

Burke  
**CONNECTION**

# Children's Connection 2010



Monochromatic  
Self Portrait by  
Suzanne Sauter,  
Grade 8, Irving Middle

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DECEMBER 30, 2010 - JANUARY 5, 2011 ♦ VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 52

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Best Wishes For The Holidays



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

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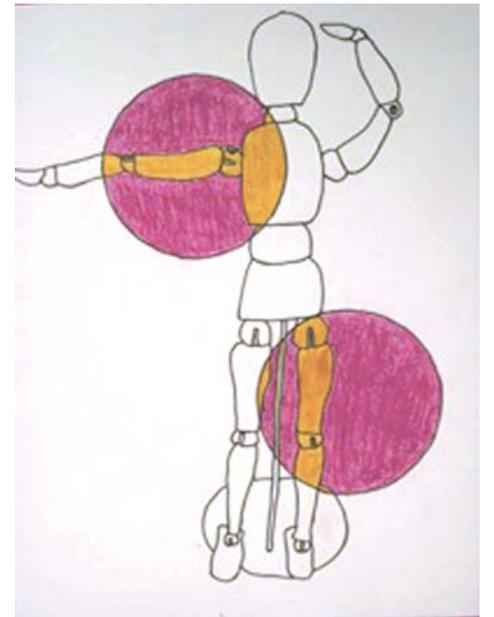
# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**Abigail Lenz, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary**



**Aleksander Wotoweic, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary**



**Amanda Kim, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary**



**Destinee Juarez, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary**

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Burke Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students of its communities.

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

The response this year was tremendous. As a result, we were able to publish only a fraction of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art in this issue.

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

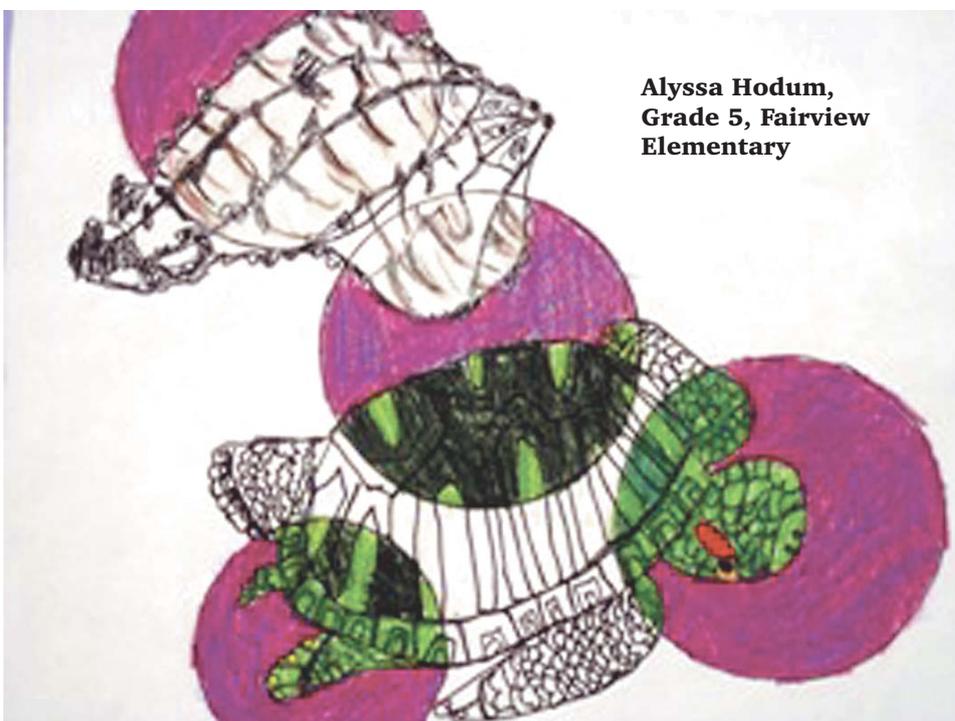
The Children's Issue is only part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, The Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools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

Send information to: The Burke Connection, 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314, send e-mail messages to [burke@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:burke@connectionnewspapers.com)

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL, EDITOR



**Anika Clickener, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary**



**Alyssa Hodum, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary**



**Christian Scrum, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary**

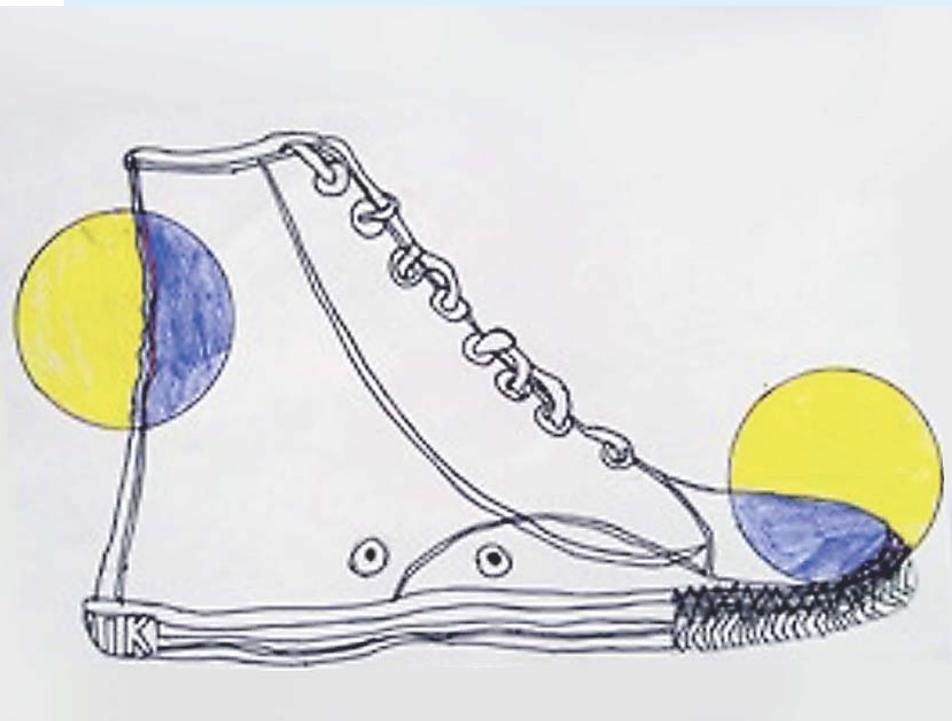
# ART GALLERY



Gabriella Du Charme, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary



Jonathan Lee, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary



Jack Letzkus, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Jaidyn Hammond, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Kerri Lynch, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Maxim Johnson, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary

## WRITING

### The 36 Fat Guinea Pigs — A Math Story

BY JUSTIN LEUNG  
AND MADISON SIDES  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Word was going around the pet store that a garden was planted in the back! So during the night the 36 fat guinea pigs snuck out.

“HEY!” yelled Sniffy, the fattest guinea pig. “We have to get there before light. Hurry up! Go in 2 rows of 18! It’s lucky we’re not a prime number.” So they squirmed into 2 rows of 18. They started walking toward the door. “HEY!” yelled Sniffy, the fattest guinea pig. “We’re going too slow! It’s lucky that we’re a composite number. So now go in 3 rows of 12!” The guinea pigs hurried into rows.

They saw a box turtle walk by. “Please,

spare us some food!” said the guinea pigs. “Can’t promise you,” said the box turtle. “The rabbits have already gotten to the garden.”

“GUYS!” shouted Sniffy, the fattest guinea pig. “If you want to get there faster, go in 9 rows of 4!” All the guinea pigs started squealing and running into rows. “HEY!” yelled Sniffy. “We’re getting passed by too many animals and it’s almost light! Go in 6 rows of 6! It’s lucky we’re also a square number!” So the guinea pigs moved into 6 rows of 6. They ran as fast as they could to the garden.

Once they got there, all of the food was gone. “NO!” all the guinea pigs screamed. Sniffy said “Blame it on the rabbits! OR we could blame it on our factors. Or blame it on us. We need to practice our arrays.”

### Autumn Leaves

BY LORI OHANNESSIAN  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Summer has left woody Virginia.  
Autumn is on its way to the woods.  
The leaves of the massive trees  
Are changing from their beautiful green shade  
To their wonderful shades of fall colors.  
The cool colors are dark brown, bright

yellow, rose red and orange orange.

The sky is deep, deep blue, just like the deep, deep blue of the sea.

Now, do you walk in the chilly autumn and see beautiful leaves on the ground?

I see them everywhere I go in the chilly cold autumn.

The leaves are wonderful for collecting.  
They can be bookmarks in books or you can preserve them in boxes. The leaves are the best thing in autumn.

Go leaves!

### Egypt

BY FATIMA REHMATULLA  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Egypt is a country that is popular; there are 76 million people that live there. The capital of Egypt is Cairo, which is a very populated place because it is along the Nile River where people can get water easily. The Nile River is the longest river in the world, it flows through Egypt. The climate is hot and dry summers with cool winters and there are a lot of deserts in Egypt. The flag is red, white, and black with the “Eagle of Saladin” which includes Arabic writing on it. Their religion is 85% Muslim, 14% Orthodox Christian, and 1% Christian.

Sports have been an important part of Egyptians life. Football is the most

popular sport in Egypt. Tennis and squash are the second most popular sport in Egypt. There are a lot of schools in Egypt, mainly in Cairo; there are colleges, language schools, and elementary schools. All of the schools provide an education for children through adulthood.

Arts and pyramids are very important to the Egyptians, because they were the first civilization to become known for the famous arts and architecture. One of the famous pyramids is the Great Pyramid of Khufu; it is 756 feet long on each side and 450 feet high, and in Giza, Egypt. The Giza Pyramid is still standing today. Egypt was the first civilization that invented writing; they used symbols which are called hieroglyphics, to express thoughts in writing. I would like to visit Egypt someday!

### Belgian Waffle

BY GARRETT DEJESUS  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Ooh, ohh! A Belgian Waffle is not like any other waffle with syrup. There’s a Belgian Waffle with chocolate or even sugary powder or both!

One taste and your taste buds jump right off and get replaced with taste buds that let you taste all the good foods in life. Belgian Waffles can be kind of cold or hot hot hot! One thing you NEED to do is go to Belgium and get a waffle.

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## WRITING & ART



Danica Hennings, Grade 6, Fairview Elementary

## What I Want To Be When I Grow Up

BY NAM NGUYEN  
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

When I grow up I would like to be a night vision and laser engineer. My dad works at Fort Belvoir and I want to be just like him. Everyone says that I have the potential to be what I want to be, but all I need to do is work hard in school. So far, I have been right on track with having every school year ending in a "Straight A's." One day I hope to achieve this goal and have my dad as a mentor, and role model.

What is one thing you would change about school?

BY KATERI DRINKARD  
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

What if a 12-year-old girl was a principal? Obviously, that wouldn't be the best thing for the school, but we kids do have some ideas. If I was principal, I would change the time school starts. I don't know about other schools, but my school starts at 7:20 AM. My bus comes at 6:10 AM. I'm 12, for Pete's sake. I don't want to wake up at 5AM everyday to go to school. That's way too early. Rise and shine!



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## What Makes a Good Parent?

BY BROOKE ENGELBREKTSSON  
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

A good parent isn't someone who let's their child go out every night. A good parent should be concerned and protective of their child. A good parent doesn't let their child struggle through math. A good parent is always there, ready to jump in and help, but not give it all away. But when the child has grown too big for the nest, a good parent doesn't grab hold of their child's hand, pulling them back. A good parent lets their child go free and explore the world on their own.

## When I Grow Up

BY JESSICA NOVIS  
GRADE 7, LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

I have always wanted to do something good for the community when I grow up. What better way than proving people innocent for crimes they didn't commit? I want to be a lawyer because ever since the first time I was in a fake court room as a pretend lawyer I loved it. I also love to debate things and also have a strong opinion that is hard to sway which are good qualities for a lawyer to have. So when I grow up I will be a lawyer if I set my mind to it and keep it there.

## What do I want to be when I grow up?

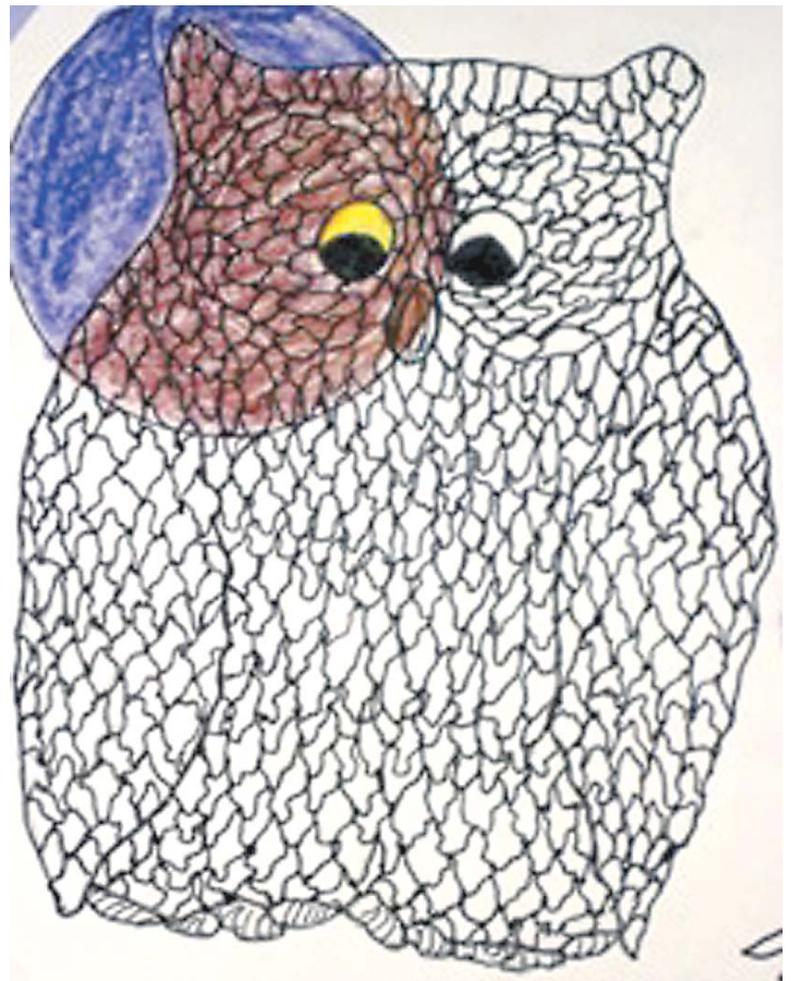
BY JULIA CULPEPPER  
GRADE 7, LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

When I grow up, I would like to become a NHL goaltender for the Washington Capitals. I watch hockey a lot and I really like the Capitals. I have quick reflexes, so I think it might be cool to join a super-skilled hockey team. And one day, I hope to win the Stanley Cup and possibly an MVP award, too. I like watching the old hockey games such as the ones with Grant Fuhr. He used to be the Edmonton Olier's goaltender and he was really good.

## Volleyball

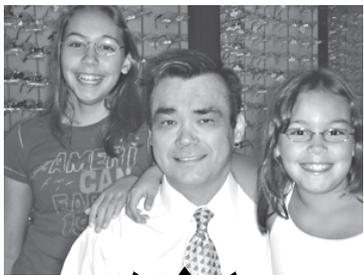
BY EMILY SINKULAR  
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

During four years playing volleyball I have had an awesome experience learning about the sport. One of the lessons I have learned is volleyball is a hard sport because of the strength and endurance it demands. I have also discovered that volleyball is a rewarding sport, the biggest reward of all is not playing on an all-star team or placing in the league, but watching you and your team grow from just a group of nervous little girls to a strong confident team. I'm glad I am a volleyball player and I look forward to the start of next season.



Emily Ann Awtrey, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary

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# ART GALLERY



Elizabeth Hermosilla, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary



Emily Eden, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary



Emma Glass,  
Grade 4, Fairview  
Elementary



Jonathan Thomas,  
Grade 5, Fairview  
Elementary

# POETRY

## Atoms

BY CHARLIE COOK  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Atoms are everywhere  
Even on your silverware  
So don't even think about finding me  
Just so you know- I'm in your tea  
I roam the world far and wide  
I also live in the tides  
I'm always shooting to and fro  
I think there's something else to know  
I'm also in electricity  
And P.S. that's not a novelty  
I think this poem is done  
What? You want me to go on?  
So you're wondering who I am?  
Well, I'll tell you with this piece of jam  
I've been existing since before you were born  
I am made up of a simple form  
I have just one more sentence to say  
I'm your friend and I'm here to stay

## Christmas

BY EMILY KEY  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Snowing, presents, colorful of sound  
The sound of people laughing that everybody hears  
Jerking noises in their sleep  
Presents waiting to be unwrapped  
Trees waiting in their gaze  
People are alive with the sound of Christmas  
They are being alive the Christmas spirit is here!

## Christmas Time

BY JACOB SHANAGHAN  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Snowman, lights, and snowball fights are all at  
Christmas time. Get a Christmas tree put lights on it  
to shine.  
Don't forget the ornaments when you put them up  
be kind.  
If you don't have a lot try to put up nine.  
At a store there might be a line for plows, ice break-  
ers and shovels.  
Wonder how many inches of snow we'll get. Last  
year we had several.  
Don't stay up all night on Christmas Eve.  
If you fall asleep Santa might have a present up  
his sleeve. So have a Christmas with lots of snow.  
At the end of all of it Santa will say HO-HO-HO.

## Tiny Tamarin

BY ALLIE FIEDOREK  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

I swing in a tree  
Being as tiny as I can be  
Looking out for my predators with strong teeth.  
So there I stand, swinging my tail very slowly.  
My eyes open wide  
Looking for an ant...what a prize  
An ant's taste can be!  
Running, climbing ,swinging — lively, that's me!  
I am a monkey, but don't get me wrong- at times I  
jump as if I were a squirrel!  
So, please, when you think of me, think amazing.

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## ART & WRITING



# The Super Girls, Volume 1

BY EMILI BOYLE

GRADE 4, KINGS GLEN ELEMENTARY

One day three girls named Emili, Alexa and Ibtida went up to their tree house. "This is going to be so much fun!" screamed Ibtida. When they formed a circle to dance, their necklaces hooked together. They felt funny, but they kept dancing. As they screamed with glee and put their hands up really high, Emili's hands shot out ice. She was Icegirl! Alexa's hands

shot out wind. She was Windgirl! Ibtida's hands shot out water. She was Aquagirl! Together they were the super girls! They heard a robot was attacking the city! They flew to the robot. Icegirl made an ice dome around the robot and Aquagirl. Aquagirl ran on water that she made in the ice dome. She ran around the robot so much the robots' head spun off! Icegirl took down the ice dome and Windgirl blew so hard the robot's parts flew off! "That was awesome!" they all screamed. Then they went home.

## Snowflakes

BY SOPHIE LEVER

GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Snowflakes are amazing, they're unique in many ways. Not a single snowflake is the same on any day. Some are big and some are small and some are average size. Snowflakes are very dainty and they break so easily. So when you put one on your hand, it falls apart so fast. Snowflakes look like crystal balls, falling from the sky, they're white and wet and slippery and come out from way up high!

## My Perfect Pumpkin

BY MADISON SIDES

GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

I went to the pumpkin patch  
And chose the perfect pumpkin.  
It's round, plump and fat!  
Now who has a better pumpkin than that?

It also has a perfect complexion,  
The most vibrant orange I've ever seen!  
It's smooth with no single bump  
It's also very clean!

My pumpkin will win first prize, no doubt! I will win that silky, milky beautiful ribbon and pin it on my perfect pumpkin!

## Shells

BY MADDIE FEE

GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Shells, shells different sizes different shapes and all the colors you can think of.

Some collect and some just throw them right back into the ocean.

Smooth, soft, rigid, or bumpy. You might not see them at first but they're there.

If you wonder where they hide check the beach that's where they are.

Now don't forget next time you go to the beach look for shells.

Shells, shells different sizes different shapes and all the colors you can think of.

## Swans

BY REBECCA HIX

GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Beautiful yet noisy,  
Free spirited bird,  
Graceful and fast,  
Romantic and sweet,  
White as the snow,  
Soft as a fuzzy blanket,  
Gliding and floating on water,  
As the moonlight shines down on the swan's little pond,  
The lights of the nearby house turn off,  
The swan's little pond is dark now,  
Except for the moonlight that shines down.

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## LETTERS

# Dear Miss Potter ...

Third Grade ESOL students at White Oaks Elementary School have read all 23 Peter Rabbit Books by Beatrix Potter. If she were still alive today, this is what they would have said to Miss Potter.

Dear Miss Potter,

I like your books. My favorite book is *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck*. I also like *The Tale of Tom Kitten* because Tom Kitten is fat and his buttons bust off of his jacket because it was too small. Jemima Puddle-Duck is so dumb because she doesn't know anything. She doesn't notice the fox that is trying to eat her eggs. That was so funny.

Sincerely,  
**Larabe Naseem**

Dear Miss Potter,

I like your book *The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies*. I like the part of the book when the Flopsy Bunnies were eating lettuce. Then they went to sleep because the lettuce made them so sleepy. They looked like cute, little babies. It was so funny.

Sincerely,  
**Linda Le**

Dear Miss Potter,

Thank you for writing all the books. My favorite book is *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck* because it is funny. I love all your books. My favorite part in Jemima is when the boy gets Jemima's eggs and took the eggs home. Miss Potter, I think you are cool, too.

Sincerely,  
**Haider Raza**

Dear Miss Potter,

Thank you for all your stories. I like *The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes*, *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*, *The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin*, and the *Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher*. Miss Potter, I really love all of your stories.

Sincerely,  
**Roberto Gabellini**

Dear Miss Potter,

Thanks for making the books. I like them. My favorite book is *The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse*. My favorite character is Mr. Jackson. I like it when he steals the honey from the bees. I also like the spiders.

Sincerely,  
**Mohammed Alshantir**

Dear Miss Potter,

I like your books and your pictures are colorful. *The Tale of Tom Kitten* is my favorite book and I watched the cartoon version of it, too. Tom Kitten is so fat that his clothes don't fit. Whenever I see Tom Kitten, I think his blue eyes look good but are sometimes a little scary.

Sincerely,  
**Jacob Lee**

Dear Miss Potter,

I like your pictures, especially the Flopsy Bunnies. They are so cute. I like the color blue on Peter Rabbit's jacket. I hope Tom Kitten gets some exercise because he looks FAT! I hope he gets some new clothes, too. Why didn't you write any sports stories? Like if Peter Rabbit pushed his cousin Benjamin Bunny into a touchdown. That would be funny.

Sincerely,  
**Daniel Jung**

Dear Miss Potter,

I like your books and I have one of them at home. The name of it is *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck*. All of your books are very good, but it is my favorite. I like her because she is so dumb that she doesn't know the Foxy-Whiskered Gentleman is really mean.

Sincerely,  
**Marwa Qayumi**

Dear Miss Potter,

I love all your books. I especially like *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. It is very funny and I think that is because it is the first book you ever wrote.

Sincerely,  
**Shamun Islam**

Dear Miss Potter,

I really like your drawings. I can't even draw them. I'm also starting to read your books. Some of your books are funny. I've heard that you also are funny. Why did you make Benjamin Bunny and Flopsy get married? Thank you for writing these books.

Sincerely,  
**Arnit Johal**

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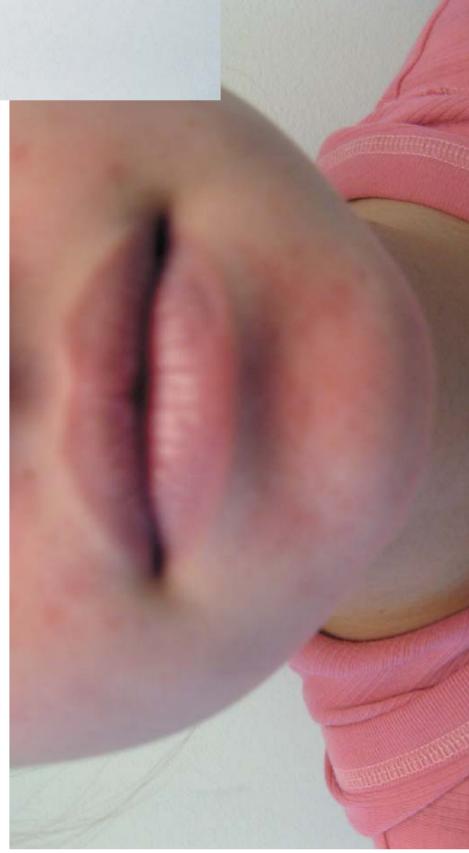
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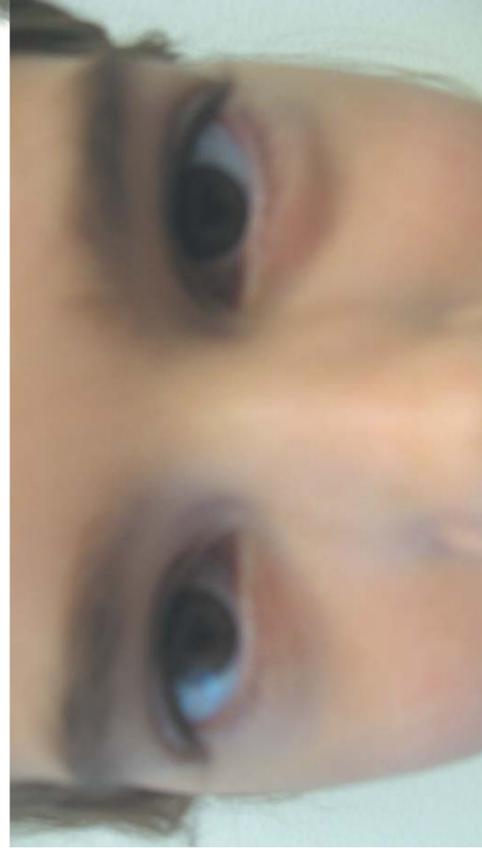
# Pieces of Me



## My Mouth

I love my mouth, I love the way my teeth are and how I can sing and sometimes when my sister and I are in the car we laugh about how we hit the wrong notes! On car trips we sing, when we're at home we sing, and sometimes when I'm in the shower I sing, the point is I love to sing that is why I joined chorus.

— Nikki Bartels



## My Eyes

I love my eyes. When I wake up in the morning I watch the sun rise. My eyes can play tricks on me, but sometimes they give me glee. Knowing that I have eyes, fills me with pride. I can see everything in front of me. When I'm outside, if I trip, I might accidentally do a flip!

— Hanna Dunn



## My Heart

Oh, my heart, it lies beneath my chest. It's my one and only body part that loves. The center of my body, the thing that controls me, and I love my friends and family with it.

— Mitchell Brennan



## My Arms

I like my arms because my arms help me tackle for football. I can throw and catch. My arms can get me a full scholarship into Miami University. My arms help me grab drinks and food when I'm thirsty or hungry. My arms also help me play video games. I love my arms!!

— Austin Holland



## My Hair

I like my hair because it shines in the sun. Sometimes my friends turn it into a bun. I could make it however I want, curly, straight or even in a knot. Sometimes I don't like my hair when it is in my face. And sometimes I do like it because I can play with it. And other times I have to cut my hair. What if I don't want to it is not fair at all. And that is why I like my hair.

— Daniel Merino



## My Hands

I love my hands so much. I lift things up and down. They are helping me write this story. My hands do a lot of things. They help me play baseball. They will help me through the rest of my life. My hands rock.

— Sean Miner

## WRITING

### Puppies and Dogs

BY JACOB SHANAGHAN  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

A puppy is cute, a puppy is furry  
A puppy might be in a quick hurry  
They bark when the moon come out  
They sniff and breathe with their snout  
They go inside to take a nap  
They might even sleep in their owner's lap

In the morning they get up and howl  
They take a bath and get dried with a towel

They grow up to be big strong dogs  
With their food they won't be a hog  
A dog is a companion with you  
Even though it might chew up your shoe  
So be a friend with a dog  
And if you don't  
I'll turn you into a log!

### The Cookie

BY JUSTIN LEUNG  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

My cookie is crunchy and very munchy. I like it the way it is. People think I am crazy but I'll tell you anyway it tastes better with slippery chocolate sauce and fluffy whipped cream! It makes the cookie look weird but it tastes extremely good!

### Sniffy

BY DEVIKA PURI  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Sniffy is a guinea pig in our room. She lives in a green cage in the back of our room. She's white and brown, white and brown. And when you tickle her, tickle her, scratch her, scratch her. She likes to whimper and dance around. There's also a little pink castle just for her to play around. Everybody gets to take her home and have a lot of fun! How cool is that?

### The Banana

BY DANIEL KRAHEK  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN  
ELEMENTARY

A yellow banana, all ripe and skinny, hangs from a tree in a bunch. You must climb to the top to get the banana, and then climb back down to eat it! The first bite is juicy and filled with joy. The second bite- tangy and tropical. You have gone into the jungle to get bananas and now you shall eat like a king!

Enjoy your banana before it is gone, because no other banana shall taste the same.

### Describe Robinson's amazing school spirit

BY DANIELLE HUGNEY  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

Robinson's school spirit is like none I've ever seen before. When you walk into the gates of Coffey Field before a football game, you can just feel all the excitement and enthusiasm. So many kids, parents, alumni, students, and relatives come to support the Robinson Rams play.

We have the best team, craziest, die-hard fans, best coaches, smartest teachers, and definitely the greatest group of students ever. Inside the school, there is always an up-beat attitude by everyone and that encourages us to do better in school, and since we are so loyal to the school we wouldn't dare ruin it or vandalize it. Since we are such great students, it makes it way easier on all of the teachers because they enjoy teaching us.

Don't even get me started on the pep rally, over 4,000 students in the same gym gets just a little noisy, well actually, really noisy. The pep rally was so entertaining because there were so many contests and competitions that we dot to watch people do.

With such a big school and so much excitement, it is hard not to absolutely love Robinson.

### 4 Good Reason

BY ALIVIA CORWIN  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

Life,  
Is what they've given me  
As they watch and encourage me  
While I jump around and try to sing  
They tell me I'm a star to be  
But I know I'm no prodigy.

They teach me to be strong  
And hold me when I'm weak  
And even when I'm stupid  
They with still believe.

They yell with good intention  
But I might take it wrong  
And embarrass me on purpose  
Because they think its fun.

They protect me by telling  
And enforcing their ways  
Because they want me to outlive them  
By many many days.

I want to repay them for all they've given me  
So I'll live life to the fullest  
and stay true to me.

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# WRITING

## Video Games

By COLLEEN M. MULROONEY  
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY

Look, I know that there are a bunch of adults out there have lots of bad things to say about video games. It's true that there certainly are boundaries to the amount of time people should spend playing them, but they really are wonderful. No, I'm not talking about games with mindless violence like in *Call of Duty* or *Resident Evil*. I'm talking about games that require thought, like *Fire Emblem* and *Legend of Zelda*. There was even a study in 2009 stating that children who play video games score higher on IQ tests than those who don't, so reconsider the hostilities you have toward electronic games today!

## Trains

By JACOB DEMBOSKI  
GRADE 4, CHERRY RUN  
ELEMENTARY

Trains are cool. They are awesome. They changed our life. The good old steam engine has built our world from railroads to subways. The steam engine is our mighty fighter. If you saw an old train site you would not believe your eyes because you would probably see a fireman's hat, an old freight car and even some old train parts. But if you saw an engine, you'd probably drool because you'd think it was so cool. If it was running, that would be great, but don't try to pull some freight.

## What is one thing you would change about school?

By MADY HANTON  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

If I could change one thing about school it would be to allow pets. I have a pug, Daisy, at home and I don't get to spend much time with her. I get home earlier than I used to, but then I have to do homework. Daisy sleeps with me at night then I wake up and go to school. I love Daisy so much, and it would be fantastic if I could spend my day with her! Whenever I see that scrunched up little face my whole heart swoons. She is my own personal sun. I know Daisy will snort her way into your heart too!



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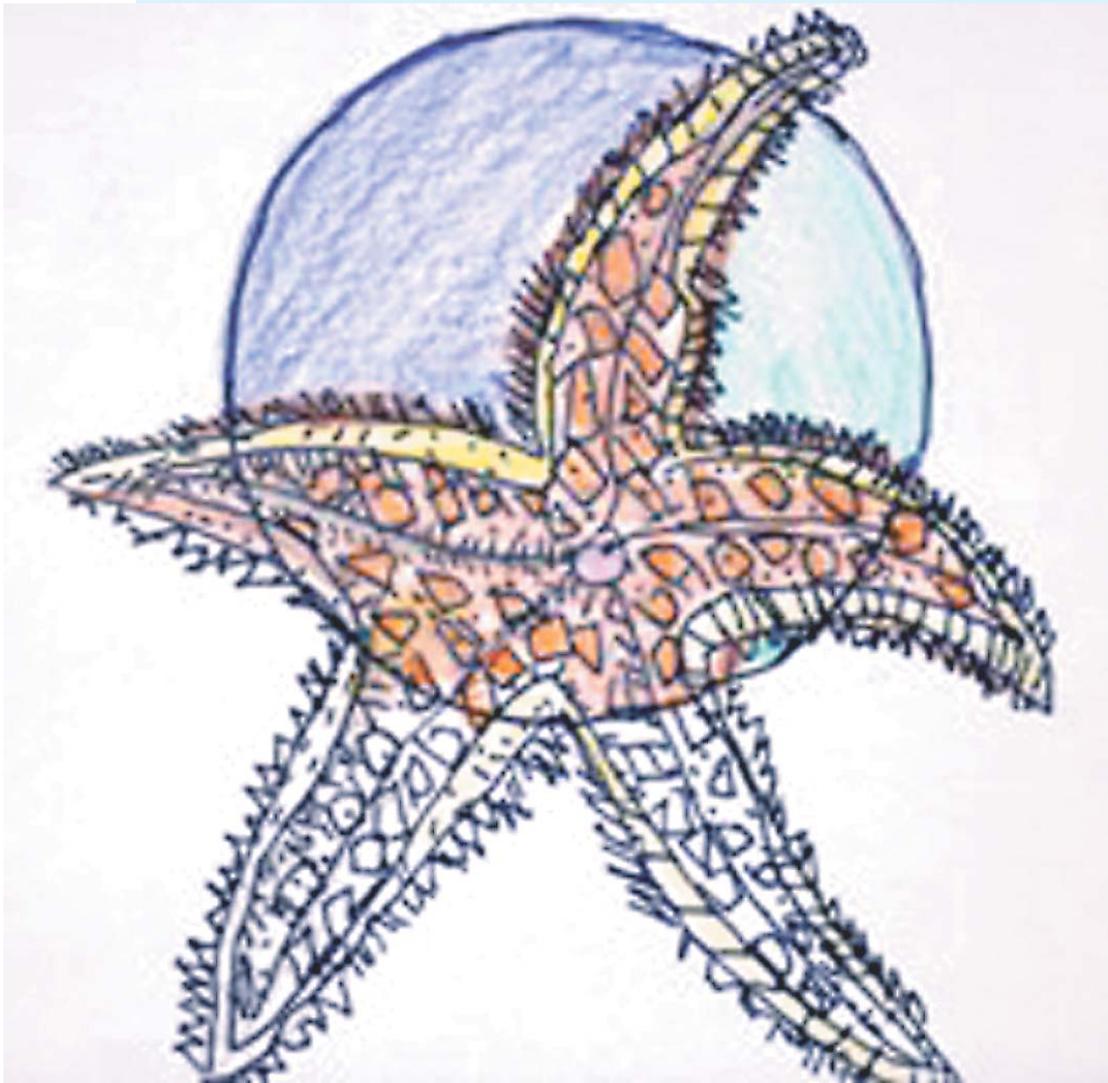
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# ART GALLERY



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Khuyen Dinh, Grade 4, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary

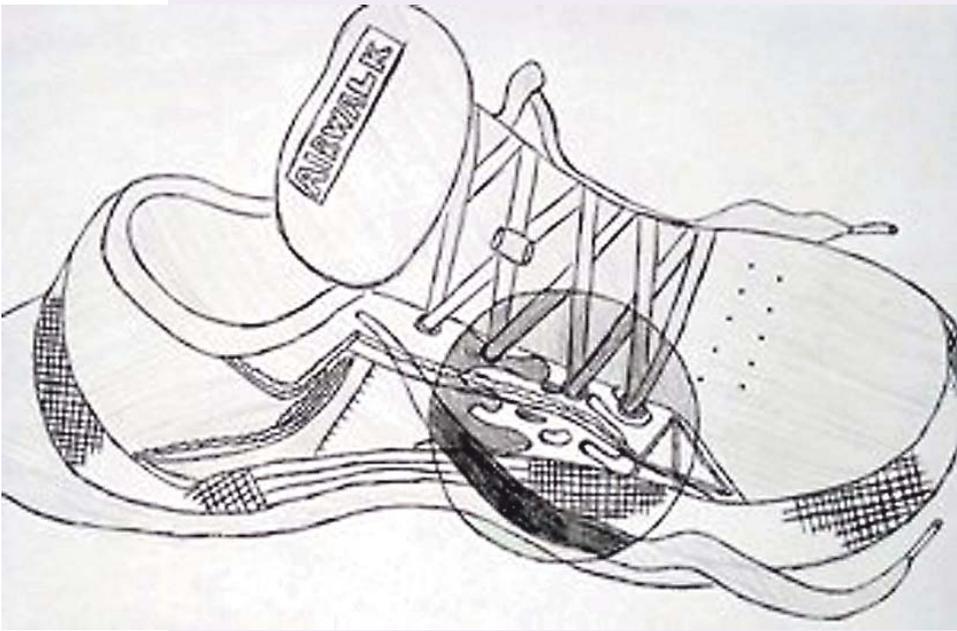


Sarah Warter, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary



Rory Hennings, Grade 2, Fairview Elementary

# ART GALLERY



Steven Montgomery, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Mady Gadway, Grade 7, Irving Middle



Monochromatic Self Portrait by Preet Kaur, Grade 8, Irving Middle



Monochromatic Self Portrait by Suzanne Sauter, Grade 8, Irving Middle

PORTRAIT



Monochromatic Self Portrait  
by Briana Britner, Grade 8,  
Irving Middle

# ART & WRITING

## When I Grow Up ...

BY COLLEEN M. MULROONEY  
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY

When I grow up, I want to be a diplomat. No I'm not one of those people who pick some occupation out of a hat and say, "I want this one!" I actually *like* studying foreign language and other cultures. In fact, that's what I do in my free time. I'll just go on the computer and choose between going on Google translate or Culturegrams. The only thing I like better than that is doing my Chinese homework. No kidding. I don't even know what I'll do without it over summer vacation. Anyway, I really want to be a diplomat, and I'll take the Foreign Service test as many times as I need to in order to succeed.

## What do you want to be when you grow up?

BY DANIELLE HUGNEY  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

I would personally love to be a professional softball player. I mean, playing softball all day and everyday and they are paying me? It is my dream! Life would just be this fun, amazing rollercoaster all the time because you can have your ups and downs of winning and losing, but your still in for the exciting ride. Most people judge softball as being easy, but it really is one of the hardest sports. Girls pitch 80 miles per hour from only 40 feet away, which gives you about 0.1 seconds to swing. Since the fields are smaller, you have to have really good reaction time, because that ball will be flying right towards you, and you still don't have much time to react. Sure, the ball is bigger than a baseball, but the barrel of the bat is smaller, and the ball doesn't go as far as a baseball. Anyways, softball would just be amazing to play as a professional sport, and I really hope that I can be one of the players.

## What do you want to be when you grow up?

BY CONNOR McNAMARA  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

I want to be a Marine Biologist and either own and/or work at an aquarium or go out to sea and discover what hasn't been seen before. The most amazing creature that is alive today is the sea turtle. I absolutely love sea turtles and hope to study them more closely as I get older. When I get older I hope to have a master's degree in Marine Biology and if I ever become rich and famous (doubtful) I will donate the money to a save the sea turtle foundation or even start my own. Another thing I might do is start a sea turtle rescue center to try and rebuild their population. That is what I want to be.



**Three Fancy Kings by Brendan Pagano, Grade 4, Ravensworth Elementary**

## What do you want to be when you grow up?

BY AMANDA MOELLER  
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY

Writing is what I want to do. Yes, there are many different types of writing and I love them all but my true passion is writing tragedies. People ask me all the time why I would like to write sad books and act like I'm completely crazy. Have you ever seen a movie that made you cry? Most likely it wasn't because of what happened but it was because of the scenario. The sad music sets the tone, where they are could be scary and sad, and almost always when a character in a movie cries, you cry too. In books they don't have all that visual stuff just writing and your imagination. I feel that a book is a true masterpiece if just how someone wrote a scenario can make you feel sad and cry. True art is when a writer uses such detail to make a reader feel sad for someone who might not even be real! If you have ever read a book that made you cry you probably understand that emotion you get. I think it's magical and I want to write those heart touching books.

## What is the best thing about being a student at Robinson?

BY AMANDA MOELLER  
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY

All though most people love the cafeteria, locker bay, or the class rooms, I love the hall. You know that long hall from the main door that leads all the way down to the middle school locker bay. It's like a personal tour, showing you most of the school. When you're all alone in that hall you feel like the most important person in the world. My feet echo softly from the steps each foot makes and looking at each locker bay, amused by all the different colors they are themed as. I even love that awkward feeling you get when someone passes you the other way. Oh that warm feeling knowing you're not an intruder, it's your school, it's your home. So I'm going to keep walking that hall for it's my favorite part about Robinson.

## Nature in Burke

BY DEANNA MEYER  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON  
SECONDARY

Burke Lake  
Boating on water  
Frisbee-golf through the forest  
The small, bright red train

Lake Barton  
Walking by the lake  
Glistening water flows by  
Geese fly by the trees

Oaks Community Center  
Petunias all 'round  
Trees surround the log cabin  
Grass grows everywhere

Robinson Secondary School  
Colorful leaves fall  
Red cardinals glide and sing  
Kids watch clouds float by

Burke Centre Library  
To see gorgeous books  
Biking up the green steep hill  
Books of nature's great qualities

## Mom and Daddy's Christmas Gift

BY MAYA PEARSON  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

I asked you what you wanted for Christmas,  
you said something from the heart.  
Something homemade and unique,  
a true work of art.

So I painted you a picture  
Of a flower big and red.  
I called it a poinsettia,  
because that's what you said.

When you opened it on the morning,  
Of December 25th.  
Your eyes lit up like stars  
when you saw what I did.

You thanked me with hugs and kisses.  
Claiming it was the most beautiful thing,  
that you'd ever seen,  
and that it made you want to sing.

I smiled and I blushed,  
"You really think so?"  
You said "absolutely!"  
It made me want to glow.

But that Christmas morning,  
was 5 years ago.  
The gifts just get better,  
even if the economy is low.

Because I know the gifts you like  
Aren't the ones from the store.  
They didn't cost me penny,  
not now, after or before.

Because I know the gifts you like,  
are the one from the heart.  
The ones homemade and unique,  
The true works of art.

Your gift this year will be special,  
Better than any ever before!  
Your eyes will light up like stars,  
then I'll know you like it for sure!

## What makes a good parent?

BY PAIGE RATHBURN  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

There are so many qualities that I think of as a good parent. Well, to start it off, I believe that a good parent should really appreciate everything about their child. Something very important is to give your child the support and help they need to live a successful life. A parent is very important to a child's life. They help them through the bad and praise them through the good! My parents are so important to me. They help me with everything and get me through even the hardest times. We all need the love and happiness that our parents give us.



Three Kings with Wrapped Presents by Nathan Pagano, Grade 1, Ravensworth Elementary

## When I Grow Up ...

BY SIERRA YOUNG  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

When I grow up I want to be a veterinarian, I love animals so much. The college I'm going to, to become a vet is Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. I have to go through four years of medical school and four more years of graduate school. If I plan to become a vet in another state I have to take two tests. My dog recently had to go to the vet because of something on his back. After the doctor found out what was wrong she let me look at it through the microscope. It was really weird, yet cool. I liked how the doctor really cared about my feelings and interest for my dog. She taught me how to interact with pet owners and pets in a way that is professional and fun. I want to be a vet because it seems really interesting to learn and see all of the different diseases/ conditions animals can get. When people pick up and drop their pets off at the vet, I love seeing the love between the pet owner and their pet when they leave each other and come together. Seeing and experiencing all of the sweet moments pets can have with their owners has really inspired me to become a vet.

## Middle School

BY ELIJAH KING  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

Life can be very hard, with all the people you meet,  
But never let the drama sweep you off your feet.  
You will meet different people every day and every week,  
But never ever let your self esteem spill or leak.  
The halls are crowded with people all like a blur,  
Different races and religions' mixed

and stirred.

Carpets, tiles, and bricks all cover the floor,

The homework is piling up, more, and more.

Rushing to classes, running to math Barely have time to even take a bath.

With all of fun and all of the sad times

Look at me, I still have time to make all these rhyme something's will go right, but some things will go wrong

You will get used to it and days will never seem long.

## Giving a Gift

BY SIERRA YOUNG  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

If I had to give my parents a gift that didn't cost money it would be as much of my time as I could give them. I love spending time with my parents. We get along with each other very well. We bicker, but we'll talk about the problem and then get over it. The things I like doing with my parents are watching movies, watching tv, bike riding, going out to eat, playing games (including the wii) and going on trips. During my fourth grade birthday party, my friends and I were playing Disney's High School Musical Sing It, and Wii Boogie. My friends and I forced my dad to sing Fabulous by Sharpay (Ashley Tisdale) on the High School Musical Sing It game, the funny thing with my dad was that he sang it in a "girly" high pitched voice. We told my mom to sing a song and she chose ABC by the Jackson 5 on Wii Boogie. My friends and I were back-up dancers and singers; we had a lot of fun. I'd do anything for my parents; they're the best thing that could ever happen to me.

# ART & WRITING

## The Story of Christmas

BY EMMA FREEMAN  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

I can hear the clomps of Reindeer heels stomping on the roof  
Ashes from the fireplace shake out in one big poof.  
I smell the cold winter snow and I saw his big old grin  
I couldn't help and see Santa Claus, with white hanging from his chin.  
All dressed in red, with a big black belt, he looks and sees me there,  
He paused and said "No presents for you, no, you get your share!"  
So I'm stuck here on Christmas morning with the whole family, loving,  
And smiles on my siblings' face, I am left here with nothing.  
"What did you do to deserve this coal; it must have been real bad!"  
My siblings holler and laugh at me, for I was very mad.

## Surf

BY RYAN O'CONNOR  
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY

The wind blew across the sunbathed waters,  
As I looked out into the endless light blue hue expanding forever,  
This reminds me of what I can do if I put my heart into it,  
Sky is the limit,  
I can do anything,  
I close my eyes,  
As I run my hands over my newly waxed carbon fiber board I take a deep breath,  
I breathed in the forever salty air,  
I hear the endless waves pounding the sand yet the sand is never harmed,  
The seagulls preach,  
I wrinkle my toes through the small grains of sand,  
I hear the faint humming of a far out boat,  
I hear voices laughing and shouting,  
I slowly open my eyes and begin my journey,  
To the surf.

## What is the best thing about being a student at Robinson Secondary?

BY PAIGE RATHBURN  
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

To me, being a student at Robinson is a privilege. For almost my whole elementary years, I went to a private school. I grew up with uniforms, strict rules, and little freedom. I thought if I went to Robinson, it would be so hard with the schedules and school.

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Geybelin Duran, Grade 4, Orange Hunt Elementary

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