

The Arlington Connection

Children's Connection 2010

Grace Kelley,
1st grade,
Nottingham ES

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Best Wishes For The Holidays



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2010

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Arlington Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

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

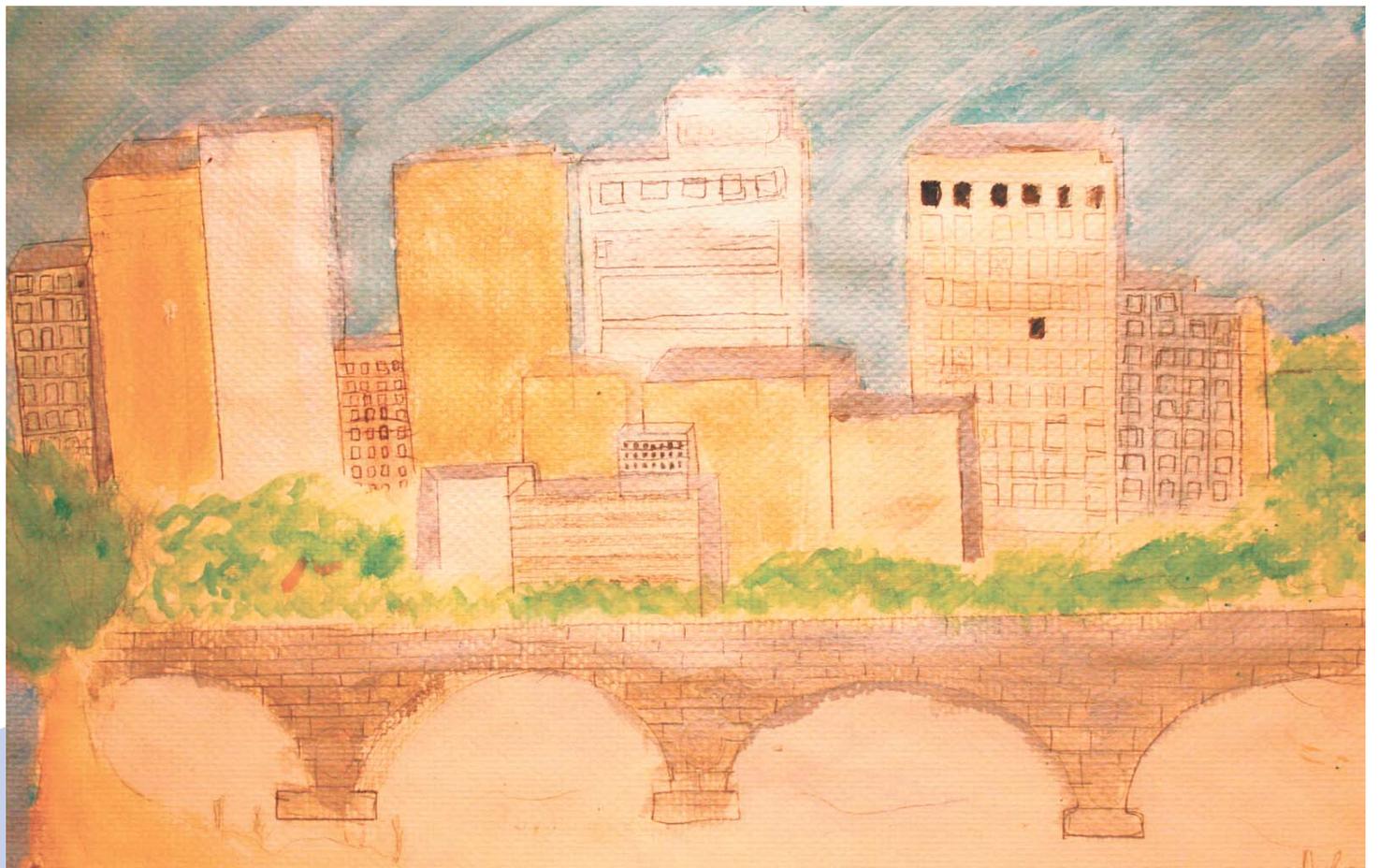
The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2011 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

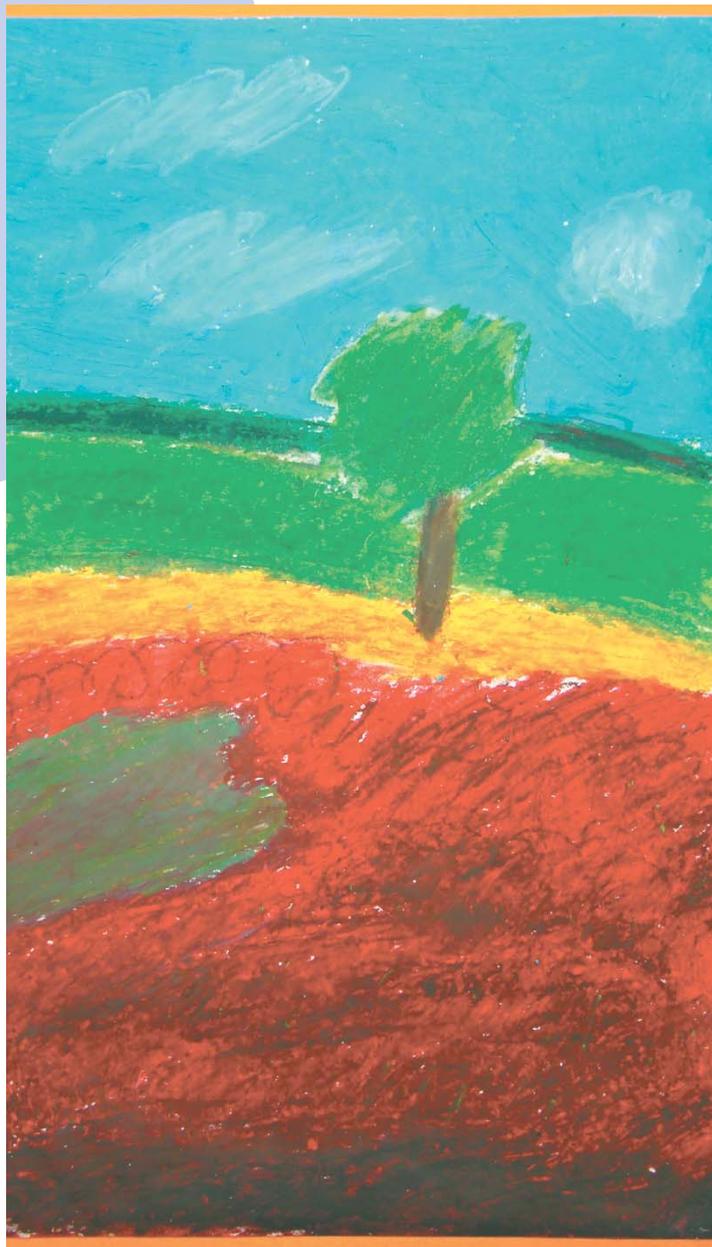
The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools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

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com, 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



Juliana Walker, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



Virginia Landscape, Midge Costello, Nottingham ES



Katie McCann, 2nd grade, Long Branch ES

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

WRITINGS

Christmastime

I love Christmastime. It is my favorite time of time of year. A day or two after Thanksgiving, my family puts up the Christmas tree. We also put the lights on the Christmas tree. My family will also put up every single one of our many, many, many ornaments (more ornaments than the Christmas tree can hold). We put all of our dozen or many, many more candy canes on the Christmas tree. You can open every single door on the Christmas advent calendar as the day comes. It is full of surprises like dollar bills and coins, Jolly ranchers and other candies. Some rare times you will get a toy or maybe two, you never know. After all waiting comes in handy. Then comes Christmas day you open all of your presents that you receive from everyone that gave you any.

— Annabelle Gopaul, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES

I Love Food

My list of favorite foods is a mile long, but I don't have enough space to list them. The list includes fruit, vegetables, starch (love my rice!), and meat. I love to cook AND eat food. I know that not all of the foods I like are healthy but sometimes you have to eat some sugary foods, just not a Snickers bar every 30 minutes or McDonald's every single day because if you do, one day you will become really fat, or obese, which is unhealthy. I am shocked that there is a fast food restaurant at the end of every street or block! Have you ever seen the movie, Super-Size Me? Well, I rate it 5 stars because it shows what happens when you eat McDonald's every day, and it is not good. Last time I checked, America has the most obese people in the world, and I think it is because we have so many fast food places. Have you ever seen some of those obese people on TV? As you know from my title, I love food and so does my family, but we try to eat healthy. It is not always easy, but it is worth it.

— Sasha Karamyshev, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES

I Love Football

I love football. I love football because it is fun

SEE WRITINGS, PAGE 13

WORDS & PICTURES



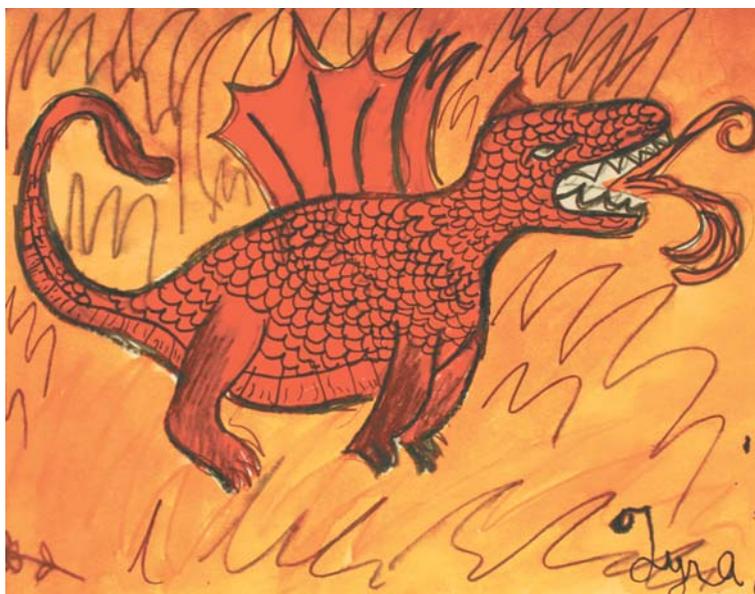
Chloe Abow, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



Greek Story Vase, Cynthia Dillon, 3rd grade, Nottingham ES



Cardinal in the Snow, Evan Westergren, 1st grade, Nottingham ES



Tyra Jordan, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

POETRY

The Miracles Of the Moon

The moon is like a miracle that already happened,
 The moon is like a crisp cookie that was already eaten,
 The moon is like a flower with all the petals taken off,
 The moon is the world.
 — **Abi Burkholder**, 2nd grade, Nottingham ES

The Moon Is a Mirror

The moon is a mirror,
 Reflecting the light,
 A cookie been eaten,
 A star in the night,
 In at day out at night,
 The moon is a mirror.
 — **Kaitlyn Potts**, 2nd grade, Nottingham ES

Sun

The sun is orange like a pumpkin.
 The sun is very orange.
 The sun is like orange juice.
 The sun is very orange.
 Some silly bands are orange like the sun.
 The sun is very orange.
 Some cars are orange.
 The sun is very orange.
 Some shirts are orange.
 The sun is very orange.
 The sun is very orange.
 — **Kathryn Davis**, 2nd grade, Nottingham ES

Shapes Like The Moon

The moon is as round as a beach ball
 Slowly, its air goes out and it is blown
 Up again.
 A half moon is like a Frisbee
 Someone broke in half.
 — **Madeline Lincoln**, 2nd grade, Nottingham ES
 A full moon is like a ball
 A full moon is like a gloomy day in the sky
 A crescent is as skinny as a piece of paper
 A full moon and a crescent are as beautiful as my family
 A full moon is like a globe but a little bumpier
 I love the moon!
 It has a lot of craters!
 — **Sophie Yoder**, 2nd grade, Nottingham ES

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WORDS & PICTURES

WRITINGS

A Union Soldier

From your black-blue hat to your brown-booted feet there is a soldier
I would like to meet
You are tall
You are strong
The war won't be long - you'll be home soon
Just watch the moon.
— **Vivienne Blouin**, 3rd grade, Campbell ES

Tying My Shoes

When I was in pre-K, I did not know how to tie my green shoes. I kept trying, but I couldn't. My teacher helped me with my shoes. One day I almost did it but I only did the knot part. I got mad and said, "I'm sick of it." I tried but I still did not get it. Then my teacher helped me again.
I watched how she was tying my shoes. She did the right one and I did the left one. I watched how she did the knot part.
Then I did the knot part too. Then she did the bow part, but the bow part was hard for me because you had to put the loop under the other loop. Then the teacher was done tying my shoes. I couldn't remember what was next when I went to tie them myself. I remembered the knot part.
Then, I saw a girl tying her shoes. She did the knot part and then the bow part. The girl was doing it slowly so I copied her. Then she went fast. I couldn't keep up with her.
My teacher told me that something was missing. It was the loop. It had to be under the other loop. I DID IT! I did it all by myself! But I forgot again how to tie my shoes. My teacher said that I needed something so that I don't forget again. Now I know how to do it.
— **Sharon Corrales**, 3rd grade, Campbell ES



Chloe Abow, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

SEE WRITINGS, PAGE 7

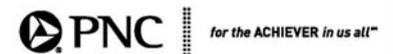
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FORECAST



Paola Bonilla,
5th
grade,
Drew
Model
ES

WORDS & PICTURES

A Tree's Life

Beautiful wind pushes my hair.
And crickets sing for me.
I swing my arms with the beat.
The seasons change the color of my hair.
When it rains, I cry.
The drip drops make the birds fly.
The deer jumps over my feet.
The furry, friendly squirrels hug me.
It makes me shake with joy!
Being a tree is super sweet!

— **Becca De Los Santos**, 3rd grade,
Nottingham ES



WRITINGS

FROM PAGE 5

If I Could Fly

If I could fly I would go to many places. I would fly to Egypt, because I would like to see how the Great Pyramids look. Egypt looks kind of fun because you get to ride animals. I would also like to see the sculptures, because they look exciting. If I could fly to Egypt, I would fly to the pyramids.

If I were an animal that could fly, I would fly to New York. I would fly right to the Statue of Liberty. I would fly right into the crown, because I want to explore. I would fly higher than the Statue of Liberty because it would be like a rollercoaster.

If I were a bird, I would fly to Canada and go to Niagra Falls, because I've never been there. I would like to discover more places in Canada. Being a bird can be hard but it's fun.

— **Jose Pineda**, 3rd grade, Campbell ES

If I could fly I would do many things. I would go to many places. I would see the Bird Deck Castle with Shrunken Heads. Next, I would go to the beach. I would kick off and relax and watch the sun set on the horizon. Then I would fly to Ethiopia and when everybody in my family sees me flying they would say, "How can you fly?" They would say,

"Show me how to fly."

The next thing I would do is go bird flying. I could fly with the birds. We could eat human food. If they gave me bird food, I would say, "Blahhhhhh." Then, I would play duck, duck, bird. It would be bird's favorite game. It's like duck, duck, goose, but different. We touch each other with our feathers. Instead of saying, "goose," you say, "bawk!!" Then two birds would fly. One will fly away while the other is catching it.

— **Ablaaza Andargachew**, 3rd grade, Campbell ES

Leadership

Leaders have a very important job. A good leader should be nice to everyone. Sometimes leaders can get a little bossy, but you should tell them not to be. A good leader should show people what to do and not yell at the person if they don't understand. A leader telling everyone what to do is not a good sign of what a good leader should do. I am sure that everyone would like a good leader that is nice to them.

If I were a leader I would listen to what everyone would like me to do. I would try not to be angry with them and try to listen and work things out. If someone would yell at me, I would walk away from them so that I would not get into a fight. You should

not be afraid to tell a leader that you do not like what they are doing. Leaders should be fair to everyone and listen for suggestions. Leaders have a very important job to do.

— **Katherine Liss**, 3rd grade, Campbell ES

I Am

I am a Powhatan
I am from the Eastern Woodlands
I am from the land of hot summers and woods

I am a hunter
I am wearing a disguise
I am an eater of beans and corn
I am a walker
I am a Powhatan
— **Gabe Zakaraia**, 2nd grade, Campbell ES

I am a Lakota Sioux
I am from the Great Plains
I am from the land of harsh winters and tall grasses
I am a warrior
I am a good fighter
I am wearing beads and clothes made out of buffalo skin
I am eating buffalo
I am a walker and rider
I am a seeker of horses
I am a Plains Indian

— **Michelle Gomez-Mancilla**, 2nd grade, Campbell ES

Unicorn Magic

One day, Lilly was relaxing in her pool when she heard a sad cry! It was a unicorn. Her horn was stuck in a tree. Lilly dashed out of the pool, into dry clothes, and ran to help. She found the unicorn and pulled. Nothing happened! A squirrel heard the sad cry. He ran down the tree where the unicorn was stuck. He pulled with Lilly and nothing happened. A puppy heard another sad cry. She zipped to the unicorn. The puppy, the squirrel, and Lilly pulled. Nothing happened. Meanwhile, a bird swooped down. Lilly, the puppy, the squirrel, and the bird pulled. Nothing happened. A bear heard another sad cry.

He ran as fast as his feet could move. He found the unicorn. The bear, the bird, the puppy, the squirrel, and Lilly pulled. Nothing happened.

Just then, Lilly had an idea! Lilly said, "Maybe if we unscrew the unicorn, her horn will turn and come out."

The puppy said, "Maybe it will work!" So, they tried it. They lifted the unicorn's legs and arms. They started turning and then KABAM! It worked!

The unicorn said, "Thank you for setting me free."

— **Heidi Hilsmier**, 2nd grade, Nottingham ES



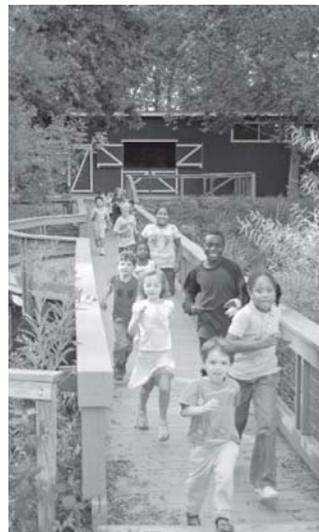
Warhol Pop Portrait, Linh Smith, 5th grade, Nottingham ES



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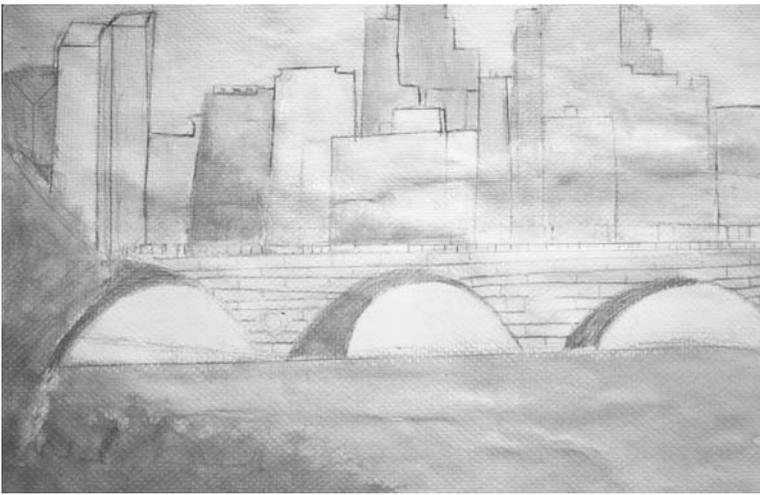
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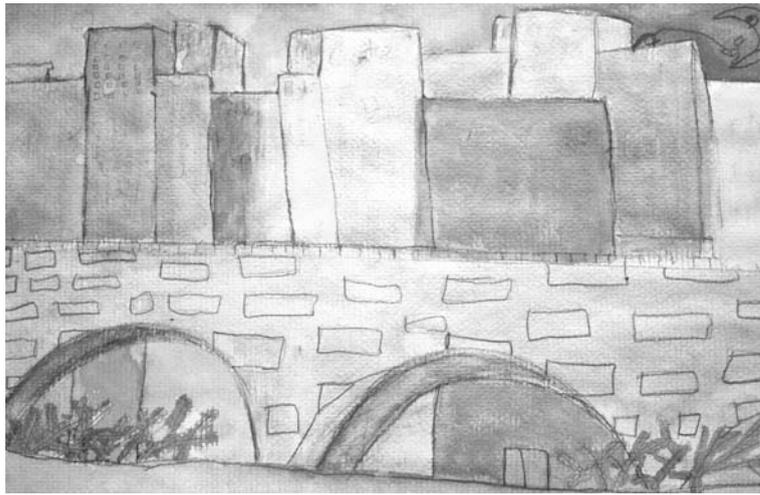
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WORDS & PICTURES



Chloe Abow, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



Heidi Weiss, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



Tigger

WRITINGS

Tigger

I have a kitten named Tigger.
 He is quickly getting bigger.
 Tigger is orange with yellow swirls.
 And his whiskers curl.
 Tigger likes to be scratched behind his ears.
 I could scratch him for years.
 Tigger lies around all day.
 But sometimes he likes to play.
 Every night I give him dinner.
 But then sometimes I smell a smell from his litter.
 Tigger is my friend.
 And I will love him to the end.
 — **Caroline Boda**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

How To Make A Good Friend

Xenia Nunez, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

9 cups kindness
 2 cups honesty
 5 cups love
 4 cups confidence
 1 cup shy
 6 cups caring
 3 cups humor
 4 cups have a good smile
 5 cups agreeable
 7 cups responsible
 8 cups respectful
 9 cups nice
 6 cups compliments
 1 million cups everything combined
 — **Lindsey Bowers**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

If I Could Be An Eagle

If I could be any animal, I would be an eagle.
 I would not go to school. It would be so cool!
 I would need to build a nest, but it would be okay.
 I could just fly away.

I would need to eat fish and mice, but it would be all right.
 I like fish, but mice sound disgusting. They are so small and have almost no meat.
 I wonder if eagles like berries?
 They at least need some greens!

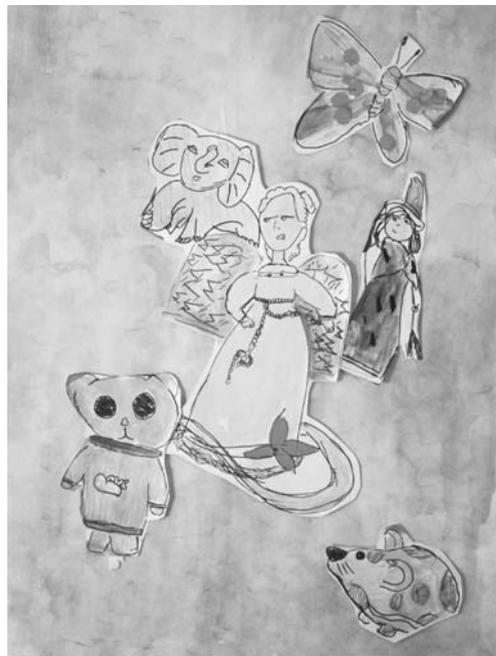
It would be Cool to fly all around!
 But I like it down here on the ground.
 — **David Feira**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

Cheetos

Cheetos are cheesy
 Cheetos are crunchy
 Cheetos are super, duper, munchy
 Oh, how I love all Cheetos galore,
 And I'll keep loving them more and more



Diana Vargas, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



Natalia Guzman, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



Juliana Walker, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

WORDS & PICTURES

How My Parents Met [The Remix Version]

He was stuck in a under ground cave and was hopelessly lost. He gripped his magic sword as he walked along. By the way, his name is Derek. Suddenly, he heard a horrid scream. "HELP!" The person yelled.

"I'll help you!" Derek said. And he followed his instincts down the path. When he got there, he was just in time to save her life. She decided to come with him on his quest to find the under ground city.

"My name is Kelly," said the girl.

"My name is Derek," said Derek.

— Alex Khlopın, Nottingham ES



WRITINGS

I Hate Being a Tennis Racket

Hi! My name is Tennis-Head. Some of you might know me as Pencil-Head. In a previous life, I was a pencil. I got decapitated too many times. Before I got thrown away, I asked Maker to turn me into a tennis racket. I thought that would be better.

Maker is my godfather. He can turn me into just about anything I want to be.

So, now I'm a tennis racket. I am owned by a guy named Fred. He is a professional tennis player. When he swings me and I hit the ball, I get a bad headache. It's better than being a pencil, but it still hurts.

For four years in a row, I helped Fred make it into the U.S. Open. On the day of the big tournament, I was up against a cocky tennis racket named Bob. While Fred and I were warming up, Bob kept saying, "We're going to beat you," in a teasing sort of way. It was so annoying. The referee said it was time to start the tournament. Fred and I got the first serve. I hate

serving because it gives me more headaches.

We served and Bob hit it back. We kept hitting the ball back and forth for almost five minutes. Then Bob finally missed the tennis ball and it bounced twice! We were up 15-0! Bob got to serve this time. He served and I hit it back to him. Over and over we each hit it over the net and back to the other racket. Finally, after I was getting tired, I missed the ball.

Bob said, "Ha ha! I got a point," in a mocking sort of way. I said, "So what? We're tied."

The referee blew his whistle. "Water break," the ref said. Then after another hour of play, the score was 40-15. Fred and I were up by three points.

"Ha! Ha!" I told Bob. "That's what you get for bragging."

The ref blew his whistle. "Game over!" he said.

"Yes!" Fred and I had won!

SEE WRITINGS, PAGE 12

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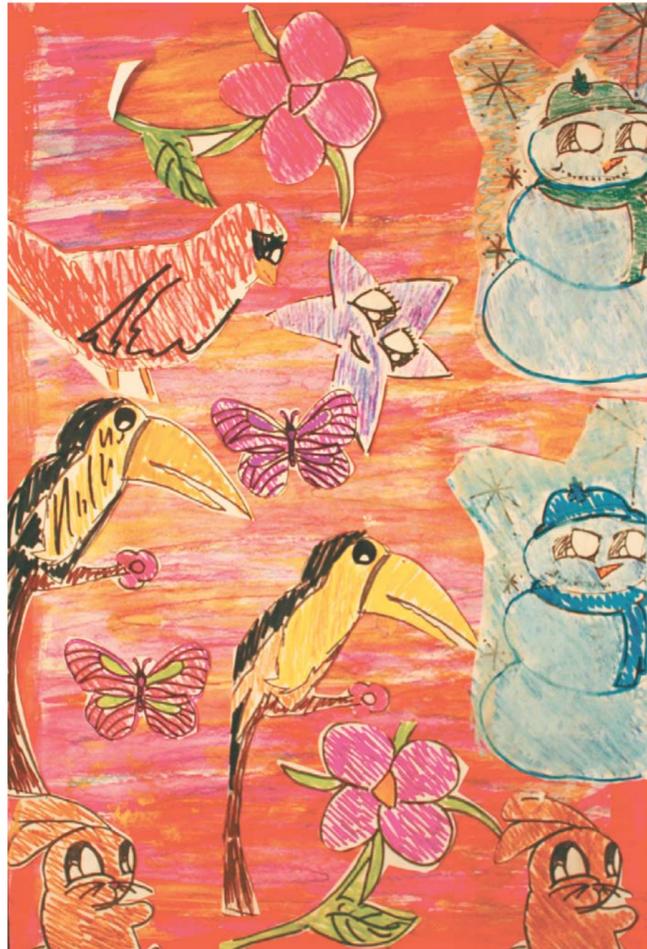
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GALLERY



Autumn Leaf, Colleen Drake, 2nd grade, Nottingham ES



Shirley Paz-Soto, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



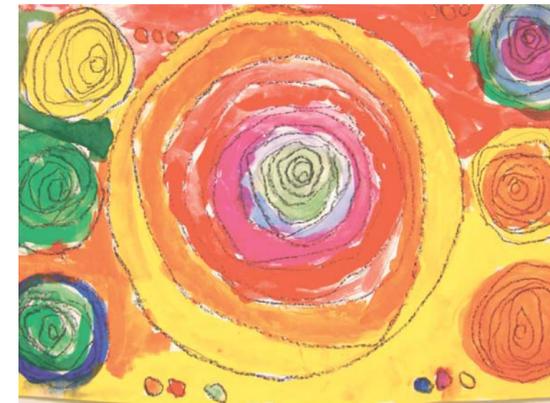
Charlotte Smith, 4th grade, Drew Model ES



Eric Johnson, Kindergarten, Nottingham ES



Shirley Paz-Soto, 5th grade, Drew Model ES



Kandinsky Circles, Phillip Johnson, Kindergarten, Nottingham ES



Shirley Paz-Soto, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

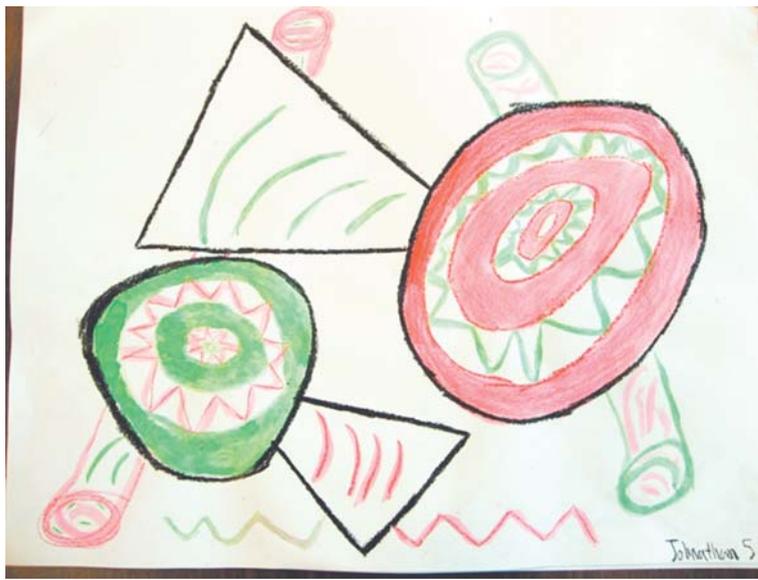


Dominique Scott, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

WORDS & PICTURES



Evan London, 4th grade, Long Branch ES



Johnathan Bick, 5th grade, Long Branch ES



Amy Parr, 4th grade, Long Branch ES



Lexi Rowland, 5th grade, Long Branch ES



Malik Tobin, 5th grade, Long Branch ES



Sebastion Bourgault, 2nd grade, Long Branch ES



Lucy Nguyen, 2nd grade, Long Branch ES



Raynie Baker-Rosenberg, 2nd grade, Long Branch ES



Nakira Moore, 2nd grade, Long Branch ES

WRITINGS

FROM PAGE 8

Yay, for Cheetos, how I love to munch,
on stringy, cheesy things

What's that I see?
A whole bag of Cheetos just for me!
— **Garrett Ferguson**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

If I Were an Elephant

If I were an elephant
I could spray myself all I want
No one would mind.

If I were an elephant
I could run and run
Who cares!

If I were an elephant
I could reach up high
Where humans had never even been.

If I were an elephant
I could blow my horn again and again
Even without raising my hand.

But still I'm glad that I'm human
For if I'm an elephant
Who's gonna cook dinner for me!
— **Eleanor Holtzapple**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

If I Was a Turtle

If I was a turtle I could hide in my shell all day. I could store some food in my shell so if I get hungry during the day I can have a snack. If something fell on me I would go into my shell. If I was a turtle I could swim around a lake and if I get the time I might be able to get a ride on a fish or something. The life of a turtle is awesome!

— **Ben Koomey**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

What I Want to be When I Grow Up!

What I want to be when I grow up is an N.B.A. basketball player because I can be as good as Michael Jordan, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, the Bullet, and Kevin Durant. I would meet legends, shoot buzzer beaters, do old fashioned 3's, hit jumpers, nasty swishes, make half court shots, shoot free throws, call time-outs, and do DUNKS! I'd be on Sports Center's Top 10 Plays.

THE END!
— **CJ O'Neil**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

WRITINGS

FROM PAGE 9

Fred had been playing tennis for almost 20 years by now. This was his 10th U.S. Open that he had won. He had been using me for six years. I was getting very old and Fred was getting ready to retire. He did not need me anymore, so I got put in his garage. I was very disappointed that he was not using me anymore, but I wanted to do something else, because every time Fred used me, my head really hurt. I decided I'd like to try another sport that I thought wouldn't give me headaches.

So, I called Maker and asked him if I could be a golf club.

— **Ryan K.**, 4th grade, Nottingham ES

WRITINGS

FROM PAGE 3

and I know how to play. I play all the positions, quarter back, center, running back, wide receiver and safety. My favorite position is quarterback. At thanksgiving my family has a big football game and we choose teams. I wish I had had my dad, Will, Ben, and Uncle Bill on my team. But I had my dad, my mom, my sister, Uncle Matt, and Ben. We lost. I used to play on a flag football team. It was really fun. I caught an interception and I also caught a touchdown. We won that game and for the touchdown I jumped up in the air and when I fell, I didn't drop the ball. At the beginning of the season, we lost almost every game but after that game, we won almost every one. We made it all the way to the playoffs but we lost the first game. At the end of the year, we had a party at Gus' house and we went on a zip-line in his backyard. So that is why I love football.

— Henry Watson, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES

If I Could Marry a TV

I love TV a lot, so much that I want to marry a TV. If I married a TV, I would be crazy because nobody has married one before. Other people would think it's crazy but I don't! I would have so much fun being married to a TV. I would watch my TV, play video games on it, clean it, watch movies on it and even eat dinner with it. I wouldn't fight with my TV or be mad at it because I would have a remote. It would always do what I want. No chores, no cleaning the yard, only letting me pick the shows! The TV I want to marry is a giant HD flat screen.

— Kellen Brooks, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES

I Love School

I love school because I have fun. Sometimes we have a party, eat ice cream, or read some funny books, so that's why I love school. In December, our class will start swimming, I think, and we are going to have much fun in swimming class. In my school in my country of Uzbekistan, it was so hard

to learn, but here it is so easy. I even know how to speak English now. Before school, I ride on a bus. When I get to school, I do my morning work and we do math. We have some snack time, and we do all kinds of good stuff. My teacher is gone, so my principal is finding us a new teacher. I hope my new teacher will be like my old teacher. When my teacher left, I was sad because I love the school with him in it. Now my teachers are Ms. Burke, and Ms. Grimaldi and I can tell that they like to be with us and that makes me happy. Oh, my school's name is Oakridge Elementary and our school mascot is an owl named Oakie. I like Oakie.

— Sulaymonbek Shomansurov, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES

The Four Tiny Ants

One time there lived four tiny ants in four different houses made of toothpicks, hard snow, grass, and boxes.

Then there came a big black bear who needed to make a project for his school about going green, but all of a sudden, he realized that he had lost his green crayon. He decided to visit the ants. He went to Tom (one of the ants) who lived in a house made of hard snow. The black bear asked for a green crayon. In a rude voice Tom said "NO" and he threw a piece of paper on the ground outside of his house. "Are you going to pick that up, said the black bear?" Tom said "NOOOOOO" again.

The black bear's allergies started acting up so the Black bear huffed and puffed and coughed a big cough and it blew the house down. Now, since Tom didn't pick up the paper before, the black bear threw it at him and since Tom was scared, he threw it in the trash.

Next, the black bear went to another ant's house made of toothpicks. The ant's name was Jack. When the black bear asked the question about the green crayon, the ant, in a squeaky voice said "No Way". Then Jack threw a can at the black bear. "Are you going to recycle that" said the bear? "No, that's

SEE WRITINGS. PAGE 15

Logic is the art of going wrong with confidence.

—Joseph Wood Krutch

OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS

Will Return after the Holidays



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A 3-D project was recently completed by the pre-kindergarten class (ages 4 and 5) at Randolph Elementary. Students used their imaginations and prior knowledge to design their own playgrounds, and worked together as a team to build them. Participating were: Christopher Argueta, Nicole Barahona Rios, Noraiz Bhutta, James Bissett, Noelia Castro, Gweneth Donnelly, Charisse Ferguson-Bell, M. Akib Ikbal, Amelia Jabo, Yamiley Jimenes, Rafael Morales Ibad, Sindi Moreno Elvir, Rafael Pulido Elias, Danica Quibote, Olinda Ramos Alvarez and Prarichat Yot-On.

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WORDS & PICTURES

FROM PAGE 13

why I threw it at you, said Jack.”
The black bear’s allergies started acting up again so he huffed and puffed and coughed a big cough and it blew the toothpicks away and since the ant had nothing to do, he picked up the can and recycled it.

The black bear went to the third ant’s house made of boxes. The ant’s name was Holly. Unlike all the other ants, Holly was benevolent. She picked up all of her trash and threw it away and when the black bear asked for a green crayon, Holly said “Yes.” However, the black bear’s allergies were still acting up so he huffed and puffed and coughed a big cough which made the house fall down. The ant got mad and was so confused, that she fainted.

The black bear ran home so Holly wouldn’t take back the crayon but when he got home, the black bear realized why the ant had given him the crayon. Holly painted it to look like a green crayon, but it was a brown crayon!!!

Finally, the black bear went to the last ant’s house made of grass still looking for a green crayon.

The ant was Missy. There he found all of the other ants. He was so surprised that all of a sudden the black bear huffed and puffed and coughed a big cough.

The grass house had also fallen down but this time, all the ants tackled the black bear. The black bear learned that he should keep track of his things and he was never going to another ant’s house with allergies.

— **Jasmine Mohamed, 5th grade, Oakridge ES**

PS3

Instant games on your system are the future of gaming on the PlayStation 3. And who does not love the Blu-Ray feature? And high-def quality! And instant PSN! And internet with broadband! That’s what I love!

Oh do not forget the PS2! PS1! PSP! Well there’s more! E3! Pulse! Qure! Oh and PSM! PSE! 3D move and movie! And little big planet! My favorite game! Sony can never be the same so try it! I love netflix! Movie’s animated on your TV! That’s wonderful! That’s all! See you next time!

— **Erik Carlson, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

Electronics

I love electronics. They are cool and fun. Robots, computers, T.V.s, video games, cameras, the SmartBoard and projectors are all electronic machines. They tell me answers, and they help make things easier.

For example, a computer has spell-check and that helps writers spell words that they are not sure about. They can write faster because spell-check does the checking for them. In my book about robots I learned about walkers. They have feet and a chair where humans can sit.

The humans tell it where to go, and the walker takes them there. This is helpful for people who can’t walk. I love how electronics work. They can be 3-D, which is cool because it looks real even though it is not.

I can go to outer space but not really go. Even though I am only eight years old, I can drive a car, and even crash it into a building when I use electronics. Electronics makes anything I can imagine real!

— **George Whichard, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

New York

New York is the best state I have ever

Oh cow, stay here Don't go there



Oh Cow, Stay here,
Don't go there,
Gotta be careful,
Because there's a bear,
But you didn't pay attention,
Now you're getting detention,
Why can't you be a good cow,
Oh, you want me to bow,
Oh, cow, now you stay here,
And you don't go there,
Finally you haven't been chased
By the big bear!

By Samantha Gisell Sanchez



Samantha Sanchez, Grade 3, Randolph Elementary

been to. I went there with my family for vacation on summer break. We took a train and stayed for two days. We did lots of fun things like buy ice cream, got in a sky scraper, and bought I love New York t-shirts. We stayed up all night looking for a room to stay in. But it was so popular, every building was booked. My family stayed up until 2 o'clock in the morning. We got the biggest room in the hotel and it was so, so, small. I loved when we got there because it was dark. All the lights were on, the bridge was on, and the trees were on. It was so beautiful. The only problem was I did not sleep well! There was a party! Nobody slept well. So I stayed up watching TV.

I thought we were going on a real helicopter but, it was a Skyride and it was so fun. We bought lots of stuff like ice cream and t-shirts. We even went on Skyscraper and saw the whole city. It was so beautiful because it was dark and cold. New York is the best.

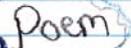
— **Hyab Daniel, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

Spencer

I love my brother. My brother’s name is Spencer. Spencer is three years old. My brother has beautiful blue eyes that stand out in my family because no one else in my family has blue eyes including my grandma and grandpa and on and on. My brother has blond hair like my mother and sister. Spencer, my sister, my dad, my mom and I love going

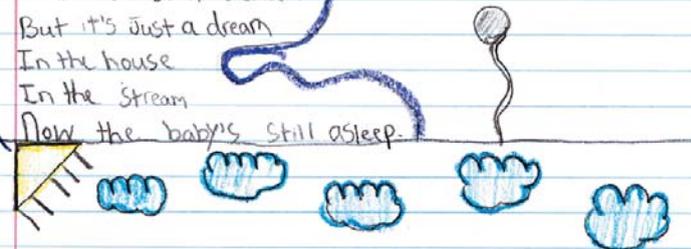
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December, 6 2010



Now Will you tell the cows
Not To shout out loud
Because they're so loud
They woke the baby up
If the cows are quiet
The baby will go to sleep
But he'll still scream
But it's just a dream
In the house
In the stream
Now the baby's still asleep.

"The Cows woke the baby."



By Eric Gonzalez

Eric Gonzalez, Grade 3, Randolph Elementary



Madeline Miller, Grade 5, Long Branch Elementary School

WORDS & PICTURES

FROM PAGE 15

to the zoo especially my brother. My brother loves playing baseball. When Spencer gets home from preschool he is usually cranky but then he usually has a lot to say. I like getting my brother up when he is crying. I really want to help him when he is in trouble. I love reading to him when my dad can't. I love seeing my brother smile. He is one of a kind. I love my brother Spencer.

— **Isobel Laux, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

My River House

I have a river house on the Rappahannock, right where the river hits the Chesapeake. It is a one floor house. I love to go to my river house because there's a lot you can do, like play basketball. We have a basketball hoop, and also a baseball bag, so we play a lot of baseball. We are on the river so we have jet skis and sailboats. We don't catch many fish. We need to work on that. We have a pet bunny and whenever we take him with us to the river house, he always sneaks out, so we have to catch him. We have a tire swing that we never use because when we do, we sometimes crash into trees. We have a climbing tree. In the summer, it gets so hot that we have to jump into the river to cool off. At night, we jump off the dock. We shine a flashlight and fish pop up. My three brothers and I sleep in a bunkroom. In the morning, we read books. We don't have a television there. When we drive to the river, we see bunnies hopping everywhere. There are crabs that climb on the pilings and sometimes we catch them and eat them. I wish we could live at our river house all the time.

— **Jake Hatch, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

I love LEGOS!

I love Legos because you can build



Native Americans Watching the Sunset, Benjamin Westergren, Nottingham ES

kits or you can destroy what you have built and create what you want. I wish that I could have all the Legos sets ever made and then I would build a Lego City. I would call my city "LEGO CITY." There would be a train station, a toy shop, a village bakery, an army base, and an airport. I really like the winter set because they have people with snow shoes, chefs in the winter village bakery making bread, and it also comes with people using \$100 bills.

The best thing about Legos is you can build, then destroy, then build something even better. There are a few rules about building with Legos: You shouldn't bite them. Never wreck other people's buildings (they might get mad at you). You probably shouldn't put them in your nose, either, but I wouldn't

know why you would.

There are three steps to making Lego army bases and going into battle: Step 1. Build the base so that the soldiers, warriors, or Jedis, have a place to hang out. Step 2. Build enough people to battle each other. Step 3. Ambush! This is the most fun part because you can go crazy with the army people or the Jedis.

I hope you have fun with your Legos.
— **James Coffey, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

I Love To Celebrate Christmas With My Family!

On Christmas Eve every year my family gets together at my house. We start out with a delicious Christmas banquet! Everyone enjoys it. Sometimes some of our family friends come too. When we are all finished eating, our stomachs are full. We then gather around the Christmas tree. Then my mom and I start to pass around the presents. We tell the person who the present is from, then that person who got the present tells their thanks to the person who gave it to them. When we are finished with that, all the kids there start to play with their presents. Once my brother got a glorious building set! When he found out that he got it, he told my mom, "I NEED TO GET STARTED WITH MY BUILDING SET NOW!" Then when it starts to get dark everybody starts to go home. Then it is just me and my family after everyone has gone home. Then my family and I start to get ready to go to sleep. Then when we all wake up on Christmas morning, everyone rushes down the stairs to see if Saint Nick gave us something in our stockings. Then my family and I have a great Christmas day.

— **Liis Viira, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

This Thanksgiving

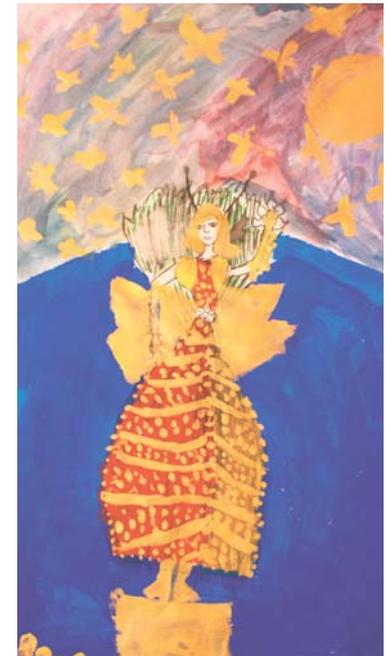
One of my favorite holidays is Thanksgiving. This Thanksgiving I had cake, pie, mashed potatoes, and other food. I played Monopoly with my friend Annabelle and then we ganged up on her babysitter and her baby brother Evan. I also played my guitar and did chord A, E, Em, D, G, C, and I made some songs about how we were beating them. We had so much fun. Annabelle asked if she could stay longer and her mom and dad said she could stay until

7 p.m. We were bored so we decided to watch my brother play Farmville on Facebook. I then did my Gollum voice. My brother cooked brownies and at 7:30 they were done. Then I tried to get on the computer and play Dragons of Atlantis, but my brother was too strong for me. So after about two minutes we watched shows on the computer and at 10:30-11:00 we went to sleep. This Thanksgiving couldn't be beat.

— **Matthew Hatstrup, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

Football

I love football and I play it everyday. This season, I played on a football team, called the Hurricanes, with my friend, Jones. We won the Super Bowl. The team we beat was called the Reston Seahawks. They were a great team, but we beat them twice. We won by one point, and we got a trophy. It was as big

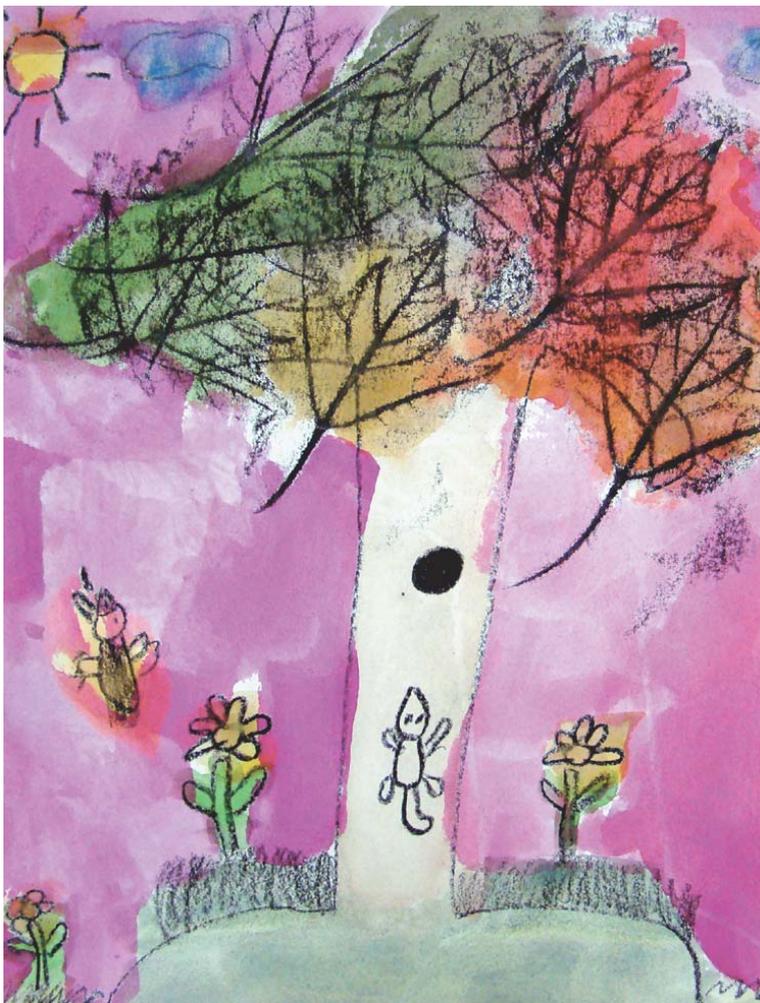


Heidi Weiss, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

as a kindergartner, and we took a picture with it. Then we got snacks and a shirt that read, "Undefeated Hurricanes." We went home and watched more football! We had a big party with my friends while the Washington Redskins football game played on TV. I was not happy when my friends left, but it was okay because we had fun.

All my friends had come to watch my football game. I had a lot of tackles and the other team fumbled the ball at the end of the game. It was close. The score was 13-14. I played defensive end and left guard on offense. We scored on the first play, which pumped up our team and all of our fans. They scored on the first play, too, but I was not playing then. They ran right up the middle (which we call "the gut") and made a touchdown. I like when the other team fumbles the football. During the game,

SEE WRITINGS, PAGE 17



Autumn Tree, Yunshan Zou, 1st grade, Nottingham ES



Katerine Cruz, 5th grade, Drew Model ES

WRITINGS

FROM PAGE 16

I almost got a fumble and then, I actually got a fumble! I was excited! I fell on that ball and then it became our ball. That was when we started winning. It was a great season, and I can't wait until I can play football again!

— **Max Lane, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

Traveling

I love to travel. Sometimes it's fun on the plane. You can look out the window and you can see the ground or if it's cloudy you can see the clouds. At the airport there are a lot of places to see. When you travel you go to a new place. There might be things you don't see in your area. But if you're in a car, you can look up in the sky, and see what shapes the clouds are. But riding in a plane is better, because you can get wherever you want to go, faster. Once if I ever get a chance, I would like to go to Indonesia. I want to go to Indonesia because I think it would be a nice place to go, plus I have not traveled out of the United States. Indonesia is in Asia, a BIG continent. So while I'm in Indonesia, I would travel all around the place just for the fun of it. Indonesia sounds like an interesting place, so I want to visit. I have never gone farther than the United States of America. Traveling is fun because you can see your family if you are visiting a place where your family lives. And that is why I love traveling!!!

— **Mia Hakken, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

My Dream

One day my dad woke me up and I told him about my dream. It was a nightmare but thank goodness only a dream. It was about me riding my bike. Then there was a big bump. I made a BIG flip on my bike and my dream changed again. It turned back to the nightmare but it was fun because none of the monsters found me. Well... one of them found me, but I closed her mouth and she went back to her husband. She forgot where I was and told her husband the wrong place. She told him, "Let's go to the tree house" and pointed up at it. I was actually hiding behind the tree house and watched the husband get mad because I was not there. I won't even tell you what he did next because it is too scary. I woke up frightened but realized it was just a dream and the monsters had vanished. The End!

— **Omar Bah, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

I love my friends!

Do I love my friends?
I do love my friends because they are fun, nice, friendly and funny!

We have fun times all the time together! We never say I hate you.

My friends' names are Max, Jack, Christian, Jones, Giancarlo, Ethan, Cullen, and William. We always play football at the park.

Sometimes we even play Call of Duty on Xbox 360 and it is wickedly awesome! ... Just like my friends.

— **Peter Fyffe, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

Good Food

I love good food. I love Oreos, cake, pudding, ice cream and pizza. The best food ever is pizza. My dream pizza would have pepperoni, jalapeños, cheese, and Oreos. I also like pretzels, especially ones with peanut butter. Peanut butter is soft and tastes like peanuts. If I were the cook in my family, I would put peanut butter on salad, broccoli, beans, and macaroni. I would make everybody eat my peanut butter creations.

My second favorite food is ice cream! I like chocolate, lemon, rainbow, Oreos, mint, ones with candy, and...all kinds, really. I like ice cream because you can put different kinds of stuff in it. Maybe I should try eating ice cream with peanut butter and pretzels, and pizza!

My third favorite food is cake. I love cake because it has icing, frosting, and sometimes is has your name on it, or toys! You can put all kinds of stuff on it, especially Oreos. Have you ever tasted an ice cream cake? They are good! When you put Gummi bears on cake, it tastes chewy! Sweet!

— **Reem Abraham, 3rd grade, Oakridge ES**

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My Answer to Cancer



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Oddly enough — or not, since receiving my original stage IV lung cancer terminal-type diagnosis/prognosis on Feb. 27, 2009, I have not felt compelled or motivated in the least, beyond my immediate circle of family and friends, to seek out other lung cancer patients/survivors for support, for reassurance, for advice or for any kind of group and/or individual therapy. Perhaps I will live to regret it (wouldn't that be the ultimate irony), but I haven't really felt the urge to purge myself of whatever mental toxins I was/am internalizing. I was — and am, still managing. In addition, I've not been interested in joining or attending any kind of lung cancer awareness group or participating in any type of lung cancer out-reach activity.

My thinking has been — and still is, that I don't want to immerse myself in the cancer culture. Maybe I'm pretending that I'm not a member of this group (whose membership is not the least bit desirable)? Maybe I'm afraid of what relationships I may start or what relationships I may see end badly? Perhaps I'm worried that a connection and commitment to similarly diagnosed people will somehow weigh on me and adversely affect my own relative/comparative good health? Seeing sicker, weaker people might make me feel sicker, weaker; that scares me. I want (need, probably) to be surrounded by positivity. I don't want (need presumably) to expend any energy overcoming negative people, places and things that might challenge the positive mental attitude that is key to fighting this insidious disease. Nor do I think that my presence will energize anybody to do anything. I'm not so self-absorbed or educated to believe that something I say or do — with respect to this whole lung cancer trip, is going to help another individual rise to some previously unattainable height. I have to help myself, first and foremost, don't I? I'm having enough trouble fighting my own battles.

The longer I'm a cancer survivor — outliving my original prognosis (13 months to two years), the more difficult it becomes to care about others as much as I care about myself; every day could be my last. As such, I need to protect myself from the slings and arrows of the outrageous misfortune that has befallen so many others. It's difficult enough to mentally maintain my own disposition that when I have considered joining/participating in some cancer-type activity (5K walk, parade, seminar, support-type group, etc.), I've balked at doing so, fearful of the risk to my own psyche — meaning the weakening of the mental resolve which has enabled me to live the life I have over the past 22 months. I don't trust myself to hold up under the collective catharsis of so much pain and suffering.

At the end of the day (heck, at the beginning of the day, too; and every minute in between), this whole cancer battle is about self-preservation — or perceived self-preservation. I'm not embarrassed to admit that I'm afraid of being around other cancer patients who are terminal. I'm extremely sensitive and aware of my surroundings; I can't presume there won't be an emotional toll on me. Moreover, all I have going for me is my sense of good humor, positive attitude and belief in what I'm doing: diet changes, vitamins, alkaline water, apple cider vinegar, baking soda, pureed asparagus, probiotics, exercise, etc. I can't risk immersion, or even exposure to a cancer culture that might threaten — or question my pursuits and the reasons for them. I have to consider the consequences of my actions, especially now, and mind my own business — in my opinion.

I'm probably wrong living in this sort of semi isolation, but it's my life and I'm trying to live it the best way I can — most things considered.

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

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21 Announcements

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AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify an existing telecommunications installation inside a steeple located on a church at 4110 N. Old Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA. The modification includes removal and replacement of three antennas (one from each sector) with three new antennas in the same locations at a height of 87 feet, and the addition of three antennas at a height of 83 feet within the steeple. 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 61107882-MAT c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA, 17403, or via telephone at (781) 273-2500.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T Mobility is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA. The new facility will consist of adding three panel antennas (one per sector) to existing rooftop mounts at 62 feet above ground level. Support equipment will be placed on an existing rooftop equipment pad. 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 61107459-SF c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at 781-273-2500.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T intends to file an application for the collocation of new antennas on the building located at 1900 Columbia Pike, Arlington, 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 "Court House" will consist of the collocation of antennas on the roof of the building. In addition, conduit will be run from the equipment shelter to the antennas. 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

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify a wireless telecommunications facility on a building located at 1415 N. Oak St., Arlington, VA. The proposed modification consists of adding three antennas (one per sector) at a height of 73.4 feet on the rooftop. Two antennas will be mounted behind an existing screen wall, and one will be on an existing chimney. 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 61108009-MAT c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA, 17403, or via telephone at (781) 273-2500.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T intends to file an application for the collocation of new antennas on the building located at 2001 North Adams Street, Arlington, 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 "Fort Strong" will consist of the collocation of new antennas onto existing antenna mounts. In addition, new conduit will be run from the antennas to the existing flex bay. 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

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