

By Sajni  
Vederey, 4th  
Grade Advanced  
Academics,  
Forestville  
Elementary  
School

## Children's Connection 2010



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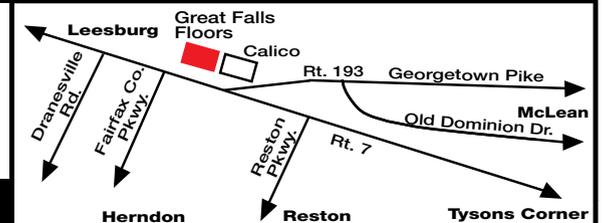
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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2010

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION EDITOR  
KEMAL KURSPAHC  
703-778-9414 OR  
GREATFALLS@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Winter, Emily Buckingham, Colvin Run ES, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



By Morvarid Sizzdahkhani, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Forestville Elementary School

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Great Falls 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.

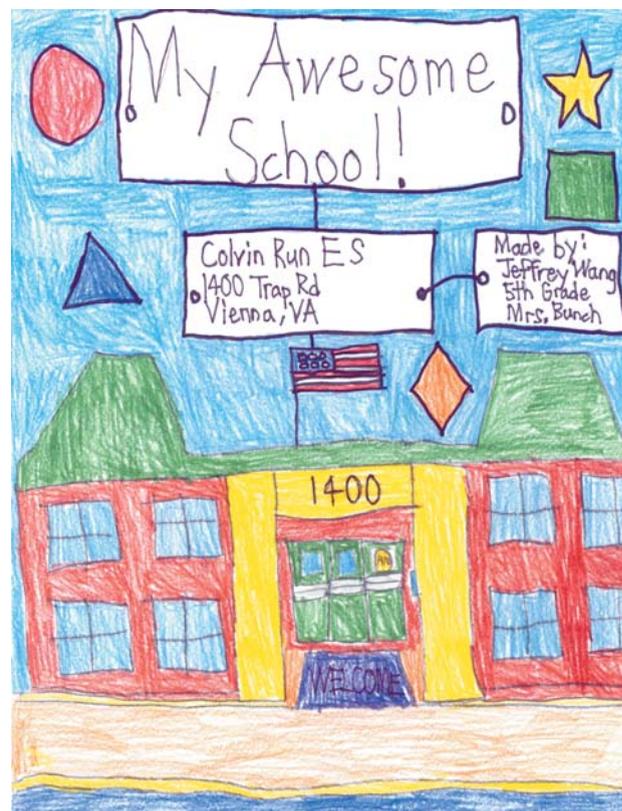
We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2011 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection.

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 [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com), but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9414 with any questions.

EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC



My School, Jeffrey Wang, Colvin Run ES, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Good-bye, Old Firehouse, Buckley Ross, Colvin Run ES, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Jogging Snowman, by Abigail Paredes, 8, Great Falls, Lowes Island Elementary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

FORESTVILLE ELEMENTARY

## My Wish

### Holiday wishes from Hilary Sanborn's 2nd Grade Class - Forestville Elementary.

One thing I would give my family that doesn't cost any money is a chipmunk because I have tons and tons in my backyard. Also, my brothers think they are the cutest thing in the world. Also, they will have a good home and lots of food because if they like my backyard, we can get stuff for them.

—ELLIE C.

One thing I would give my family that doesn't cost any money is serving food on a tray because I've done it before. It's so fun to cook food by yourself. It really surprised my dad a lot. My mom was really proud of me. She was happy.

—HANA A.

My wish for school is ... that we have sharper pencils, colored pencils, and crayons. Also, that people have good education and good health because ... if people use sharpened supplies and people have good education and health, people will be happier. People don't want dull supplies and boring education and bad health.

—MOHINI S.

My wish for the world is to give everybody the most important things: food, water, shelter. In India and Africa they don't have much food and water. They have very little houses, schools, money. You are lucky if you have the most important things that are food, water, money, habitat, and sun.

—VIBHA S.

My wish for the world is ... everybody would be happy and that everyone would get outside and play some sports. No one would be sick and you can have some fun and you can meet new friends. You would be healthy. We would clean up the world. So, the world would be a better place!

—TJ P

My wish for the world is that everyone would stop having war because families with moms and dads in the world hardly get to see them that much because their parents are gone for a whole year sometimes and sometimes even longer for like two or three or four years. So, I want to stop war. War is like so, so, so, so violent. So, I think we should stop war so everyone will be happy and safe and very, very comforted. So, bombs would not hurt anybody and nobody would get killed and everyone would get home safe and be with their family.

—FAITH ANN F.

My wish for the world is to be green and clean up trash because the earth could have smog and acid rain. Acid rain will kill trees and smog will not help people see.

—ANDREW Z.

## Beauty

BY ROSE BOOS  
GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY/  
1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

Beauty is a shiny bracelet  
Beauty is glitter glue  
Beauty is a rainbow  
Beauty is sparkly snow  
Beauty is a black cat  
Beauty is a Monarch butterfly  
Beauty is a bumblebee  
Beauty is a unicorn  
Beauty is a soft blanket  
Beauty is a good book

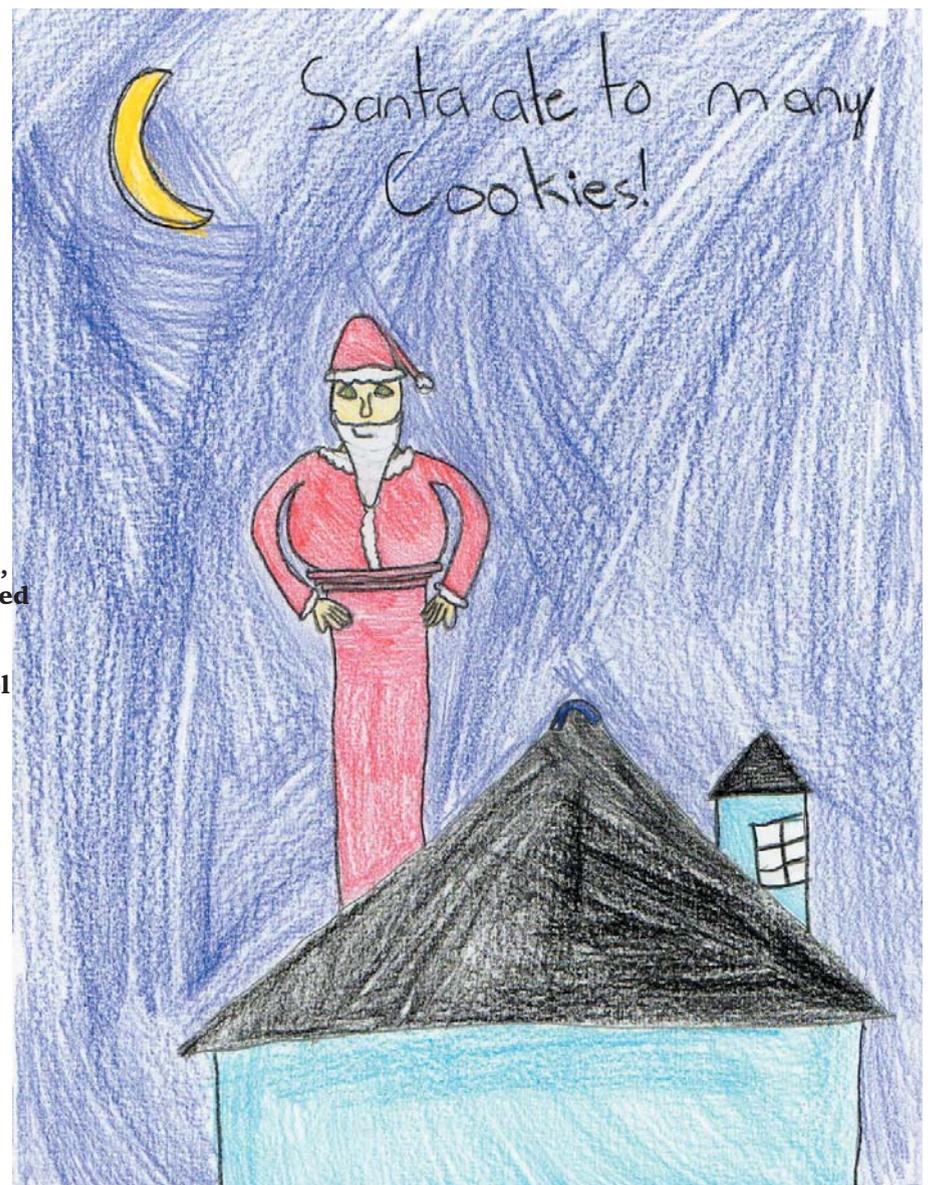
(Especially if it has a peacock)  
Beauty is the American flag



### Arts at Forestville

Fourth graders from Norma Chicas' Advanced Academics class at Forestville Elementary sent us this selection of their artwork.

By Lauren Elias,  
4th Grade Advanced  
Academics,  
Forestville  
Elementary School

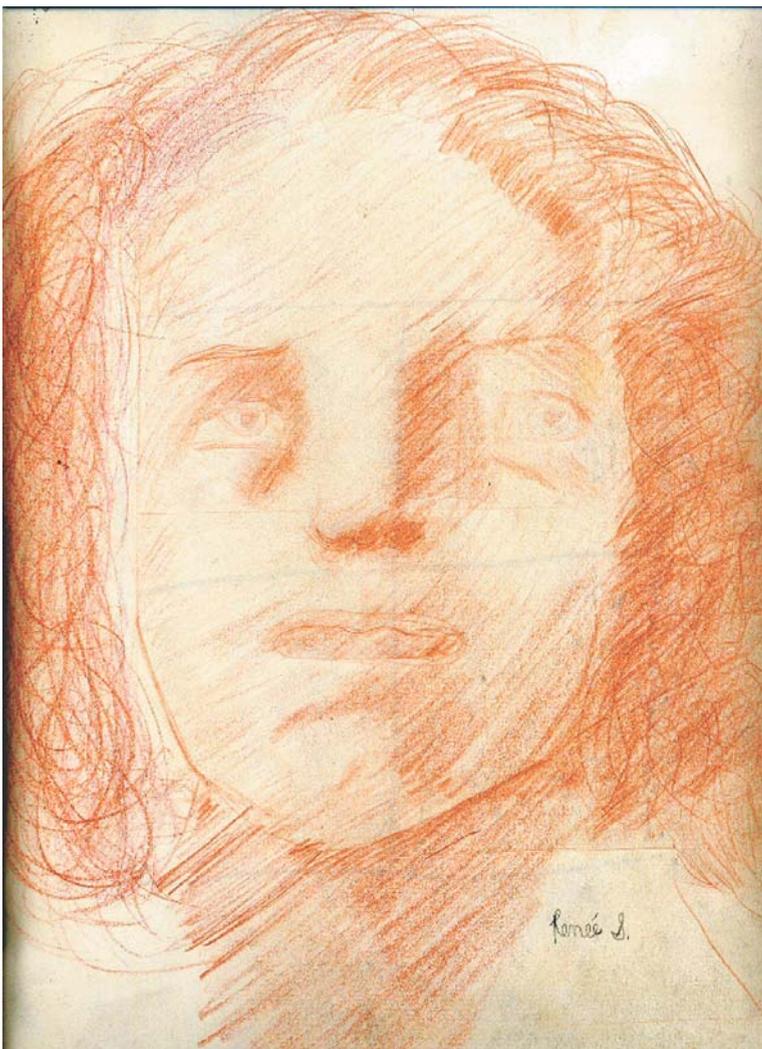


By Nora Hausman,  
4th Grade Advanced  
Academics,  
Forestville  
Elementary School



By Megan Beskin,  
4th Grade Advanced  
Academics,  
Forestville  
Elementary School

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



A Girl, Renee, Colvin Run ES, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## The Joys of the Holiday Season

BY ERICA  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/  
5TH GRADE

A thrill of excitement rushed through me as I stepped outside on the first day of December. You feel the cold, frigid breeze and you see the branches swaying giving a sound that shows you that it's time for winter. It is the day for a new page on the calendar, the day to start counting up the days until the holidays. It's the month when you put up your decorations like lights and Christmas tree. When you pass by other people's houses you see frost on the lawn and on the cars that had been left outside overnight. When you go to school you see people in your classroom changing the calendar with holiday colors. You greet your teacher with a good morning, then you go unpack. The rest of the school day goes by quickly as you think about what you might be in for this winter. Maybe another snowstorm or fun days with your friends sledding down hills until you turn into an icicle. The best thing to do is to go home and have a nice cup of hot cocoa while reading your favorite book. When you get home you are greeted with the smell of warm cookies right out of the oven. As you walk into your room, you see a new advent calendar on your desk that makes you jump up and down with joy. As you do your homework you can't concentrate because you are thinking about your wish list that increases throughout the month. You get your winter clothes out and remember great memories from them and you can't wait to make new ones. At dinnertime you're talking so fast, asking and talking about the holidays. When it's time for bed and your parents are tucking you in, you struggle to fall asleep because you're thinking about events that are about to come up. Before you know it it's December 2nd.

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- Friends of Riverbend
- Friends of the Fireworks
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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## A Merry Christmas

BY ALEX GOMEZ  
5TH GRADE AAP/COLVIN RUN  
ELEMENTARY

Once upon a time, on a snowy Christmas Eve a young child lay awake in bed. "Where is he?" the boy thought. The young boy Nathan was waiting for Santa Claus. It was 12:01 in the morning and there was no sign of Santa Claus. He waited by the tree where presents lay, watching the chimney for something to happen, spying for the slightest movement. At around 2 a.m. the boy became tired and fell asleep by the toasty warm fire. A disturbance in the air had come forth, the front door swung open and the snowy breeze

swept into the room. Nathan was up in a start for he thought it was Santa Claus, but it was nothing, the young boy closed the door, and looked for some change in the room! He found nothing, he looked at the clock and it read 3:30. The boy had lost hope and gone to bed. He was out before his head hit the pillow. When Nathan woke up in the morning he was excited for he sensed some sign of hope! He came rushing downstairs waking his parents. All of the presents had been delivered, not one crumb was left on the plate on the table, all the milk had been drunk. The boy was so happy and full of relief he didn't stop to look at the

note on the fireplace. It was for Nathan! It read, "Surprises don't pop out of thin air, don't wait by the tree next year for I may not come, SC."

The boy was so full of surprise and embarrassment, how could he been so childish waiting for Santa Claus to come. It had never occurred to the boy that he might been holding up Santa all along. Then came a thought, "How could Santa Claus know that he was waiting for him to come?" But then he remembered the song about Santa checking his list and always watching out for naughty or nice kids. He was reassured and had the Merriest Christmas of all!



Drawing, by Braeden, Colvin Run ES, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Candy Randy

A boy named Randy  
He really loved candy  
He loves it so much  
He eats it for lunch  
His teeth are black  
With a yellow crack  
He is so obese  
His armpits oozed grease  
His armpits oozed grease  
Even though his parents became poor

He cried because he wanted more  
Finally said the candy  
"My arch enemy is Randy"  
In a candy store there is a mountain full of candy  
Just for their super, awesome, fantastic customer  
Randy  
His furious parents took his candy  
So Randy changed his name to Prandy

BY ANVITHA METPALLY  
5TH GRADE AAP/COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY



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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

# The Greatest Gift Ever

BY CLARE DABALDO  
COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

I love giving! I think the greatest gift is the gift of giving. It hadn't always been that way, but as I got older I became more aware of the world outside of me. Shoes and clothes are nice and all, but the satisfaction of helping someone out is as good as it gets.

For my 12th birthday party, my friend Ashleigh and I had a big birthday bash. Her birthday was in April and mine was in June, so we split the difference and had it in May. Our parents rented out the McLean teen center, aka the Old Firehouse, hired a DJ, and bought a huge cake. We bought lots of pink and orange colored paper (Ashleigh's and my favorite colors) made invitations, and then handed them out to the whole sixth grade, so no one would be excluded. But, instead of gifts and presents, we changed things up a little.

Ashleigh asked for money to support a mission in Guatemala. I asked for canned food and money donations for SHARE, a local charity helping people in need in the D.C. area. So, you had a choice and you could give to a local charity, a foreign country, or both.

The party was a hit, and about 85 people came. Even my friends from Pennsylvania came down to help me out. We kept the food pretty simple; candy, cake and a big punch bowl of water instead of bottled water so we didn't waste plastic. There was a ping-pong table, pool table and air hockey table. If you were tired from dancing, you could chill out.

I had so much fun and I think all of our guests did too. By the end of the night, my charity earned more than \$500 in cash, food and clothing donations!

When I thought about it, I realized that I could have gotten a boat load of presents. But, I think the fact that I know that I helped people out, and had fun doing it, made me feel better than any present I could ever get.

It just goes to show, the gift of giving is the best gift you ever could receive.



Amazing Icicle, Sabrina Vazquez, 9, Colvin Run Elementary - 4th grade

# 2025, Where I'll Be

At least, where I hope I'll be.

BY ALLIE EAMES  
COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

I have to say that my only hope for 2025 is that I'm happy. I don't care if I'm poor, I don't care if I don't have much, or anything at all. I just hope I'm happy. I don't know where I'll be, and I feel like I could be anywhere - right now, the whole world is open to me. I'm lucky enough to choose my own fate right now. I could be anything I want to be.

I might pick a goal that I know inside that I can achieve. Or, maybe I'll choose to just let my life unravel in front of me, watching my next move happen right in front of me like a board game. It's not like I'm going to expect myself to be super rich and famous, and be on the covers of magazines. At age 29, I'd rather be truly happy doing something I'm passionate about. There are some things I do see myself being

It really doesn't matter to me if I become rich or famous. That's not what I see anywhere in my future. It might sound unusual, since most kids want to be the next Hannah Montana, or grow up to have 50 million dollars, but I just want to have a normal life. Not unhappy normal, the good kind of normal. There's a quote I love that I want to aspire to. "Do what you love, and love what you do." If I do not love what I am doing, then what is the point?

There's the answer to this whole essay. What will I be doing in 15 years? I'll be doing something I love, no matter what that is. And I'll guarantee I'll be doing it with passion and with love in my heart. Life doesn't always turn out as planned; you have to get that through your head at an early age. The point is, no matter how your life turns out, you have to do it with hope and with happiness. "Even if your hands are shakin', and your faith is broken, Even as the eyes are closin', do with a heart wide open." -John Mayer

# Feeding 1000 Homeless In One Day

Most significant time in 2010: A fantasy turned into reality.

BY BEN SO  
COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

It started out just helping my brother and our church feed 75-100 homeless people. Every other week our church youth group prepares hot chicken dinners at Mclean Baptist Church and delivers them to downtown D.C. This activity has been going for about 3-4 years. It's led by Mark Short, my brother Andrew So, and Bob Lictra.

One day my brother and Mark said "Hey

why don't we feed 1000 homeless people in one day!" Then all of us decided, yea, let's do it. This was a big process for Mark and Andrew. Their idea was thought out constantly to prepare.

When this was a set idea they brought it to the church to announce. They had a meeting with the church leaders. Some of the people said, "Andrew, Mark this couldn't possibly happen, it's unrealistic." After the meeting Andrew and Mark decided to turn what they think is a fantasy and make it into reality.

It's been several months preparing and preparing. They tried to get a lot of schools to help donate and provide donations. Then this fantasy was becoming more into a reality.

We got so many donations and a lot of volunteers. Then since Cooper Middle School 8th graders need community service hours we ask Cooper to help us.

Then as time went by we picked a date for the feeding 1000: It would be November 13, 2010. Time went by so fast it was only a week away and we have \$980 for donations and we took that money to order the food. The plan was for 300 hot breakfasts, 400 bag lunches, and 300 hot chicken dinners.

It was the day before the big day and we planned to start 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. The people in charge came to help set up tables and the music we will play during the Feeding 1000. It was finally the day we had so

many people in the morning. We had kids from Churchill Elementary, Cooper Kids, Langley Kids, and Mclean Kids. Also we had a news reporter from the Mclean Connection.

We had clubs from Langley keep an update on Facebook and Twitter to let everyone know how much we did. So far at 12:30 p.m. we have delivered 700 meals. So we're ahead of schedule. By 3:30 we have about 50 meals left to deliver.

Then at 4:30 we were done. We finished ahead of schedule. So what some people called a fantasy turned into a reality. By the end of day we fed not just 1000 people but 1103 homeless people. So that's my most significant time in 2010.

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## A Day at Riverbend Park

Sisters Gloria (above) and Rose Boos (below), both 6 years old and first graders at Great Falls Elementary, share the pictures they took at Riverbend Park.



**Riverbend Park,  
Great Falls,  
by Gloria Boos**

**Riverbend Park,  
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by Rose Boos**



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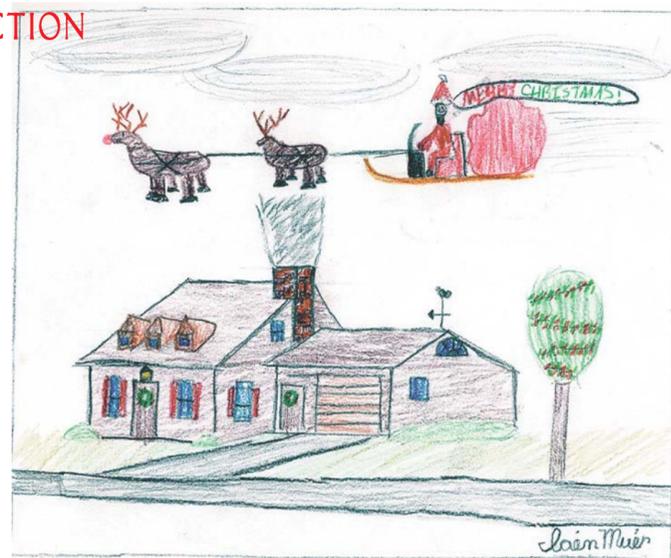
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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

### 10 kids and Santa

By ALEX,  
COLVIN RUN ES, 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Every winter in the mall  
My friends and I walk down the hall.  
It's finally that time of year,  
I feel like I want to shout and cheer.  
Then I come across a snowflake land  
With little figures in a band.  
Did I just hear jingle bells start to ring?  
Look, here comes the elves' jolly king!  
Now comes the fun part.  
With all the 5 year olds in the cart,



Merry Christmas,  
by Iain,  
Colvin Run ES,  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Holidays

By NITIN S.  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Just like a river, with a flow  
Holidays, Holidays come and go  
Just like a huge bay  
There are tons and tons of holidays  
From Christmas, to Easter  
Holidays are a roller coaster  
They go in a motion that is up and down  
Then they come back to the ground  
At the beginning of the year the holidays get wound up  
The town's people go shopping to catch-up  
Holidays, holidays come and go  
When they come they stay  
With the wind they fly away

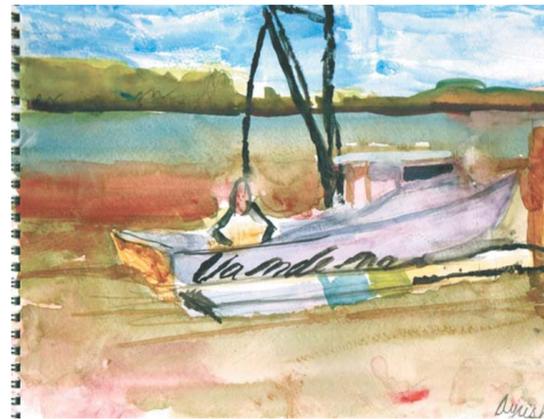


Fantastic Feathers,  
Tina C,  
Colvin Run ES,  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

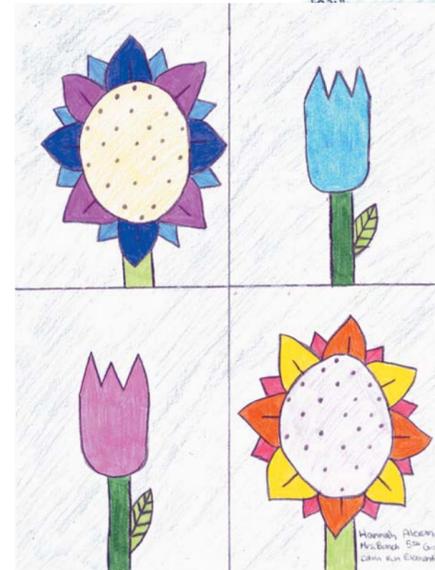
### Winter Night

By JEREMIAH STEWART  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Wind is blowing.  
It is so cold.  
No one is outside walking around.  
Trees are filled with snow.  
Everyone is in the house by the fireplace.  
Relaxing and drinking hot chocolate.  
Now it is time for bed.  
I put on my PJs.  
Good night, sleep tight.  
Hope I have sweet dreams.  
Tomorrow is a new day.



Watercolor II, by Ayush, Colvin Run ES, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Flowers,  
Hannah Alexander,  
Colvin Run ES,  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



### Remembering Snowstorm

By Tommy Zavrel, 7, Great Falls Elementary School, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, created this snowman out of legos as a memory of last winter's snowstorms.

## Silver

BY KATIE WARNER  
THE LANGLEY SCHOOL/5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Silver is the medal when you win a race.  
Second after gold, but still, it's a place.

Silver is the moon at midnight, too.  
It was there at the beginning when the world was new.

Silver is the stars, way up high.  
Sometimes I see it, dancing in the sky.

Silver is happiest on an angel's wing.  
And when you see it, it's the prettiest thing.

Silver dies when it loses its shine.  
Then gray comes in, simple and fine.

## A Gift of Health and Happiness

BY EVAN  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

If I could give my family one thing that didn't cost money, I would give them health and happiness for our upcoming holidays. The holidays of 2009 were a stressful time around my house. Last Thanksgiving, my dad threw out his back and had radiating pain down his leg. He was not able to do anything and he definitely was not able to enjoy the memories. My mom tried to compensate by taking us to all of our activities and special functions. We also made our traditional Christmas

cookies and decorated our whole house. We celebrated with all of our relatives but it was still not the same as in other years. He was in so much pain that he really couldn't function. His whole personality seemed to change. This year I wish for a special holiday where my whole family can enjoy together without pain or suffering. I am excited to celebrate these days with my new and improved dad. I am happy to have him back to spend quality time with me! If I could give my family one thing that didn't cost money, I would wish for health and happiness for all the members of my family this holiday season!

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



## Presents Time

Tommy Worden is 5 and is in Kindergarten at Colvin Run Elementary. His drawing is of two children standing around a Christmas tree, getting ready to open their presents.

# Snowflakes

BY HARRIET K.  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/5TH GRADE

She waited and waited. Her report card was about to be opened. Tick Tock, time seemed to be slowing down. She was scared, afraid, nervous and most of all excited. Oh, you ask who "she" is? Well, I'll tell you a little bit about her.

Her name is Lisa, a city girl who loved books and writing. Well anyways, she really wanted this to be her first all A+ time. She had tried hard to get all A's on all tests, had been well behaved and did all her homework.

It finally came out, her heart pounded in her chest. She had butterflies in her stomach.

Math-A, Reading-A, Spelling-A, ... Physical Education-B!! Now she remembered, she missed the routine test and was behind all her class.

Her day had been ruined. She sighed, and told her parents she would go on a walk to the park. She put on a coat and headed outside. As she walked, it started snowing! She watched the snowflakes swirl around her. Each snowflake was different, just like people.

She understood that you don't have to get perfect grades to be special, just be yourself and you will always be special.

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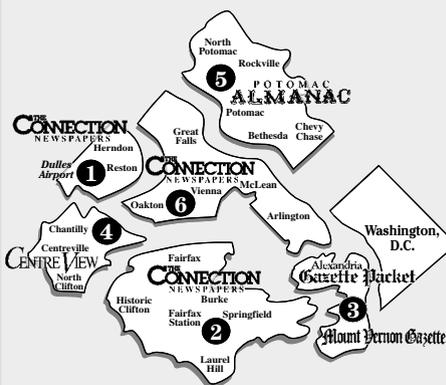
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## My Answer to Cancer



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**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
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](mailto: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**

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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](mailto: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.

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# Best Wishes For The Holidays



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

### Holiday Traditions

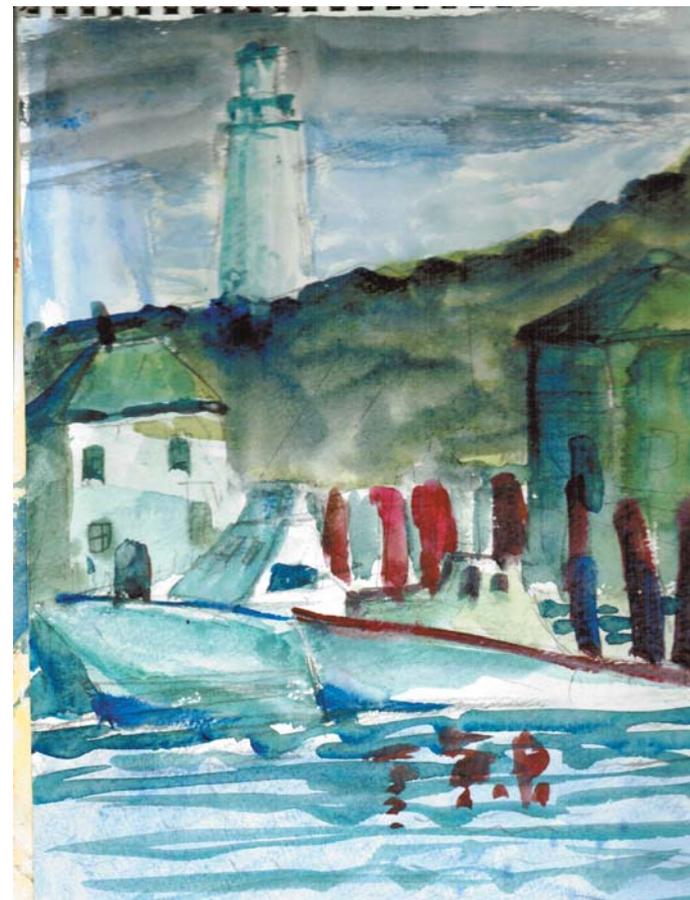
BY JACK MEAD  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/  
5TH GRADE

You know how we all have family traditions? And if you don't have a tradition, create one! Well, my family has a spectacular tradition. We have a New Year's Eve parade. We wear matching pajamas, bright lights, and lots and lots more! When the weather is not too cold or windy we even have a wonderful fireworks show!

The parade consists of three to five of my cousins, brother and sister wearing matching pajamas, glow sticks or necklaces, party hats, special glasses, and noisemakers. We are eight lively cousins. Our tradition is over 6 years old. Everyone gets very excited about it. We have become professionals at putting this on. In my eyes it is as good as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

This six-year tradition starts like this. The cousins all watch a special television show. During this time there are lots of pictures taken of all the cousins sitting together. After the show, Uncle Fun announces "Parade!" and we all line up to pick out our gear. We kind of fight over what hat, noisemaker, and color of glow necklace we get to wear and who gets to hold the special Nutcracker doll that leads the parade. With a touch of a button the noisemaking nutcracker starts and so does the parade.

The parade is a very special event for my family because it shows how much we like being together. The family parade is the one thing I look forward to



Watercolor, by Ayush, Colvin Run ES, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

in a new year. My most favorite box in the world is the one that contains the parade supplies.

I encourage everybody to create a holiday tradition. These are exciting times to spend with your family. You will feel jolly and happy when you create a wonderful tradition. So go out and create one. With a one or two fun family traditions ... "It's the most wonderful time of the year."

### Skating on the Lake

BY SARAH  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/5TH GRADE

Something that I will definitely remember about the year 2010 was the icy weather during the winter. From two-foot blizzards to frigid temperatures, it was a complete winter wonderland. The constant below freezing temperatures froze the lake near my house, and the ice layer was thick enough to go skating! That, for sure, was the most exciting thing that happened this year. I loved it! I really hope it happens again sometime this winter.

There are quite a few differences between skating at the Reston Town Center and skating on a nearby lake. One, lakes don't have a railing around them. Two, on your personal skating rink on a lake, there is a possibility of snow that you have to sweep off.

The dads on our street did exactly that before we started skating on it.

Skating on the lake was a new thing to me since it had been a long time since the lake had last frozen. I knew pretty well how to skate though; skating wasn't new. After the rink was cleared of snow, I couldn't wait to get on. Quite a few people on my street did, too. But, as the small space got more crowded and one half of it became reserved for hockey, my friend, sister, and I got a little bored. So, we started skating on the uncleared area. At the time, there were only a few inches of snow so it was completely accessible. Before we knew it, my dad had shoveled a winding path that looped around the lake. It was a fantastic experience. Once again, I really, really hope that skating on the lake will be possible again this winter.

### Spy Baby

BY REBECCA CANFIELD  
5TH GRADE AAP/  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY

My life as a spy has taught me many things. Never go on a mission underpacked; without extra diapers, pacifiers and animal crackers. You never know how long it will take to solve a mystery. If you have an unsolved mystery just call mommy, ask for me "Baby Amy Crime Solver, Incorporated."

My crime solving career started when my teenage babysitter discovered I could talk but nobody else knew I could talk. She contacted me directly on my Leapfrog chat phone; I knew this had to be an emergency. My babysitter gave me the secret password code "cookies" and I had to quickly gas up my car seat and exceed the local speed limit to meet her at the secret location.

When I arrived my babysitter said "Amy the secret extra cheesy new Goldfish Crackers formula has

been stolen and you need to find out who did it." I am guessing the animal cracker company stole it; they are always giving someone lots of money to steal new formulas from their competition Goldfish Crackers. I set the GPS on my car seat to find the animal cracker factory so I can quickly investigate. Seconds later I parked my car seat and crawled around the factory for clues. Finally I found a crumpled up paper that said meeting at Gi

SEE SPY BABY, PAGE 17

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## Stress Overload

BY SKYE JANNERY-BARNEY  
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY/5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Do your parents make your week overflow with activities? Do you have so many things that you barely have anytime for sleep? If you do than this article will be perfect for you. After school activities are fun and a good challenge, but if you have too many activities you might fall behind on school work. Lots of kids struggle with school because of being overtired or stressed out because they have too many things going on. It's important to live a healthy, balanced life. You can either give ten things ten percent or three things 100%.

I usually get stressed over sports, homework, and my siblings. Everyone I know plays sports so if you're one of those people that plays 5 sports listen up. Sports are definitely fun but your whole life can't be about them. You should try playing 1 or 2 sports so you don't have to deal with going to prac-

## Spy Baby

FROM PAGE 16

ant 5 p.m. It was 4:58 p.m. I called my babysitter so she could rush over to Giant to prevent Animal Crackers from telling the shoppers they developed a new cheesier Goldfish Crackers that will be available before Christmas! I knew that wasn't true! My babysitter was stuck in Beltway traffic so I

tice every day of the week. I know that homework is really annoying to have every night but believe it; it actually helps you live a balanced life. Even though you don't like homework and think it's unfair that you have to do it, every kid has to. If you're stuck on a problem or question just skip it and come back to it later. If you're still having trouble on it then ask a parent or older sibling and if they don't help then ask your teacher the next day. Sometimes you get stressed over your siblings because they annoy you. To prevent that from happening just tell your mom or dad. But first make sure you ask them to stop so you're not tattling on them.

If you still don't have your answers to how to stop being stressed, ask an older sibling or friend for advice. It's definitely ok to do a lot of activities but make sure you like them or else it's pointless. But don't just quit. If your parents are still making you do them, tell them: "Hey, I'm just a kid."

had to set my car seat on overdrive. Once inside I heard two people talking about lots of dough (cash not cracker dough). My babysitter informed the police while she was stuck in Beltway traffic. The policeman picked me up and thought I was a lost baby; I can't talk yet but I started crying for Goldfish then pointed at Animal Cracker guys. The policeman knew and quickly arrested the Animal Cracker guys. Crime Solved!

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## Time to Give Back

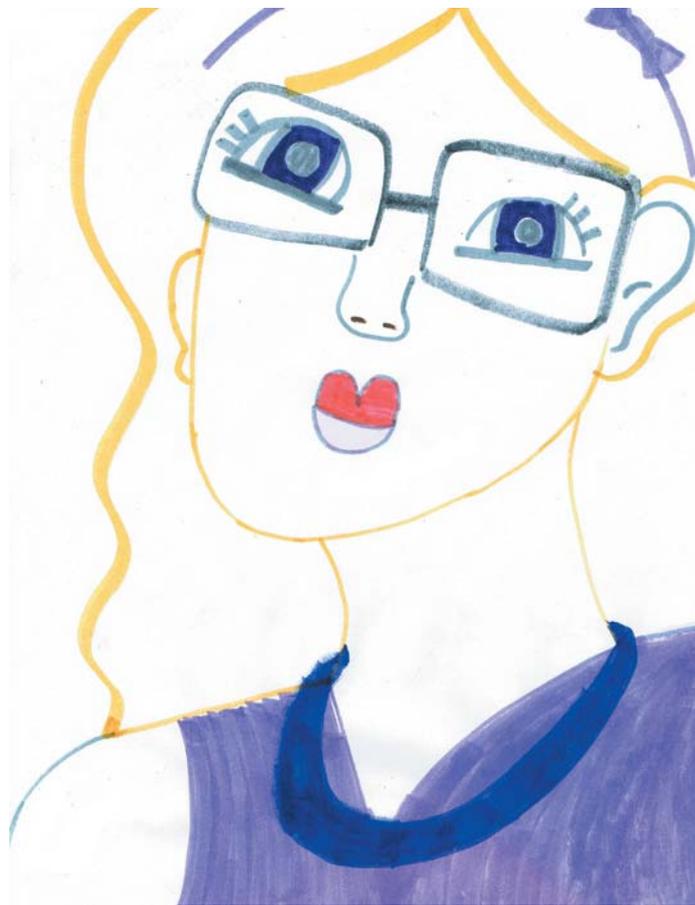
BY CATHERINE WHITE  
COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

**W**hen I look at my Christmas tree I see twinkling lights and cookies in the shapes of reindeer and Santa. Presents wrapped in bright green and red paper, waiting to be opened. A Christmas dinner that's made just right, with a feast laid out in front of me, eating it in my best dress. I think about Christmas, how I have the same one every year.

One day I was in Washington D.C. two days before Christmas, passing children in rags, mothers holding their children trying to get warm, had possession of nothing, frowns that looked like it was permanent. It was heartbreaking to think that people were having an extravagant Christmas while children, grownups even babies couldn't have a Christmas like ours, or give presents to their children. I decided it wasn't fair, because it wasn't. So I started thinking about how I could help.

My birthday is three days before Christmas, and so every year I have a birthday/Christmas party. Christmas has a lot of meanings, and one of them is giving back. So every party I have, I don't ask for presents. I ask for money or toys that fit the category of a 2-9 year old. The toys end up going to an organization and the money is given there, and the money is given to a charity.

So Christmas to me is about giving back. Thinking that I can change a child's Christmas, being able to put a smile on their face, to make them happy. If everyone this Christmas season went out and bought a toy for a child, imagine what'd they do. Seeing the smile on their face glowing as they see a gift wrapped, the eagerness as they open their gift, and their Christmas is changed into something worthwhile. So this Christmas, give back to the ones in need, and if we all do our part, we could transform this Christmas into something better.



**Artsy Face**

### ABIGAIL'S GALLERY

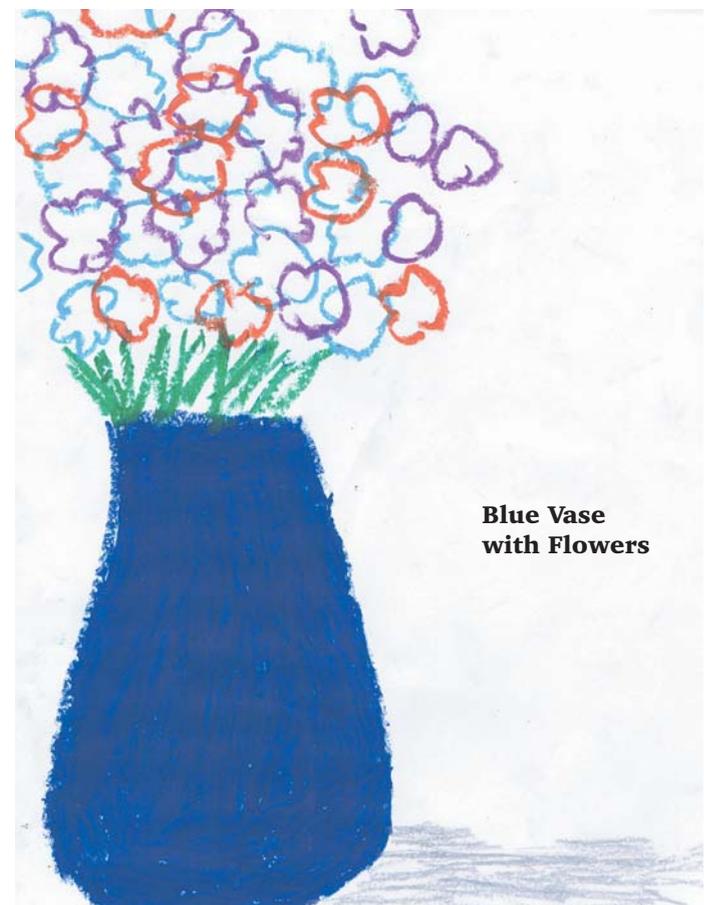
Abigail Paredes, 8, of Great Falls, a third grader at Lowes Island Elementary, submitted a selection of her artwork.



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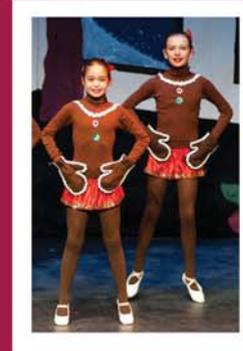
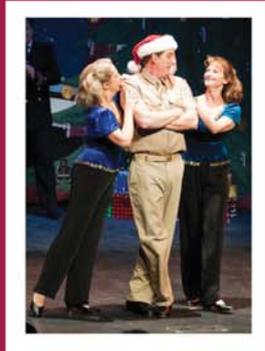
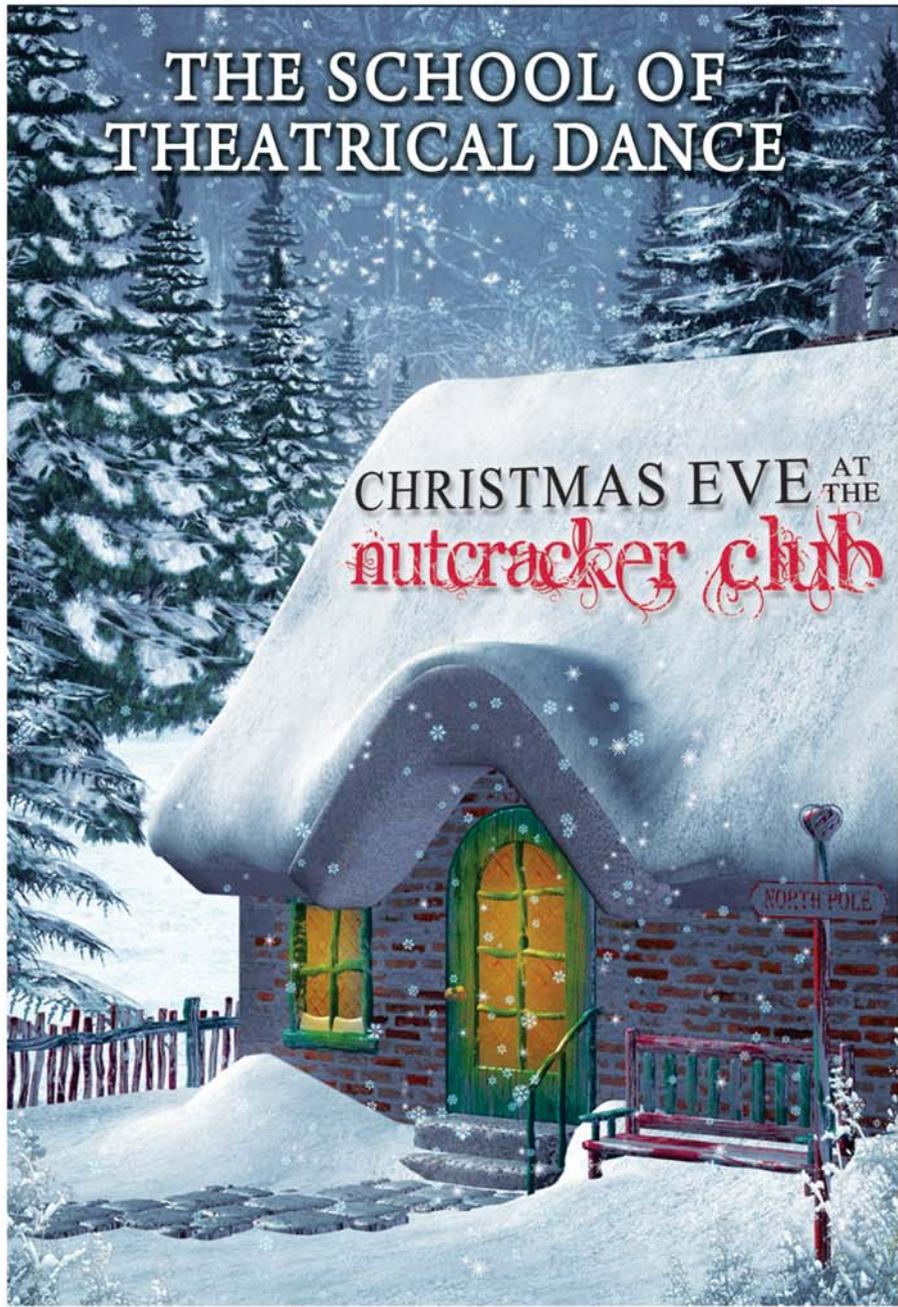
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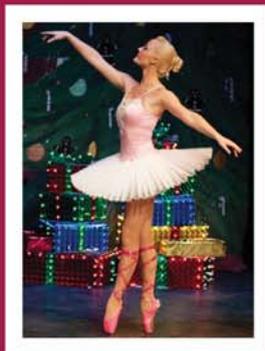
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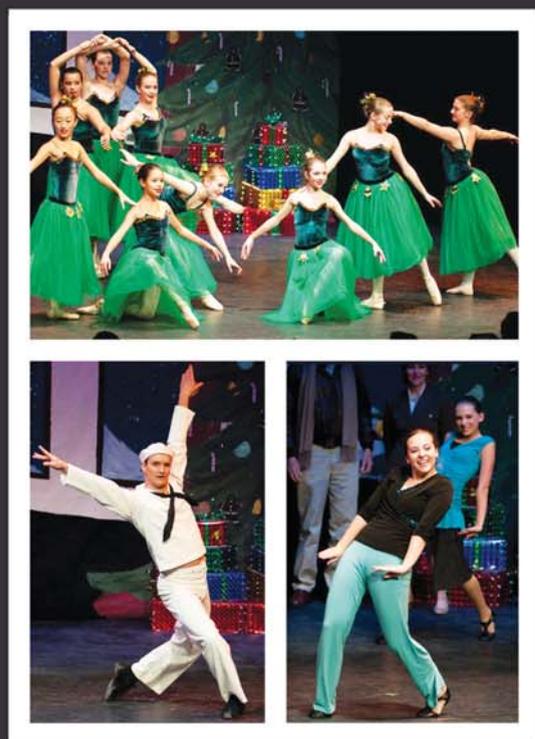
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