

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

Children's Connection 2010

Lorton Cover
Jamie Choi, Grade 12,
South County Secondary

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

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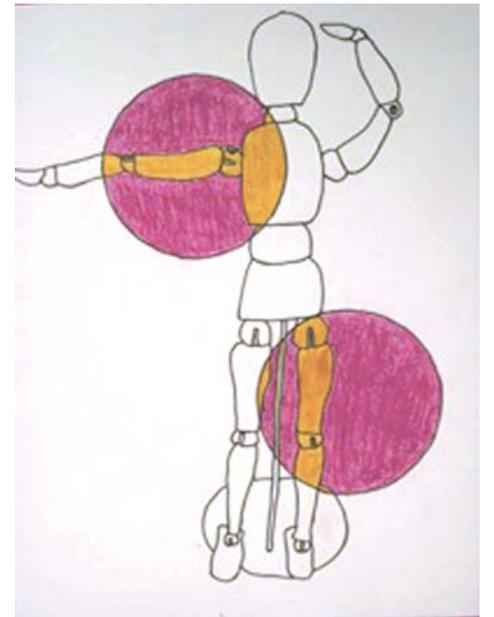
CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



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 Fairfax Station/Lorton/Clifton 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.

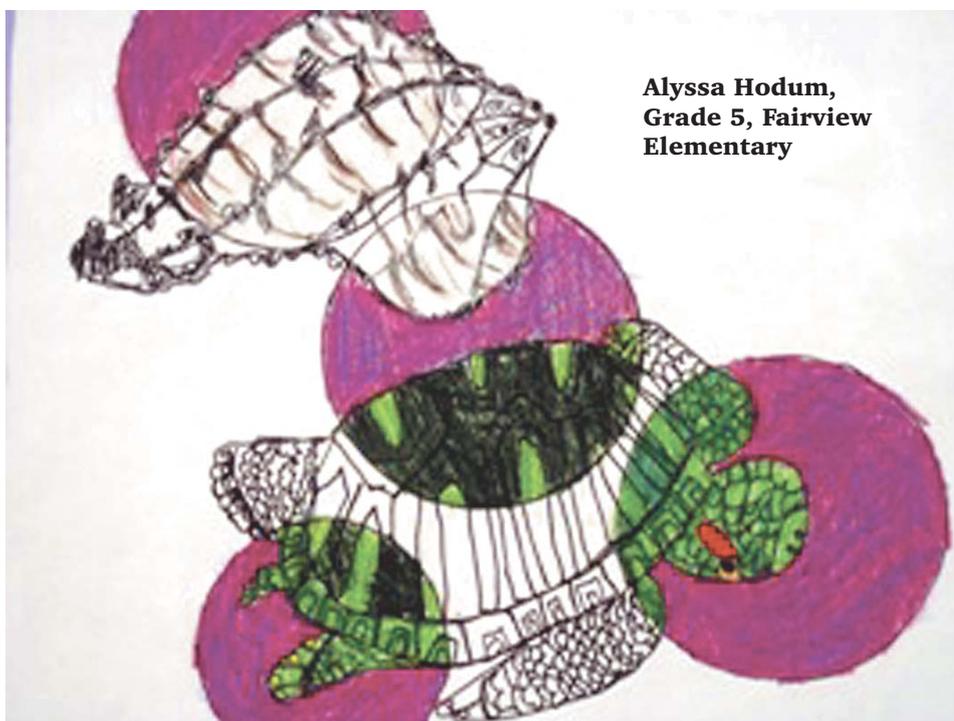
The Children's Issue is only part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, The Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools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

Send information to: The Fairfax Station/Lorton/Clifton Connection, 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314, send e-mail messages to south@connectionnewspapers.com

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL, EDITOR



Anika Clickener, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary



Alyssa Hodum, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Christian Scrum, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary

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?

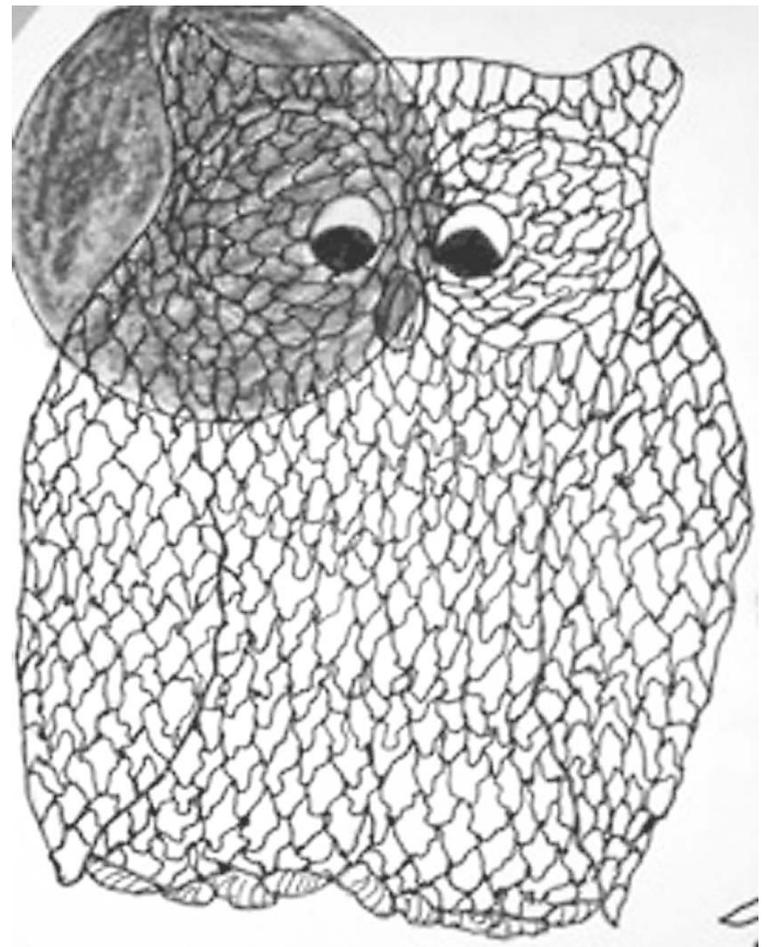
BY JULIA CULPEPPER
GRADE 7, LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

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

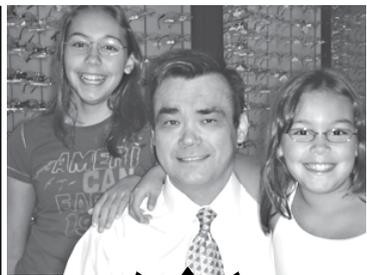
BY EMILY SINKULAR
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

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 & WRITING

The Best Pet

BY WILLIE MCINTYRE
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

The best pet to me is either a kitten or a hamster. What you need for a hamster is a cage, food, bedding, a water jug, food bowl, and the hamster of course. To play with the hamster you have to be 8 and up. What you need for a kitten is the kitten itself, a litter box, food, a food bowl, and a water bowl. That is what you need for either one. The kitten I want is a grayish blackish kitten named Sydney. Either one would be the best pet I could ever have.

Christmas

BY TYLENE DAHNKE
GRADE 3, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Around the sixth week before Christmas there was a little girl named Cherry, who was six years old, that really wanted to go ice skating. The trouble was she couldn't go ice skating because there were not ice skating rinks near her town, and she didn't have any ice skates of her own. The closest ice rink was four hours away. Her aunt Marianne had ice skates that would fit Cherry, but she lived seven hours away. So one day Cherry decided to send her aunt Marianne a letter asking to borrow her ice skates. For the next two weeks she looked out the window waiting for the mailman to come. She was hoping the mailman would deliver a letter from her aunt. Finally during the third week her letter came.

The letter said, "Dear Cherry, you can keep my ice skates, but I do not how to give to you."

At that moment Cherry was starting to give up on ever going ice skating. Two weeks later Cherry new it was Christmas day so she opened one gift and got her ice skates!

Poems are so hard!

BY TRISH HOANG
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Writing poems are so hard! Why can't I watch a movie instead? Eating a corndog (with mustard of course), and lying on my nice comfy bed. My mom and dad think I can't write this poem. But just you wait, I'm gonna show 'em! Okay, I admit writing poems are hard. I might as well move to Alaska and change my name to Kevin Zarves! Or maybe just Paul. You know what? Maybe writing poems aren't so bad after all!

Last Year's Snow

BY SAMEER SALMON
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

I woke up and looked outside and saw the front of my garage was full of snow. So my mom got a snow shovel and made a big hill. My sisters and I patted it down to make it stronger. My friend's came over and we had a snow fight. I don't remember who won, but it was still fun! The snow around the playground was almost 3 feet high! I started to fall into the snow. My feet were stuck so my sister came and helped me when I started shouting for help. After that we went home. When I was home I realized I caught a cold. My mom gave me medicine but it didn't really work, so I stayed in bed with a blanket. The next day I felt better and went out to play in the snow. I saw my sister's friend and told my sister. We all had a snow fight. I don't remember what teams there were, but I remember it was fun. After a while my mom called us in to eat.

Summer Haiku

BY SELMA GMATI
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Summer is so fun
What is summer all about?
Friends and family



Anthony Huynh, Grade 8, South County Secondary

Sports

BY RAKEEN AHMED
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

I'm writing about sports because I like to play sports. I like to watch sports. My favorite sport is football. I like football because it is a physical sport. I like football because it is a fast pace game. Also I like their protective gear. Also if you want to win you have to work as a team. You should try playing sports. Along with getting great exercise, sports also allow you to spend time with your family and friends. Sports also let you set goals, and require you to work hard to reach while having fun to reach them. Sports not only help you become healthier, but they help you keep physically active and ready to jump in to future activities.

I want a dog

BY BRYAN NATIVI TORRES
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

I just want a dog to play with when I bored at home. I have wanted a dog since I was a little boy. I have always liked animals. When I was little I use to cry when the animal shows were over. If I had a dog I would take very good care of it. Every time I see a dog I always want to pet it. That is if it doesn't try to bite me. My mom says that if we are getting a dog we will get a small one. But my dad wants a big dog. Once he tried to buy a dog that was as big as my neck.

A Winter Poem

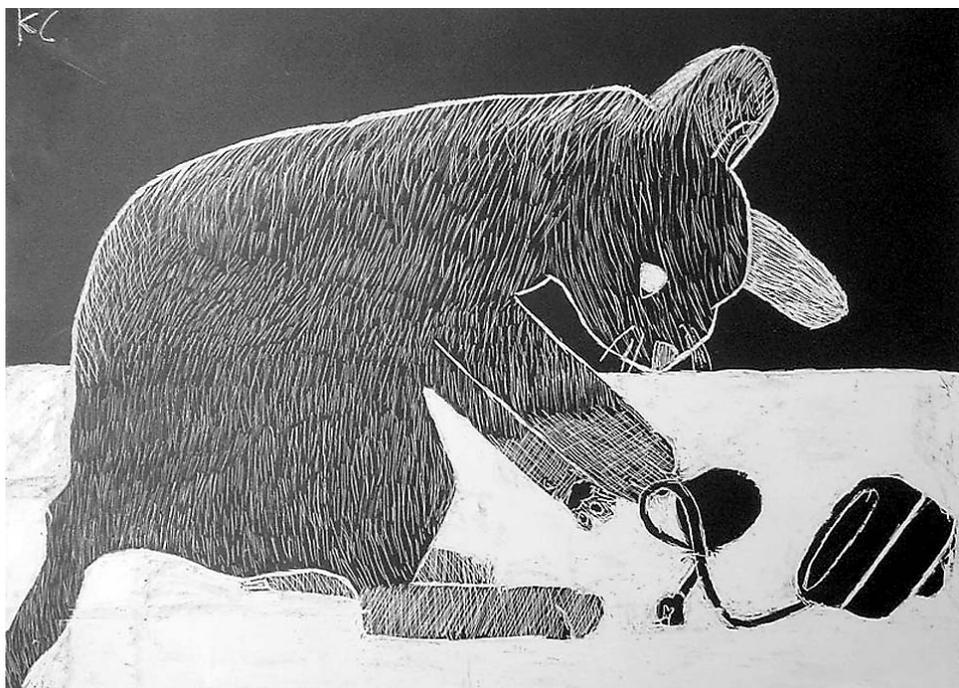
BY TUNISIA N HOWARD
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Little Children in the road, waiting for the first pile of snow
Jumping, hopping, skipping to and fro,
waiting for just a little
Snow

Happy Holiday

BY MICHAEL YUN
GRADE 6, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

My favorite holiday is Christmas. A lot of other people like Christmas too. Christmas only comes around once a year, around the corner. It's on December, the coldest month. There is also Christmas Eve. This is before Christmas. Christmas is a time to forget about work and enjoy time with your friends and family. It's when you have fun and celebrate Christmas. Some people don't celebrate Christmas, but that's fine. I celebrate with my family. We gather around and eat, have some good laughs and relax. On Christmas it also snows a lot! We play in the snow, make forts and snowball ball fight. When we go inside we make ourselves warm with hot chocolate. The main reason why people wait for Christmas is for the presents to roll in. Everyone who celebrates Christmas go out to shop for Christmas since they need to buy gifts. We hang up decorations and set up a Christmas tree. When we wake up we see the presents under the Christmas tree and run to the Christmas tree to open up their gifts. People say that Santa Claus is real and gives you your presents, but I say it's your parents. I don't want to ruin it for the kids. When I was a kid I always waited for Santa clause to come and give me my gift but no he didn't. I thought he missed me but no since it happens all the time. I still get presents from my relatives, so it doesn't ruin my entire Christmas. I just want a fun Christmas. I wish Christmas wouldn't end so fast. I want to enjoy this very happy holiday, Christmas.



Khrystine Cerna, Grade 8, South County Secondary

WRITING

Eid

BY JALAL TYLER
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Eid is a really fun Muslim holiday. We pray, eat cookies, and sometimes drink special teas. We get to see your family members that go to the same masque. My mom usually takes me to either the toy store or game stop. That's because grown ups give you money and that's why I love Eid.

Diwali

BY ISHITA SHARMA
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Diwali is a holiday celebrated in India. It brings happiness and joy to the coming year. It is like Christmas but without the cookies or Santa Claus. Instead we have Lakshmi Mata Ji, who is an Indian god. We pray to her so she can bring happiness into the coming year. She doesn't give us the gifts but our parents and relatives do. It is called the festival of lights and on Diwali we light little lanterns called diyas, little clay pots that you can make with pottery clay. You can also decorate your home with candles. People in India decorate their houses with flowers and they put diya all over their homes. Diwali comes around near mid November. This year Diwali already past in happened on November 5th. My family and I celebrate Diwali and I had a great time.

Holidays

BY KELLY ROBINSON
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Joy and toys are here! It's time for holiday cheer!

Let the holiday's make your day be glory. There are so many holiday's to celebrate, like Eid, Hanukah, Christmas, and Kwanza. Some holidays have past and some are almost here. It's time for kid's to laugh and giggle. But especially for them to give you a big snuggly hug and smile. All you need is to make a smile by celebrating your holiday with a special someone. And that's what makes holidays so special.

Puerto Rico

BY JORGE CASTRO-LEBRON
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Puerto Rico is an island, which is part of the United States. This island is a commonwealth with the U.S.A. Puerto Rico's people speak Spanish and English. A type of frog there called the Coqui whistles its name at night, and when it does, it sounds like a lullaby to us Puerto Ricans. The Africans from there are mostly Nigerian. The Native Americans that are from there are called Tainos. The name of Puerto Rico used to be Boricua. Puerto Rico is sometimes called the Enchanted Island.

The Deer Leg

BY MICHAEL SALISBURY
GRADE 6, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

One afternoon I was walking my dog Bubba. I turned to see if a car was coming; then Bubba bolted! I tried to find him but I couldn't. So I went home and relaxed. When I was at home, Bubba was in the woods looking around and sniffing around for animals. He found one... unfortunately it was dead. Bubba ripped and ripped until one the legs came off.

Bubba was proud of his find, so he brought it home. When Bubba reached the house it was around eleven o'clock at night. He started barking at the door and my mom let him in. She was really tired and didn't see the deer leg!

Bubba walked around the house a little, and then he went into my room

with the slobbery deer leg. He jumped up on the bed where I was sleeping and set the nasty deer leg on me. In my sleep, I thought it was Bubba and I reached down and started petting the deer leg. Bubba loves to be petted. Bubba was sitting on my bed and he was really mad that I was petting the deer leg. He barked once and I started hugging the deer leg. Now Bubba was really mad! He barked fifteen times and then I woke up.

I said, "What's wrong Bubba?" Then I saw the deer leg and I screamed at the top of my lungs. My mom and dad came down and asked me what was wrong? I said, "Bubba has a deer leg." Then Bubba came out from under the covers and ran out of the room. It took almost an hour to pry the leg from his mouth.

My dad said, "We have our dinner!" So Bubba started wagging his tail with happiness. That's when Bubba brought home a deer leg!

Poems

BY JENNIFER MALDONADO-AGUILERA
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Best gift I got

I love my sister
I was glad when she was born
She is my best gift

Love

My wonderful gift
The feeling we all enjoy
It's all around us

Christmas

The day we share gifts
Presents go all around us
The best holiday

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ART & WRITING



Thomas O'Brien, Grade 3, Gunston Elementary

The Best Thing

By HANA CHANE
Grade 6, Gunston Elementary

The best thing that's ever happened to me is when I was born. It was an unforgettable day of my life. Some people might not remember their childhood, but I certainly do. When I was born I was one pound six ounces. Don't worry, I grew up a little bit each day. I had to stay in the hospital for about three months. It was tough! The good news is that I got through it... The bad news is I had to be on a heart monitor when I got home. I also had to have a physical therapist, a nutritionist, speech therapists, and nurses for a year. I really struggled for my first five years. Whenever I had a high fever I would have seizures and need to be rushed to the emergency room. By the way, I forgot to mention that when I was born, my parents were told by the doctors that I would have a ten percent chance to live. Since I was born premature I had many complications. I'm happy to report that I'm now a healthy eleven year old in sixth grade.

My favorite animal

By GUSTAVO FLORES
Grade 5, Gunston Elementary

My favorite animal is a monkey because they're funny and smart. They're funny because they do wacky things and smart because if you tell them something they will do it. Another special thing they can do is climb and swing using their tails. Spider monkeys are like spiders because they can stick to walls and down webs.

Monkeys can do way more things than just that. Plus who wouldn't want them as a pet? They would be climbing and swinging around your house and their super nice. That's why monkeys are my favorite animal.

My Opinion on Video Games

By EMILY CUELLAR
Grade 6, Gunston Elementary

Well as a hardcore gamer, I love any pixels, big or small, no matter how detailed. (Though I prefer realistic graphics) My top favorite would be Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess. Though, Pokemon is a close second. Even though my cousin's Gamecube broke, mine still works despite the occasional glitch. My DS is always the remedy for boredom when I'm on the road. Even though I do get carsick sometimes, checking on my Animal Crossing is critical to my list of to-dos:

- Wake up
- School
- Homework
- Computer
- Gamecube
- DS
- TV (Throughout the day)

So, My opinion on the new games (Wii, Kinect, etc.) is that why make new ones when you can play the classic NES, N64, Gamecube, and Playstation. Even though you can play GC games on the Wii, I am never buying a Wii, Xbox, or Kinect. What I am saying, never buy new ones in vain.

A gamer girl.

Christmas

By DINA TEKALEM
Grade 6, Gunston Elementary

I can't wait till Christmas and to make my wish list

- To see my family on Christmas day
- Would be the best holiday
- Christmas is so near
- Were also going to start a new year
- Lets jump up and down
- And smile through the town

Bird by the window

By CARLY DAILEY
Grade 5, Gunston Elementary

I was looking out the window and I saw a bird

A little bird, but a bird
As I was looking at the bird I saw a cat
A big fluffy cat at that
With a little bell at the collar
The cat pounced, the bird flew
But not high enough
I yelled the cat startled, stopped
The bird got away
But not without a scratch
This bird not a very smart bird
Ran into my window
And that was that

Christmas Holiday

By CANDASIA HYSLOP
Grade 3, Gunston Elementary

On Christmas Eve last year we decorated our Christmas tree. There were all those presents! At 12:00 in the morning all I saw were gifts surrounding the tree. I opened my presents! I put the gifts for the homeless in a pile. In the other pile were my toys. After that my mom, brother, and I played the Wii. We all played the new Super Mario Brothers. I won the battles. We needed team work and I ended up helping them. After that I made sugar cookies and they played the game. When I was finished with the cookies we ate the cookies played games.

Movies

By BROOK DOVE
Grade 6, Gunston Elementary

Hey all you movie lovers! Get your popcorn and drink because I'm here to tell you about all the hottest kids' movies out there! Here is some we'll talk about...Harry Potter, Tangled and Secretariat! So listen up movie lovers!

Harry Potter and The Deathly Hollows Part one came out November 18th 2010! It's the beginning of the end of Harry Potter! Harry, Ron, and Hermione are trying to find all the Horcuxes for Dumbledore (after his death). Oh, wait I told you too much! You well have to go to theaters to see it!

Rapunzel, Rapunzel drop your hair! Do you remember that saying? Well, if you don't, it's from the story Rapunzel. Walt Disney has come out with their version of how the story should go and it's called Tangled. Well the girl in the tower wants to get out and see the world and she knows just to help her! Well you well have to see the movie to know the rest!

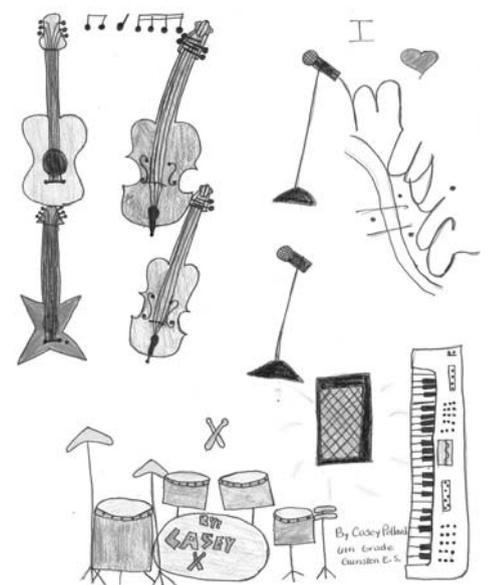
Secretariat is such a great movie! It's happy but at the same time it can be sad! It's about a racing horse named Secretariat, he's the greatest racing horse. Uh, oh! I told you way too much! Well, I can tell you this, you might want to bring a shoulder to cry on! I'd recommend it to anyone!

Well there you have it three great movies to go see at the movies on the weekend! ENJOY!!!!!!

Lunar New Year

By TAYLOR NGUYEN
Grade 3, Gunston Elementary

Lunar New Year is a Holiday Asian people celebrate. We follow the Lunar Calendar, so the date is different every year. On Lunar New Year's Day we get red envelopes from older people. There is money inside the envelope. The children wear long dresses that are red, blue, orange, pink, gold, and silver. To celebrate we set fire crackers, dance, play games and eat special foods. We play a game called Cow, Crab, Fish, and Tiger. My family eats Vietnamese food. My grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles come. We play with my cousins. We all have a great time!



Casey Pollard, Grade 6, Gunston Elementary

Favorite Christmas

By BRANDON COOK
Grade 5, Gunston Elementary

My favorite Christmas was in 2009. My dad came to visit from Afghanistan. The first gift I opened was a Play station 3! Then, my mom told me which present to open. The next gift I opened was Guitar Hero for Play station 3. After I opened my two gifts, my sisters opened theirs. One of my sisters got two guitars, an acoustic guitar an electric guitar. My other sister got an iPod touch. Then it was time for my dad to open his gifts, I bought my dad a dolphin snow globe because he likes the Miami Dolphins. Then my mom snuck out of the house and bought a coffeemaker for my dad. My mom and my dad cooked breakfast after my family opened all of our gifts. Then my mom setup the Play station 3. My sisters played with their gifts. That was my favorite Christmas!

WRITING

A Good Parent

By MARY BINDER
GRADE 5, GUNSTON
ELEMENTARY

No one should be in this fantastic world if I weren't for parents. A good parent is one who is worried when you are hiding something. When you are sick or injured, your parents will comfort you and take care of you. But you've heard enough with all that solemn stuff. Parents are great playmates and that is another important thing about parents. When you are bored, a parent may surprise you with something fun to do. It may be a board game or a day at the park, but it helps and they will always try. Even though your parent is good, everybody has to blow their top once in a while. So if your parent does, this doesn't mean that they don't love you. No kid can imagine how much pressure their parents are put under, like the bills, the kids, and so many other things too. But most important of all, a good parent will always forgive you, no matter what you do and it is up to you to except their apology.

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ART GALLERY



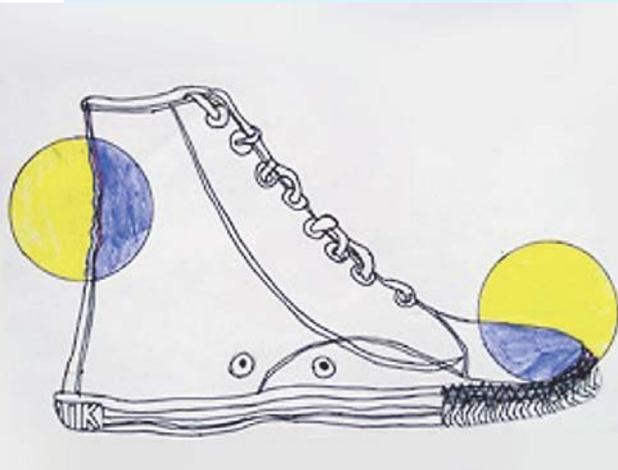
Gabriella Du Charme, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary



Jonathan Lee, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary



Riley Wilinon, Grade 8, South County Secondary



Jack Letzkus, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Jaidyn Hammond, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



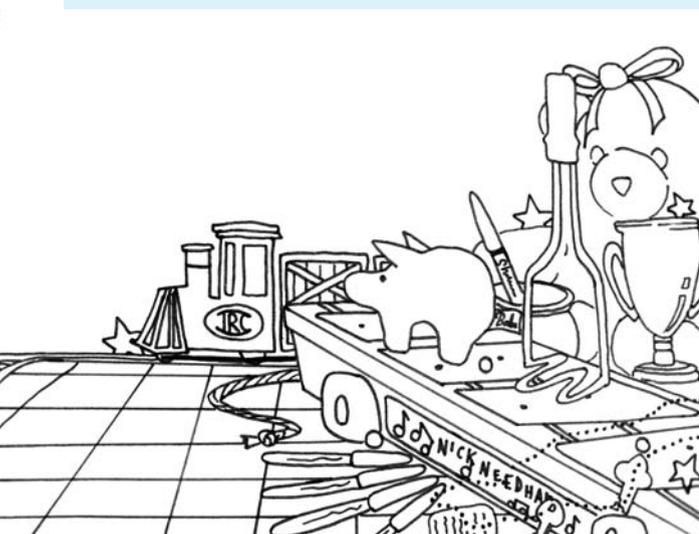
Robert Weber, Grade 8, South County Secondary



Kerri Lynch, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Maxim Johnson, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Nick Needham, Grade 8, South County Secondary



Michael Hayes, Grade 7, South County



Usama Riaz, Grade 7, South County Secondary

WRITING

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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January 8th — 10am-2pm

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ART GALLERY



Anh Lien Rodgers, Grade 7, South County Secondary



Cassie Burba, Grade 9, South County Secondary



Jackie Best, Grade 11, South County Secondary



Jackie Higginbotham, Grade 7, South County Secondary



Miranda Poloncak, Grade 12, South County Secondary



Marcell Rahimi, Grade 8, South County Secondary



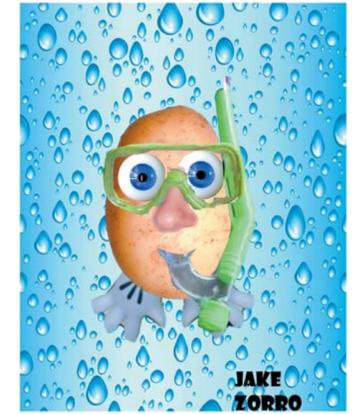
Mahnoosh Amini, Grade 12, South County Secondary



Jackie Higginbotham, Grade 7, South County Secondary



Brandon Kozak, South County Secondary



Jake Zorro, Grade 8, South County Secondary



Robby Walter, Grade 7, South County Secondary



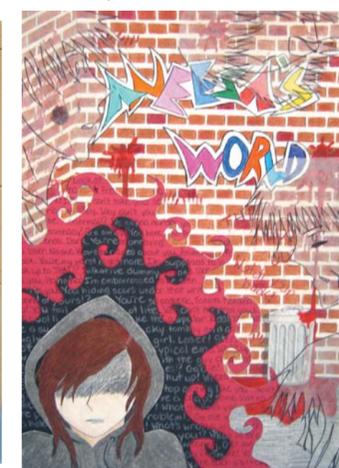
Pamela Aguirre, Grade 11, South County Secondary



Natalie Kryza, Grade 11, South County Secondary



Jamie Choi, Grade 12, South County Secondary



Aneesa Mahboob, Grade 11, South County Secondary

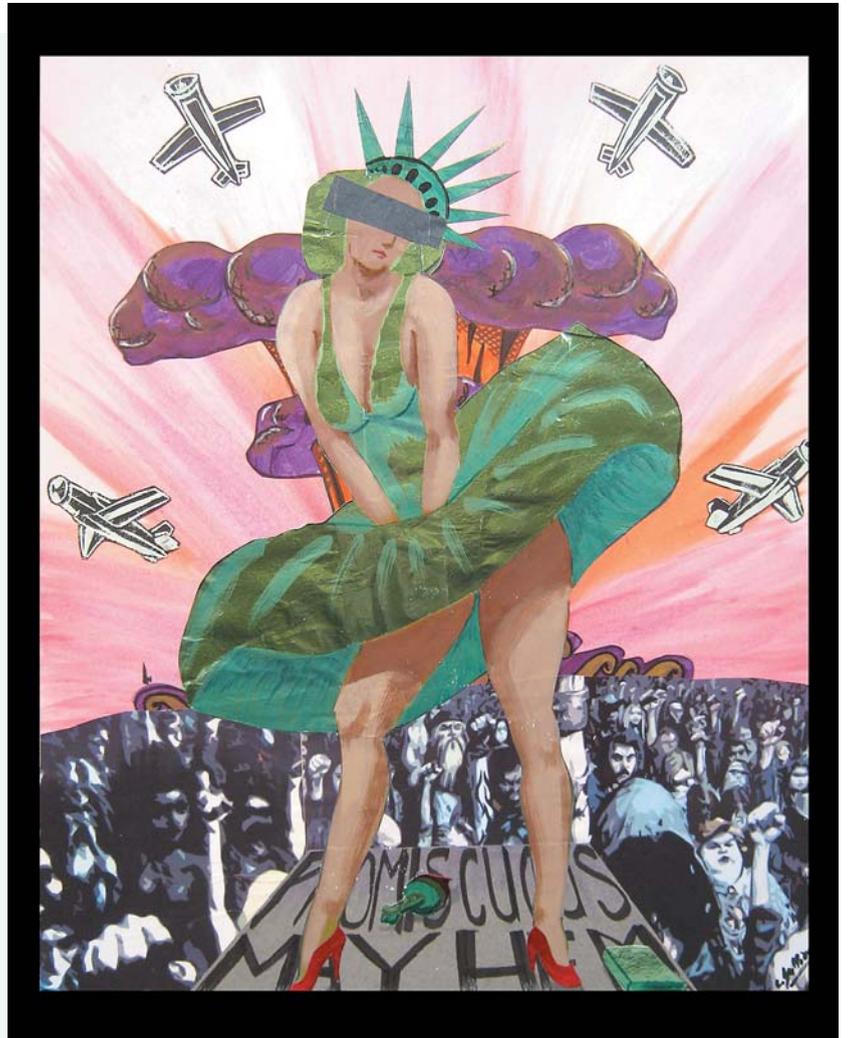


Jameel Mohammad, South County Secondary

ART GALLERY



Elizabeth Hermosilla, Kindergarten, Fairview Elementary



Lady Liberty by Christopher Sullivan, Grade 12, South County Secondary

If I could give my parents any gift it would be love

BY AUBREY HUTSON
GRADE 6, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

During the holiday season, have you ever asked your parents “what do you want?” Then they look at you and say “I don’t need anything more than a hug and a homemade card.” We’ve all been there, but the funny thing is, they’re right. I know it may be hard to admit, but all they need is your love. Sure, all those bought gifts are great, but can you buy love? The best gifts are ones you can’t buy, like love, compassion, and understanding. So this holiday season, give your loved ones the gift of love.



Emma Glass, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary



Jonathan Thomas, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Emily Eden, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary

ART & WRITING

What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

When I grow up... I want to be a doctor because I think you will get a lot of money. I think I will buy bracelets and share them with my friends.

ELODIA TSEGAYE, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a doctor because I like to help people in my family and in school. Why I want to be a doctor is because it would be my dream! It will be a good job for me.

REBECCA OLSEN, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a teacher. I want to teach kids different stuff like math and lots of other things. I like school a lot. That is why I want to be a teacher. I think I will like all of the grades. School is fun! I think it will be fun to be a teacher! My family will like me being a teacher too. I think.

FAITH PARK, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a Fashion Designer because I love to do things like that. I am a girly girl. I am good at fixing my clothes because I always match. I am going to design my house so it's beautiful and never mess it up.

SAHAR HAMIDI, GRADE 4, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a singer and a dancer because I'm good at it. I like Justin Beiber songs and Cody Simpson songs. I like to break dance and tumble. I do this because it's my talent and I want to be famous.

BIANCA CABRERA, GRADE 4, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a doctor because doctor's help you feel better. It is a hard job to do. They have to look at people and work at a hospital.

Favorite Toys

My favorite toy... is my doll and dollhouse because it is fun! Playing dolls is fun!

MARISON JAGHORY, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite toy... is Star Wars Legos. It has an engine that runs by itself and it drives fast.

DIEGO TEODOVICH GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite toy... is my Little Einstein laptop because it helps everybody learn something. It has games, letters, and music. My favorite game on the Little Einstein laptop is Letter Bridge.

MADELEINE MADAMBA, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite toy... is big Legos because you can play with it and connect them to make robots.

EDUARDO LIZAMA- CASTRO, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite toy... is a helicopter because it flies in the air very high.

DHRUV MALHAN, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite toy... is Legos because they are fun!! You build a tower that reaches the sky.

NATHAN RESSOM, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL



Hanuel Lee, Grade 10, South County Secondary

I really like doctors. They are good people.

ANGELINA DUBEY, GRADE 4, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a soccer player because I play a lot of soccer with my friends every day. When I come back home from school, I play soccer with my dad and brother. Soccer makes me a better person and gives me energy and exercise.

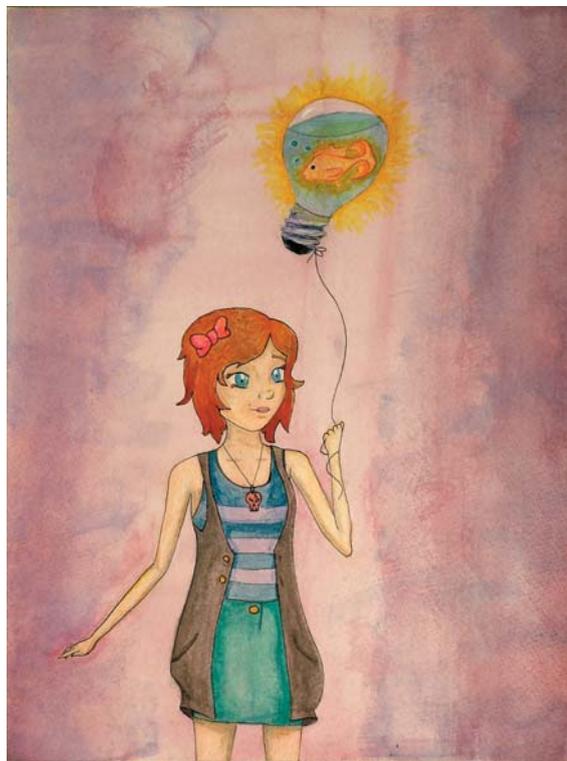
MOHAMED MAHMOUD, GRADE 4, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a singer. I ask myself am I good? I love to sing and hear music. That's why I want to be a singer. I love Selena Gomez's music. I like her because she is a very good singer and has a good voice.

JOCELYN PORTILLO, GRADE 4, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

When I grow up... I want to be a policeman because I can help people by saving them from bad guys. I want to drive a police car. Police cars are black, white, and blue. They drive fast.

RONIT REDDY, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL



Nicole Thomas, Grade 12, South County Secondary

My favorite toy... is a sword because I'm a Sword Master. Sword Masters can do tricks like back flips, just like me.

BRENDAN FABELA, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL

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Monday, January 17, 2011
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Families of all shapes and sizes can volunteer at projects with Fairfax 4-H, FACETS, Herndon Senior Center, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, Operation Military Kids and the Orphan Foundation of America - in the convenience of one, central location.

Join us for live tweets at VolunteerFFX.

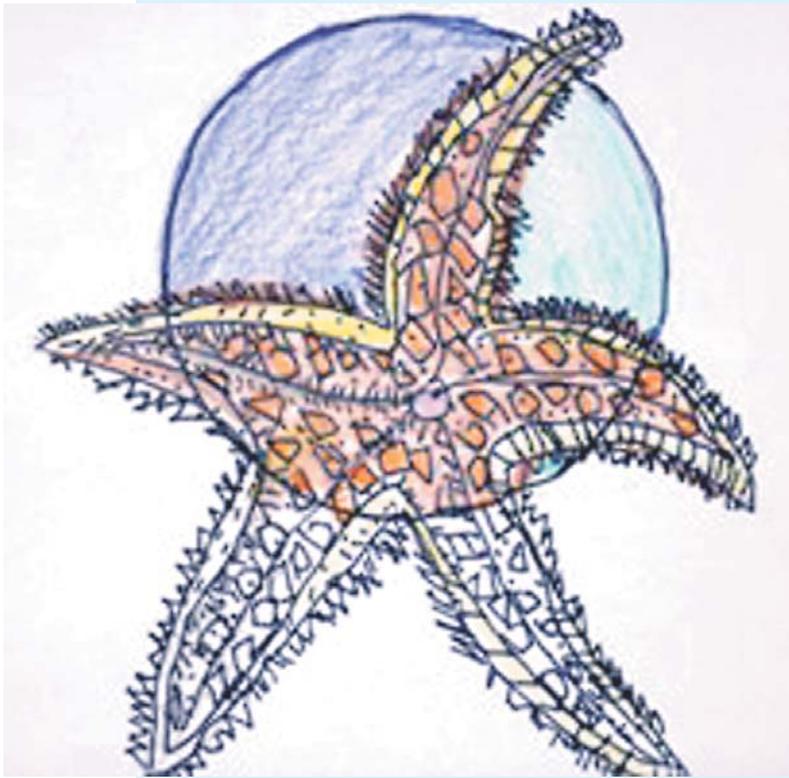
Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Projects best suited for elementary-aged children.

Volunteer Fairfax

Special thanks to the Connection for its support of volunteerism.

ART GALLERY



Jillian Goff, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary

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!



Rory Hennings, Grade 2, Fairview Elementary

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!



Sarah Warter, Grade 4, Fairview Elementary



Khuyen Dinh, Grade 4, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary



Zoe Corigliano, Grade 7, South County Secondary

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?

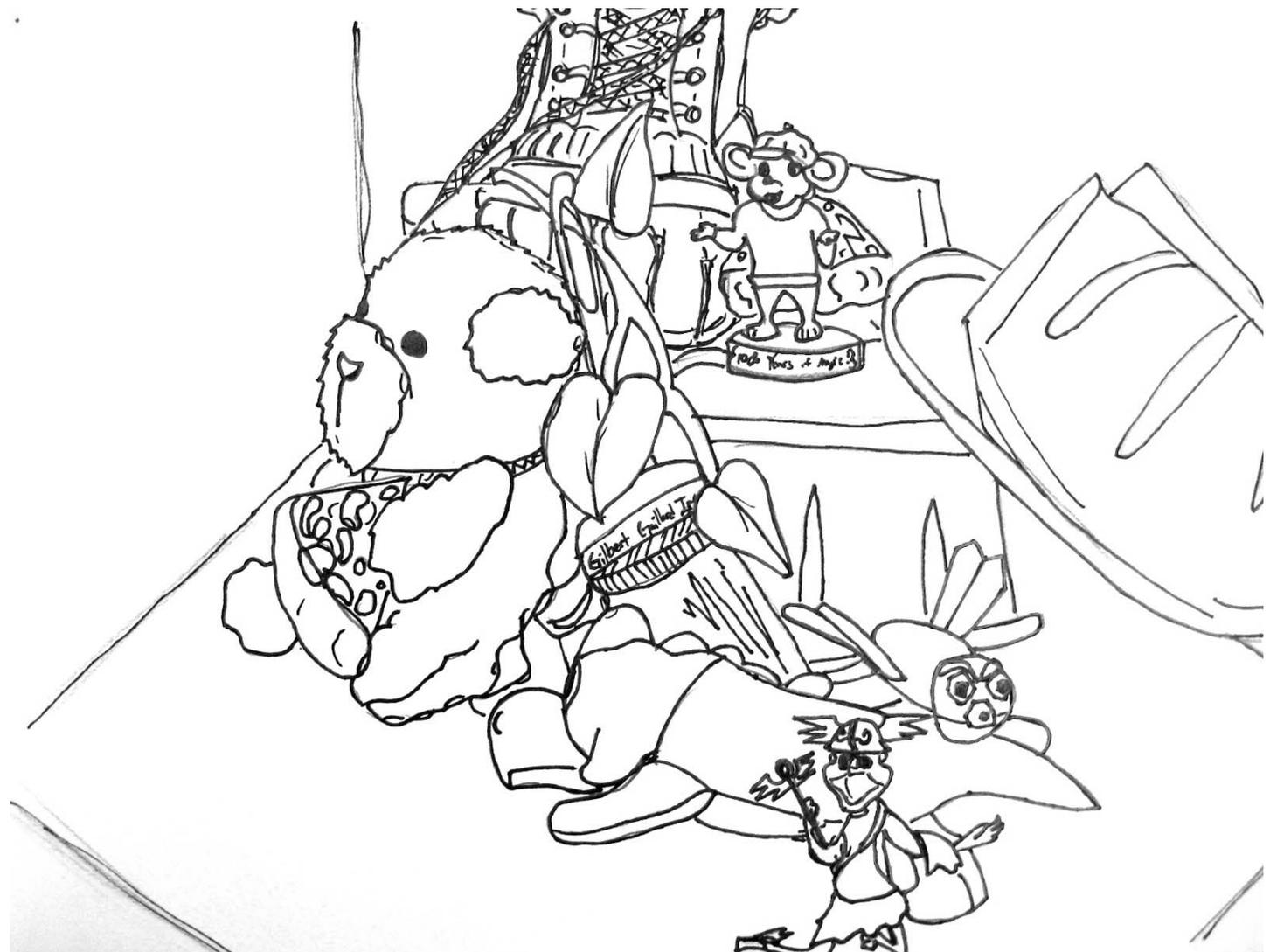
BY DANIELLE HUGNEY
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY

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.



Gilbert Gaillard, Grade 8, South County Secondary

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.



Andrew Savino, Grade 6, Silverbrook 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.

WRITING & ART

Letters to Veterans

Dear any Veteran who might read this,

I would like to thank you for all that you have been through just to protect us. I would also like to thank my dad, who is in the Air Force. He's a lawyer and I know that he does his job in the Air Force to protect me, his family, and all the other citizens of America. I would like to give thanks to all the other veterans who are deployed to challenging places like Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan, risking their lives to protect America. I would also like to thank the people in Arlington Cemetery; thank you for risking your lives to protect the great U.S. of A.

Sincerely,
Patrick Gentry
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

A veteran is someone who served or serves in the United States military. The word veteran means to me "very important person," someone who put his/her life at risk to save others. I know four veterans: my great uncles, and my mom and dad. They are important to me because they are all in my family. Veterans are important to me because they have served my nation and made it possible for me to be here right now. I'm Justin Dahl and I am proud to be an American.

Justin Dahl
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

Veteran's Day means so much to me because without veterans we wouldn't be free and we would be following different rules. Veterans also mean a lot to me because they are fighting for freedom and risking their lives for us.

Maria Euripides
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

A veteran is a person who served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard. I think veterans are very important. Without them we would never have won wars. Veterans are a part of our great nation. I also think we should give our biggest gratitude to all veterans. They put their lives on the line for people they don't even know. They also should get more respect from all of us. With that, I hope you know what veterans are.

Brian Lorn
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

I think Veteran's Day is a very important holiday because people in the military or retired from the military are honored for what they have done to protect our country. My dad is retired from the Air Force. He served for 21 years. I recently moved to Virginia because my dad retired from the Air Force. I think it is really cool to have a veteran in my family. Happy Veteran's Day!

Simone Totten
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

Happy Veteran's Day. I think veterans are important because they fight for us so we don't have to, even though they fight and die. They are important because they fight. My father is in the military. He's my father, but I think he is important because I know he's been trained and he wants to make a difference in the world.

Morgan Yorton
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

I respect veterans for fighting for my country. I respect veterans for going to wars and protecting our country. I'm proud of the United States because it protected its citizens. I think veterans are important because they sacrifice themselves to help in wars. A lot of people respect veterans from World



Qureshi Zaira, Grade 12, South County Secondary

War I and World War II. I think that veterans are the most important defenders in the world. I think veterans are great.

Dang To
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

Veterans, you have always been there for me and the United States of America, so we have a day for you. I think it should be a month. I have four people that I know in my family who were in the Army and the Air Force. One died in war. The bravery you show is amazing. There are two wars going on and you're still fighting. You're my hero!

Greg McIntyre
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

Veteran's Day is all about the soldiers or people who served. Veteran's Day started after World War I and it started as Armistice Day. At exactly 11:11 a.m. we stay quiet until 11:12 a.m.

How many veterans do you know? Do you have a parent that is a veteran? Veterans fight for our country and fight in wars and some even die. Veteran's Day is a very im-

portant day. All veterans fight hard for our country.

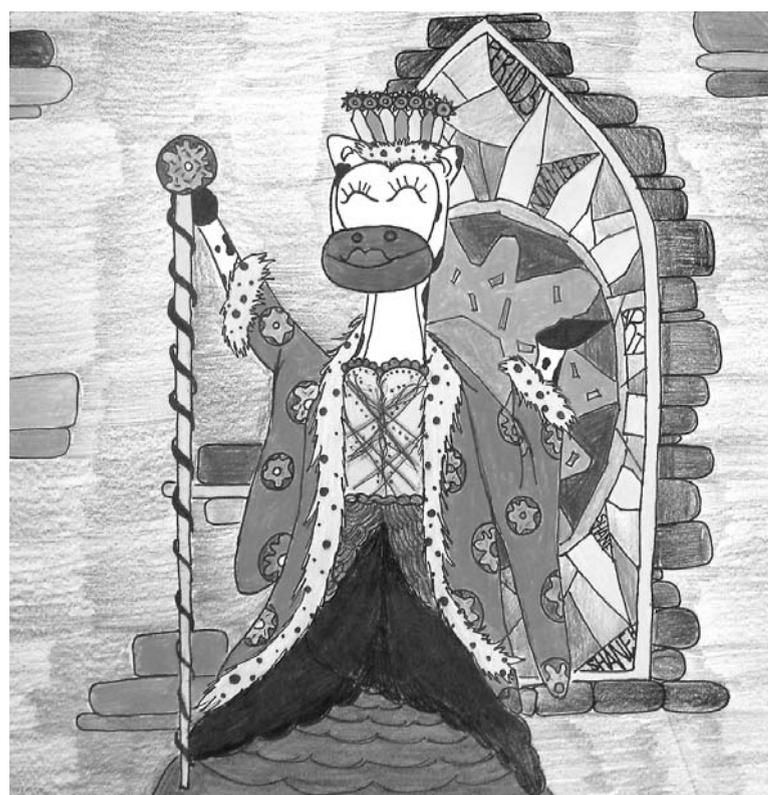
Brison Edom
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

I think that veterans made big sacrifices to us to let us be free. My dad is a veteran, so they mean a lot to me. Some even gave up their lives to let us live. I feel bad for the veterans that died and never saw the change. I really honor veterans. I can't tell you how much they mean to me!!!

Fergus Burns
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary

On November 11, we honor all the people who served our country in many horrible wars. World War 1, World War II and the Vietnam War are some of them. We thank them for all they have done for us. Thank you for protecting us and letting America live another day.

Connor Stuart
Grade 4, Sangster Elementary



Shane Hulse, Grade 8, South County Secondary

Favorite Animals

My favorite animal... is a lion because I like lions. They are fast and eat other animals and people. If I were a lion I would play with another lion and play tag.

MATEEN HAMIDI, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animal... is a hamster because it is cute and fuzzy and they eat grass. Hamsters are easy to take care of and can be put in a cage.

KAITLYN NGUYEN, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animal... is a tiger because it runs fast and it eats zebras. It eats meat. I like it when the tigers sleep because I like to sleep too.

MATTHEW TAMIR, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animal... is a puppy because puppies can do tricks and they are cute.

MUSKAH MANGAL, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animal... is a shark. He has sharp jaws. I like that look. He eats fish. I can feed them in the sea. Their babies are cute.

LUKAS KRONER, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animal is... a dog because dogs are better than cats. Cats hiss, bite, and scratch you.

LEI BASICH, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animal... is a lion. Lions roar at people and scare them. Lions are at the zoo.

XAVIER WILSON, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animal... is the cheetah because cheetahs are fast and I'm fast too!

CHARLIE GRIFFITH, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My favorite animals... are a zebra and a deer because they are cute. I like zebras because they have stripes of black and white.

ENOCH OGUNFIDITMI, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

WRITING

What Makes a Good Friend?

A good friend... helps another's friends. Friends don't hurt another or say bad things. Friends are nice. Friends do good things. Friends listen to their teacher.

SAMHITA REDDIVALAM, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

A good friend ... is someone you have to be nice to. You can play with them and let them share your stuff because that's nice. You can have more fun with them. Friends make you happy.

ISSA RAHMANI, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL

A good friend ... is Yura. She is nice and she plays with me. Sometimes we play 'mom and sister' on the playground. I play with her every day. Yura is my best friend.

ELANA WINSTON, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL

A good friend... is Rebecca, because we play together at recess. We play three games. We play mermaids, fairies, and poison ivy monsters too. Rebecca is a good friend. We like each other a lot.

EMILY BURNSIDE, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

A good friend is... kind. You can have fun and play forever. My BFF is Muskah. We play a lot but not that much. We make a lot of stuff with the mulch. We make an Ant House. I have a lot of fun with my friend!

RISHIKA MADKE, GRADE 1, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

A good friend knows how to keep a secret. They stay until the end. They stay with you through every bend. They know from good to bad or will cheer you up when you're mad. A true friend helps you feel blessed every minute of every day. A true friend is someone who you feel delighted to have. A true friend is someone I am proud to have!

GARIMA TANDON, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL

The Best Gift Ever

The best gift I ever had was getting new shoes. My shoes were Converse. I got two pairs of them. One pair was black and the other pair blue. I also got a bunch of shoe laces to go with all of my shoes. They were yellow, blue, black, and flames. (The shoes already had white laces on them). When I got them dirty I immediately cleaned them with rubbing alcohol. That's how I clean my shoes. That was the best gift I got from my daddy.

AKWASI AGYEKUM, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

In My Opinion...

In my opinion the NFL is very fabulous. Have you heard of divisions? Well I be talking about the NFC east. There are 4 teams in a division. The teams in the NFC are the Washington Redskins, Philadelphia Eagles, New York Giants, and Dallas Cowboys. They are all very good teams. Did you know that the Eagles, right now in week 11 are 7 and 4? Same with the New York Giants. I think everyone knows about the Washington Redskins who have a record of 5-6. Also, last but not least, the Dallas Cowboys who have a record of 3-8. All of these teams are very good.

HASSEN SHAKEEL, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

What makes a good friend?

A good friend is someone who will listen to you if you talk to them or tell you a secret. They also won't tell anyone your secret. If you have a question, a good friend will give you a reasonable answer. If you get hurt, they won't laugh, they will make sure you are OK. If your good friend has a lot of other friends, they won't, she or he won't leave you out. That is what makes a friend a good and true friend.

ELIZABETH MAZZELLO, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

I think what makes a good friend would be someone who doesn't talk about you behind your back. A good friend is someone who will be there for you, someone who can't stay mad at you, a person who you can tell anything to, and someone who you can trust. A good friend would not lie to you. Some friends will do anything for you. If your friend stays mad they are not a real friend.

DONNA TRAN, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

If I could give my parents any gift that didn't cost money

I would give them something they wanted from the past when they were little like a doll or a toy car. If I couldn't give them what they wanted, I would make it up to them. My parents are the most important thing in my heart. Sometimes parents don't want anything, they might just want you.

NATHALIE DO, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

If I would give my parents any gift that doesn't cost money it would be song. I would write them a song about how special they are. Then I would perform it to them with a guitar and other instruments. My brother would record it and video tape it. I would want to sell it then use the money to buy an even more special gift for my parent.

BRIANA MAYFIELD, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

Eids

BY ARISHA REHMAN
GRADE 3, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Eid is a holiday that Muslims around the world celebrate. There are two Eids in a year. One is about sacrificing an animal and is called Eid al-Adha. The second Eid, which is celebrated at the end of Ramadan, is called Eid al-Fitr.

The background of Eid al-Adha: Once there was a prophet, Ibrahim, who had a dream instructing him to kill his only son. They both obeyed and wept at Mount Moriah. As the prophet Ibrahim was about to sacrifice his son, Allah replaced him with a ram / sheep. Since then Eid al-Adha has been celebrated on the tenth of Dhul-Hijja.

Eid al-Fitr is a celebration of having fasted all month. It is all about giving charity and feeling for people in need. The kids get eidee, or money, and get to eat lots of sweets.

On both Eids we wear new traditional clothing. Families get together, have barbeque, and kids get treats. They each last about three lunar days.

In My Opinion... Pets

In My Opinion...

Pets are the number one thing for me. I think pets are like a person or a friend.

I think pets as a person because you have to be nice to them, take care of them, feed them, or play together. Like me I take care of them and handle them. For the record I had 30 pets. But now I only have 6 pets. My coolest pet would be the gray tree frog named Happy. He ate well, played well, and behaved well. So this is my opinion about pets.

SAMUEL SUH, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

My opinion about . . . Christmas Shopping!

Twas the night before Christmas and all the parents were scrambling for the car keys. Every year during the Christmas season parents are always out late shopping at the last minute, I don't think it's very smart. Parents have to stay up all night wrapping gifts then they have to do the Santa Scam. Please be prepared-watch TV, go on the computer and look for sales now! If parents get gifts late all the good gifts will be gone. The stores might not have the gift your child wants resulting in a stressful Christmas, so get your gifts early!

OCTAVIA L. WILLIAMS, GRADE 6, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY

Untitled

BY JASMINE NGUYEN
GRADE 3, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Last Christmas was terrible! Wait; let me do a flashback... My father, my brother, and I were shoveling up the snow from the driveway. Then I threw a snowball at my brother, Michael. Then Michael picked me up and threw me into a huge pile of snow. After I was thrown in that pile of snow I found some snow in my pants!

Back to real life now, I'm really looking forward to this year's Christmas. On Christmas day my mom will be cooking dinner while my dad will set up the Christmas tree and decorates it. My brother, Michael, will be in his room playing his Xbox Kinect. I'll be practicing Christmas songs on the piano, to entertain my family. Our relatives will come, and it will definitely be a better Christmas!

Sports

BY ALEX BUZATU
GRADE 5, GUNSTON ELEMENTARY

Hi do you know my favorite sport? Read to find out!

My favorite sport is soccer. Soccer is my life. I like soccer because it's more than running and kicking a ball around. It's about having ball control and being technical. It's also about endurance because you need to be able to run long distances. I play soccer at school and I'm good at it.

Also I want to join a real soccer team. At school I play soccer with my friends. Sometimes we even play against other classes to show our skills. My favorite position in soccer is forward because I'm not really good at defense. Also as a forward I get to be closer to the action.

Whenever I get the ball and I'm close to the goal I can hear my friends cheer me on "Go Alex Go!" Sometimes I make the goal. But the best part is when my team huddles on me. The thing I can't wait for is the international league to start and see Spain win again. So that's what my favorite sport is. What's yours?

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

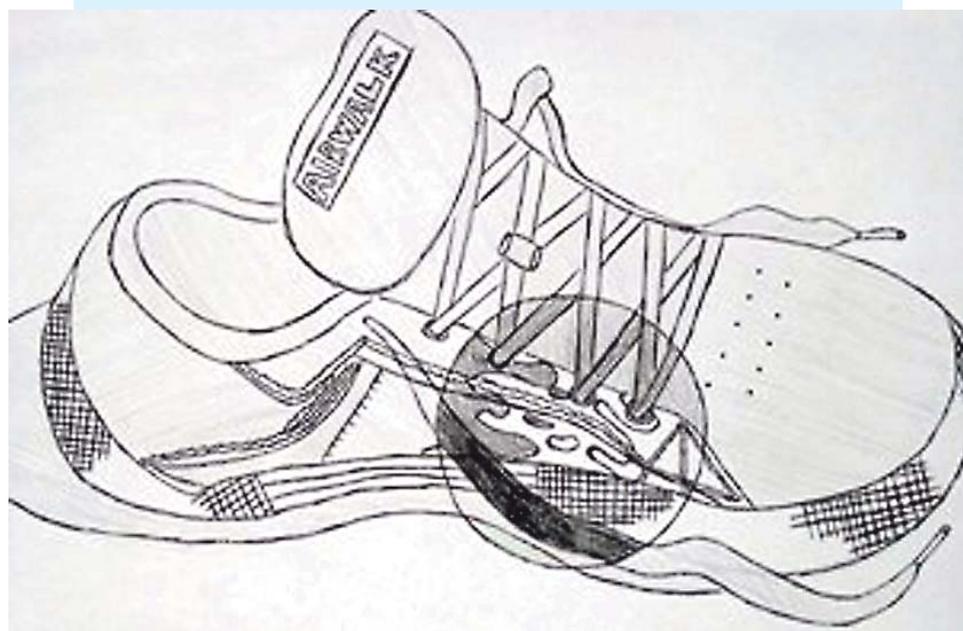
The wind blew across the sunbathed waters,
As I looked out into the endless light blue hue expanding forever,
This reminds me of what I can do if I put my heart into it,
Sky is the limit,
I can do anything,
I close my eyes,
As I run my hands over my newly waxed carbon fiber board I take a deep breath,
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.

Now that I have come to Robinson, I absolutely love it. I can choose my outfits, have fun electives, have time between classes, make new friends and so much more. I love Robinson's spirit and way of working with the kids. I think everything about the school is great and I am so excited for the new things heading my way.



Steven Montgomery, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary

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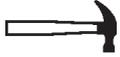
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