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Vienna
CONNECTION

Children's Connection 2011



By Justin Kim
Waples Mill ES,
Grade 4

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Transportation News and Inclement Weather Guidelines from Fairfax County Public Schools

Coming in January: The Superintendent's Proposed FY2013 Budget

FCPS Buses by the Numbers

FCPS operates one of the largest publicly owned fleets in the country. More than 1,500 school buses, using 6,500 separate routes, transport more than 110,000 students to school each day.

The average FCPS bus is 8.1 years old. Depending on the school district budget, FCPS purchases an average of 95 buses a year. When it comes time to replace a bus, the FCPS transportation department purchases buses that meet or exceed federal and Virginia state safety standards, have a record of reliability, have low projected average total cost of ownership with durable parts to minimize down time, and is sold by a dealership that provides an acceptable level of service and

responsiveness. The average purchase price for a new bus is \$114,000.

Did You Know?

Only New York City Department of Education transports more students by bus than Fairfax County Public Schools every day.



When the Weather Outside is Frightful

The holidays may be almost behind us but there is still plenty of winter ahead of us. Are you prepared?

Hat and mittens? Check. Shovel? Check. Ice scraper? Check.

But if you have children in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), do you know where to get information about school closings and delays due to the weather conditions?

Whether snowflakes are fluttering or raindrops are pouring, Fairfax County Public Schools monitors weather conditions all year round. Weather conditions may necessitate schools open two hours late, close two hours early, or that school will be canceled for an entire day.

Students use various methods to get to school – they walk, take a bus, get dropped off by a parent, ride with another student, or drive themselves. The safety of students, staff, and parents is the primary consideration when FCPS is making a weather-related decision about schools.

If an impending weather event is forecast, FCPS staff gathers information about

weather, road conditions, mobilization plans from transportation sources, and other information to determine the impact on the school system. Weather conditions can vary significantly in different parts of the county. Often major roadways are in good driving condition, but neighborhood roads may be treacherous. The Superintendent is given the most up-to-date information from various sources in an effort to make

a decision by 4:30 a.m. on whether to delay opening schools or cancel school for the day. If weather conditions worsen during the school day, the Superintendent may make a decision to close schools two hours early. Once the decision is made, the information can be found in the following locations:

- www.fcps.edu
- Red Apple Channel 21
- Keep in Touch email and text notifications
- FCPS Facebook page
- FCPS Twitter page
- Local tv news and radio stations

If school is canceled, the School Aged Child Care (SACC) program run by the Fairfax County Government, is also canceled for the day. Parents should have a plan for any last-minute child-care arrangements if schools and SACC programs are closed.

This Just In

The Fairfax County School Board approved the 2012-13 school calendar. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 4, 2012, and the last day of school will be Tuesday, June 18, 2013. View the complete calendar by visiting www.fcps.edu and click on Calendars.



Getting To Know Us

FCPS Bus Driver Art Hurlock

Art Hurlock spends his days transporting more than 100 students to and from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

Hurlock became a FCPS driver 11 years ago after managing the automobile maintenance shop for a large company. Although his wife would like him to join her in retirement, he says he has no intention of retiring any time soon.

"I really enjoy it. I like driving and I like the kids," he said. "That's why I'm still here."

FCPS has one of the largest school bus fleets in the nation traveling on more than 2,700 miles of roadway in Fairfax County.

"It's pretty amazing how the school district creates bus routes to make sure all the kids get to school," he said.

Knowing parents are relying on him to transport their children safely to and from school is not something Hurlock takes lightly. He admits the traffic in Northern Virginia is particularly challenging on snowy days.

"When I get home after driving in snowy weather, I just say, that was some day. I'm not just thinking about the 30 kids on my bus, but there are 60 parents who are counting on me too," Hurlock said.

He's been driving the same bus for the more than four years and logged more than 100,000 thousand miles on it.

"I really like what I do. I like the kids. I would say 99 percent of the kids are good and the parents are good to me too," he said.

Safe Routes to Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools is proud to participate in Safe Routes to Schools, an international effort to encourage more families to get out of their cars and onto their feet to enjoy the many benefits of safely walking and bicycling to school. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to school and to work with their PTA or PTO to organize walking events.

"Walking is a simple way to incorporate exercise into your day," said FCPS Superintendent Jack D. Dale. "We encourage all FCPS students and families to participate in this program and walk or bike to school whenever possible."

The program promotes physical activity, pedestrian safety, and concern for the

environment. Several Fairfax County public schools have established a Safe Routes to School program and participate in bike and walk to school challenges.

For more information visit www.saferoutesinfo.org/.



Be a School Bus Driver for Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools has more than 1,200 bus drivers on its transportation team. Their primary goal is to ensure that students are transported safely to and from school. If you have a good driving record, enjoy working with children of all ages, can pass a physical exam and drug and alcohol screening, and have the ability to complete training, you are eligible to apply for a position. Starting pay begins at \$17.07 per hour, with five weeks of paid training. Learn more about how to become an FCPS bus driver at www.fcps.edu and click on Work for FCPS.

Stay informed about all the latest news from FCPS at www.fcps.edu. Check us out on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Watch the most recent School Scene and Insight broadcasts on Red Apple Channel 21.



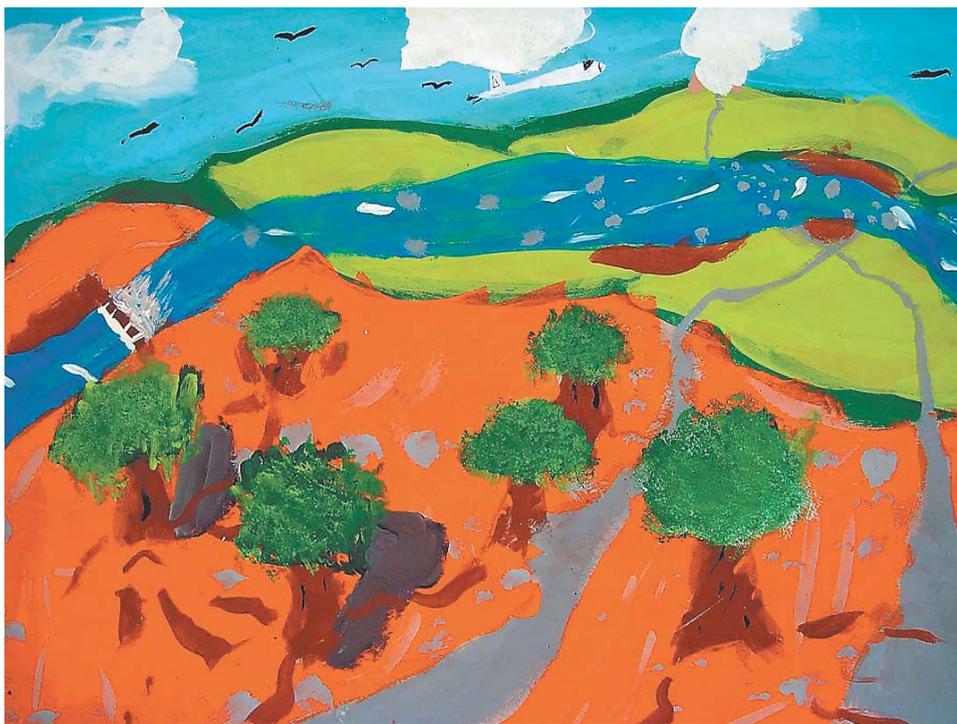
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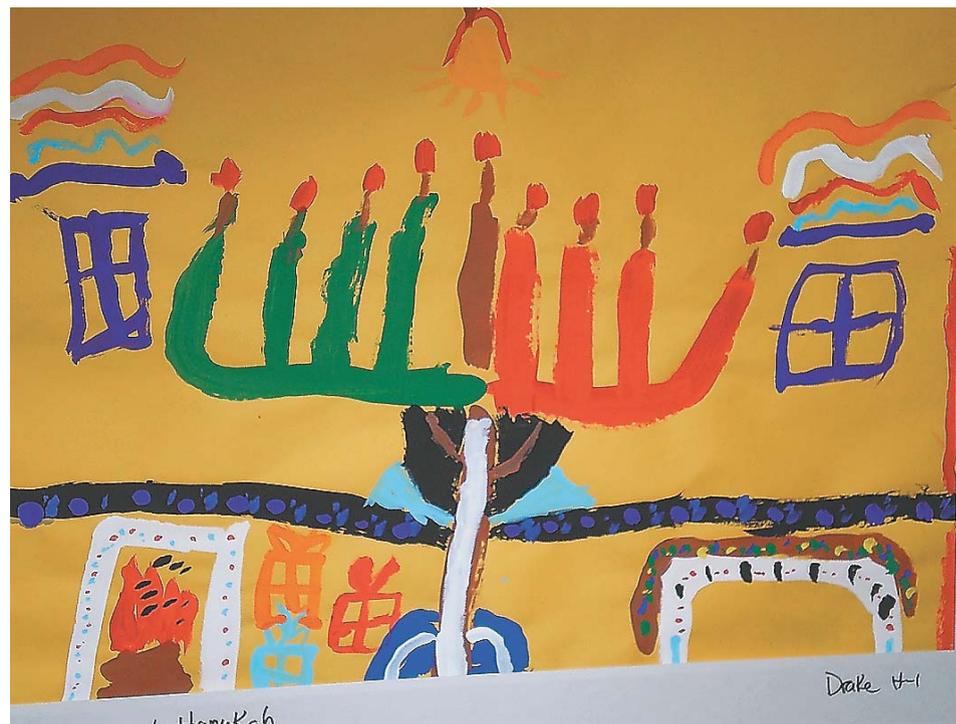


2011 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011



By Rohit A., 6th Grade, Colvin Run Elementary



By Drake Miller, 1st grade, Cunningham Park Elementary

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Vienna/OaktonConnection 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 2012 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 Con-

nection 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 vienna@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 KURSPAHIC



By Katie Bogut, 3rd grade, Westbriar Elementary



By Devin Martin, 5th Grade, Oakton Elementary

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



By Karli J., 1st Grade, Colvin Run Elementary

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

When I Grow Up

BY VIENNA ELEMENTARY FIFTH
GRADERS

BY ELLA BUSCH

When I get older I would like to become a Marine Biologist, which is a person who studies marine animals. I plan to go to a school in Hawaii, where I would learn more about sea animals than I would if I went to a different school in Virginia because in Hawaii I am near the ocean.

I would like to be a Marine biologist because I love sea animals and I would like to know more about them. I would get to explore the animals in the ocean like I've always wanted to. Another reason I would like to be a Marine Biologist is to save my favorite animal the Sea Turtle from becoming extinct. I would do that by learning more about the Sea Turtle and how I can save it. I can also try to save it by starting fundraisers.

I was inspired to be a Marine Biologist by that Baltimore Aquarium. I saw all these fantastic creatures, and they did amazing things! I thought, I would love to know more about those creatures. I also saw trained people who go in the water to feed that animals, so cool! I can't wait to become a Marine Biologist.

BY PATRICK KENNEY

When I grow up I want to be a professional baseball player, and I want to play for the Boston Red Sox. I want to play because I'm good and I love the game because there is lots of team work. For an example on a ground ball you need to catch it and throw it to first and the first baseman has to catch it. A skill that I have is pitching and catching. I have a good fast ball and a decent curveball. In catching I'm good at catching it and throwing it to second base. A player that inspires me is Buster Posey because he is a good player and he isn't afraid. He is a catcher for the New York Giants. Certainly, if I work hard I can be a professional baseball player.

I want to be a baseball player because I love it. Some of the teams I played for are a house league, an all star team, and a travel team. I loved playing for all of them. My favorite positions are catcher, pitcher, and first base. Another reason I want to be a baseball player is you get a bunch of money. One more reason is you get to meet other players. A goal I want to achieve is to beat the Yankees. That is why I want to be a baseball player.

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SOUTH from Md.- Cross the amer. Legion Br.-Take the VERY first Exit on the LEFT - Exit 45B Go 1/2 mile - Take Exit 19B (NOT Exit 19A) onto Rt. 123N for 1.4 miles - Right on Rt. 309. Go 1/2 mile to 6707.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

Poetry from Vienna Elementary 3rd Graders

Abraham Lincoln

BY TYLER SCHOEBERLEIN

It's a face
One with a beard.
Lots of hair
With a tux.
At the table
Just sitting
Smiling.
White shirt
Got a tie
Floppy ears
But happy.

The Sounds of Music

BY CLAIRE O'BRIEN

We sing and dance to joyful songs so happily
From north to south
And east to west
The music is amazing
From castaways and from the old west
To Mexico and Greece
cultures or not
This is the sound of Music

Waterfall

BY MATT MILLER

The sunset is not out
But the waterfall is still very nice.
And as the water streams
It's more beautiful.
And when it splashes
It says *swoosh*.
Two rocks are shaped like a tent
It looks very lovely.
It slides like a waterslide.
As the plants grow the water gets prettier.
It's as nice as a sunset.

Ode to Snowball

BY SYDNEY OLECHNA

How cute and cuddly you are
How you love to cuddle with me
I will take you on walks
I will love you forever and ever

Brilliant Feathers

BY SYLVA MURTIHOVA

Feathers are brilliant
They are soft
Birds use them to fly
They have lots of colors
They keep eggs warm
They make beautiful colors in a bed
But most of all,
It's great that they exist

Ode to Pie

BY SARAH KIM

Ode to pie
You make me go high
You fancy me with your taste
I don't like paste
You smell so good
Is it because I said you should
You make me happy
When I am nappy
I like apple pie
You gave a big sigh
Ode' to pie
Ode to pie
You make me go high

Sandy Neck Ayotte (my cat)

BY TALLIE UMAN

Your fur is as golden as the sun
You're even more adorable than a hummingbird
Your fierce like a lion to strangers sometimes me
And cuddly like a dog
I love you more than any other pets
I love you Sandy

Puppy Eyes

BY ELLA STUX

My Maggie puppy squats alongside the table
Eyes big as elephants
Jumping up on chairs while we're eating dinner
Five minutes later eyes big as asteroids
And begging is worse
For half an hour, she'd sit
And wait and wait
Eyes big as three schools put together
But finally she gets something and gobbles it down
Puppy eyes

Veterans Day is Awesome!

BY SOFIA JONES

A soldier got shot in the arm
That's sad
But then the leader got shot
So the soldier picked him up
While holding his arm that got shot
And he carried his leader 2 miles to safety
And the soldier had to get surgery
And felt a lot better
Veterans Day celebrates the soldiers
Who fought for our country
I am grateful are you

Yosemite Valley

BY EMILY UCHITEL

The sun is rising in the east
Lighting the canyon
A caravan is drinking water
From the lake
The willow trees droop
The canyon walls
Look impossible to climb
The gray clouds turn red because
Of the sun



By Victoria Stoner, 2nd grade, Cunningham Park Elementary

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

My Special Person

By Vienna Elementary Fifth Graders

BY KAYLEE EISEMAN

Do you have someone important in your life? Well I know I do. Popeise (my grandpa), is one of the people that is very important in my life. He taught me how to do puzzles on the internet and he always helped me when I was stuck. Popeise had a big house and he shared it with Nana. Sometimes he had a herd of herons in his yard.

When I was little Popeise, Nana, Ella, and I went to sea world every time we visited in Florida. We went to see the turtles first, then the dolphins and after that the orca whales. We always sat in the splash zone and when we got splashed I felt safe with him. Another time we had a praying mantis on my porch and I got too close to him. All of the sudden BOOM he jumped on my face! When Popeise saw me he started to freak out which made my mom freak out and that made me cry. Somehow we settled down but that was a memory that will last forever. I think that the saddest thing is that I will never see him again and can't make any more memories with him. However, I know that he will always be in my heart.

BY CAROLINE SALWEN

As I first walked through my grandparent's house, I smelled the sweet sensation of cinnamon and hard candy. Then I turn the corner and see my great grandmother, Gma, smiling bigger than ever. Her white, curly hair looks like a cat's smooth fur after being combed. She's drinking a cup of cranberry juice, her favorite. We sit down and look through old magazines together and look at old photos that were in her photo books. I am having such a splendid time with a person I love so dearly.

Some things about my great grandma bring us closer together. My Great grandma has a disease called "Alzheimer's." The disease makes it harder for us to communicate with each other. For example, my great grandma doesn't speak as well as she used to be able to. So she is really special to me because I love her and I want to spend as much time together as we possibly can. Whenever I visit her, we grow a stronger bond.

There are many reasons she is truly a very special person in my life. She is always upbeat and happy about all situations good or bad. When there is a bump in the road, she still remains with her great attitude. I think I take after her with her good attitude and giggles. Also, we are a lot alike. She has a sweet tooth just like me. When I am eating a candy bar or a bowl of ice cream, I can see that she wants some. She also enjoys cooking. When my mom and I cook, the recipes are usually my great grandma's. All of these little aspects make my great grandma so special to me!

BY GABI BURGIN

Out of every single person in my HUGE family my mom is my favorite. She always encourages me to do stuff I thought I would never do like, skiing in the mystical Alps,

VYI basketball, gymnastics, diving and much more. She is cheerful, fun, loving, and caring. She always gets me everything I need and always makes me feel better when I am sad.

I think the reason she is awesome and tries so hard for me is because when she was little she didn't have many toys or clothes. So she wants me to have a good life and have everything I want and need. I love her so much and I love that she tries so hard for me. I think that I should help her out some more with cleaning, with Buddy my cat, and washing the dishes. Another reason my mom is my favorite person is because she understands me. Sometimes I feel hurt or sad for no reason, and she is always there to help me feel better. She talks to me and encourages me and says everything is all right. I don't know how she does it. With my dad gone she has to work for two people. She has to cook, clean, take care of me and it's amazing! So thank you mom, you rock.

BY JACQUELINE SALINAS - CAMACHO

My dad and I are special to each other. He is tall, has black hair, and brown eyes. He lives in El Salvador, in a nice open house. He lives in the countryside, where he owns a horse, chickens, pigs, cows, and I also think frogs. My dad is special to me because he taught me how to ride a horse, and feed chickens, also for giving me the chance to know that I can be what I want to be. He's a singer, he has two DVDs, and he worked hard since he was a little to become what he wants to be. I always look up to him.

My dad is special to me because he saved my life. When I was five years old, my dad and I were going to see his new house and were looking around the house. He went to a room to sweep and I went to the yard. I was looking around, I turned, and there behind me about two yards away was a big, long, poisonous snake. It had its tongue out at me. I froze for a minute, until it started to get closer and then I yelled out PAPA. He came running with his broom, and the next thing "BAM" he cut off the snakes head. That's why my dad is very special to me.

BY CAROLINE THOMPSON

When I was in 4th grade I had a reading teacher, I had writing teacher, I had a science teacher, I had a social studies teacher, and I had a math teacher. All the teachers were fantastic, but every student has a favorite subject and a favorite teacher. My favorite teacher taught reading, writing and social studies. Her name was Mrs. Vicino.

If you were to walk into her classroom, you would feel the excitement in the air. People say you learn something new every day, and in that room I learned more about writing than I ever had in my whole life. Mrs. Vicino was not the type of teacher who was ok with students to mess around a little, nor was she the type of teacher who was very strict. She was right there in the middle. She had a fun personality, but al-

ways wanted people to get things done.

Mrs. Vicino made me realize that I wanted to be a writer by all the encouragement, and by making me read professional writing, books, and paragraphs. Mrs. Vicino will always be my favorite teacher!

BY DANNY VAN HEEST

I have many important people in my life but my Grandma is a really special person. My Grandma is from my mom's side of my family. My Grandma and the rest of my Moms family live in Kyrgyzstan, a country in Central Asia. In Russian people say grandma as Apulla, and since my Moms family speaks mostly Russian, I call her that. Apulla lives in an apartment right near my Uncle, Aunt, and my three cousins which is cool. My Apulla is also very nice but that's not the reason why she's a very special person.

The reason why my Apulla is very special to me is because she saved my life. This thing happened when I was around 5 or 6 when my family went to Issukul with Apulla. Isukkul is a place in Kyrgyzstan. When my Mom and Dad went out for the evening, Apulla, Samantha (my sister), and I were walking back to our apartment. There was no sidewalk so we walked on the empty road at night. I was walking near this dirt area with big rocks. There was a fence near an area with a hole in it. Then suddenly, Apulla and Samantha were staring at me. I didn't know why but then I heard growling. I turned around and I was staring at a wild adult dog. It was growling and staring at me. I froze but it was too late. The dog bit me and tackled me. Then Apulla scared it away by jumping on the dog. The dog ran away because Apulla scared it but she fell hard on the dirt and rocks. Luckily there was a clinic nearby and a man saw we were hurt and took us there. We got in quickly and nurses checked to see if we were OK. I wasn't bleeding but my Grandma was. The nurses stopped the bleeding and put on bandages. After being cared for, the nice man took us back to our apartment and told my parents everything. After that day my Apulla was very special to me because she saved me.

BY JAEHOON SMITH

If I think of special people there is no one better than my grandma. My grandma loves me as much as much as I love her. She's on my dad's side, and she lives in North Carolina, Fayetteville. Every time I call or see her she says her normal greeting, "How is my doggies doing?" She looks active in the morning and tired during the night. I call her hyper, my dad calls her unstoppable, and I don't know what to choose. When she's really tired during night, my dad says "Sun goes down, mom goes down."

One thing she does all the time is that she'll let me have anything. She'll even offer though you didn't ask. When I walk into the kitchen, she often offers food. If I say no, she lets me walk out, but if I say yes, as if on cue, my mom will say to study first. There's actually more to this kind of arguing thing. First, she wants me to have some fun, so she tells me to play outside or watch T.V. Then, before I even answer, my mom says do something else, like studying. The thing

is I don't want to study on vacation so I'm kind of lucky to have grandma on my side. I wonder who usually wins and every time it's like a tie. Finally, she does all she can do for me, cooking what I want. I choose unhealthy foods but, there's an argument to that too. My mom is worried I'll get unhealthy. I guess this war of theirs will never end between my mom and my grandma.

BY DIANA BENITES-VILLALOBOS

My mom is the most special person to me. She's special to me because she brought me to this planet, takes care of me, and didn't leave me. She's also special to me because she encourages me to try new things, for example, new foods, bigger rides, and homework. She encourages me to look on the computer for a free online tutor when I have problems with my homework. If I need to be quizzed she would help me. My mom is a real helper because I always need help with my school work.

When the earthquake happened in 2011 that was my very first earthquake. My mom was a life saver. Instead of letting a picture frame fall on me she let it fall on the floor. Then we went outside. She said she was always going to save me. Then we went in the house because it stopped. My mom is the one who takes care of me and I'm proud that she does!

BY ISABELLA MOUTINHO

There are a lot of people that influence me, but there are two really special people that influence me the most. They are my brother and my sister.

My brother is tall, strong, smart, and really funny and my sister is pretty, kind, funny, and helpful. My sister goes to college at UVA and my brother goes to Nova but he really wants to transfer to UVA. My sister's name is Cristina and my brother's name is Cody. I love them both so much.

My brother and sister are really important to me because I look up to them. They are going to be really successful in life and I want to be just like them. They also influence me to do my best and work hard because something good will always come out. When I grow up and go to college I want to have the same qualities that Cody and Cristina have.

A really important event that happened between my sister and I is the day she left for Spain. My dad and I went out to breakfast with her. Most people wouldn't think it was that special because it was just breakfast, but I treasured the moment like I treasure money. But then she left. We still get to Skype her but it's not the same. She's coming back soon and I can't wait until I can see her again. An important event that happened between my brother and me was the day we went to the Reston Zoo. It was just my brother, my mom, and me. We looked at animals and my brother got me wet in a fountain which was really funny. We took pictures and even got to feed a baby lamb. My brother made funny but nice jokes about the animals, and his jokes made me laugh. By the end of the day when my mom said "let's go home," I was sad. I really liked the zoo and maybe someday I can go back with my brother. All in all, my sister and brother are role models to me in every way possible.

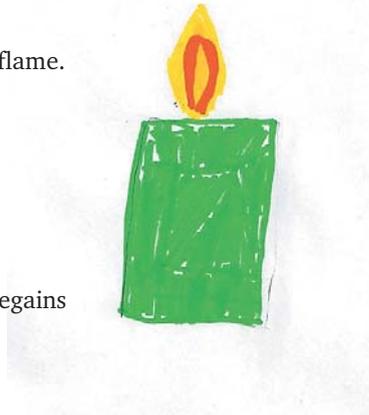
CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

Candle

BY ANJALI SARDANA

LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY/4TH GRADE

I look at it.
It stares back at me with its tiny flame.
I see it slowly shrinking,
Little by little.
Drip,
Drop.
Drip,
Drop.
I blow on it.
Its flame dances and flutters then regains
its strength - fighting back.
I blow on it harder,
It dances and flutters.
Then disappears like a magic act.



Westbriar Elementary



By Isabelle Park, Westbriar Elementary, Kindergarten



By Ghazal Tanavade, Westbriar Elementary, Kindergarten

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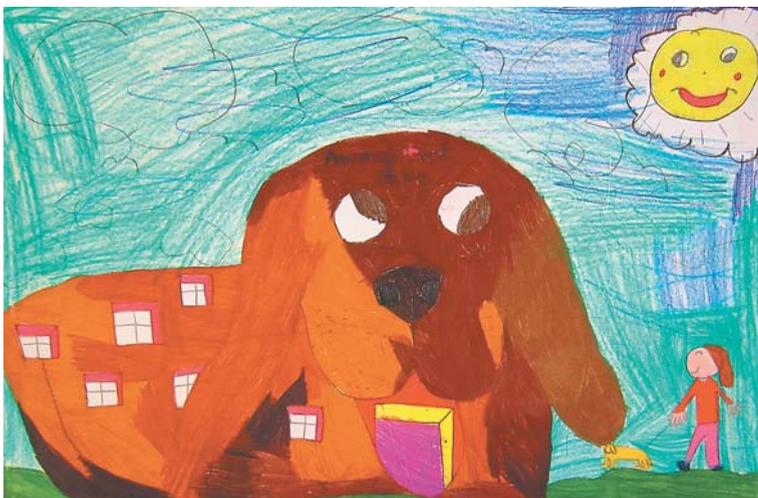
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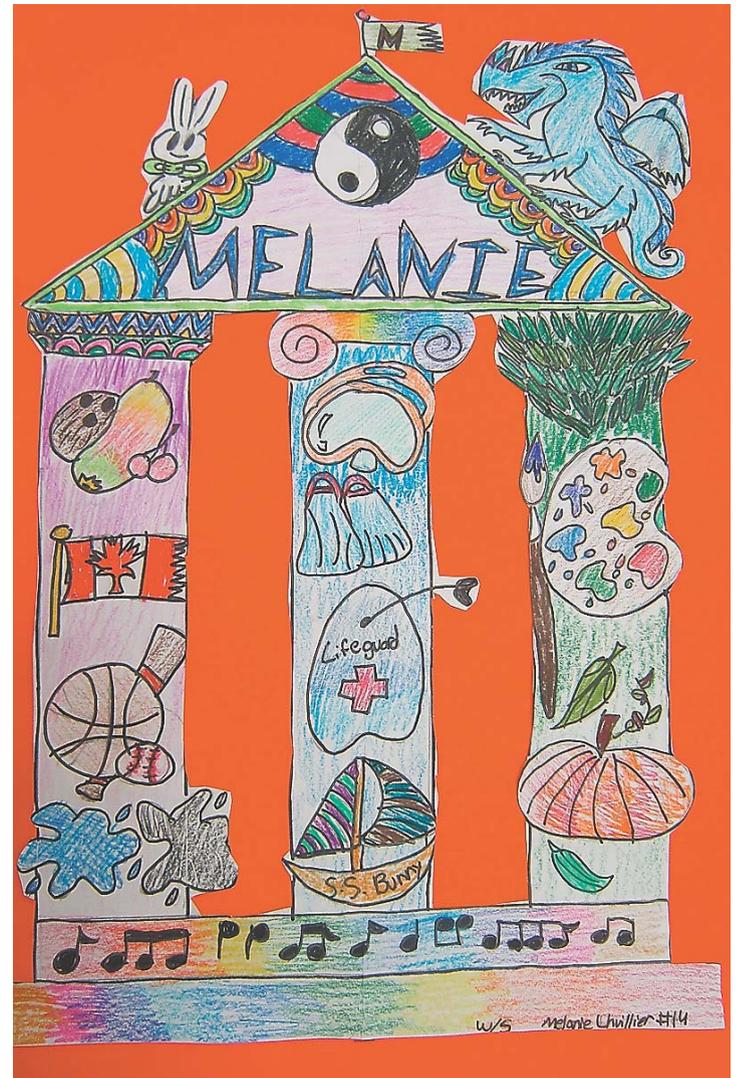
CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

Waples Mill Elementary Art Gallery

By Aiden Smith,
Waples Mill ES,
Grade 5



By Rebeca Ortiz,
Waples Mill ES,
Grade 2



By Melanie Lhuillier, Waples Mill ES, Grade 5

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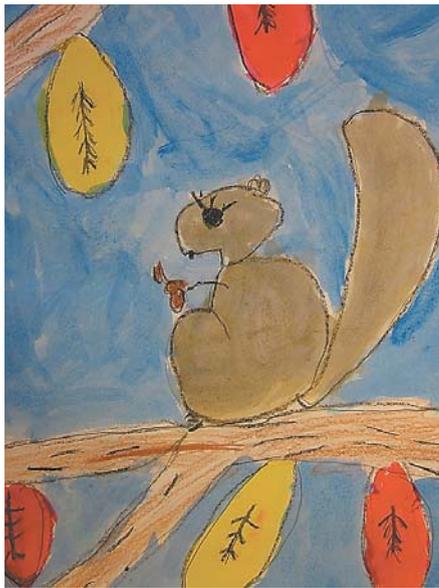
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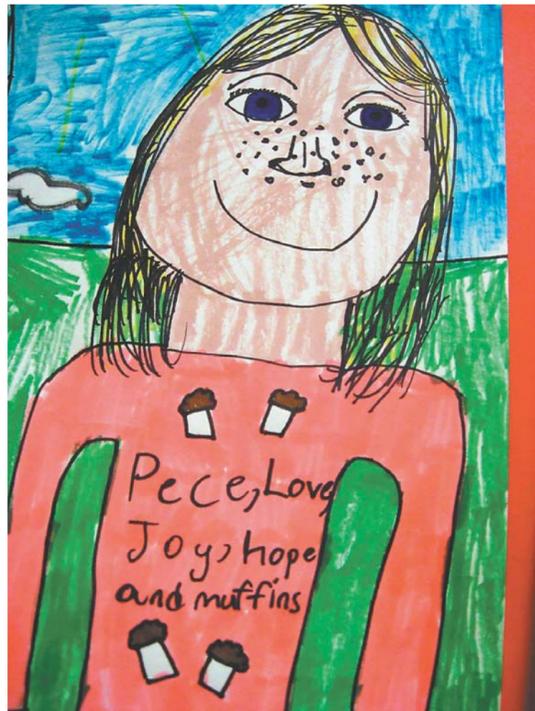
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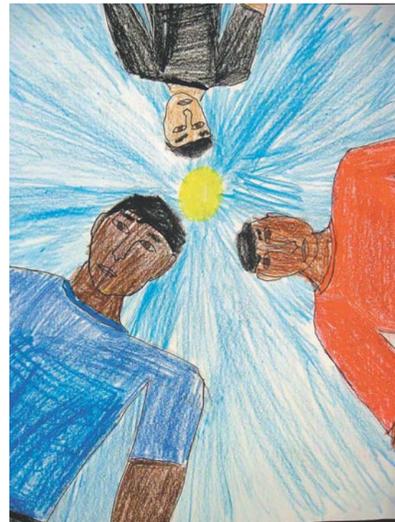
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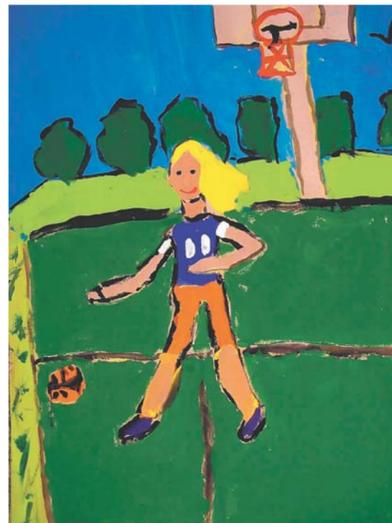
Colvin Run Elementary: Art Gallery



By Amanda M., 2nd Grade, Colvin Run Elementary



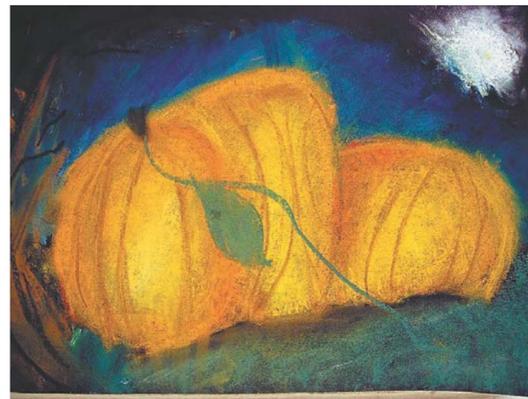
By Joshua O., Colvin Run Elementary



By Natalie F., 4th grade, Colvin Run Elementary



By Zoe M., 2nd grade, Colvin Run Elementary



By Michael W., 5th Grade, Colvin Run Elementary

A Man of Courage, Perseverance and Vision

BY AARAJ VIJ
COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

The Great Falls Freedom Memorial states "The community of Great Falls, Virginia honors those who have given themselves in service to the cause of liberty and freedom." Liberty, freedom and a chance for a better future is what Arthur Ashe gave to our youth and society.

He fought a different kind of war and lived a commendable life helping the underprivileged youth realize their dreams.

Arthur Ashe was a native of Virginia who lived in a time when racial discrimination against African-Americans was widespread. However, he chose to rise above this and did not let the era define who he was.

Every single word carved in stone at the Memorial is a quality Arthur R. Ashe Jr. possessed and exhibited in great magnitude throughout his life. The three words chosen are especially applicable.

Arthur Ashe lost his mother at the tender age of six. Her loss was a tragic blow in his life, but instead of giving up, he showed courage. His courage inspired him to complete high school and earn a tennis scholarship to college.

Ashe was also an active civil rights supporter. He was a member of the delegation of 31 prominent African-Americans who visited South Africa to observe political change in the country as it approached racial integration. He was even arrested a few times but he continued fighting for civil rights, showing courage once again.

Arthur served in the army for two

years during the time of the Vietnam War, which took a lot of courage. Most notably, he demonstrated courage by sharing that he had HIV at a time when society was no so open about it. Ashe's three-volume history, "A

Hard Road to Glory," is about African-American athletes who overcame obstacles from the days of black colleges to the present. He thus made an excellent contribution by delivering a message on courage via literature. It was published in 1998 and soon adapted for television, ultimately winning an Emmy award. Arthur Ashe once commented on courage, "Every time you win, it diminishes the fear a little bit. You never really cancel the fear of losing; you keep challenging it."

PERSEVERANCE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE in Arthur Ashe's life. He did not believe in giving

up. People discouraged him from playing tennis, but he ignored their nasty comments and kept practicing hard to achieve his goals. Arthur became a great tennis star at a time when all African-Americans were discouraged from going to college, let alone playing tennis.

What made him stand out was that not only did he both go to college and play tennis, he became a world champion along the way.

In Arthur's words "Some folks call tennis a rich people's sport or a white person's game. I guess I started too early, because I just thought it was something fun to do. Later, I discovered there was a lot of work to being good in tennis. You've got to make a lot of sacrifices and spend a lot of time if you really want to achieve with this sport, or any sport, or in anything worthwhile."

However, for Arthur Ashe, ten-

nis was a means to an end. Although he had a very successful tennis career, it always meant more to him than personal fame and awards for himself. He used his status as a popular tennis player to speak out against the moral inequalities that existed in the world. Ashe sincerely wanted to bring about change in the world.

Arthur Ashe had grand vision. He dreamed of providing children and youth with real-life role models as an example of how successful and fulfilling life can be if one worked hard for it. His understanding of a child's emotional and social needs was remarkable.

Arthur's philosophy was to help build a child's self-confidence and instill strong values in order to prepare that child for success. He said "One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation."

Arthur Ashe Jr. – an inspiring story.

In 1991, Arthur Ashe furthered his vision by founding Virginia Heroes, Incorporated, a non-profit organization. Their mission is to inspire youth to achieve, and to encourage development of sound values by providing interaction between middle school students and mentors on a regular basis.

Arthur Ashe strongly believed that the experiences in middle school years leave an everlasting imprint on a child. He realized that having a trusted adult to share was the best to help the underprivileged children realize their true potential.

He resolved to make this idea work and today this is a flourishing program touching the lives of many children- our future generation.

Virginia Heroes Incorporated was a product of Arthur Ashe's unrelenting patience, sacrifice, sense of humanity and service. He

cared for and respected youth enough to devote countless hours for their betterment.

Arthur Ashe Jr. was a true Virginia hero, who made a difference in many lives. In 1979, Arthur Ashe was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. The Hall mentions that, "Arthur Ashe was certainly a hero to people of all ages and races and his legacy continues to touch the lives of many today."

His famous words, "I know I could never forgive myself if I elected to live without humane purpose, without trying to help the poor and unfortunate, without recognizing that perhaps the purest joy in life comes with trying to help others" resonate in my mind and inspire me to walk in his footsteps and help others less fortunate than myself.

On his 3rd tour in Iraq in 2008, Spc. Josh Schictl was driving a Humvee which was hit by two IED's. He suffered life-threatening injuries to his face and head. Despite the quick work of medics, Spc. Schictl lost his right eye and nine teeth. Nearly all of the bones in his face were broken but were stabilized before transport to Walter Reed Medical Center. He also suffered a TBI.

Wounded warriors and their families struggle for years to recover physically, emotionally and financially from the sacrifices they make in wartime. Operation Homefront seeks to walk with them on their journey and ease the hardships they face. The DC Metro Chapter assisted Josh and Emily with transitional housing, household furnishings, holiday gifts and grocery gift cards during these difficult times.

There are many ways you can work with the DC Metro Chapter to assist local military families like Josh and Emily.

People ask us everyday how they can show their appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices made by military families. One way you can do this is to let the DC Metro Chapter fill the gap for military families as they adjust to the 'new normal' after being deployed or wounded in combat. Send your tax deductible donation before Dec. 31st to help us meet next year's needs.

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I think what separates the superstar from the average ball-player is the fact that he concentrates just a little bit more.

—Hank Aaron



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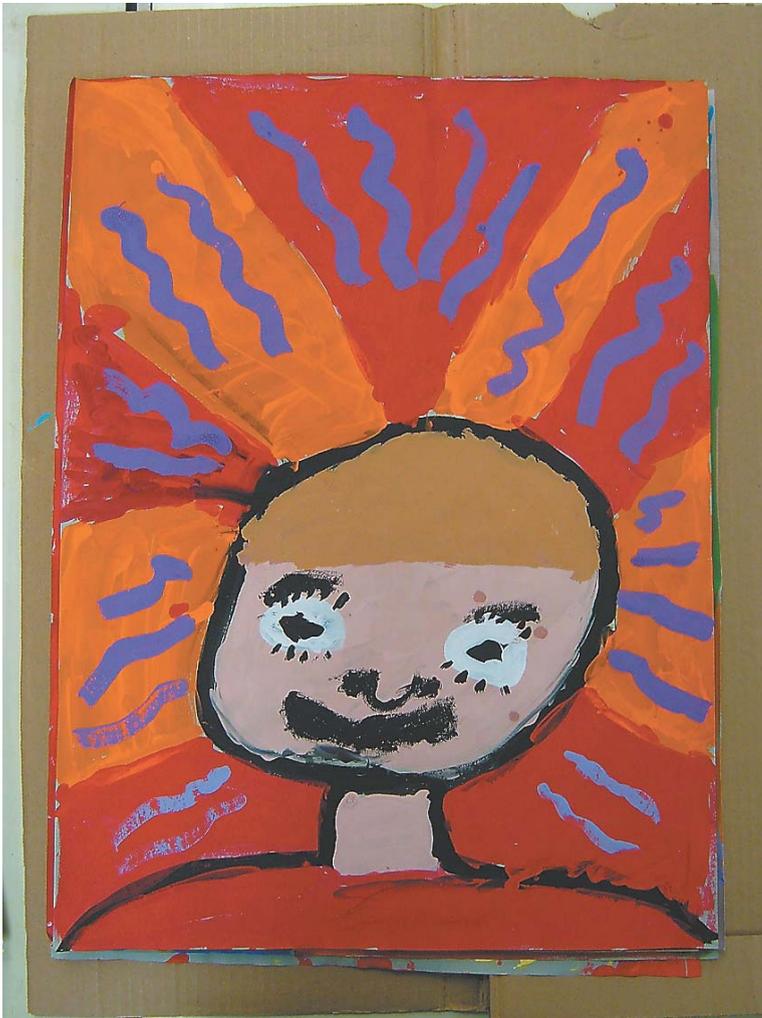
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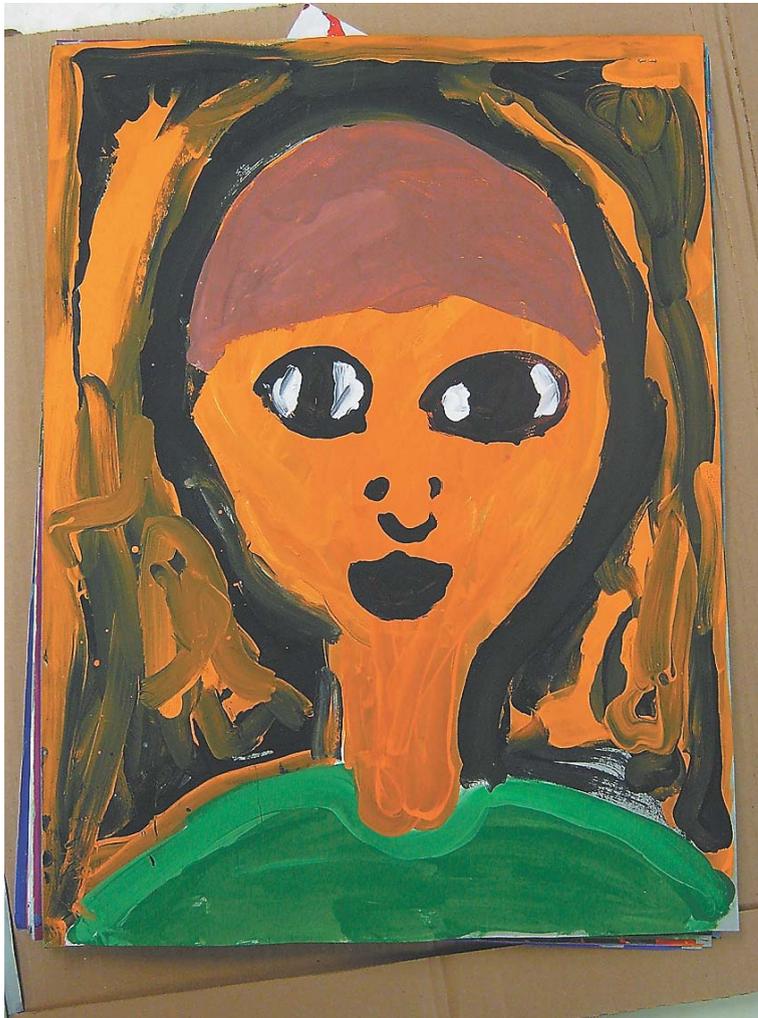
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

Oakton Elementary School: Art Gallery



By Brandon Clark, Oakton Elementary, Grade 3



By Mauricio Bedoya Sanguinetti, Oakton Elementary, Grade 3



By Yuri Kim, Oakton Elementary, Grade 3



By Sydney Sandoske, Oakton Elementary, Grade 3



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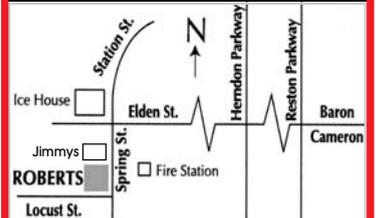
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By Emme Barrett, Thoreau Middle School

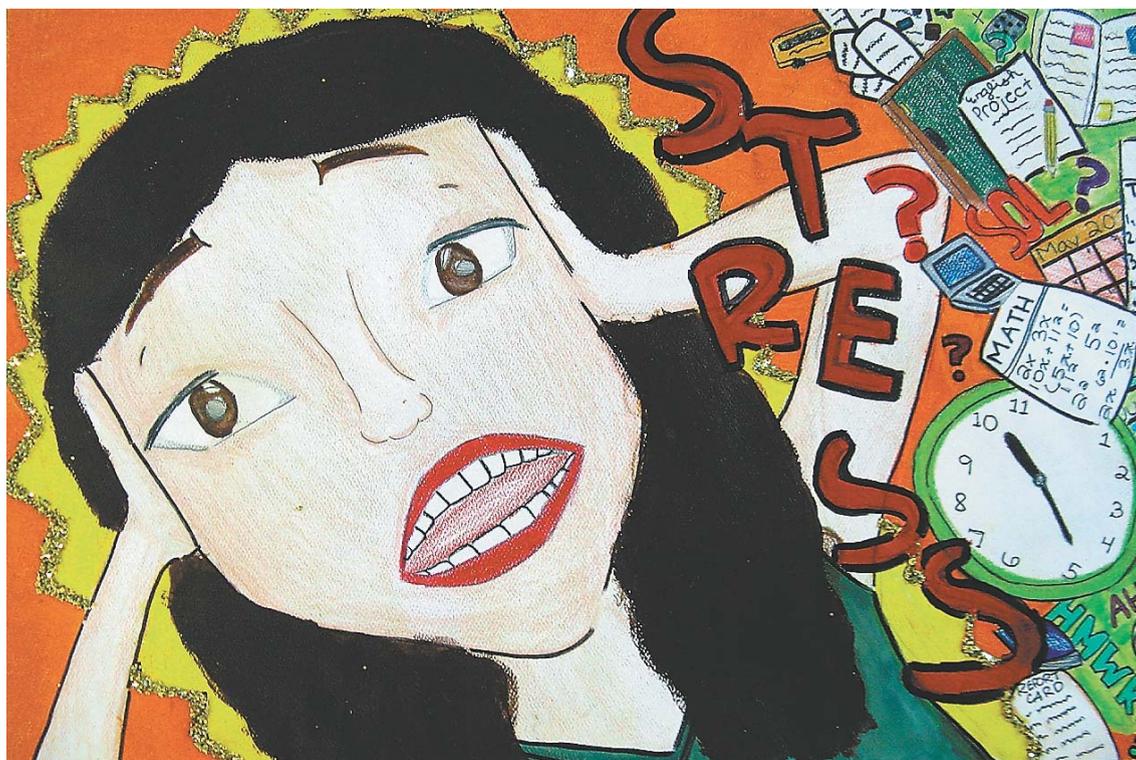
Thoreau Middle School: Art Gallery



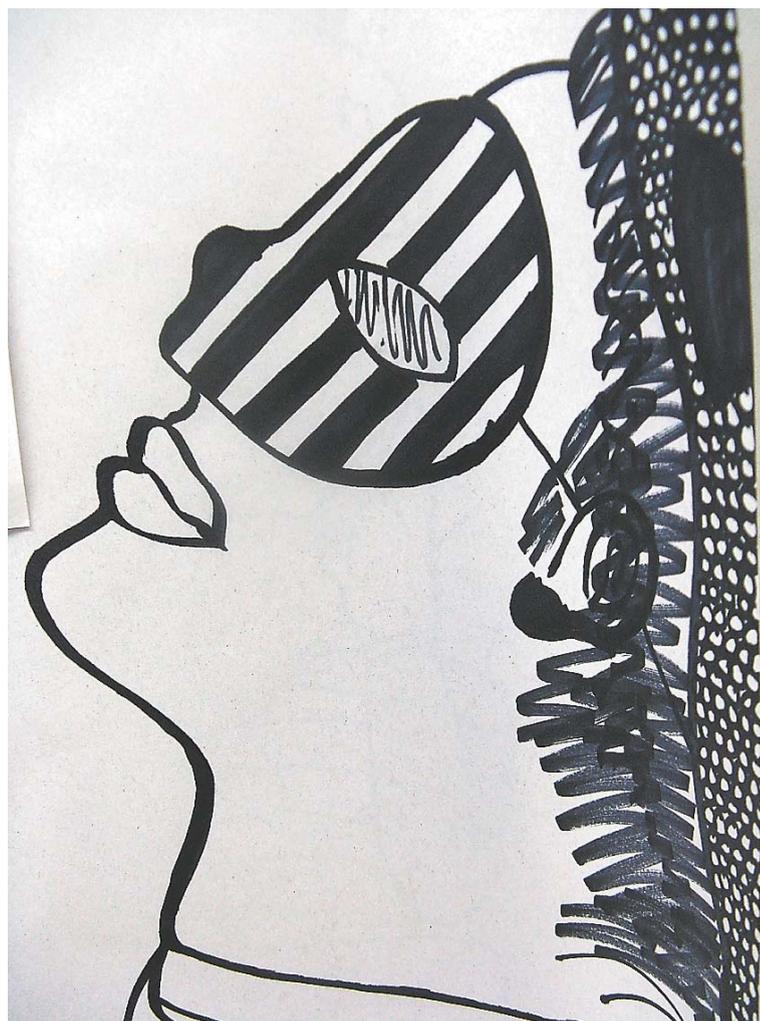
By Hamim Bashar, Thoreau Middle School



By Chad Robertson, Thoreau Middle School, grade 7



By Avery Torres, Thoreau Middle School, grade 8



By Katy Ward, Thoreau Middle School

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

Willow

BY JESSICA LEWIS
KILMER MIDDLE SCHOOL/
7TH GRADE

The tall grass rustles as I walk
Over to you, for a short talk.
Your crackling bark beneath my
back.

All my worries fade to black.

You have been here all my life

To listen and relieve my strife.
Always listen, never shun,
the story of my life I've spun.

Some people say, "mad, she
must be"

To tiredly talk to a twisted tree.
But when no one else will hear
your woes

pray, who would you have
chose?

Snow Magic

BY GABRIELLE JAWER
THOREAU MIDDLE SCHOOL/7TH
GRADE

"It feels like another world,"
Leah murmured in awe as we slid
the frost covered door behind us
and gazed out into the forest of
frigid white. Seeing the trees
stand unbearably still, coated in
white, I could definitely under-
stand the statement. It was deathly
silent and still. Nothing moved.

Sitting there among the drifts,
each with our own thoughts, it
truly felt magical to be in the ex-
perience together. Taking a mo-
ment to study my surroundings I
saw white oaks, twisted bushes,

thorns and weeds all covered in dia-
monds near the creek. A flash of
rusty red caught my eye. Glancing
over, I saw a fox scampering into an
overgrown bush. Looking down, I
also saw a track of stale deer foot-
prints imprinted in the snow which
I eagerly showed to Leah.

We began to stroll aimlessly, dip-
ping our hands into the frigid pow-
der and stuffing it into our mouths
to melt almost immediately. I could
tell exactly what Leah was feeling.

This is so magical. "You know," I
started. "I once read a poem that
had this amazing line. It was 'Ev-
ery minute is a miracle. You must
find and treasure it' I think."

Leah smiled. "I think I'll do just
that."



Owl Girl by Heidi Tubbs, Oakton High School, 10th grade, 15 years old.

Good 'Ol Rag

BY NOAH THOMPSON
THOREAU MIDDLE SCHOOL/7TH GRADE

Our threesome scrambled up the huge boulder and
opened our pack to reveal our much awaited sand-
wiches. I bit into mine excitedly and was greeted
by the fresh tastes of juicy tomatoes, crisp cool tur-
key, spicy onions, and wet black olives. Never in

my life has a Subway sandwich tasted so good. The
delicious meal was finished off with a decadent and
extremely rich chocolate chip cookie. As I ate atop
that boulder on Old Rag Mountain, I looked out at
the bright green trees and majestic blue mountains
in the distance, a large black bird swooped across
my view and I couldn't help thinking that he had the
easy way up.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

Heroes of America

BY MICHELLE UCHTEL
THOREAU MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 7

They protect us all
They shed good light
They mustn't fall

Brave, from head to toe
To Iraq they fly on planes
Their stories, have been foretold
They die in honored ways

Protecting us in their honored
ways

Fighting to their last breath
Fighting till the end of their days
Right to their death

In war they fight

A Naughty Little Boy

NIKHIL SARDANA
6TH GRADE, LOUISE ARCHER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, VIENNA

It's nighttime on Christmas eve
And I can't sleep, you see
I'll tell you the story, from the beginning
It starts with my little stocking

I placed something inside of it
Not knowing if it would fit
I knew that I would get caught
If I didn't put in a lot of thought

I put a camera in that stocking
And when Santa came it would ring
We'd catch Santa in the middle of his act
And have video recording, for a fact

Now it was the middle of the night
And I was shaking in fright
I heard footsteps coming from downstairs
And I was so very, very, scared

I nearly jumped out of bed
For the buzzer worked, like I had said
And when I saw Santa turn very red
I knew I was surely dead

Then Santa saw my naughty little face
And he said "You're a disgrace!"
After that, he jumped out the door
Leaving all of the presents on the floor

I looked at the presents one by one
And I realized that I had gotten none
Old Saint Nick had tricked me again
And I knew I couldn't outsmart that old man

He comes all the way from the North Pole
And gives all bad kids lumps of coal
So act your best, you might get that new toy
For presents come to every good girl and boy

Letter to My Dad

BY LUKE McCLOREY
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL/5TH GRADE

Dear Dad,

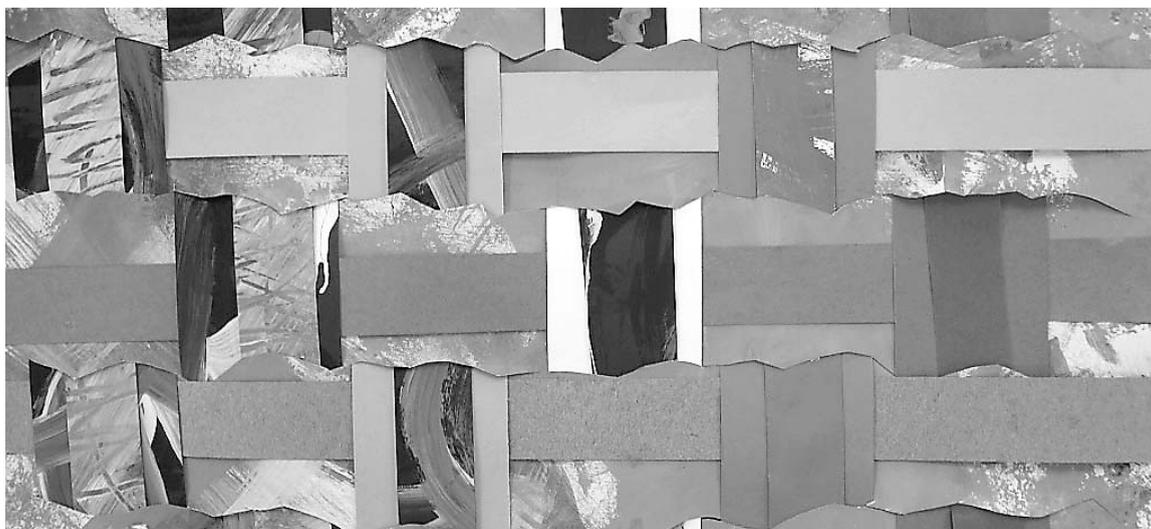
You are the best dad ever. You have given me many blessings such as a good school, food and shelter. I've achieved many goals with your help. You have loved and protected me for ten years. You are the light of my life, the love in my heart and the icing on my cake. I love you the way you are.

From your number one fan,
Luke



Maggie Shi, Wolftrap Elementary, 2nd grade

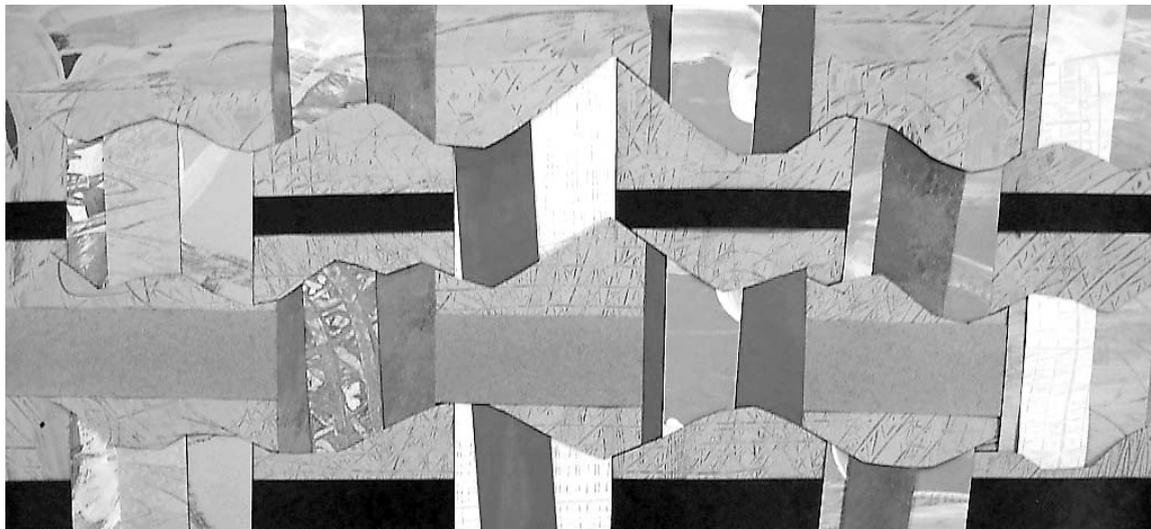
WOLFTRAP ELEMENTARY



Jack Emory, Wolftrap Elementary, 2nd grade

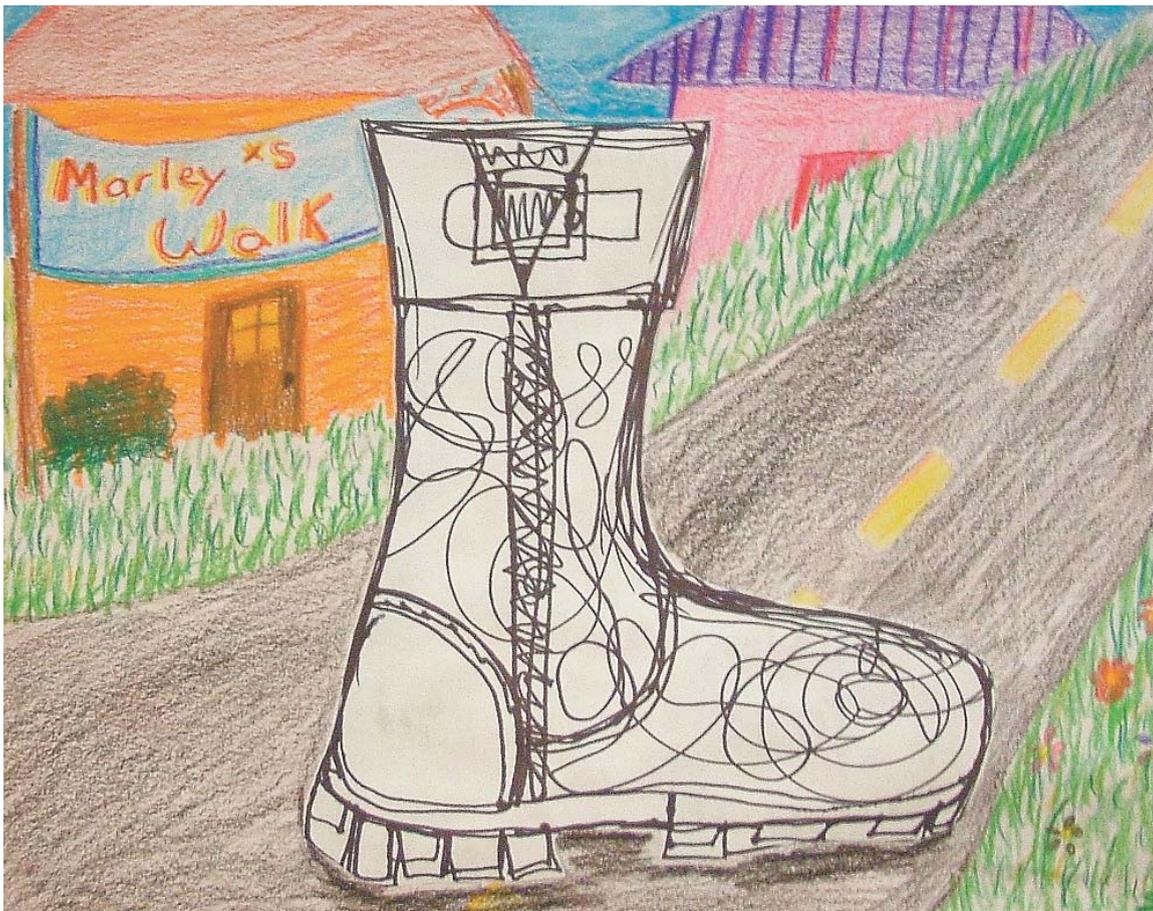


Emma Oettl, Wolftrap Elementary, 5th grade



Drew Wertheimer, Wolftrap Elementary, 2nd grade

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011



By Nina Orozco, 5th Grade, Vienna ES

Vienna Elementary Art Gallery



By Leighton Heller, 3rd Grade, Vienna ES



By Brody Skiff, 6th Grade, Vienna ES

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-Archimedes

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Aladdin's Eatery of VA Inc., trading as Aladdin's Eatery 4044 Campbell Avenue, Arlington, VA 22206-3424. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed Beverages on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Raja Atalla, Vice President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

26 Antiques

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21 Announcements

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/REDEVELOPMENT

On December 6, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing regarding an ordinance to establish exclusive water service areas and maximum allowable rates, fees, and charges within Fairfax County for water service. At the same meeting, the BOS enacted the ordinance as Section 65-6-13 of the Code of Fairfax County. Section (a) of the ordinance provides that effective 12:01 a.m. December 7, 2011, Fairfax Water will be the provider of retail public water service within Fairfax County, Virginia, for any new construction or redevelopment of any dwelling unit and any residential or non-residential structure, unless Fairfax Water determines it cannot make water service available due to a utility-related reason.

The ordinance requires that any determination by Fairfax Water that it cannot make service available be made in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations established by Fairfax Water for the purpose of establishing when a utility-related reason exists that prevents it from supplying water. The ordinance further requires that the policies, rules, or regulations be adopted by Fairfax Water after notice and a public hearing.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/ REDEVELOPMENT. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed rule should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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Zones 1, 3.....Tues @ 4:00

Zone 2.....Wed @ 11:00

Zone 4.....Wed @ 1:00

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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
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Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

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21 Announcements

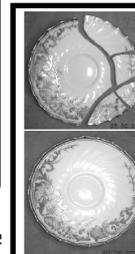
21 Announcements

NOTICE

Edward E. Gahres, MD is closing his medical practice at 5021 Seminary Rd, Ste 109, Alexandria, VA, on December 31, 2011. Patients interested in requesting copies of their medical records should call (703) 931-7515 between 10 am and 4 pm, Mon., Tues. and Thurs.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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State of Flux



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I delude myself – and others – into thinking that Kenny's life-living-with-cancer is just another bump in the road, I suppose it's only fair, after two and one half years of weekly writing about it, to admit the truth: I wish it were a bump in the road, but it's more like a sinkhole. Emotionally, physically and every which way including loose.

Most days I manage all that I'm expected to, reasonably well. There are other days however, not so much. Sometimes those days relate to something cancer-related: medication, scan, appointment, chemotherapy – or cancellation or change of any of the preceding; or it can be unrelated, specifically, but related generally, as everything becomes when you're categorized as "terminal."

Having employed various mechanisms – and rationalizations since my initial symptoms appeared in late December, 2009 – which ultimately led to my subsequent stage IV lung cancer diagnosis two and one half months later, compartmentalizing has been my greatest ally. A real-life version of "the vault" from a Seinfeld episode, a place where information is stashed for safekeeping and secrecy. However, "the vault" is all mental. It's not protected by doors and locks. Fort Knox it's not. In fact, gaining entrance is fairly easy. And once inside, it's akin to opening a Pandora's Box of your greatest fears; ruling your roost; beyond your control.

And on those days when control is lost and emotions/energy run down – and negative, and depression sets in: wallowing is easy and giving in to it provides a peculiar sort of calm/a why-fight-it sort of attitude. After experiencing this sort of mental meandering multiple times, I can actually tell/feel when it's happening; not before, definitely during and almost always after. It's never easy. However, it is unfortunately a condition with which I am all too familiar.

Assessing its particular cause, other than the obvious cancer connection, is also part of the problem. Knowing and understanding its origin provides me with another peculiar sort of calm. What I have determined is that, as an adjunct to the compartmentalization I regularly employ, my subconscious is weakening under the continual stress of the diagnosis/prognosis. It works so hard to maintain my calm exterior that occasionally it loses its ability to do so, sort of like a rubber band that eventually loses its elasticity. The pulling and tugging and stretching on me emotionally has the identical physical effect that a rubber band would experience under similar demands. And so I snap, sort of (although I don't shoot across the room): I get sullen and lethargic.

Sometimes, I feel like the character Odo (Rene Auberjonois), the Changeling/shapeshifter from Star Trek, Deep Space Nine. In order for Odo to maintain his "humanoid form" 16 hours a day, rather than exist in his normal, restful, "gelatinous state," it required constant vigilance on Odo's part (emotionally, physically; who knows really, it was Science Fiction). As such, there were moments (episodes) when he just couldn't function normally in his humanoid form; the stress internally to maintain his shape was simply too great. It was only when he returned to his quarters and his bucket that he could relax and regain his composure.

Unlike Odo, I don't have a normal state to return to: I only have my "new normal" (Kenny-with-cancer at age 57). And some days I wonder if pretending I don't have cancer might be causing me more problems than admitting to it would. As Dr. Sidney Freedman from the classic television show M*A*S*H said in his farewell episode, "Ladies and gentlemen, take my advice, pull down your pants and slide on the ice." Or not.

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

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Poems submitted by Flint Hill School 4th graders.

Fun

Fun is splashing in the pool,
And stargazing in the night.
Fun is carving pumpkins,
And eating delicious sticky buns.
Fun is spending time with peers,
And going to amusement parks.
Fun is cuddling with furry friends,
And the not-so-furry ones too.
All of this stuff is fun
But there is one more thing
And the thing that is fun,
Is sharing this with you!

—JULIANNE CUEVO

Recess

I'm just standing here when I could be,
Swimming the Nile or,
Hiking Mount Everest or,
Playing basketball or,
Soccer,
Even devouring fondue,
But no I'm just standing here, like a statue.
I could be eating,
Salmon or,
Tuna or,
chocolate or,
Steak to,
Or pasta and pizza,
But, no I'm just standing here,
like a scared possum.
I could be playing,
Tag or,
Rocks or,
I could be even running,
I enjoy all of these things,
and I wish I could do these things,
But, no I'm just standing here.

—LUKE MCDUFFIE

Vehicles vs. Nature

Trucks trucks lots of trucks honking their horns like mad boars
OINK! OINK!
Cars cars crashing into cars like a stampede of mad cows
MOO! MOO!
The cool breeze on my face was like an ocean breeze in the
Chesapeake
Bay
WEOEOOOEEEEEO!
Whoosh!
An eagle swoops over my speed boat!

Vroom!
I was at my supersonic.
Boost I
try to race it
but it was as fast as the speed of light "way to fast for my speed
boat"
I thought.

—CONNOR CECCONI

These Aliens

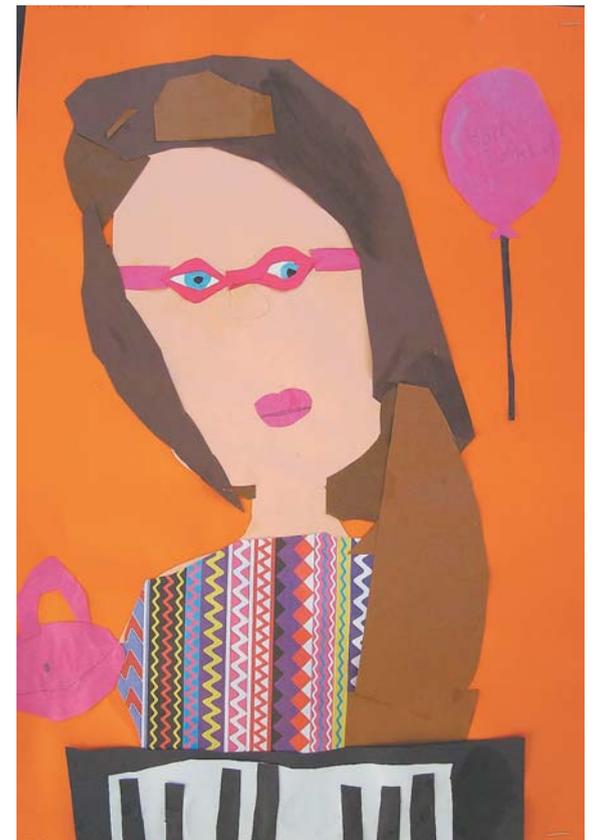
These aliens are from planet Mars
They eat our brains like candy bars
These aliens come down in UFOs
These aliens have green bodies
As if they were ugly toads
These aliens have a leader
And that leader's name is Elka
So I took a hold of my electric chair
And wiped out the whole army!

—MAGGIE MCBRIDE

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011



By Sofia Augenstein, Flint Hill School, Grade 3



By Ava Reilly, Flint Hill School, Grade 3

Poetry by Flint Hill School 3rd graders.

Winter Snow

BY WILLIAM WADE DEVINNEY

Light as a feather,
There's a change in the weather!
It's snowing on a winter's day.
I wish that winter wouldn't go away.
Now would you please come out to
play?

Pencil

CAROLINE RICH

Pointy and perfect when they come
out of the package
Eventually, makes a beautiful story
Never nibble at the end of it
Creative juices flow out as I use it
It dances across the page
Lives in my desk

Late For School?

SAVIE SEEBALD

I'm late for school,
I miss the bus,
I don't know what to do.
I have no clothes,
I called the school, but they didn't answer.
When I finally looked at the clock I saw
It was only 6:00!

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Joost, Andre S. H. Lindsay, Zachary J. Lindenfelser, Paul P. Sturm and Gabrielle R. Psarakis and Jackson T. Tate. Simon.

Eleven James Madison High School students have been named as 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: **Bria N. Ammer, Lindsay M. Brents, William N. Brown, Harold Hild, Kailyn E. Hornbeck, Bridget L. Jamison, Ye Eun Jeong, Lindsey M.**

Natalie Chanfreau of Flint Hill School has been named as a 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

Four Oakton High School students have been named as 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: **Tony S. Lee, Cameron**

Ten Langley High School students have been named as 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: **Allison S. Brady, Saba Eskandarian, Jimmy J. Fang, Jamison G. Fox-Canning, Nathaniel C. Howe, Dylan J. Kriz, Debbie R. Pan, Spencer C. Shabshab, Holliday L.**