!" the jolly man  
 said.

After an hour of laughs and waiting, the sleigh  
 landed on some soft ground. It was more freezing  
 than ever. Joe peeked out of the bag. There was a  
 gigantic tree in the middle of a great lighted city.  
 There were little men in green and red walking  
 hurriedly in every way. They had funny voices.

"Elves," Joe whispered.  
 "It seems I forgot a bag. Let's see what toys are  
 in this one," the jolly man said.

The man opened the bag and gasped when he  
 saw Joe. Then he laughed his jolly laugh. He  
 grabbed Joe's hand and picked him up.

"What are you doing here? Where did you come  
 from? Oh ... Excuse me, let me introduce myself.  
 As you probably know, my name is Santa Claus."  
 "Wow, Santa!" Joe exclaimed.

Santa led Joe to a strange factory of some kind.  
 Three elves opened the doors for him. Santa told  
 Joe what the factory was for.

"This is my workshop. The elves build toys here,"  
 Santa explained.

Joe's jaw dropped. He drooled. Joe was in awe.  
 "Okay, kid. You got to wake up," an elf said.

"Huh? What? What do you mean?" Joe asked.  
 Suddenly Joe was in his bed and he saw where  
 the lights were coming from - the living room. He  
 was wearing his pajamas. He ran into the living  
 room where his family was opening their presents.

Joe told his family about his Christmas adventure.  
 It was going to take a little time to figure out  
 whether it really happened, but in the meantime,  
 Joe was a happy camper opening his presents,  
 — **Janaka Miles**, age 11, John Adams  
 Elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## The Greatest Christmas

It was Christmas Eve and Janaka was getting  
 impatient. He wanted to open his present right  
 now. So he went downstairs, but tripped and fell  
 down the stairs. When he was at the bottom of the  
 stairs, he looked up and saw a Christmas tree. But  
 something was wrong. Sadly there were no pres-  
 ents under the tree. Janaka was aggravated and  
 went back up the stairs to his room to pout.

Suddenly, he heard a thump on the roof and  
 Janaka went back down the stairs and hid. A huge  
 fat old man came in the door and had a big red  
 sack. It was Santa. Janaka started to sneak up on  
 him, but Santa was too quick for him. Santa ran out  
 of the house, but he was nice to leave a ton of pres-  
 ents. They were all for Janaka. It took Janaka one  
 hour to count his hundred presents.

Tired, Janaka went back to bed and was asleep



**Shaw Whitley, 16, Grade 10, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School**

in three minutes. The next morning, Janaka went  
 to the living room where there were sad faces on  
 all of his family members. They did not get one  
 present. Yes, that was surely Janaka's greatest  
 Christmas ever.

— **Girwan Shah**, age 10, 5th grade, John  
 Adams Elementary

## 'Tis the Time for Holidays (song)

It's time for Christmas,  
 everybody wants a present.  
 On this day, hip hip hurray!  
 Mary birthed a King.  
 How many holidays do you know about?  
 Celebrate them all.  
 It's time for Kwanza,  
 Festival of lights.  
 On this day, hip hip hurray!  
 The kinara light is shown.  
 It's time for Bodhi day,  
 Buddha servants all around.  
 On this day, hip hip hurray!  
 Enlightenment of the Buddha.  
 It's time for Ramadan,  
 Feast of the Mecca three days long.  
 On this day, hip hip hurray!  
 Muslims fast a month.

— **Caitlyn Thomas**, age 9, John Adams  
 Elementary, 4th grade

## What to Read

The following reviews were written by children  
 in the Wright to Read After School Book Club.  
 Wright to Read is an educational program that  
 promotes literacy through the tutoring and  
 mentoring of elementary school students and  
 through outreach to the Alexandria community.  
 The Book Club meets Tuesday afternoons at the  
 Charles Houston Recreation Center.

I read about "Math for All Seasons" by Greg  
 Tang. The book has poems about math and count-  
 ing. I had too much fun doing math problems on  
 "Hot Tips." I used multiplication to count scoops  
 of ice cream. I recommend this book to Ms. Rogers'  
 class. Boys and girls in my class love math.  
 — **Jamia**, age 7

Book Title: "Dyamonde Daniel"  
 Author: Nikki Grimes  
 Illustrator: R. Gregory Christie  
 This book was about a girl named Dyamonde  
 and a boy named Free. They are always talking  
 about moving to new places.

My favorite character in this book was  
 Dyamonde because she is cute and she is a girl and  
 talking about being nice!!!

I like the book because it is about her being nice  
 and funny and fun!

I think my God-sister should read this book and  
 my cute old good and great Mommy.

— **Cheajiah**, age 10

Book Title: "Frog and Toad Are Friends"  
 Author: Arnold Lobel  
 This book was about toad with his silly bathing  
 suit.

My favorite character in this book was both of  
 the main characters.

I liked this book because it was very, very, very  
 funny because of frog and toad.

I think you should read this book to have a big  
 nice laugh.

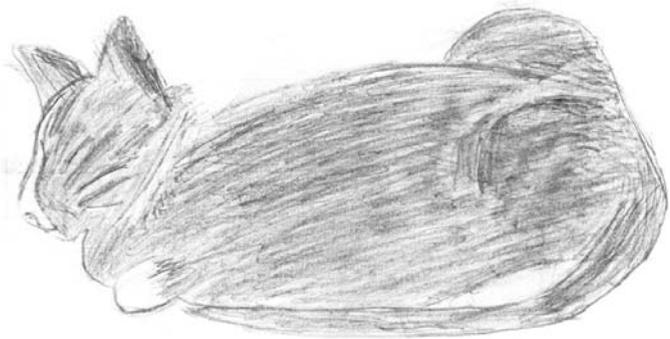
— **Logan**, age 9

## Surprise!

A surprise for the good kiddies,  
 fill their shoes with goodies,  
 is what I shall do!  
 A small winter snow  
 for the Los Angeles kids,  
 They won't expect it!  
 Don't want to make  
 Mother Nature grim.  
 Presents under a tree  
 make the kiddies excited!  
 Brothers and sisters have collided.  
 Collided they have,  
 And not a single tear shed!  
 Dad calls out, "Pull out the sled!"  
 Mom calls out, "It's dead cold out here."  
 But who cares, it's Christmas,  
 And it is snowing in Los Angeles!

— **Love Thomas**, Age 9  
 John Adams Elementary, Fourth Grade

## Our Kitten



**Akira Angel Garcia**  
**William Ramsay Elementary School**

## The Talent Show Tryouts

It was morning. I was reviewing my song that  
 I was going to sing today. I was retracing my  
 steps knowing I was forgetting something; ah!  
 There it was my c-d! Of course! I retold myself  
 "I'm going to make it. I'm going to make it." I  
 was ready to go. I got in the car thinking about  
 my cousin Sean, who plays lots of instruments,  
 'T'd bet he'd like to see me." I thought I was fi-  
 nally out of traffic. I hopped out of the car and  
 entered Charles Barrett Elementary School, my  
 school.

I walked to my classroom feeling like my legs  
 were lead because my knapsack was so heavy.  
 School was out. I had a great day! Not think-  
 ing about all the tests coming up and all the  
 homework, I went straight down to the auditor-  
 ium and went on stage with my dance group.  
 We danced to a song called Fire Flies by Owl  
 City. Everyone was impressed! I was so happy!

The acts went on. I was waiting for my next  
 act, but all of a sudden they said good bye. I  
 went up to the people running the talent show  
 and said, "But you skipped me!" "Oh were very  
 sorry. Go on stage and finish your act." I handed  
 them the Lady Antebellum c-d and I sang as  
 best as I could.



It was very funny seeing my friends do all  
 the silly dance moves while I was singing. I fi-  
 nally finished and they said, "You have a really  
 sweet voice. We'd definitely like you to sing at  
 the talent show". I whispered to myself, "YES!  
 I made it!" Then I saw an act that was really  
 funny! I laughed my head off!! I said good bye  
 and Happy Hanukkah to every one of my great  
 friends and left.

I went down to the rec center did my home-  
 work while humming like crazy. I couldn't wait  
 to tell my family!!!

— **Clare Colburn Williams**, age 10,  
 Charles Barrett Elementary School

# WRITING

## Meeting New Best Friend

First week of school – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Lunch in the cafeteria.  
 Waiting in line to get food.  
 Sat down and started eating.  
 Finished eating.  
 My friend saw one of her old friends.  
 She seemed nice and quiet.  
 We went to sit with her.  
 Both started talking to each other.  
 Didn't know what to do, because I didn't know her.  
 It felt awkward.  
 Wanted to sit somewhere else.  
 Felt bad.

Time to go to band!  
 I got there and noticed she was there too.  
 Both said hi to each other.  
 Another girl.  
 Asked where she was from.  
 She said, "Honduras"  
 Couldn't believe it, because it didn't seem like it.  
 I said I was from Honduras to.  
 Next morning we see each other at our bus stop.  
 Started talking to each other again.  
 Noticed she was nice, but not so quiet anymore!

— Dixy Ortiz,  
 George Washington Middle School

Don't miss this family musical!

# Oliver!

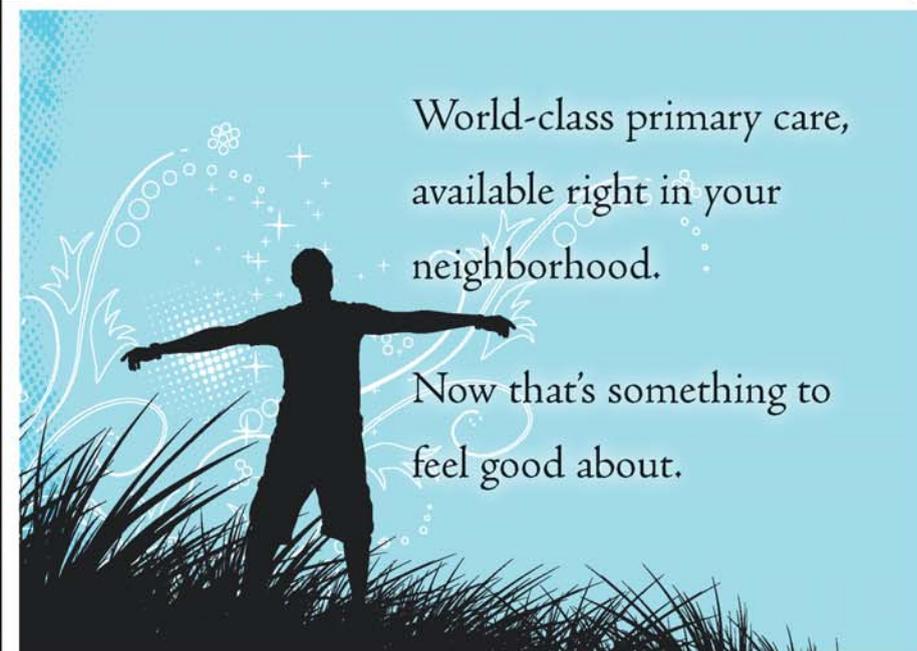
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WORDS & PICTURES

#7

Lucky number 7. That magical number, which makes men's dreams come true.

Some people carry you in their pocket Jumbled with the four-leaf clover and rabbit's foot. Maybe an exotic goat's eye.

People kiss you for good fortune, hoping to please you, oh, number of the gambling gods.

Little do they know that their pleas fall on deaf ears. After all, you are only a number. — Stephanie Stassi, 17, 12th grade, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

My Alter Ego

My alter ego is wild She parties like there's no tomorrow She dances like no one's watching She sings like no one's listening My alter ego has the courage To say the things that I don't. My alter ego is a leader My alter ego is a more charismatic me waiting to come out — Lindsey Crabill, 17, 12th grade, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

Burrowing Owls

Burrowing owls Tiny, furry creatures Spots upon their soft wings Sharp, grey beaks Silky, yellow eyes

Sandy hole dwellings Sleep during the day, fly during the night Burrowing owls soar silently through the night.

— Bridget Walsh, 13, 8th grade, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

Free Verse Poem on "Life of Pi"

Happiness in the place that you are, That is contentment, and it leads to life, But when you must leave paradise, And the dark water that has surrounded you closes in, What can be done?

Do not lose the will to live, Do not let the water close over your head, Struggle, fight, and do not let the sacrifice of others go to waste, For you must tame the beast, go the mile, And you must never give up hope.

— Alexander Collins, 14, 8th grade, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

In the Middle: A Dialogue Between Science and Religion

Two friends; two loves, One cold and logical, The other warm, but forever beyond



Carla Wood, age 11, St. Mary's School in Alexandria

my grasp. The scales tip one way, Then the other: Neither good, either evil. They argue perpetually -"I am better" -"No I!" -"No I!"

The decision will come: For now, Here I am Stuck in the middle. Both, Neither, Nothing.

— Rice Tyler, 14, 8th grade, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School



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# WORDS & PICTURES

## The Thing

You know that thing?  
It always gets in your way?  
You trip over it at night,  
Always pass it at day?  
And then one day you need it,  
You don't know where it went?  
Then find it in the corner,  
All wrinkled and bent?  
So, next time you have  
Something get in your way,  
Just put it to the side,  
You'll need it one day!

— **Tori Garcia**, age 12  
Old Town, Alexandria

## Sun Paths

Did you ever wonder what sunbeams are for?

They are usually strips of light coming through the clouds, kind of like a path.

I think each time a sun path shines down to earth, God is sending someone to help.

Angels could come down to check on people.

Other times, the sun paths carry people's spirits to God after they die.

When babies are born, the light shines down on the hospital. It is a blessing from God for this new person.

So next time you see a sun path coming down from the sky, you should just say a little prayer.

— **Bryce Fleming**, age 8, Grace Episcopal School

## Sixth to Eighth

Sixth to eighth – is it real?

I don't know how to act - how to feel  
Like, I'm happy that I'm in the 8th and with kids my age.

Am I going to be able to do the work?  
The only hard part is turning the work in to get a grade. There's a lot more to do!

Am I up to the task?  
I think it's going to be OK,  
I have a lot of help and support from most of my teachers.

I'm trying to keep myself out of trouble,

So I don't miss any work.

So I can bring and keep up my grades up!

— **Kevin Hamilton**, Language Arts 8, George Washington MS

## The Death

It was the start of a good day  
I didn't know the worst was yet to come

August 10th 2009, my birthday.  
On my way to Richmond with grandma, sister, brother

About half a mile from grandpa's house (said he had news)

Was hungry asked to get something to eat.

Grandma stayed in the car sleeping  
I told my brother to get grandma.

He came back fast and said  
Grandma is sleeping and not waking up.

I ran out to the car,  
Checked her pulse – she was dead!

I called the hospital and told the news  
A doctor came right away

Doctor tried to bring her back  
It was too late - she was gone

My life has never been the same.

— **Eric Nelson**, George Washington Middle School I

## A Dog's Life

If every guy was a dog like me,  
They wouldn't like it a bit,  
Cause they'd have to learn what they taught me  
To shake and lie and sit.

They'd have to beg for extra food,  
Look cute and hope for the best  
So when the owners finished eating  
They'd give us all the rest.

But I'm glad I'm a dog like me,  
Playin', runnin' and takin' naps  
But best of all, my owners and  
Them feeding me all the scraps.

— **Ben DeVine**, 11, 5th grade,  
Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy

## Walking

I was walking up the school stairs. I picked up my wheely backpack and it was much lighter than usual. It was usually very heavy. I instantly got sick to my stomach. I was nervous. I walked into my classroom. Ms. Chlebus greeted me with a warm welcome hug and I felt so reassured. When I went into the closet, I zipped my bag open ... my binder with all my work was not in there! My heart almost stopped beating. I couldn't believe it! I was so good all

year, and I was worried my teachers would think I just wanted to avoid my school work.

I felt wet, fat, water tears stream down my eyes. I slowly walked up to Ms. Chlebus, wiping tears from my eyes. "Ms. Chlebus?" I said. She looked up from her desk.

"Yes?" she answered.  
"I...I, I.... I forgot my binder." I said it. By that time I couldn't talk because I was crying so hard.

Without looking up from her desk again she said, "I'll call your mom." She shot me a warm smile. Her smile lasted until she picked up the phone. The classroom was entirely still, except for the phone blinking inside the speaker. It was exactly how I felt at the doctor's office before I got a shot. Finally my mom answered the phone.

"Hello? Mrs. Considine?" Alright, my mom's on the phone.

I could hear the person on the other line. It sounded like the person on the other line was running. She was panting. "I've got it, don't worry!" I heard her say. Five minutes later, my mom came running in. I was still jittery when my mom came, but a huge smile grew on my face, and a big sigh of relief puffed out of my mouth. So I was feeling good with my binder for the rest of the day.

— **Elizabeth Considine**, 3rd grade, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy

## Art

Painting, sculpting, fun  
Crafting, drawing, weaving, too  
Modeling, awesome

— **Charan Vemuri**, William Ramsay Elementary School

## Fifty Years in the Future

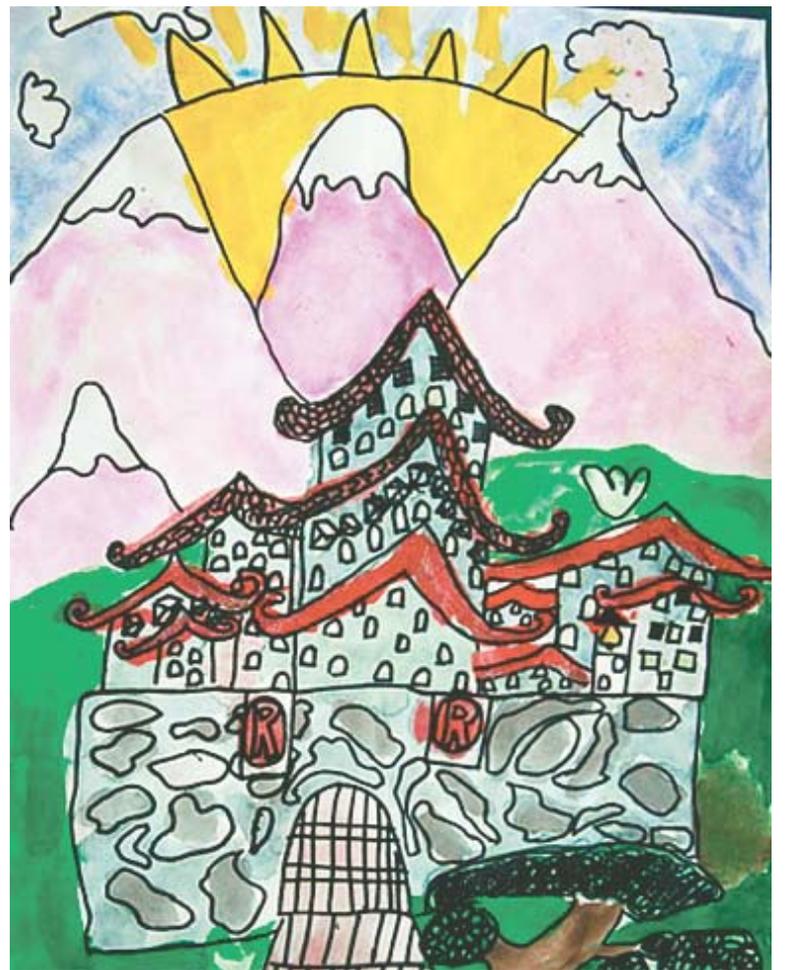
In 50 years I bet the world will be almost the same; other than new technology it won't be that different anyway. In 50 years I bet there will be some kind of eco-friendly kind of transport. What if cars could run on only electricity to power motors? Instead of gas stations, they could send electricity through your motor and you're ready to drive another 200 miles. Wind powered turbines could supply the electricity through wires underground to the charge stations, and all of this is a possibility. There would be less air pollution if this worked. Gas wouldn't burn and pollute the air. What if they took trash from landfills and crushed it so fine it would feel like flour, and they could make it into some kind of cement-like paste to make buildings?

In 50 years I want to have a good job. I want to go to interesting places. I don't know what I'll do for a living, but I know one thing: I don't want to work at any old department store or restaurant. I'm thinking more like being a scientist, a pro-athlete, or an artist – something like that. So, in 50 years that's what I think it will be like.

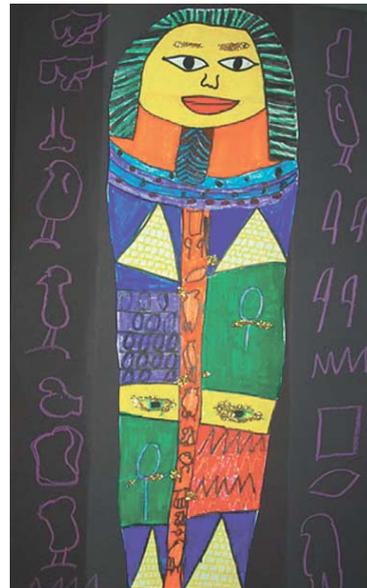
— **Hayden Katz**, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade,  
Alexandria Country Day School

## When I'm a Grandparent

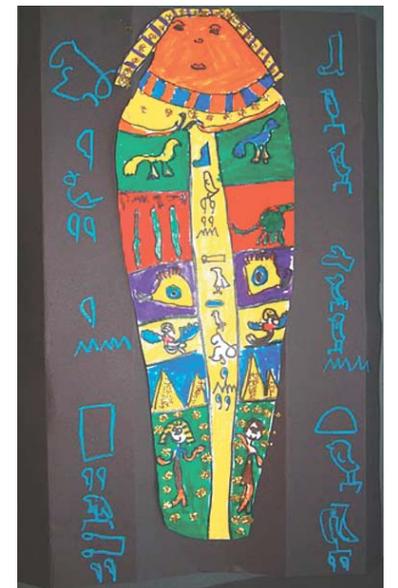
I think when I'm a grandparent the world will be a much different place. Just take technology for example; flying cars will be so common people will just pass them by. I also think that we'll have better medicine. I hope world peace



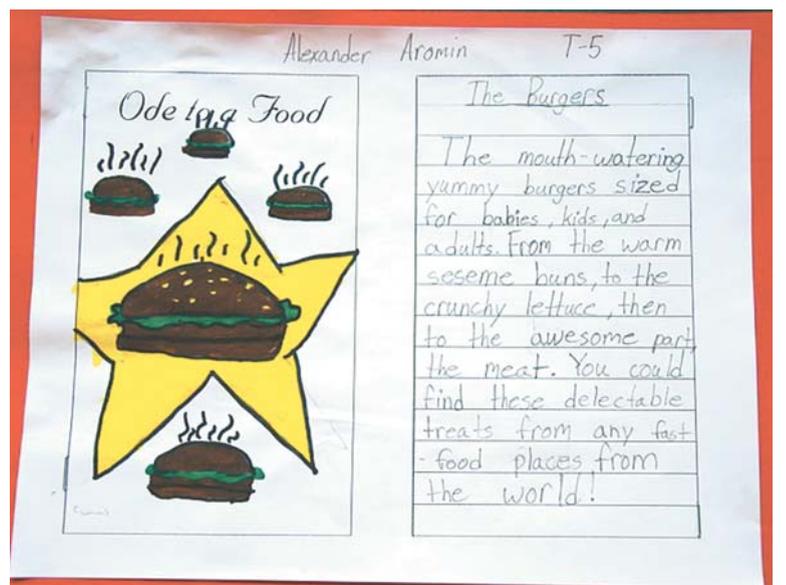
**Ryan Lay, 4th grade, James K Polk ES**



**MacKenzie Prall, 3rd grade, James K Polk ES**



**Caoline Schie, 3rd grade, James K Polk ES**



**Alexander Aromin, 5th grade, James K Polk ES**



**Jack Delnegro, 8, Douglas MacArthur ES**

SEE WRITINGS, PAGE 15

# WORDS & PICTURES

FROM PAGE 14

exists. So many people die in war, it makes me sad. I also hope we have a better system of education. I also hope for nicer people, and a healthy environment. I wonder if we'll find life outside of our Earth. That would be so cool!

What I would like my life to be is to have a career in lacrosse.

For college I want to go to Johns Hopkins University. In school I would very much want to study math, science and computer programming.

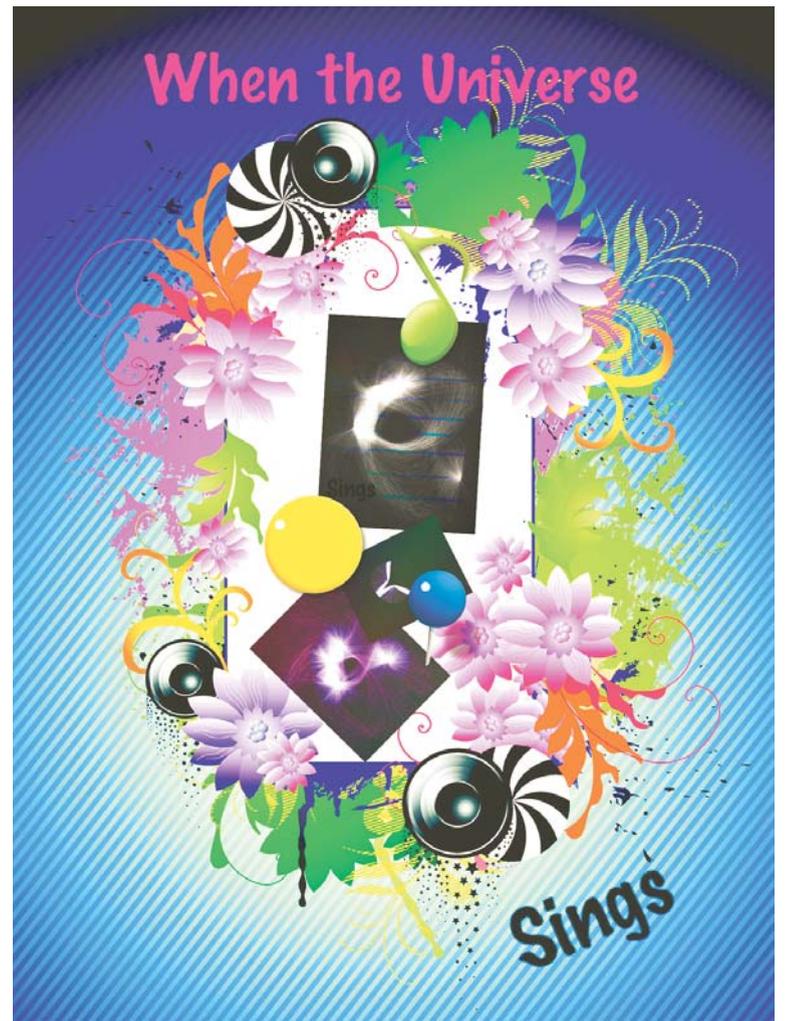
After I stop playing lacrosse, I want to coach it! And when I'm done coaching,

I'm going to work in IBM in the sales profession. And hopefully my Hershey's stock will be up so I can eat candy! The future is great!!

— **Kayvon Samadani**, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Alexandria Country Day School



A Leaf Butterfly by Ellie Gans, age 5, Jr. Kindergarten, Grace Episcopal School



Ana Lipton, Age 13, Alexandria. School: Individual Program for Accelerated Students



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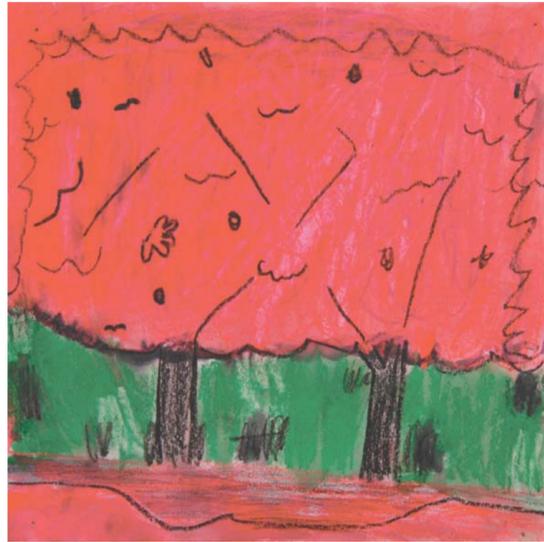
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GALLERY



Joan Marie O'Connell, 7, Grade 1, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.



Aracely Campos, 2nd grade, James K Polk ES



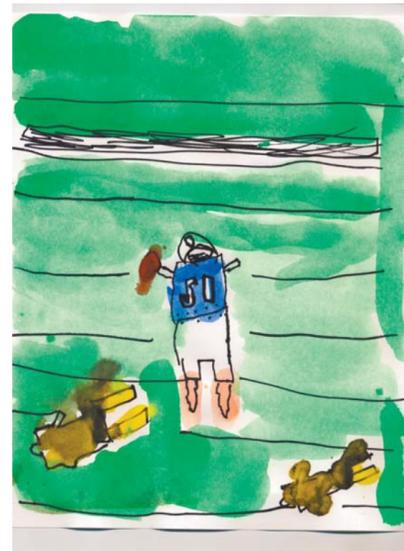
James Daley, 2nd grade, James K Polk ES



Ben DeVine of Alexandria, age 11, 5th grade, Lyles Crouch Traditional Academy



Burgundy Farm Country Day fourth-grader John Knieriem uses colored pencils.



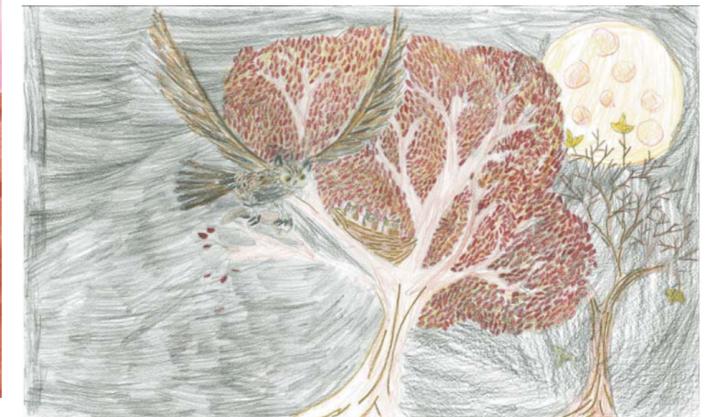
Conrad Lehmkuhler 1st grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Francisca Palma, 5th grade, James K Polk ES



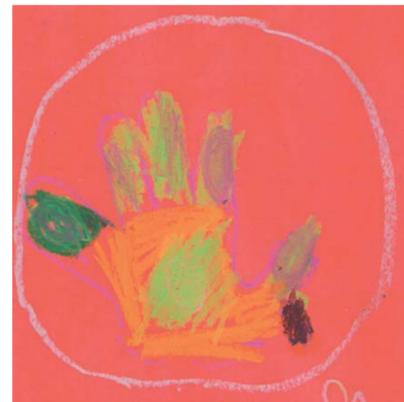
Rachel Suleymanov 4th grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Burgundy Farm Country Day fourth-grader Nyreere Sesay uses colored pencils.



Bella Garcia, 13, Alexandria



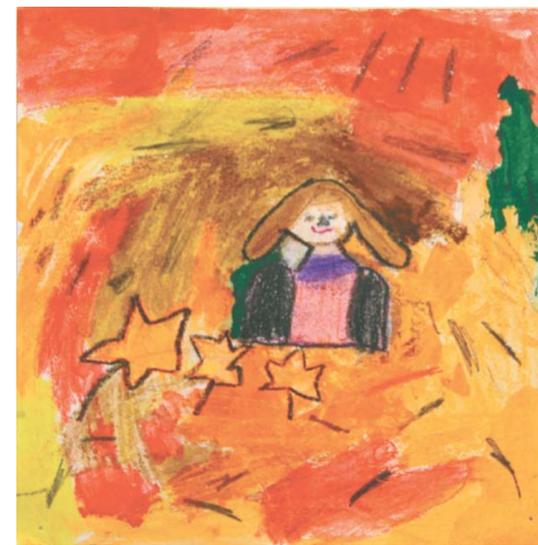
Turkey by Anna Pullar, age 5, Kindergarten, Grace Episcopal School



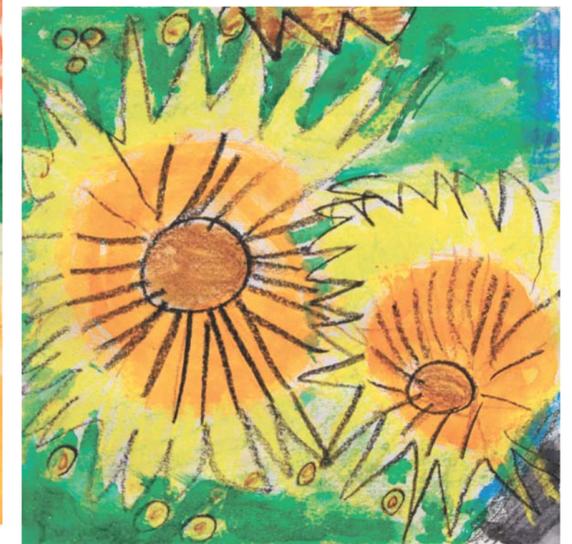
A Leaf Dog by Madeline Wolcott, age 5, Jr. Kindergarten, Grace Episcopal School



A Leaf Turtle by Eleanor Cooper, age 4, Jr. Kindergarten, Grace Episcopal School



Adrienne Perfall, 6, Grade 1, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.



Liv Cooper, 7, Grade 1, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.

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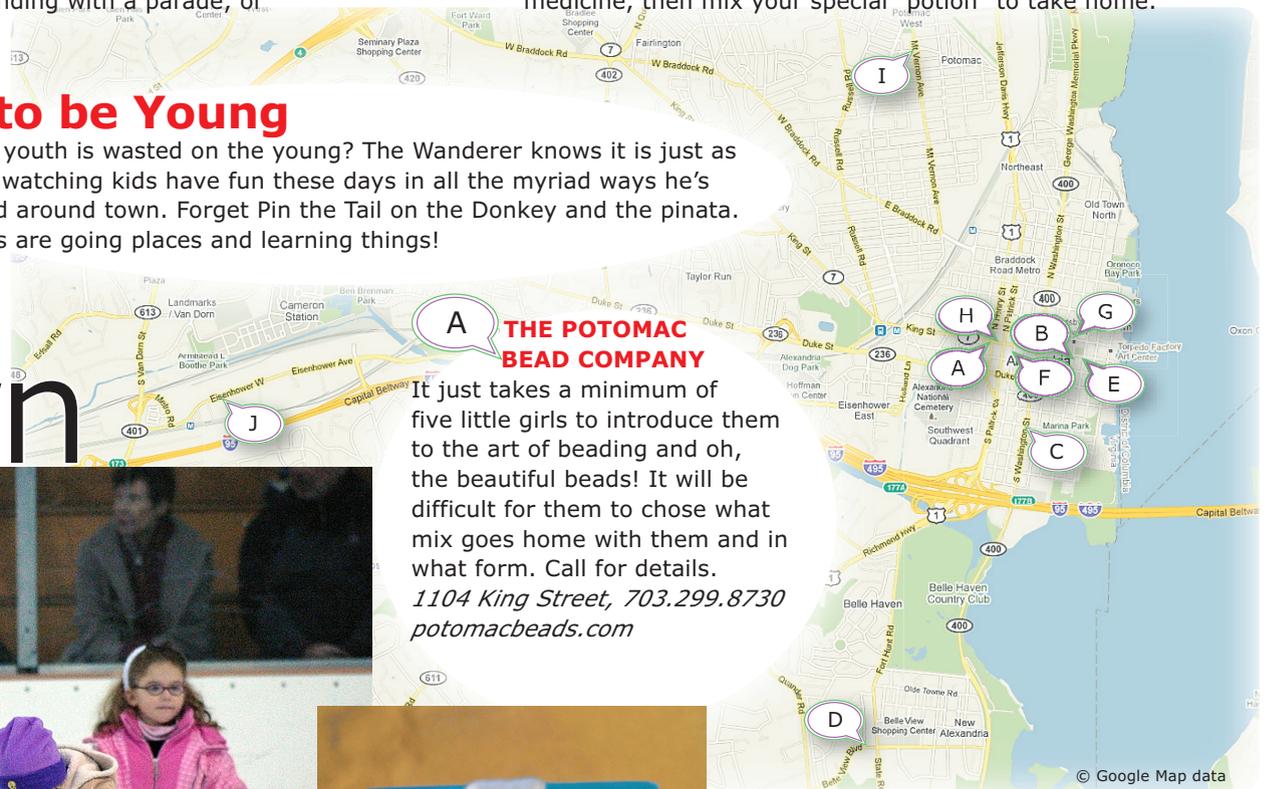


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# Talk of the Town

## Fun to be Young

Who says youth is wasted on the young? The Wanderer knows it is just as much fun watching kids have fun these days in all the myriad ways he's discovered around town. Forget Pin the Tail on the Donkey and the pinata. These kids are going places and learning things!



**D MOUNT VERNON REC CENTER**  
Either ice skating or swimming parties available for groups of 2-30 with party room options in this fabulous indoor facility. 2017 Belle View Blvd., 703.768.3224, [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mvrec](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mvrec)



**H PAINT THIS**  
Another crafty idea to learn ceramics while celebrating a B-Day. Call for party details and cost. 1013 King Street, 703.519.7499, [paintthis.com](http://paintthis.com)



**C TINY DANCERS**  
The aspiring ballerina takes her friends for group dance games, manicures, and of course costumes and a performance. All go away twirling goodie bags. 621 South Washington Street, 571.312.3406, [tinydancers.com](http://tinydancers.com)

**B FONTAINE CAFFE & CREPERIE**  
For 8 year olds and up. Children begin with mixing the batter and follow through to making their own lunch including a savory entrée crepe and sweet dessert crepe. Nothing is more delicious than eating your own accomplishments. 119 South Royal Street, 703.535.8151, [fontainecaffe.com](http://fontainecaffe.com)

**J SPORTROCK - ALEXANDRIA**  
Named among Washingtonian Magazines "Best" party places, kids 6-14 explore the vertical in a safe, comfortable environment with guidance from instructors. 5308 Eisenhower Avenue, 703.212.7625, [sportrock.com](http://sportrock.com)

**I HOME MADE PIZZA**  
The "Cutie Pie" kit contains organic ingredients and instructions for a pizza making party. Kids have a great time with all-natural pizza dough ... the tossing games are the most fun! 2413 Mount Vernon Avenue, 703.5358855, [homemadepizza.com](http://homemadepizza.com)

**A THE POTOMAC BEAD COMPANY**  
It just takes a minimum of five little girls to introduce them to the art of beading and oh, the beautiful beads! It will be difficult for them to chose what mix goes home with them and in what form. Call for details. 1104 King Street, 703.299.8730 [potomacbeads.com](http://potomacbeads.com)

# WORDS & PICTURES



Drawing by Nadia Hachmieh, 11, 6th grade, St. Rita Catholic School

## POETRY

### Winter Fun!

Snowflakes fall gently.  
Snowballs fly, dodge them quickly  
Oh! What winter fun!

— Margaret Hughes, grade 7, St. Rita School

### The Snowman

The snowman stands strong, tall  
It's amazing he was once a small snowball  
He is happy, the children love him  
Until...  
A sunny day  
The ground beneath him melts away  
He gets smaller, and smaller  
And then he is gone  
But not for long...  
Another snowy day,  
He is stronger and bigger  
He is happy again  
Until another sunny day  
When he will melt away  
But don't worry  
He will be back next winter

— Abby Mills, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Home Schooled



Drawing by Sophia Neville, 12, 7th grade, St. Rita Catholic School

### The Tiger Face

I hear a tap tapping on his plate. I dare to look up.  
Tap "can you stop?" tap ...  
A flash back to 10:04 this morning, purple camera smashing against the black concrete street.  
The grudge is still there.  
Like a tiger from the deep African meadows.  
I strike! Not once, not twice, but three times ...  
At the face of my brother!

My sharp claws seeking deep in the pores of his face.  
I forget who I am for 10 seconds.  
I snap back into place. Not only did I hear the tap tapping,  
I had struck the wrong person.  
Before you knew it,  
I was sent to bed with no food to kill my hunger.

Bryania Bland,  
George Washington MS

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**Give Your Holiday Tree a Second Chance... Recycle it!**

The City of Alexandria will collect holiday trees for recycling. This Winter's trees will be recycled into next Spring's mulch!

**It's easy as 1, 2, 3!**

1. Remove all ornaments, tinsel and tree stands. Do not put the tree into bags. (These items contaminate the mulch)
2. Residents who receive City trash service must place their trees at the curb (no alley pick up) by 7:00 a.m. for collection on Saturday, January 8 or Saturday, January 15. Trees set out after January 15 will be collected as regular refuse.
3. In the Spring, trees are recycled and chipped into mulch, which will be free for residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Mulch delivery is also available for an additional fee.

**Curbside Pick-Up January 8 & 15**

For more information call Department of Transportation & Environmental Services Solid Waste Division 703.746.4410

Supported by the Alexandria Gazette Packet

**First Night ALEXANDRIA**

**An Old Town New Year's Eve Party**

**12•31•10**

Four Spotlight Areas of Entertainment between the Masonic Memorial and the Waterfront featuring one hundred performances beginning at 7:00 pm

Admission badges are available online now through December 21 for just \$15. Children 12 and under, and active military are FREE (Dec. 31 pick-up only)

Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!

More information and retail badge sites at [FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://FirstNightAlexandria.org)

**Second Annual Fun Hunt starts at 1:00 pm**

# WORDS & PICTURES

## Jaws

By **Kelly Nirenberg**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade,  
Alexandria Country Day School

My name is Olivia and my older brother is named Ashton. I am in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and he is in 10<sup>th</sup>. We don't get along and our parents decided we needed to get out of our house and go on a fun family vacation. For a while I couldn't understand how going on a boring family vacation would make my brother and me get along better. They told us we would go on a cruise.

I woke up to see everyone waiting for me by the front door. I ran to grab my suitcase, put on clothes and we ran out the door. I remember my mom saying to Ashton and me, "This is a vacation you will never forget." I guess we looked confused, because my mom and dad just smirked and said they had a feeling that by the end of the vacation we would get along a lot better. Ashton and I just started laughing. I think we both were thinking the same thing, because he gave me a devilish look. I gulped and tried not to look at him as I kept walking out the door and toward the car. I overheard my parents talking about the trip saying things like "I hope this works" and "their lives will never be the same after this trip." I didn't think anything of it.

Within 20 minutes we were at the boat dock. I gave my ticket to the tall, skinny and stern man at the booth. He looked at me and asked me questions. He said I could go. I started to walk away when I heard the same man yell "Wait." I turned around and he asked me if I was THE Olivia Pichnzer? I looked at him, shrugged, and said "I guess so I don't know." I kept walking and when I got to the room I had this weird feeling people were there. I was putting my stuff and bags down on the bed when I heard a siren.

I ran on the deck to see my parents on the edge of the deck waving. The boat started rocking, and I almost tripped. My brother walked up and said, "Hey it looks like we are sharing a room." My parents came over and gave us a hug. I looked over the deck and saw nothing but water. I went back to my room to set things up.

I looked at the map and found things to do for the next several days. The day we could go out on the water, I got all of my stuff together and went to find my family. We all went out on the water.

We must have been out there for a while because when we went back the boat wasn't there. We kept looking but when we found it must have been miles away.

We swam and swam until we reached an island. I was so scared and panicking because this island was abandoned. The only thing I was happy about was the fact I was with my family. My brother was the first to say he was hungry.

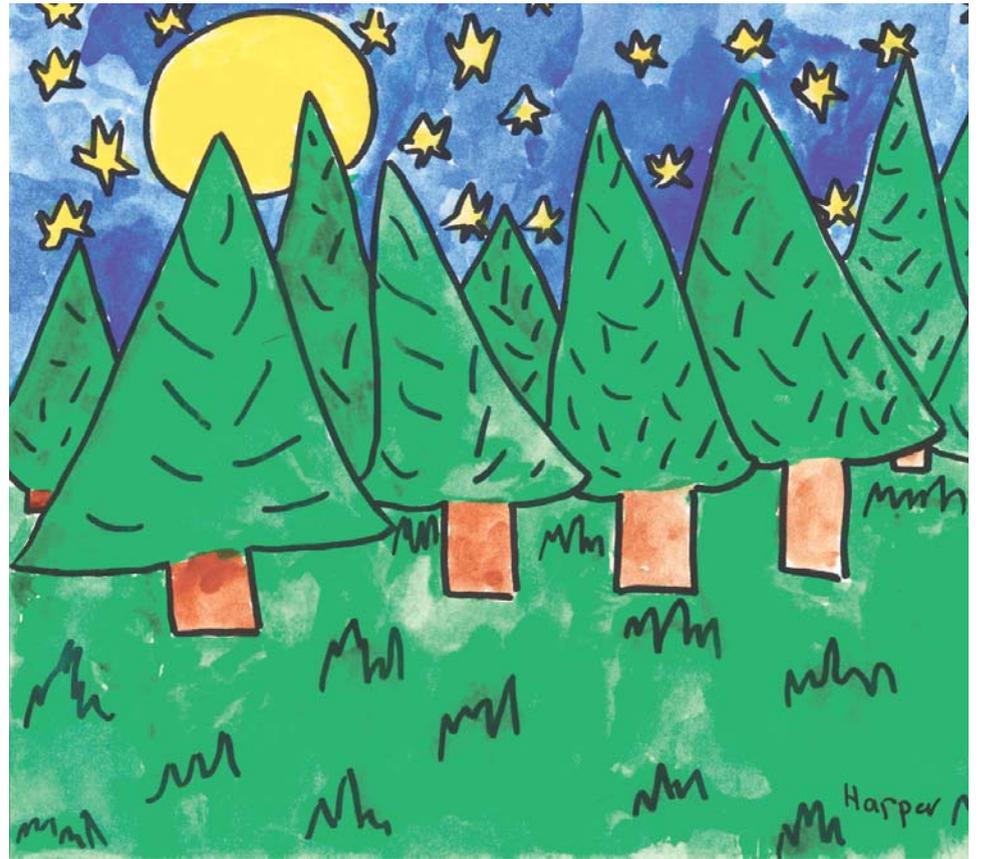
My parents told me to go find wood, leaves, and anything. My dad went to go find wood and thin branches. When I came back, my parents used the supplies I had brought back to make a small house. My dad made fishing poles.

I was kind of in a daze when we were watching the sunset. I thought I saw some thing in the water and quickly got myself focused again. I ran over to the shore and saw that nothing was there. My parents decided I was crazy and needed to sit. High tide started coming in and that's when my dad told us it was time to get ready for bed. I heard a noise and had woken up. I got out of bed and saw a shaggy, smelly, muddy dog in my face. I went back to sleep, and when I woke up he wasn't there. "It must have been a dream," I thought.

We had nothing for breakfast, and we were starving for lunch. The dog came back with fish in his mouth. He had walked over to us dropped it and sat down. This is great my mom said, "Now we can eat." My dad told us the only problem was he couldn't make it without salt. The dog put his paw on my leg. "That's it" Ashton said as he went over to the dog. He shook the claws together and sea salt fell out. "Thanks buddy" my dad said to the dog. The dog left with no problem.

Everyday it had been like that. I named him Jaws. We had been there 2 weeks and Jaws had saved our lives. We were sitting around the campfire when my parents looked at their watches. They had looked concerned. They asked us if we now realized how much we loved each other. We both said "Ya sure, yes." Just then people jumped out from the bushes. We were terrified. "Gotcha" one of them said. The rest started laughing. Our parents told us that they wanted to prove that we could get along, so they set up a TV show and planned this all to happen. We ran to the boat and we were about to leave when I remember seeing Jaws. I ran off, got him and we headed back home. He saved our lives so I saved his life.

The end



**Harper Darden** 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School

## I Am Green, She Is Pink

I am green

I burble with laughter and words like a spring of green-tinted water. I am green (new) like spring after winter. I float around like a leaf during a storm. I am calm when I am sitting in a seat of soft moss. I love being relaxed by the whispering of grass wet with dew. Green is the smell of fresh pine trees. Green is the color of growing life. Green is me!

— **Olivia Bisbee**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Charles Barrett ES

## She is pink

She is full of love, like a blooming rose. But watch out! Her thorns might scratch you! Her words can be as sharp as pink-tinted Jack Frost, stinging your hands and face, covering you in ice. But her laughter is like the pink dawn, warming you inside. She will pop like bubble gum at hurtful words. She can be as sour as pink grapefruit. But she is also a beautiful pink fish, swimming in the wide world. She is pink!

— **Olivia Bisbee** to Lily Bisbee



**Cameron Wallace** 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School

## Seasons of December

Melancholy

The sweet smell of the daisies are long gone and are now replaced by chilly scent of fresh air that fills my lungs. The first of the snow is trickling down from the heavens. The clouds cover the fall sky, winter is here. I am alone in the world, alone there are no birds. Even the happy bees have left me alone, alone till spring. Alone in the months of darkness.

Angry

The harsh fresh air rips at my lungs and tugs at my coat. It stings all of the exposed skin. The snow pounds down, turning the world into a white blur. The spring shall never come, it is off, far away from me. It has left me.

Happy

The snow is here. The world is a winter wonder land. The air smells of snow and my breath rises up in fog. Children's laughter is muffled by the trees bare branches whispering to each other.

Calm

Lying on my back, I see the world around me. Time swirls past but I stay still, my worries have been swept away by the howling wind, the howling wind makes me thankful for my house. "HOT CHOCOLATE," the welcome words reached my ears and I rushed inside.

— **Grace Breitenbeck**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Charles Barrett ES



**Gabi Bruehs** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School

## The Mountains Unclimbed

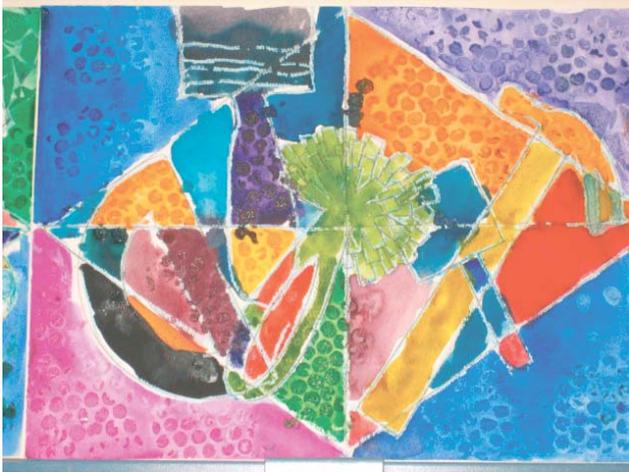
A girl and her mom pushed a bright yellow kayak into the water. It bobbed up and down on the waves. They jumped in and paddled off the sandy shore. Their hair blew in the wind as they silently rowed on. At that moment it seemed as if the whole earth could open up and swallow them. It was as if they were in the eye of the storm. The calm spot in the ocean. The break in the wind.

The air whistled through the gaps in the mountains making a lonely song that is carried on the swift breeze. They rowed on as colorful birds flew overhead singing soft but sweet melodies. Dragonflies flitted about their boat there silvery wings glinting in the sunlight. The clouds were nowhere to be seen and the blue sky seemed to smile down upon them. The scene seemed to be one from an oil painting. Their bright orange life vests glowed in the sun shine and the foliage peered out of their leafy prison on the lake.

The girl and her mom hopped out of the kayak

SEE WRITINGS, PAGE 30

# GALLERY



**Blake Gillian, 9, Grade 4,  
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.**



**Caroline Avary, 10, Grade 4,  
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.**



**Moema Koford, 9, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade,  
Samuel W. Tucker ES**



**Dexter Lindsey, 17, Grade 12,  
St. Stephen's &  
St. Agnes School.**



**Molly Bailey, 17, Grade 12, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.**



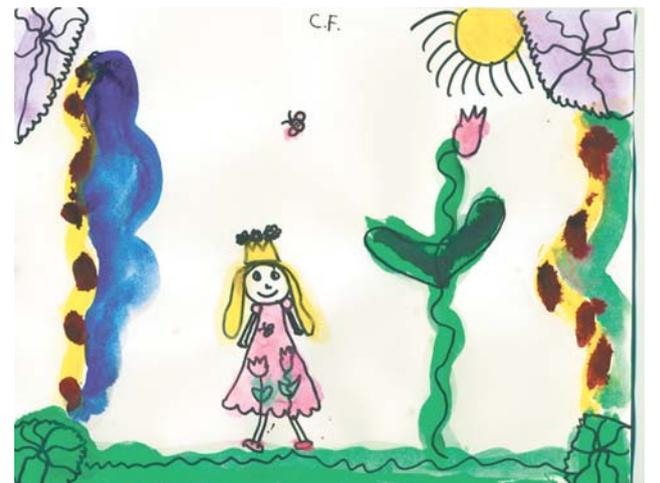
**Brooke Davidson, 16, Grade 10,  
St. Stephen's &  
St. Agnes School.**



**Hayden Katz 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day  
School**



**Tareneh Samadani 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Alexandria Coun-  
try Day School**



**Caroline Friedrichs 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Alexandria Coun-  
try Day School**

# Best Wishes For The Holidays



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

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# PERSONAL NARRATIVES

## The Day I Met Harry Potter

I was sitting on my bed, being bored and wondering just what to do. I couldn't ask my mom, because she suggest for me to do math. I had already kicked my green ball around and wished I had a brother or sister to play with. I stared at the snow-bank like walls of my room and tried to think, but couldn't. I traced my Power puff girl bedspread, feeling the warm blue fuzziness of it. Then I flung myself onto my soft-as marshmallows pillow, groaning with boredom.

"WHAT CAN I DO!?" I exclaimed, trying to put myself further down in my bed. I then decided to study the cracks in my ceiling. I especially notice a huge diagonal crack that lead from corner to corner.

"Hey what's that?" A drab brown box that looked like a brick made out of mud caught my eye. I don't know why, maybe it was my name on it that caught my eye, but anyway, it interested me. Of course, my first thought and what I first said was,

"I wonder what's in there." Could there be long-lost toys and forgotten games? I heaved myself off my captain's bed and sauntered over the cream-colored carpet to it. I peeked at it lazily through the glare of the sun that escaped the curtains that covered my windows. I peeled off the remaining yellowing tape and opened the flaps with a musty scrape! I t sounded sort-of like blunt fingernails scraping a chalkboard.

"AAAAAH-CHOO!" I sneezed. I peered through the new blanket of dust I had sent up and saw, not toys, not games, but three books. Yes, that's it, three books.

"I suppose I can read..." I said with a sigh of disappointment and acceptance. I examined the books carefully and picked them up and looked at the picture on the front, too. I chose the book that looked the most interesting, and, by some freaky coincidence, that book just happened to actually be the first. I settled down in my comfy, cozy power puff girl bed, and read a little bit of the first chapter.

"Boooring," I droned. So I skipped it; but after the second chapter, it became as enchanting as the spells it mentioned. So, I began to read...and read... and read....

At least an hour later, my mom walked in casually, holding a heaping basket of clothes.

"What are you reading?" She questioned as she set down the basket on the fuzzy carpet. "Harry Potter?" she said in surprise as I held up the almost-thick-as-a-small-brick book. As her black eyebrows knit together like kissing caterpillars, I became worried. Had I done something wrong?

"Should I stop reading it?" I asked innocently, wanting to know why she seemed alarmed.

"O-oh, no!" she stuttered. "It's just that, well...I thought you were going to read it when you were older!" She confided as she folded one of my shirts on my bed. "But you can keep reading now."

"Okay," I said as plain as no-topping vanilla ice cream. As she folded more of my clothes, I soon fell into another trance with my book. After that, she called,

"Lunchtime!" so I ate. I might've read the next book after that, but I don't remember. I became curious about other books, though. So the next time we went to the library, I got big, thick, chapter books. So ever since that moment, reading has been a HUGE part of my life; but it all started with Harry Potter.

— Abby Bischoff, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Charles Barrett ES

## The Great Rocky Hill Race

I was almost an ice cube and yet almost lulled to sleep in the cold yet quietly serene scenery of the

rocky hill. Then it all changed when Andrew yelled, "Race ya!" and scared me out my daydreams and into racing him.

"Okay," I screamed to him, "First one to touch the waterfall wins a year of good luck!" After that I ran fast and far until I was finally in the lead. I stopped for a deep breath because Andrew was far behind and I planned to let him catch up as I stood on the rock right next to the waterfall.

"Hey Andrew you better hurry up or else I'll feel the waterfall first!" I yelled and held out a long extended hand then I touched the waterfall which was so freezing that I had a handful of water and shook it all on the ground and ended up falling and having a bruise on my face.

"Tori that's what you get for not paying attention to your surroundings I mean, watch me I can take my steps carefully and not fall offfffff ... ahh!" Andrew yelled as he slid into the edge of the mucky water in as much pain as he puts into teasing me every single summer.

Well that was that in which I mean how I beat him at a race which is almost never accomplished and we headed back down the hill in a proud style, together. We thought the same thing at that time but didn't talk at all for we both knew, I won fair and square so I get some luck and that is the end.

— Victoria Patacsil, 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Charles Barrett ES

### TRIBUTES

## A Tribute to My Sister

Anjali DeWakar, my older sister has always been there for me and always will be. She's such a good role model and she has accomplished so much. Anjali is so smart and always does the right things. She's a great older sister and I love having her. Anjali is the best older sister because she's a great role model, caring, and perfect.

Firstly, Anjali is a great person. She's such a good role model because she always is doing the right thing. She never does anything that could effect her or anyone around her in a negative way. She's also in a good mood and never rude to anyone. Anjali also gets perfect grades and excels in everything she does. She's so smart and a hard worker I don't know anyone that wouldn't want to be like that.

Secondly, Anjali is super caring. She's always nice to new people that she meets. She always puts others before herself. Anjali loves making people happy, which she does a lot. She's so sweet to everyone and people definitely love to be around her. She's so considerate of everyone and always pleases others.

Lastly, Anjulis perfect. She's a super hard worker in everything. She works very hard in sports and she's an excellent athlete. She's very smart and works so hard in school and she's a very good student. Everyone loves her and she's super gorgeous which is just a plus in addition to all of her other great qualities. Everyone I know that knows her loves her and loves to be around her because she's so sweet and nice.

In conclusion, Anjali is the best older sister because she's a great role model, caring, and perfect. I hope one day I can be just like her. She's so great and deserves everything she has because she works so hard in everything she does. She's perfect in every way to me. I'm going to follow her footsteps and try to be as good as she is! My sister is such a good person and I love her so much!

By Maya DeWakar,  
George Washington Middle School

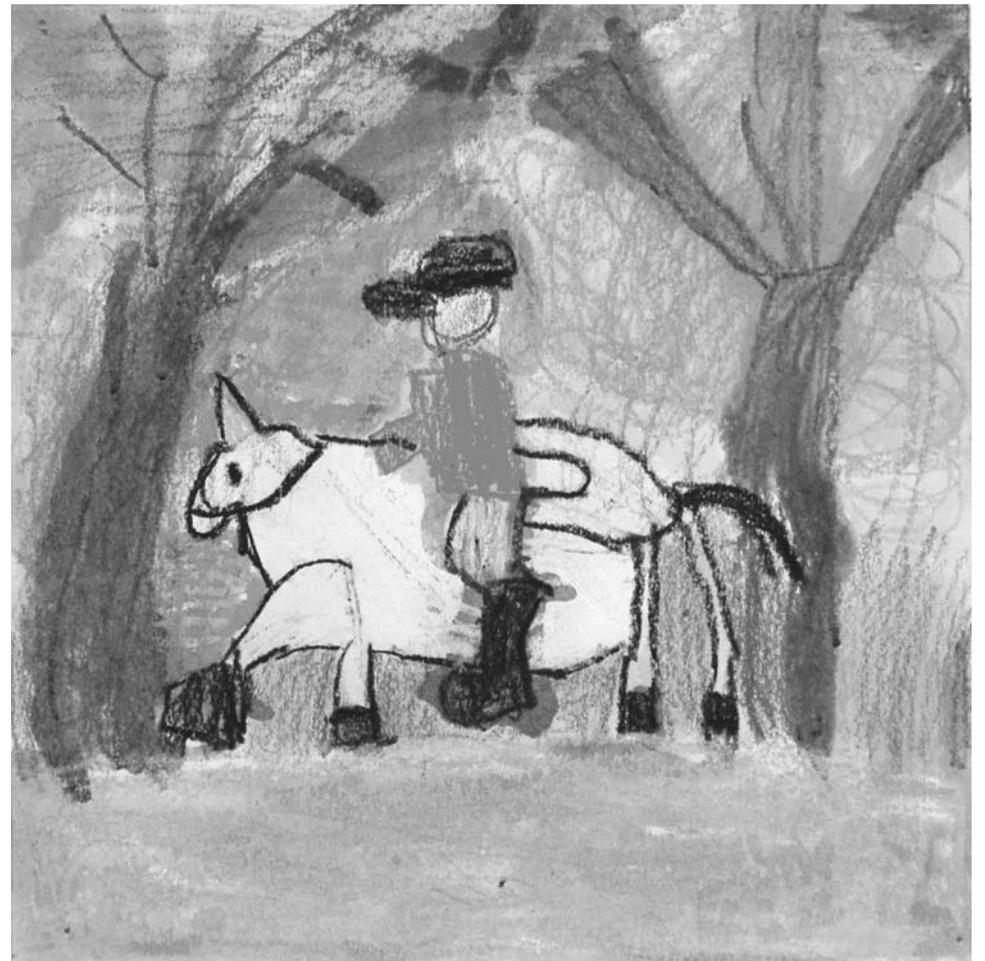
## Tribute to My Uncle

My uncle, Dean, has always been a very special person in my life. Even though he lives across the country he seems to be around for all of my important milestones. He is the awesome crazy uncle that everyone sees on TV Not everyone is lucky enough

know who, didn't know what he was saying. At the end, the casket was about to be closed. I told my aunt, "NO, I want to give her a kiss, So she can know how much I love her."

GOOD-BYE GRANDMA, I WILL REMEMBER YOU FOREVER!!!!

— Rayshaun Patten, George Washington MS



Thomas Perry, 6, Grade 1, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

to have amazing parents, grandparents and especially an amazing uncle. My uncle, Dean, is adventurous, exiting and extremely intelligent.

To start it off, my uncle loves adventures. Once he got old enough he decided to leave Alexandria, Virginia, and head off across the country to Seattle, Washington. Whenever I go over to visit we drive up in his 1974 Saab to go camping. The last couple times we went camping we went fishing, swam in an almost freezing river and grilled up some salmon over a fire. He loves doing things that most people think is crazy.

Additionally, he is very exciting. Even when he was younger he loved crazy things, my mom told me about one time when he leapt off the roof into a pile of snow. He loved the rush of waking up early and rowing with his friends. He also chose to live on a house boat in the region with the most rainfall out in Seattle, Washington. Just looking in his closet shows how exciting he was.

Furthermore, my uncle, Dean, is very smart and good with his hands. He has so much knowledge in things like building, fixing mechanical issues and other things that most people are clueless in. He was able to add an addition to his house boat without constructors. Every time his visits he helps out with lighting and plumbing. We both built papier-mâché rockets and put engines in them and launched them off. In conclusion, my uncle, Dean, is adventurous, exiting, and extremely intelligent. He has the personality that loves to try and experience different things. Being around him is fun because I love doing crazy and exiting things. To top it all off he can fix or build almost anything. Everyone wishes that they have an amazing uncle like me.

— Jacob Katz,  
George Washington Middle School

## For a Special Mother

My Mom is a very dedicated person, who will stick to anything, no matter the event. She is the type of person who keeps at it and never gives up, which is why I love her so much. Never does she take a day off, which is important because parenting can never wait. Being a good parent is a hard art to master, but in my Mom's case, she's got it down. I admire my Mom because she is very thoughtful, always knows what to do, and loves us very much.

To begin, I admire my Mom because she is very thoughtful. Even though she is incredibly busy, she

still has the time to think of others. In our family, we all play sports 24/7, so it gets very hectic. Except, even while we are in the midst of running around, she can still call my Aunt on her birthday or in between sport events, she makes our lunches for the day ahead, and more. Overall, to me, she is a super-mom who can overcome any problem.

Secondly, my mother always knows what to do. Whether my sisters and I are fighting or if one of us has a problem at school, she always has a solution. My Mom is not the type of person to back out of anything because she is full of educated solutions that really impact us. She teaches us valuable life lessons after we have a fight, gives us the right treatment for any cold and gives us advice for problems at school, which are all some of the many things my Mom can do. Without my Mom, I might not have some of the impacting knowledge that I have today.

Thirdly, the reason she is such a special person to me is because she loves my family very much. No matter what we do, even if it is breaking something valuable, her love toward us doesn't vary. She is very committed to us and expresses her love in many ways. From giving us hugs to leaving notes in our lunches, she finds creative ways to represent her love. Then, because of these creative things, we all know the she will love us all forever.

In conclusion, I admire my Mom because she is very thoughtful, always knows what to do, and loves us very much. She encourages us to be the best person we can be and to always live life to it's fullest. These are just some of the many unique traits my Mom has, which make her the person she is today. Her love could never be stronger and I am never afraid to tell her anything. I truly admire my Mom and I can't wait to experience more priceless memories with her in the future.

— Olivia Price,  
George Washington Middle School

## My Awesome Father

My dad, Richard Crowley is probably one of the greatest dads ever. He's not just a great Dad; he's a contractor, husband, son, and an amazing friend. He can tell really interesting stories about his childhood or about others that really pull people in. He is very nice to anyone he meets. My dad also loves to joke around and be a kid with me too. My dad is a great dad, he shares common interests, he is

SEE TRIBUTES, PAGE 24

# TRIBUTES



**Michael Murphy 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School**



**Elayna Duprey 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School**

## TRIBUTES

FROM PAGE 23

very smart, and he is a great friend.

Firstly, my dad shares many of the same interests. We both love cars, he always gets me the latest issues of any good car magazine for me on his way back home from his job. One car we both love to talk about is the Rolls Royce Phantom and many other European cars. Another thing that we most likely would not be happy without is cats. My dad and I love everything about cats. We have two cats that we love to spend time with Oliver and Wendell. We are pretty picky eaters, we both love math, and Forbes magazine, we laugh a lot, we joke around a lot, and we also build stuff as well as many other shared interests.

Secondly, my dad is very smart in many ways. He has good judgment of people and places. He has a master's degree in engineering. He got straight A's and some B's. He also knows a lot of facts about things as well. My dad is very familiar and well educated in math and can help me with anything in the subject.

Lastly, he is a great friend. My dad is a true friend when it comes to anything. He helps me with any problems I have at school teacher related or homework related. He can help me with anything. We do lots of stuff with each other to. We go to parks together and we play catch together. We play with our cats all the time and we read the same magazines and talking a lot with each other.

Concluding, my dad is a great dad, he shares common interest, he is very smart, and he is a great friend. I'm so glad that we can be so close with each other. He's a great person and a really nice guy. I think he's really important person in my life not just because he's my father but because he helps me with so much things. I couldn't ask for a better father.

— **Daniel Crowley,**  
George Washington Middle School

## A Truly Special Person

I believe that love is what makes the world go 'round and who do you love more than your family? You know that your family will always be there for you when you need them. Your family helps to shape who you are and support whatever you want to be. My Grandma taught me that I can achieve anything I set my mind to by encouraging me with the things I do and to try new things. My Grandma deserves this tribute because of her passion in everything she does, her accomplishments, and her incredible support of everyone, including me.

To begin, my Grandma has a wonderful outlook on life which she shares with everyone around her. I have yet to see her act negatively. She always sees the good in people and situations. She has such a passion for the things she does weather it's welcoming new residents to her retirement community, volunteering in the library, art, or knitting hats for the residents of the homeless shelter, and shows so much love for her friends and family. If I have as much love in my life as she does, then I will know I'll have been truly successful. She has taught me that there is an endless amount of love in the world and how important it is to show your loved ones that you care.

Secondly, my Grandma was born in Oklahoma. She lived through the dust bowl, the great depression, World War II and many other hardships. She graduated from college in three years and went on to get her graduate degree where she met my Grandpa. She received her master's degree in counseling and student affairs and worked at Indiana University, Miami University, and as a Middle School guidance counselor. She also raised four children including my mother, without going insane. Now that is what I call impressive.

Lastly, my Grandma is incredibly supportive of me and my family. After living in Oxford, Ohio, for

47 years, she moved all the way to Alexandria to be closer to us. She takes time out of her busy schedule to come to events such as choir concerts and ceremonies to be there for my brother and me. No matter what I try to do she tells me I can do it and that she is proud of me. To hear that from her makes me feel like I'm on the top of the world. I know that I am blessed to be born into this family and to have the opportunities that I have. I'm always encouraged and for that I could not be more grateful.

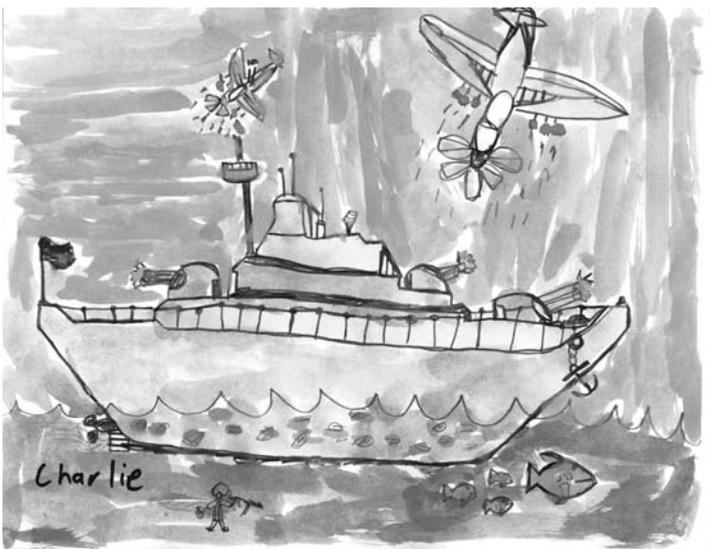
In conclusion, my Grandma deserves this tribute because of her passion in everything she does, her accomplishments, and her incredible support of everyone, including me. She plays such a huge role in my life and I am so glad that I am a part of hers. Sometimes I don't think I express just how grateful I am for everything she does for me. She is someone I'll always look up to, no matter how tall I am. This is why my Grandma is truly deserving of this special tribute.

— **Kathleen Leonard,**  
George Washington Middle School

## To My Dad, Who is Nothing Less Than Perfect

My father's name is Joseph Simeon "Hugi" Massaquoi. "Hugi meaning blessing, which is exactly what he is to me. He truly is a blessing to our family, with everything that he does. My father is what you would call a "strict-lover". He loves and cares for his kids,

SEE WORDS & PICTURES. PAGE 28



**Charlie Stephenson 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School**



**Emil Turdukulov 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School**

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**21 Announcements 21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T Mobility is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 6040 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Fairfax County, VA. Three new LTE antennas, at a centerline height of 95-feet, and six radio-head antennas will be mounted on the existing rooftop penthouse. Additionally, one new equipment cabinet and GPS antenna will be placed on the existing platform on the building rooftop. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61107411-JLD c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (717) 779-9683.

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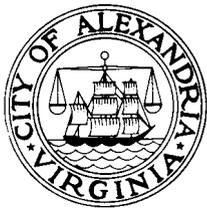
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**Legal Notices**



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review  
Old & Historic Alexandria District

**LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2011 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

**CASE BAR2010-0011**  
Request for Permit to Demolish for construction of new dormers and renovations at **626 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: S. Lee & Debra Parker by Lewis & Associates LTD

**CASE BAR2009-0301**  
Request for alterations at **626 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: S. Lee & Debra Parker by Lewis & Associates LTD

**CASE BAR2010-0326**  
Request for demolition of storefront at **719 King St.**, zoned KR King Street Retail.  
APPLICANT: 719 King St LLC

**CASE BAR2010-0329**  
Request for new storefront and awning and rear door alterations at **719 King St.**, zoned KR King Street Retail.  
APPLICANT: 719 King St LLC

**CASE BAR2010-0354**  
Request for demolition/encapsulation at **915 Cameron St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Craig Miller and Lisa Brock

**CASE BAR2010-0355**  
Request for new windows at **915 Cameron St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Craig Miller and Lisa Brock

**CASE BAR2010-0356**  
Request for replacement gate at **336 N. Pitt St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Jane Harter

**CASE BAR2010-0358**  
Request for demolition/encapsulation at **410 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Robert Lewandowsky

**CASE BAR2010-0359**  
Request for additions/alterations at **410 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Robert Lewandowsky

**CASE BAR2010-0361**  
Request for demolition/encapsulation at **313 S. Columbus St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Norman and Judith Ann Lisy

**CASE BAR2010-0362**  
Request for alterations at **313 S. Columbus St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Norman and Judith Ann Lisy

**CASE BAR2010-0363**  
Request for window replacement and alterations at **406 S. Royal St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Paul & Linda Darlington by John Savage Architect, P.C.

**CASE BAR2010-0364**  
Request for Permit to Demolish/Encapsulation for alterations and new addition at **408 S. Royal St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Robert & Meredith MacNab by John Savage Architect, P.C.

**CASE BAR2010-0365**  
Request for alterations and new addition at **408 S. Royal St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Robert & Meredith MacNab by

**Legal Notices**

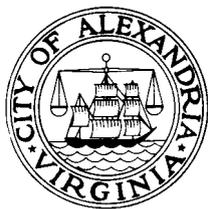
John Savage Architect, P.C.

**CASE BAR2010-0366**  
Request for Permit to Demolish/Encapsulation for porch enclosure at **325 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Mitchell Bober by Lewis & Associates LTD

**CASE BAR2010-0367**  
Request for porch enclosure at **325 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Mitchell Bober by Lewis & Associates LTD

**CASE BAR2010-0373**  
Request for roof replacement at **917 Prince St.**, zoned CL Commercial.  
APPLICANT: Mark Stevenson and John Schmidt

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666



**LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011 - 7:30 PM**  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, City Hall  
Alexandria, Virginia

Information about these items may be obtained from the: Department of Planning and Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666

BZA CASE #2010-0028  
5247 SEMINARY ROAD  
R-12, RESIDENTIAL  
Orlando Perez, owner: Variance to construct a two story addition 36.10 feet from the front property line facing Seminary Road. If the variance is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a variance from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

BZA CASE #2010-0029  
209 DUNCAN AVENUE  
CL, COMMERCIAL  
Annemarie and Gregory Mason, owners, by Karen Conkey, architect: Variance to build a multi-family dwelling on the footprint of an existing one-story single-family dwelling and a two-story rear addition 8.58 feet from east side property line and 3.33 feet from the west side property line. If the variance is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a variance from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

BZA CASE #2010-0030  
3002 BRYAN STREET  
R-8, RESIDENTIAL  
Emily Graves, owner: Variance to construct a one-story addition 23.00 feet from the front property line facing Torrey Place. If the variance is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a variance from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

BZA CASE #2010-0031  
3416 OLD DOMINION BOULEVARD  
R-8, RESIDENTIAL  
Anthony and Jennifer Roda, owners, by Kim Beasley, architect: Special exception to construct a covered open front porch 24.00 feet from the front property line

**Legal Notices**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 1200 South Washington St., Alexandria, VA. Three new antennas, one per sector, will be mounted at a height of 98-feet on the penthouse façade and six radio heads will be on a tripod on the roof. New equipment will be placed on the existing equipment platform on the main roof. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61107465-MAT c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (781) 273-2500.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T Mobility is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 6040 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Fairfax County, VA. Three new LTE antennas, at a centerline height of 95-feet, and six radio-head antennas will be mounted on the existing rooftop penthouse. Additionally, one new equipment cabinet and GPS antenna will be placed on the existing platform on the building rooftop. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61107411-JLD c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (717) 779-9683.

**ABC LICENSE**

Burlimann Enterprises, LLC, trading as Cafe Nicole, 1125 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer on premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Nicole Burlimann, Owner

**Public Notice**

Notice is hereby given that Gallman Transportation Service LLC, 312 East Monroe St. Alexandria, Virginia 22301 has applied to the DMV for authority to operate as a COMMON CARRIER OF PASSENGERS OVER IRREGULAR ROUTE providing service in the cities of Alexandria, and Fairfax, Virginia and the counties of Arlington and Fairfax.

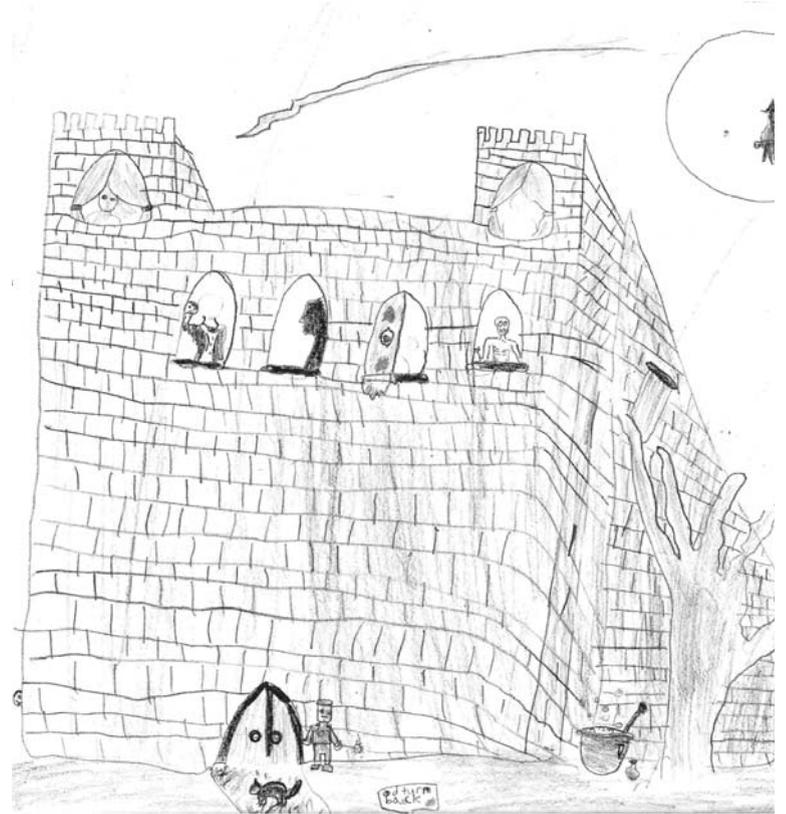
Any person who wishes to support or oppose the application, but does not wish to be a party to the matter, must send a written statement to: DMV, MCS-CMU, P.O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001. The statement must be signed and contain the applicant's name and DMV case number (MC1000052DR).

Any person who wishes to protect the application and be a party to the matter must contact DMV at 804-367-1609 to receive information on filing a protest. The deadline for filing letters of supports, opposition or protest is January 12, 2011.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T intends to file an application for the collocation of new antennas on the building located at 1101 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Old Town" will consist of the collocation of new antennas onto new sled mounts. In addition, two inch innerduct will be run from the antennas to the existing AT&T equipment. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carol Blitz, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o [theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com](mailto:theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com).

**WORDS & PICTURES**



**The Creepy Things on Halloween Illustration by Jackie Amacker, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Grace Episcopal School**

**WRITINGS**

FROM PAGE 8

food. After Licery figured out what had happened to her classmates, she was

mad and still scared. "Leaving me here before telling me," Licery mumbled. "GRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!!!!" Something from the bush shook.

"AHHH! I don't want to die, please, I'll be good in school. I promise! I want to go home! I hate it here!!" she squealed.

"Finally," the bush said. "Wha...?" Licery said wiping her tears.

"We were waiting for you to say that," the teacher said walking out of the bush with a mp3 player.

"I'm so glad you aren't a lion," Licery squeaked. "Can we eat marshmallows now?" "Sure," the teacher replied, and they headed to their campsite.

— **Jaci Fernandez,**  
William Ramsay ES

**Snow**

Snow has different shapes  
Watching a big snowflake fall  
Like an angel falls

— **Alexander Huang,**  
William Ramsay ES

**No More School**

"Let me tell you something that happened to me," I wrote to a friend. Several days ago my teacher said, "Sarah, you don't need to go to school anymore!" Well, that was stupid because I was the smartest kid in the whole school! I didn't understand why she told me that. But I did what I was told and I left. I went home and told my mom. A little amazed she said, "Okay, well, go relax. She told you to get out of school because you are so smart, right?" "Yep," I replied.

"Good, I knew I'd raised such a smart child."

Then I went outside and played in the sandbox, alone of course because every-

one was still at school. But then my brain just shut down. Why? Because I loved school and I couldn't go anymore! Since my brain wasn't functioning right, I became dangerous to myself and others. No one could touch me because people wouldn't know what I'd do, like wave a knife or chop down a human. Then bad things happened!

I cut myself in the arm! How did I do that? I picked up a pair of scissors and I noticed that my arm had started bleeding. I

had cut my arm instead of cutting the cucumbers for a snack.

My mom found me bleeding and called 911 and I went to the hospital.

So, you might wonder how I am able to write? My teacher felt bad about what had happened, came to my hospital room and taught me how to write better.

"You can come back to school when you're out of the hospital," she mumbled guiltily.

"Yahoo!" I responded.  
And that's what happened to ME!  
— **Maya Parada,**  
William Ramsay ES

**The Grass**

The grass shouts in pain  
His voice was heard in Spain  
The children are to blame  
For giving me a stain  
Here comes the rake  
I think I am going to dissipate  
Now I have a headache  
I think I need a milkshake

— **Chandler Millard,**  
William Ramsay ES

**April Morning**

The creek runs like a mountain stream  
The air is crisp and cool  
Reeds sway in the gentle wind  
The sun shines like a jewel  
The path is by the mountain stream  
Travelers travel on  
Tiny cygnets waddle over  
To the graceful swan

— **Buddy Noorlander,**  
William Ramsay ES

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# ART



## Face in the Fire

Hammatt Babin, a Burgundy Farm fourth-grader, submitted this series of three pictures called "Face in the Fire." He had assistance from Jake Dudash, aided by Tucker Babin.



Each year, eighth-graders at Burgundy Farm Country Day School design and paint a mural outside of the Loft to depict the core values of the school. This is a unit that teaches about design, form, and the aesthetics of community mural work. Student Yasmine Zakout designed this year's mural.



## Be Part of The Pet Connection in February

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is January 20.

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# WORDS & PICTURES

FROM PAGE 24

but takes no foolishness from them. I love my father with all my heart. My father is very hardworking, protective, and a motivation to everyone.

To begin, my father is very hardworking. He makes sure he provides for us everything we need. He would take on three jobs to make sure we're all happy without any complaints. He goes to work every morning at 8:00 and doesn't come home until 6:00. He's getting older and is starting to experience some pains in his feet, but I never hear him complaining or whining. He's makes it seem like there's nothing wrong with him so we won't notice.

Secondly, my father is protective. He will do anything to make sure nothing or no one will harm us. He is especially protective over his girls. He understands that we're like precious jewels, and need to be handled with care. He wants nothing to harm us. To him we're like eggs, and are so fragile that if dropped can break. Sometimes he can be

a little over-protective though, but I assume it's for the best, which is all that matters.

Lastly, My father is a motivation to everyone. He makes you want to go after whatever it is that you want to do. He inspires me with his hard-work and dedication. He wants all his kids to succeed and be good at what they do. Although he didn't finish college, he says he's going to make sure all of us go. He always says that if your apart of the Massaquoi family, "you're going to college and you're going to graduate with some type of degree."

In conclusion, my father is very hardworking, protective, and is a motivation for everyone. I think he is amazing, and I would never ask for any other dad. His knowledge is extraordinary, he teaches me something new everyday. I know everything that he's teaching me, I'm going to need in the future. Although he can sometimes be a pain (who's dad isn't?), I'm grateful for having him in my life.

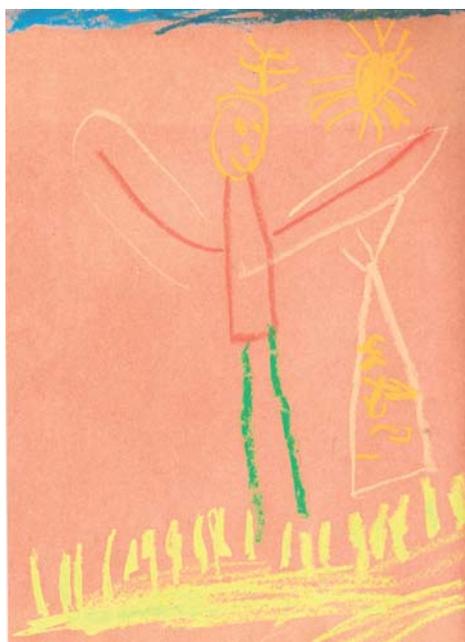
SEE WORDS & PICTURES. PAGE 29



Blake Pohanka, 16, Grade 10, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School



Reese Woods 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Native American by Calvin Sullivan, age 5, Kindergarten, Grace Episcopal School



Cameron Heyder 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Jelani Molock, 18, Grade 10, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

# WORDS & PICTURES

FROM PAGE 28

— **Iye Massaquoi**, George Washington Middle School

## A Tribute to My Dad

My father, Tim Dickson, is an exceedingly special person in my life. He makes such an impression on me. Whether it's out hunting in the field, playing basketball in the backyard, or winning a sailing regatta, my dad, Tim Dickson, is a highly important and special person in my life. My dad and I share a special father son relationship. I am lucky to have him. He is so significant because we share common interests, he teaches me life lessons, and we enjoy each other's company.

First off, my dad and I share common interests. We both love sailing as a competitive sport, and as a way to spend common time together. He has recently introduced me to hunting, a way for us to enjoy nature and each other's company. We both have fun playing basketball, and he used to coach my team. He will even spend time with me and my friends. Doing things together especially has helped build the strong bond we have.

Furthermore, my Dad teaches me life lessons. He instructs me on how to conduct myself as a polite person in public, at home, and anytime. He teaches me to be helpful at all times. He also tells me not to sweat the little things. Life is too short. Another important lesson he teaches me is all things should come in balance. One of his favorite sayings of all time is: "When the going gets tough,, the tough get going". This is his oh so familiar way of saying chin up, you can do it. These life lessons are constructing good morals, which will bring me and



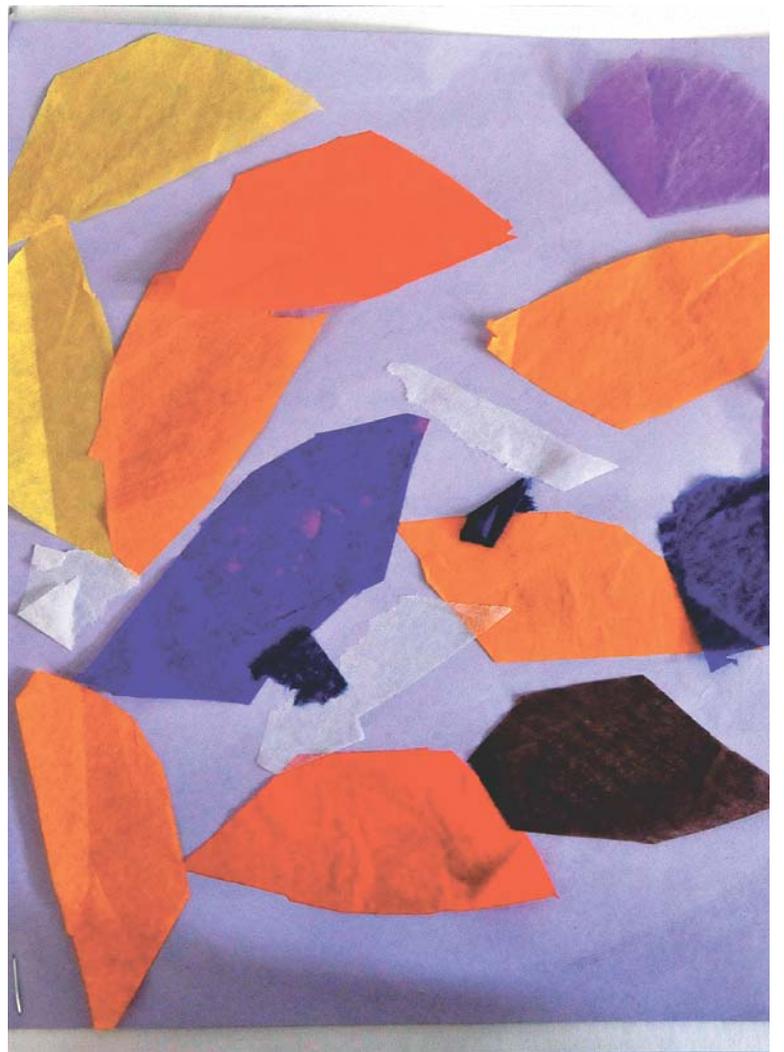
**Jenny Ko, 16, Grade 11, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.**

my brothers up as good people, just like my Dad.

Finally, we enjoy each other's company. I might not always like the places we go or the things we do, but in the end, my dad and I find a way to make it fun. No matter what we do it ends up being enjoyable. Counter to how the common teenager's mind works, dad does know best, especially mine. I don't know how he does it but he can always make a good time. I love being with my dad, even though sometimes I don't do the best job of showing it.

In conclusion, my father, Tim Dickson, is such a great dad because we share common interests, he teaches me life lessons, and we enjoy each other's company. He is a highly special, influential person in my life. He is now, ever since I was born, and he will continue to be. We love the same things and that builds on our bond. He teaches me what no one else can. I love being with him, more than any son could. He is the best dad a kid could have.

— **Mac Dickson**,  
George Washington Middle School



**Sasha Pereira, grade 4, Charles Barrett ES**

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# WORDS & PICTURES

FROM PAGE 20

into knee deep crystal clear water. They pulled the kayak onto the shore of a sandy cove, peppered with shells and shiny bits of sea glass. An old weathered log sat on the beach looking out at the horizon. The mountains loomed up ahead, beckoning for people to climb them and break the spell of solitude, taking away a little more of the unknown with them. The girl and her mom sat on the log together, just looking at the sky and taking in really how big the world is.

— Victoria Peace, 5th grade, Charles Barrett ES

## Aqua

As you watch the water rippling in a pond, you think of the sky. As you collect shells you think of the Aquamarine exhibit at school. Your name, Aqua, makes you think of all of these things. It all makes you think of the smoothness, the rippling sound, the fresh air and sea salt smell of

Aqua  
Aqua  
Aqua  
Aqua  
Aqua  
Aqua

— Lillian Finegold-Sachs, 4th grade, Charles Barrett ES

## Light

Not just a flicker shinning bright  
Lighting the stars in the night  
It gives you hope when you need it most  
It dissolves away any trace of a ghost  
In the coldest darkest day  
It can light the way to play  
It is the moon and shinning stars  
And erases all trace of bars  
You can see the light in ones eye  
As it twinkles like the sky  
It is the star on the top of the tree  
Way up high, just like a bee  
It shows the way to success  
Light is cool, light is best!

— Audrey Androus, 5th grade, Charles Barrett ES

## My Ideas for More Gardens

Dear Mayor,

Sometimes when I'm walking I notice old, trashed, abandoned looking lots. And I think how nice it would be if it were a sweet smelling beautiful garden there instead.

I am writing to you because I think that there should be more public gardens.

Before you make up your mind, please let me explain to you my reasons. Kids from all over could come and spend the day gardening, fishing (with nets), etc. Each neighborhood could find a lot, (With special permission) and plant and design unique gardens. Then every two months the neighborhood could have a big cook out/barbeque. Everyone would be spending more time outside. The populations of some threatened species would go up.

And to raise money for it all people could donate space or money.

If they donate a plant/tree they get their name next to the plant label. And if they donate over \$50.00 they get their name engraved on a plaque. If they donate over \$110.00 they get their name on bricks or stones. If they donate \$500.00 or more they get trees/plants named after them and one of the prizes below. There could also be adds in the paper explaining that donations were needed and why.

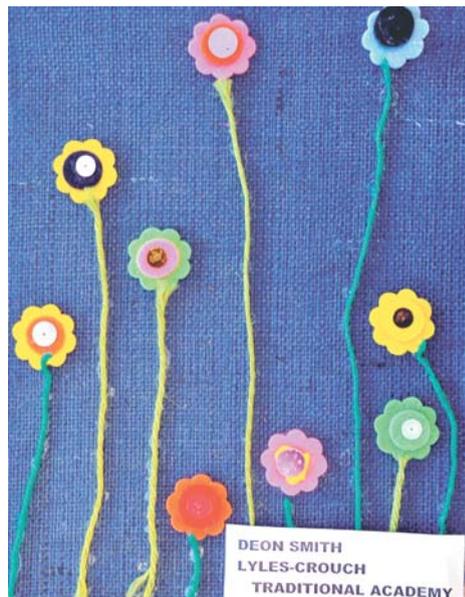
There are benefits for everyone if you choose to accept this idea. The city could make money by doing this. There could be bird watching tours and gardening classes.

The animals would get a place to live. There would be trees for birds and squirrels. We could have ponds for fish, frogs, salamanders and turtles. It would be a chance for the citizens of Alexandria to all work to change the world for the better. This is up to you. Please consider my ideas.

— Audrey Androus, 5th grade, Charles Barrett ES



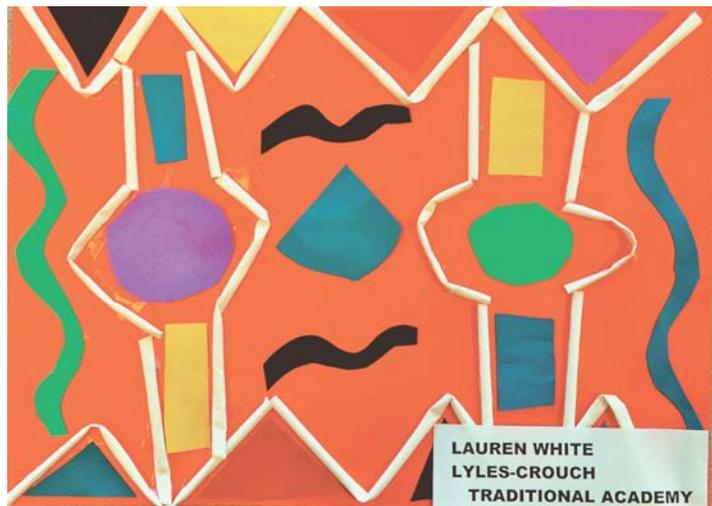
Sara Gomes Machado, grade 3, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



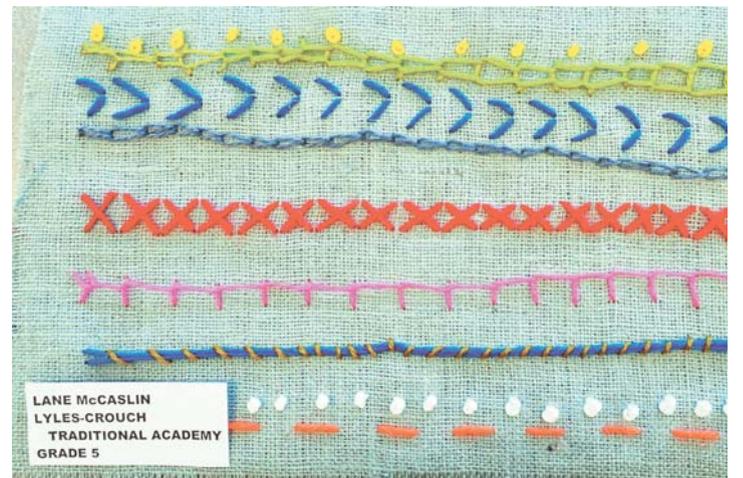
Deon Smith, grade 4, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



Ahmed Hedia, grade 1, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



Lauren White, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy



Lane McCaslin, grade 5, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy

## Big Plays: Being the Pro Player

Do you think you can be a pro player of football? It could be great if you think about it. However, whenever there's good, bad usually follows. The case is much the same here. However, if you do the right things, you can live 'The good life.'

Being a pro on a football team may seem all fun and games, and it definitely is games, but it can get a little rough down in the yard-marked coliseum. There are very strong downsides like getting severely injured or, and very small things like working hard and not appearing on the hall of fame. Still, they should all be considered.

Now that you know all the downsides, it may seem overwhelming, but it's only like that for some people. In fact, there are several things that make this job worth it all. First of all, you get paid more than you'll ever need for a few bandages on your arm. Also, you can get several fans and be known as a football legend on the hall of fame!!! These are just some of the great things that can happen if you stick to the job.

This is just some of the great things that could happen, without those really tiny negatives. So, I have one question from you: DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT TOM BRADY?

— Nicholas Rodrigues, 5th grade, Charles Barrett ES

## Friendship

Friendship: importance in helping one grow. The light between the cracks in the wall of life. Our refuge our sanctuary, being with them is what helps this love grow.

The gifts in life come from keeping them close. Great things can happen from their support. You can be anything you want to be with them by your side. Many people have friends who push them to bet-

ter people and become a success. Friends only push you up.

You are never alone for they surround you in every thing you and help you to do what's right. They can give you advice in times of sadness and disappointment.

Left out, bullying and other friendship troubles can be told to a good friend and surely they will understand. A friend is a perfect refuge in any situation.

Always there for you, you can always rely on your friends having faith in them is key for your tranquility and happiness. If you heed they can help you in greater ways than just problems. They can become very reliable over time.

Friends are a great source of happiness, and that is why I believe that friendship is an important element.

— Annlouise Conrad, 5th grade, Charles Barrett ES

## The White Oak

The White Oak stretches his arms out  
Catching the rays of sun  
But the heat is too much and he shrinks away  
Waiting for another day to come  
But he still stands tall  
The White Oak sways in the wind,  
The Mountain Laurel covering its base.  
Sheets of rain pour down from the heavens  
The sharp call of the Robin pierces the rain filled sky

The tree does not shiver  
He has no leaves  
But he still stands tall.  
The White Oak know that it is time to sleep  
Snow covers him like a cold blanket  
All the little boys and girls are tucked in safely in their beds  
And there is no one to comfort him

He falls into a troubled sleep  
But he still stands tall  
The White Oak listens to the nature around him  
The soft coo of a morning dove puts a smile on his face  
He can hear the children's laughter  
As the play in his branches  
And finally  
The tree is happy

— Ellie Bernstein, 5th grade, Charles Barrett ES

## What Am I to Say?

Should I be smart and serious  
like myself  
or loose and funny  
to fit in?  
Should I be a fake jock  
or be myself  
and be scientific and brainy?  
Should I be the false me  
and expect it to work  
or should I be the real me?  
Do I have the opportunity  
to say "yes" or "no"?  
Do I fit in  
or be in my own crowd?  
Do I belong here in college  
or should I drop out and explore?  
Do I have the freedom  
to stick up to the school bully  
or do I just walk by  
with a mild look on my face?  
Do I have a say?  
In life, do you make all your decisions  
or do your friends make them?  
Do you want to be special and different  
or just the average Joe?  
Do I have a say in life?  
YES!

— Cameron Goldstein, 4th grade, Charles Barrett ES

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