

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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DECEMBER 27, 2012



Children's Gazette Packet 2012

William Vergason,
grade 4, Lyles-Crouch
Traditional Academy

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Joshua Sierra, 3rd grade, James K. Polk Elementary School

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Gazette Packet 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 2013 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Gazette Packet. 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 Gazette Packet 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 gazette@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN



Conrad Lehmkuhler, 3rd grade, Alexandria Country Day School



Rania Shuster, 1st grade, Maury Elementary School

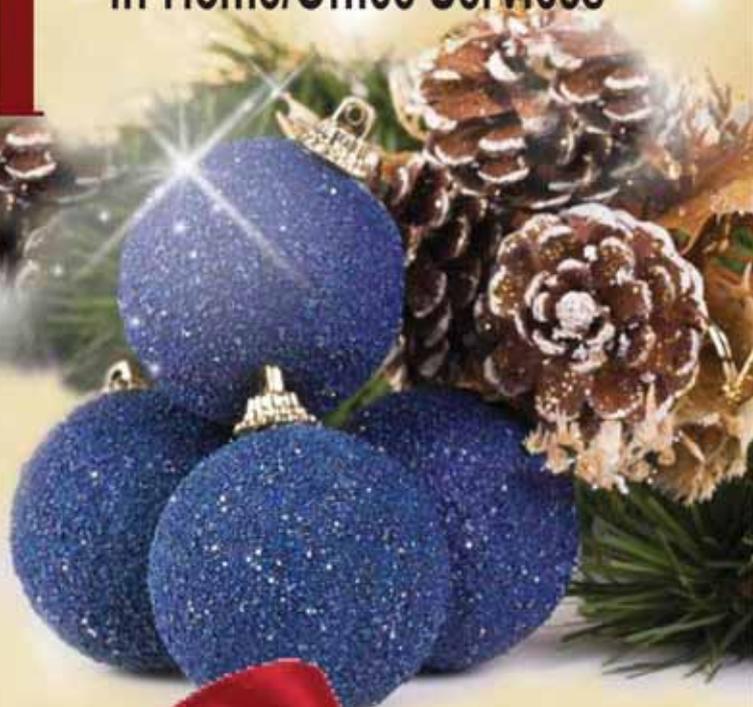


Zaida Houston, 4th grade, abstract painting of a still life, Patrick Henry Elementary School

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PATRICK HENRY ELEMENTARY

ARTWORK FROM MOLLY
KNEPPER'S STUDENTS.



Litzy Zavaleta,
2nd grade, line
design paintings
using secondary
colors



Ronnie Woods, 2nd
grade, line design
paintings using
secondary colors



Bradley Brown,
4th grade,
abstract painting
of a still life

Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!

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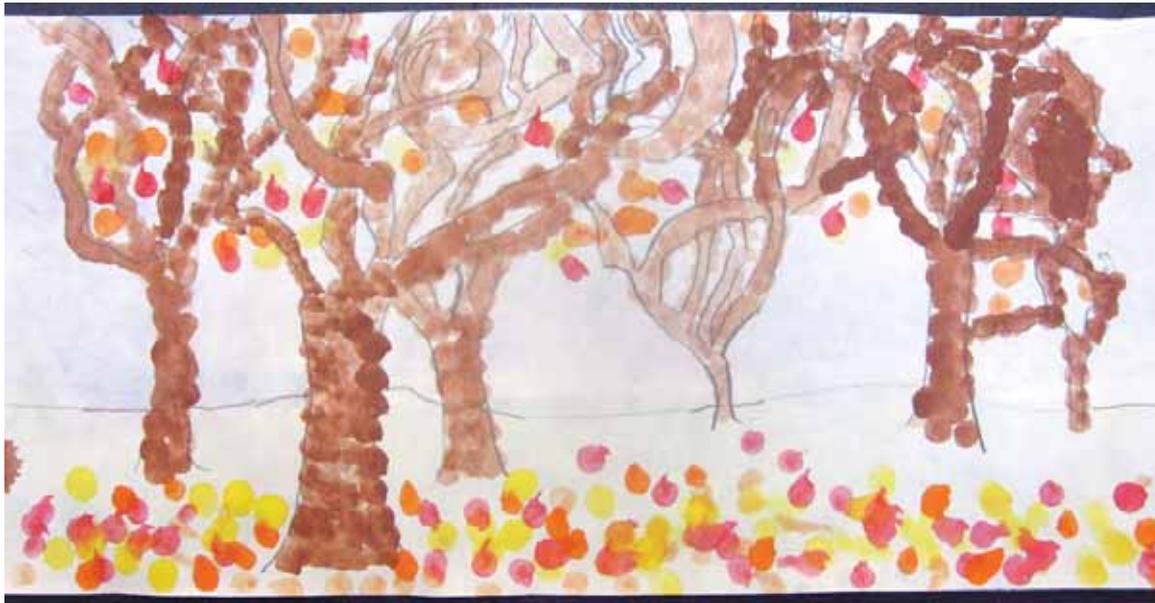
Writer's Intensive Workshops

Leesburg - Jan 11-13
Sterling/Cascades - Feb 1-3
Alexandria - Mar 22-24

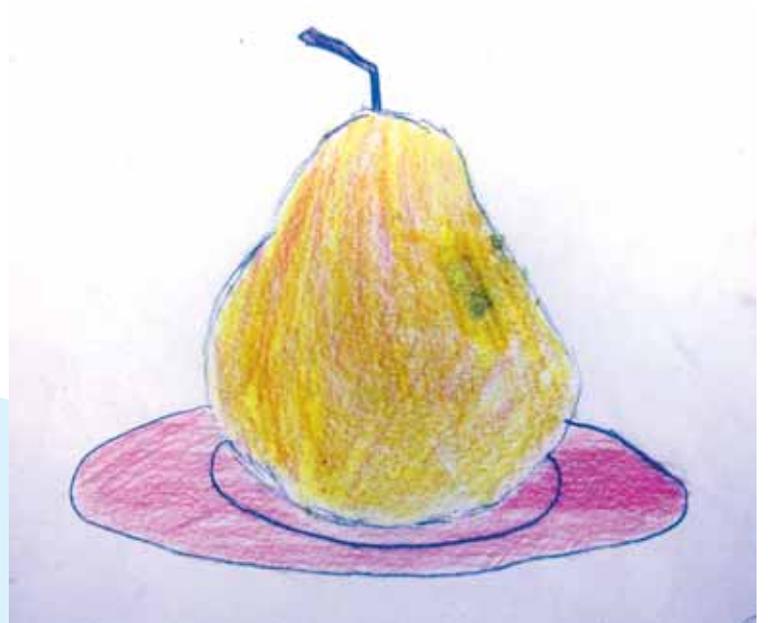
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JAMES K. POLK ELEMENTARY



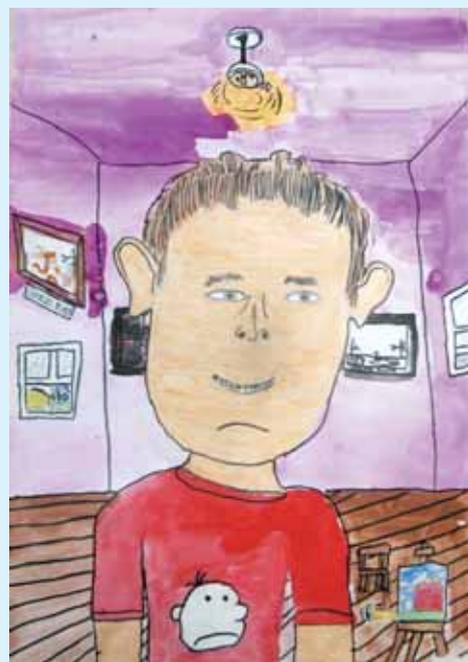
Evan Fagen 3rd grade



Nathaniel Towles 4th grade



Zakaria Afi 4th grade



William Hensley 3rd grade



Teaghan Dunbar 4th grade



Rebecca Viney 4th grade



Nora Fareeha 4th grade



Maron Williams 1st grade



Litzy Gonzalez 4th grade



Beitris Boyreau Millar 2nd grade

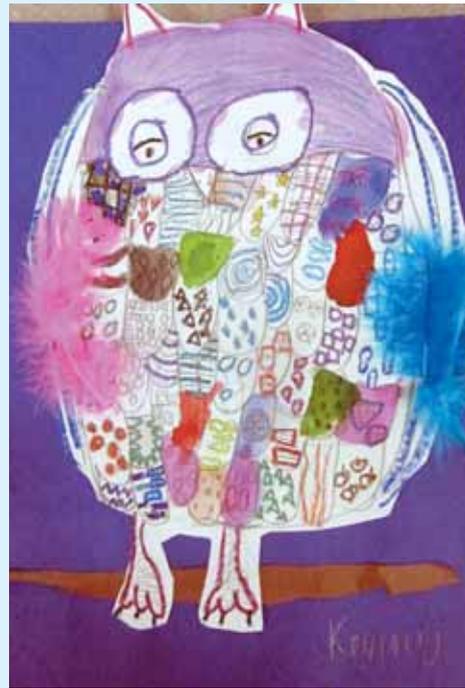
JAMES K. POLK ELEMENTARY



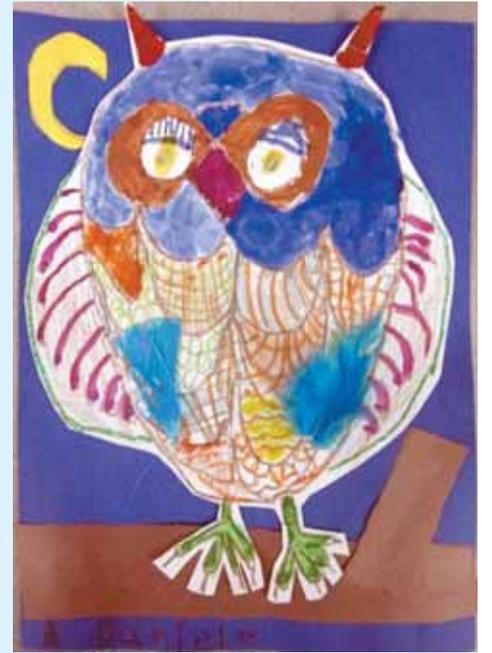
Emily Astudillo 4th grade



Christopher Sanchez 4th grade



Kenny Aguilar Montano 2nd grade



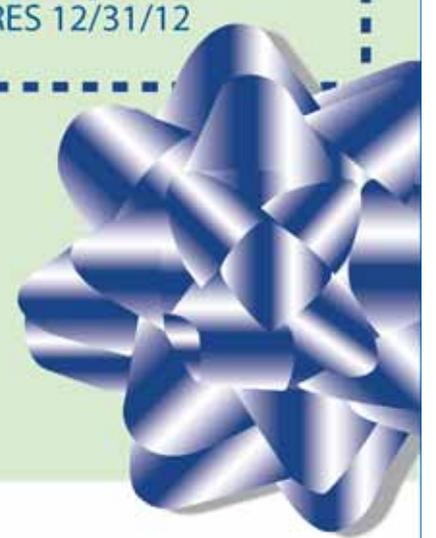
Daniel Hernandez Canales 2nd grade

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WORDS & PICTURES

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Watercolor of Icarus' fall in the story of Daedalus & Icarus by Ben DeVine, 7th grade, St. Anselms Abbey School



Clay African mask by Ben DeVine, 7th grade, St. Anselms Abbey School

Merry Christmas Earth We Love

The earth we live on and love.
Earth, sky, sea —
We'll protect it; just you and me!
Merry Christmas Earth we love!
— AVERY TURNAGE SPENCER,
1ST GRADE, MOUNT VERNON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Miracle Gross, 7, 2nd grade, Ms. Barlow at John Adams School

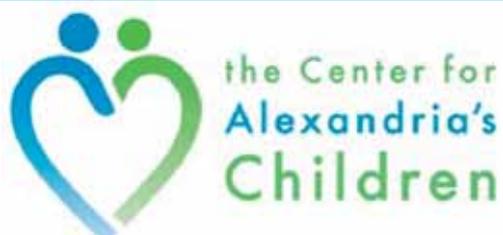
What Makes A Good Parent?

A parent takes care of you. They feed you good food. They make sure you are safe. A parent takes you to special places and puts yummy food in your lunch. Good parents help you get ready for school and tuck you into bed at night. They read stories to you. Parents love each other forever and always. My parents love me forever and always.
— GABRIEL COLLINS, 5,
KINDERGARTEN, DOUGLAS
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Michal Tesfamariam,
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This picture of our cat Caesar was drawn by Cristina when she was about age 8. See how realistic both the cat and the background are. The picture contains the door, the bannister and even the picture on the wall. Cristina is now about age 20 and in college interested in graphics arts. No doubt she'll be a success.

Susan D. Dawson

Caesar by Cristina Yaxas

CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY

Time

Sometime
Next time
A little more time
Time in, time out
Not enough time
Timeless
Timing
Plenty of time
If time could grow in bunches, I'd gather it up
And save it like money
And lots of other stuff
I'd use it when I needed it
Like when homework is due
A day could last forever
I wish it were true
Seconds, hours, days
Just another way to measure
Like pounds, grams and gallons
Time is a rare treasure
First time
Time and time again
The very last time
— KELLY JONES, 11, 5TH GRADE

I Am

I am
The underdog in every story
I wonder
What they think of me
I hear
The insults from the crowd
I see
The ball high in the air
I want
The ball to come towards me
I am
The underdog in every story
I pretend
I'm in the majors
I feel
The seams on the ball
I touch
The leather from the glove
I worry
If I'll win or not
I cry
About nothing
I am
The underdog in every story
I understand
I won't win every game
I say
We lose some we win some
I dream
To be a great baseball player
I try
To hit a homerun
I hope
We win the championship
I am
The underdog in every story.
— JADEN COX, 5TH GRADE

A Young, Free Kid

All my life, I was a happy person,
A young, free, kid.
I didn't care if I was judged, called
short, or called stupid.
I was a happy young boy.
I always felt tall like my dad.
I wasn't called short or stupid,
Because I was nice to other people,
and the kindness returned to me, just
like the way you throw a ball against a
wall, it returns.
The only difference — it returns with
more force — more kindness.
The reason I'm always happy is be-
cause I'm treated kindly, and you now
know the reason people treat me kindly.
So keep in mind, kindness is the key
to happiness.
— NIKOLI KOSINSKI, 4TH GRADE

Christmas Day

Christmas is great
I cannot wait



Snow, by Allison Boehm, 5th grade

It's almost Christmas day

Chilly weather
I cannot wait
It's almost Christmas day

Hot chocolate so hot
I cannot wait
It's almost Christmas day

Santa with presents
I cannot wait
It's almost Christmas day

Oh Christmas is great
I cannot wait
It's almost Christmas day
— ZACHARY RINGEL, 5TH GRADE

Self-Pity, sorrow
Arrogance
All behind

Transported to another world
La Recoleta Cemetery
— ANGELINA HUNT, AGE 11

My Big Group of Friends

Lots of girls just find 1 or 2 close friends and stay by their sides forever. They never take the chance to ask the new girl to sit next to them at lunch or asking that nice girl they have known since kindergarten to hang out after school, but I have a wide range of unique friends that each light up a room with their bright personalities.

There's the hippo and okapi lovers, always creating petitions to raise awareness for their favorite endangered species. The quiet girl with the big laugh. The odd one who always manages to make me smile. The girl with the striking blonde hair and the kind heart. My very opinionated and upbeat friend who can tell you anything about the Hunger Games. The quirky duo that starts fads, duct tape and mustaches, etc. The genius who is always going to a new interesting place or telling an interesting story. The flexible girl who's the queen of the cartwheel. The one with the unlimited energy who can strike up a good conversation. The tall one with the pleasant giggle that makes you want to giggle too. And last, but not least my dog, who always lets me give her a great, big bear hug when I need it most.

Remember to open yourself to new types of people and you can make lots and lots of friends.

— CAROLINE KEIR, 11

La Recoleta Cemetery

The humid air
Settles
On a sea of faces
Emotions
Range from joyful
To pure anger

The cobblestone
Pathways
Guide me
To a silent world

My family is with me
But inside
I'm all alone

In this world
Greed is punished
But thanks
Is rewarded

Honor those
Who have fallen

Leave
Envy, anger

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JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY

Twins

It was the day before Christmas and St. Nick was packing his sled with his elves and getting ready for Christmas when something happened. But before I can tell you what happened, I must explain little about Nick's childhood. You probably have never heard this, but Nick had a brother, a twin brother. As they grew up, Nick was kind, forgiving, trustworthy and considerate. But his brother Chucky was the opposite. It got to the point where nobody wanted to be his friend except Nick. But the truth is Chucky was jealous of Nick. When they grew up, Nick got elected to be Santa and Chucky was forgotten, and that's why nobody really knows him.

Now back to the story. St. Nick was packing his sled with the elves and when the elves turned around Nick was gone. All that was left in his place was a little piece of paper. It said, "If you want him back come to the South Pole. Signed Chucky".

"What are we going to do?" asked Nick's right hand elf, Bob.

"Well you heard what this Chucky guy said, we have to go to the South Pole," said Nick's second in command Bobo.

"Yeah, but how are we going to get there?" asked Nick's third in command, Bobo.

"Well there happens to be a hitched-up sleigh right next to us," said Bob, "and I happen to know how to drive it."

"Then let's go," Bobo said. They all got on and sped away. It didn't take them long (considering they were going 180 miles per hour.) When they touched down, a bunch of penguins tackled them and shoved them into a bag. When they woke up, they were in a large room and sitting next to them tied up was Nick.

"Hey boss, you okay?" Bobo asked.

"I like ponies," Nick said in a weird voice.

"I'll take that as a no," Bobo said.

"I see you fell into my trap," said a booming voice.

"Who are you?" Bobo said in a tiny voice.

"My name is Chucky!!!!" Chucky said, "I am Nick's brother. There will be no presents this year!"

"Well maybe there will," Bob said. He had cut through everybody's ropes with his emergency pocket knife while Bobo was talking.

"You will never get away! Penguins attack!" Chucky yelled.

"Let's get out of here!" Bob said.

"Come on boss we got to get out of here," Bobo yelled. "I know what to do. Nick your sled is on fire."

"What! My sled is on fire!" Nick said

"Not really. But we got to go," Bobo said. They all ran away and sped away on the sled and Christmas was saved.

— JASON COKER, 5TH GRADE

Turbulence

"Quick! Step on it! The kid's awake! He's awake! On Dasher, on Dancer, on ... on Bambi! Go, go, go!"

"Santa, really, you should remember our names by now. We've been doing this for what, almost 300 years now?"

All of the other reindeer murmured in agreement.

"now is not the time, um ... um Pluto! We need to get out of here! Now!"

"My name is Comet."

And off they went.

This story, obviously, is about our dear old friend Santa Claus. This time, he's in a little pickle [and I'm not talking about the conscious child]

While finishing up around the South Atlantic Ocean, Santa's ride hit a little turbulence. Wait, did I say a little turbulence? Sorry, I meant to say a truckload of turbulence.

"Abandon ship!" Santa yelled, getting ready to hoist himself over the edge of the vibrating sleigh.

"No offense, Santa, but you'll sink! I can at least try to land this!" yelled a reindeer up front

"Okay, you know what? No carrots for you next house, Donner!"

"Somebody didn't have their late-night coffee," Vixen mumbled under her breath.

About an hour later, Santa woke up to find himself staring at a man who was seriously old.

"Ello! Allow me to introduce myself. I am Earl of Sandwich, more famously known as the inven-

tor of the sandwich. I see they have become quite popular."

"Uh, where are we? What happened?" Santa asked. "And why aren't you long gone by now?"

"Well, my middle-aged fellow, you see, I fell through a wormhole when I was on a small brig sailing, and I ended up here: on an island that no longer exists. I call it: The Isle of Mayonnaise."

"Hold up: it's still Christmas! OMG, I have to get back to the real world! I need to deliver the presents! How will I ever get back?"

"Easy. Just get on your sleigh and fly through that wormhole over there and you'll be back in the real world," Sandwich said, pointing at an indigo and navy swirling hole. "But let me give you some sandwiches first. What would you like?"

"I would like a burger," Santa said.

"I want a ham and cheese sandwich!" said Donner, Prancer, Dasher, and Cupid.

"I want a turkey and carrot sandwich!" said Dancer, Comet, Vixen, and Blitzen.

"I want a meatball sub," said Rudolph, and everyone stared at him.

"Okay then!" said Sandwich, and soon they had packed up their sleigh and were off. "Come back next year!"

"Sure thing!" yelled Santa, and then he, along with his nine reindeer, were whisked into the wormhole. Santa then carried on with Christmas as usual and eventually forgot about lonely old Sandwich.

The End

— SOPHIE RIER, 5TH GRADE

The Crash

"Let's go deliver some gifts," said Santa

It was December 23rd and leaving day for Santa. He was sailing over the Arctic Ocean and all the kids were excited to get gifts from him. In a few minutes they were at Waypoint 1- Soft Rocks Isle, where Soft Rock Café originated. Soft Rocks Isle is near Antarctica where his twin brother, Haha Nukah Claus lived. They didn't get along very well and their father Count Claws separated them on different poles of the planet. Haha Nukah Claus controls Hanukah and forgot about Santa. Happily he never interferes on Christmas. Then the not famous reindeer, the babies of Rudolph and Comet, and Dasher and Prancer took off and flew towards Europe, then Asia, but before Africa the reindeer landed on Diego Garcia, an island in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

"What's happening?" asked Santa.

"The Reindeer are tired, only barely awake. They need food, and fast," said Santa's elf helper, Bobbina, a reindeer expert, "He is really sleepy."

"Just give them food, and now please!" commanded Santa.

"Oh, fine" said Bobbina in a mocking tone.

The reindeer landed and they immediately fell asleep. Their mouths were closed, and reindeer don't snore. They had no idea what to do. They all started moaning, all of the elves, and Santa himself.

"What can we do?" asked Santa

"I know! We can teleport the gifts to chimneys using our elfin magic!" said Rocco, the master toymaker.

That's what they did and when the reindeer woke up the presents were delivered. That's how Christmas was saved. Then Santa flew back to Borneo Village in the North Pole. Everyone had a fun time, but they had to switch back to Santa's original reindeer next year. Hopefully they never need to teleport again, because the elves were exhausted.

— ANTONIO MARTIN, 5TH GRADE

The Cold

"Alright," Santa said to his favorite elf, Winky. "Do you have the toys for the good children?"

"Of course I do, sir. Cocoa and Twinkle put them in your red bag," Winky replied, pointing to the large, filled bag.

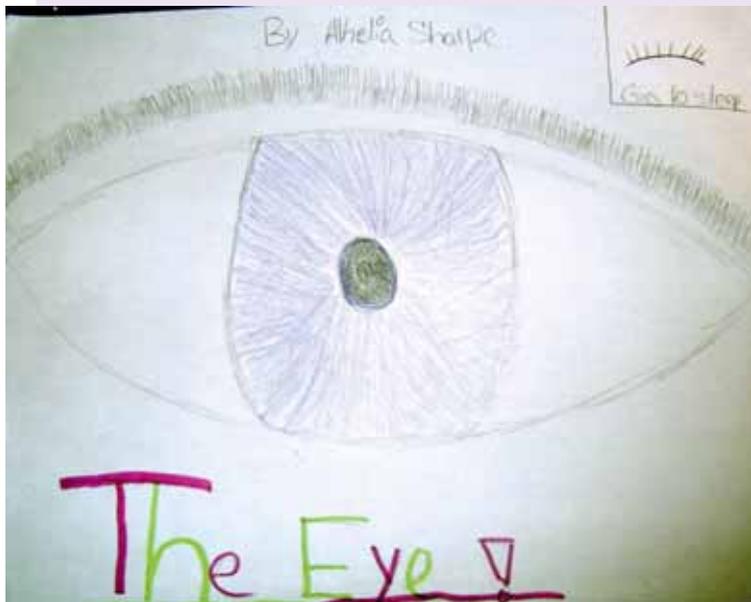
"Good. Did you bring the coal for the rotten kids?"

"Yep. I put them in the green bag next to the

SEE JOHN ADAMS, PAGE 19

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FRANCIS C. HAMMOND MIDDLE



The Eye

The eye stares at me in horror
 The eye fills with heaven's tears
 The eye glares out the window
 The eye looks down at me
 The eye looks out into the world
 The eye goes to sleep
 — AKELIA SHARPE, 6TH GRADE

Rain

Drip, drip, drip, as rain poured off the
 roofs, as the darkness grew darker
 and
 darker the moon shined brighter and
 brighter
 As I awakened in the silent of the
 night

Learning

When you are born
 You have no idea what to expect.
 You cry, you eat, you sleep
 But you just go through the motions.
 Your parents read to you
 You look at the squiggles and think
 "What's this?"
 But all you hear is words.
 You learn what they mean
 Milk, the sweet white liquid
 Water, the clear liquid that tastes,
 pure
 A spark in your mind
 Your first day at school
 Learning to read all those books
 Every letter, word, number, problem
 Knowing that you can finally do
 something by yourself.
 The greatness of learning.
 — MELISSA MUKUNA, 6TH GRADE



Arnold, taken by Alek Smolkin, 13, 7th grade

Winter's Here!

I realize that the days have been
 growing shorter and shorter, I
 knew that winter was almost here
 one shivering cold snowy day
 The ground was covered in white
 snow like a
 White sheet covering the ground
 It seemed like the day was coming to

its end
 As I slowly crawled into bed
 The next morning the news station
 announced
 "No school!"
 With nothing to do but put on some
 warm
 Clothes and go out and play with my
 friends.
 — AKELIA SHARPE, 6TH GRADE

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Fina OseiOusu, 4th grade



Marvenda Manley, 3rd grade

Baseball

I am excited about next year because I think the Washington Nationals will have a great year. Bryce Harper is a lefty. He also won Rookie of the Year. I think he will have another spectacular year. The Nationals are very lucky because we have two great catchers. I was a catcher for my baseball team. I know how hard that job can be. The hardest thing is throwing to second base. I think 2013 will be a great year for baseball fans.

— LIAM GALLAGHER, 8, 3RD GRADE, MS. CHLEBUS' CLASS

Christmas Spirit

If you want to capture the Christmas spirit this year then come see "A Christmas Carol" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria! It is a story of adventure and excitement. A man named Scrooge goes on an adventure with three ghosts — Christmas past, Christmas present, and Christmas future. I'm very happy to be in the cast. I hope you will come and see me!

— PENELOPE GALLAGHER, 8, 3RD GRADE, MR. WISE

What Is Your Favorite Animal?

A cheetah because it can run faster than its predators.

— GARRETT BLISS, KINDERGARTEN

MORE LYLES-CROUCH ARTWORK ON PAGE 23.

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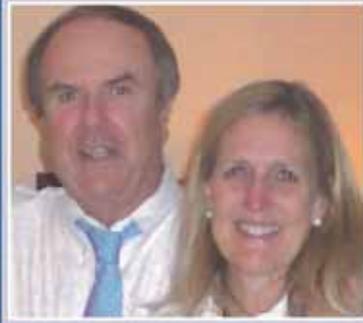






Badge and schedule information at
FirstNightAlexandria.org

The Fireworks are Back!



CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2013?
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Leading the Area in Real Estate. SOLD!!!*



Seasons Greetings

from

Chris and Peggy White



Thank you Mt. Vernon/Fort Hunt neighbors for another overwhelming vote of confidence. A New Record:

75 Area Homes SOLD in 2012!

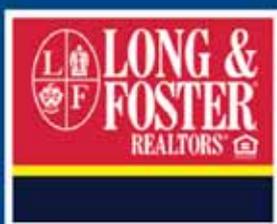
8949 Fort Hunt Rd*	SOLD!	4502 Phylliss St	SOLD!	4311 Ferry Landing Rd	SOLD!
5911 Edsall Rd*	SOLD!	1140 S. Edison St	SOLD!	9319 Fairfax St	SOLD!
9387 Mount Vernon Cir*	SOLD!	9020 Old Mt Vernon Rd	SOLD!	808 Pendleton St	SOLD!
4700 Deer Run Ct*	SOLD!	9107 McNair Dr*	SOLD!	9516 Ferry Harbour Ct	SOLD!
8612 Fort Hunt Rd	SOLD!	8617 Yardley Dr	SOLD!	9403 Ferry Landing Ct	SOLD!
3805 Riverwood Rd	SOLD!	2413 Cavendish Dr	SOLD!	2604 Boswell Ave	OLD!
9115 Volunteer Dr	SOLD!	2327 Wittington Blvd	SOLD!	2011 Rampart Dr	SOLD!
2404 Huntington Park Dr	SOLD!	9115 McNair Dr	SOLD!	4720 Neptune Dr	SOLD!
2300 Candlewood Dr	SOLD!	4500 Medford Dr	SOLD!	7107 Colgate Dr	SOLD!
5205 Polk Ave	SOLD!	4006 Renault Pl	SOLD!	7913 Candlewood Dr	SOLD!
8528 Monticello Ave	SOLD!	7912 Bayberry Dr	SOLD!	4207 Kimbrelee Ct	SOLD!
5110 Grimm Dr	SOLD!	653 Columbus St	SOLD!	9514 M Vernon Lndg*	SOLD!
4200 Kimbrelee Ct	SOLD!	4240 Sonia Ct	SOLD!	113 N. Alfred St	SOLD!
8413 Riverside Rd	SOLD!	516A Howell Ave	SOLD!	4005 Quisenberry Dr	SOLD!
2327 Wittington Blvd	SOLD!	8700 Parry Ln	SOLD!	3618 Old Vernon Ct	SOLD!
8890 McNair Dr	SOLD!	9321 Allwood Dr	SOLD!	9317 Old Mansion Rd*	SOLD!
7006 Stone Mill Pl	SOLD!	6614 Greenleigh Ln	SOLD!	2406 Wittington Blvd	SOLD!
8315 Mt Vernon Hwy*	SOLD!	4220 Wilton Woods Ln	SOLD!	9313 Heather Glen Dr	SOLD!
8826 Cooper Rd	SOLD!	2228 Arlington Ter	SOLD!	4002 Belle Rive Ter*	SOLD!
9219 Allwood Dr	SOLD!	9405 Ludgate Dr	SOLD!	8614 Camden St	SOLD!
8428 Old Vernon Cr	SOLD!	1022 Croton Dr	SOLD!	3600 Glebe Rd S	SOLD!
3035 Battersea Ln	SOLD!	4179 Four Mil Run Dr	SOLD!	4003 Belle Rive Ter	SOLD!

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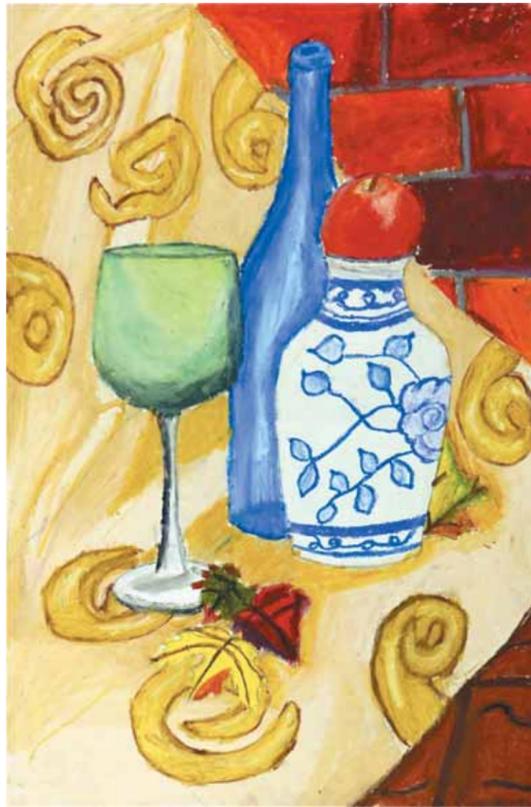
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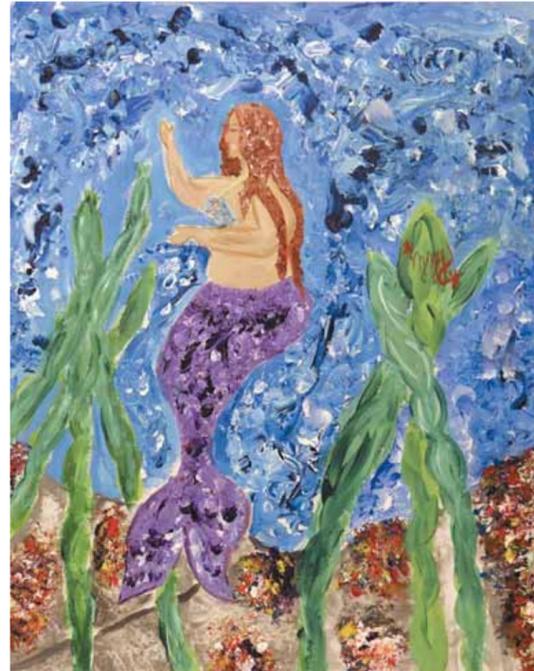
chris.white@longandfoster.com

Information reflects to date under contract and sold

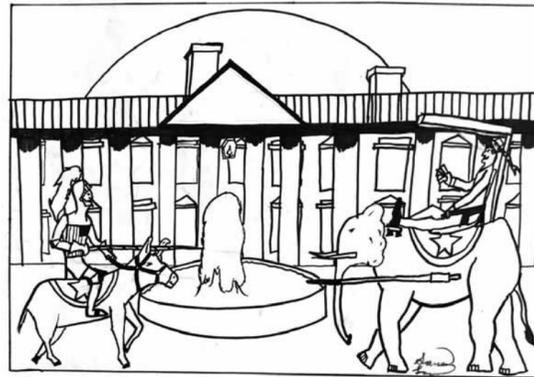
GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Milo, 7th grade



Isabel, 8th grade



Sarah, 8th grade



Ethan, 7th grade



Hannah, 6th grade

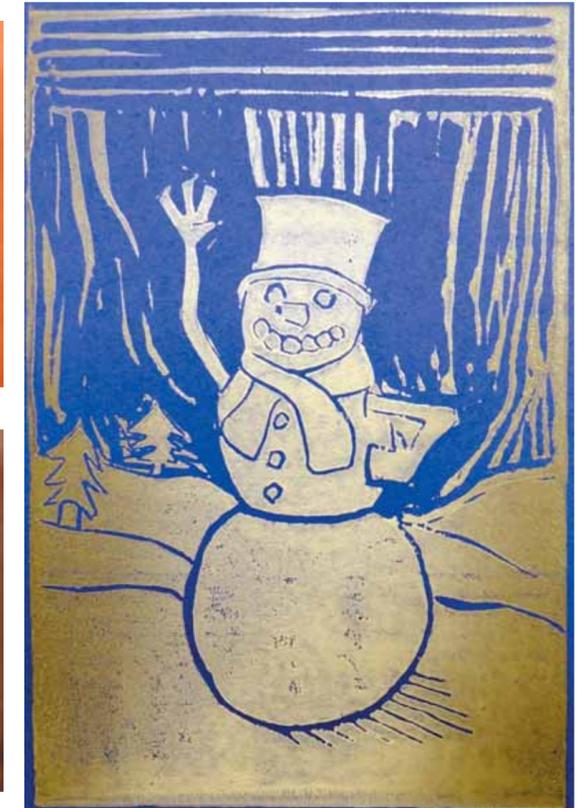
SOME OF THE ARTWORK BY STUDENTS AT
GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SUBMITTED BY TEACHERS
JANICE ROLLINS AND LAURA DICKEY



Sophia R.



Casey H.



Milo, 7th grade



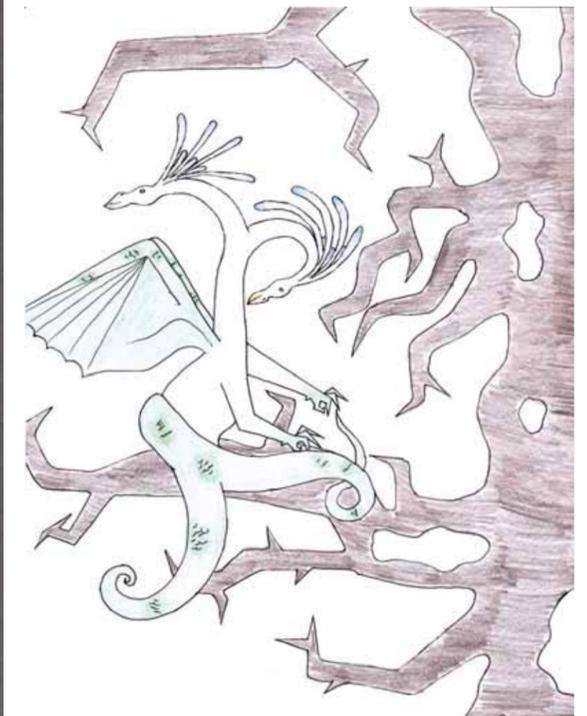
Roxanna R.



Clare, 6th grade



Elijah, 7th grade



Swandragon by Sophie Jones, 11, 6th grade

ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

POETRY



Joshua Movius, 15, 10th grade, Susan Pollard



Avery Donahoe, 16, 11th grade, Susan Pollard

"A Solar Circus"

A hot lemon-filled bulb
In a watercolor ring
Rests
Between pink
Cotton Candy
Sky scraps.
Like a ringmaster's
Mustache,
The clouds decorate
Earth's necessary life source.
The warmest face
Smiles
Into the blue sky
Backdrop
For the Midday Performance.

— SAMANTHA DALEY, 14,
8TH GRADE, GAIL WOLF



Mede Alexandre, 13, 7th grade, Kati Towle



Caroline Tyree, 11, 6th
grade, Kati Towle



Campbell Weiss, 11, 6th grade, Kati Towle

"Clouds"

The softest feather pillows,
inviting me to rest my head.
Stretching on forever,
an endless blanket of sea foam.
Even forever must come to an end.
Melting ice caps
floating in an endless ocean,
recede into the sky, and leave.
I am distraught.
I catch a glimpse of them again,
feathers drifting in an eternal breeze.
Birds flying high in the air,
angels dancing in the heavens.
True beauty is not Mother Earth,
It is the kingdom of Father Sky.

— JACOB REINSDORF, 13, 8TH
GRADE, SHERLEY KEITH

"Dance"

I wade through the river,
The sun at my back.
A water snake
Begins its dance,
A ballet between feet,
A tap dance over toes,
A swing under soles.
I watch
Entranced
As he twirls and curls,
Twists and spins.
The grand dancer
Takes a final bow
And slithers backstage.

— GRACE BRIGHTBILL, 8TH GRADE,
SHERLEY KEITH



Nick Siracuse, 11, 5th grade,
Anne Ross



Lindsay Lian, 9, 3rd grade,
Anne Ross



Martin Dougherty, 8, 3rd
grade, Anne Ross



Emma Hughes, 9, 4th grade,
Anne Ross

"Animals"

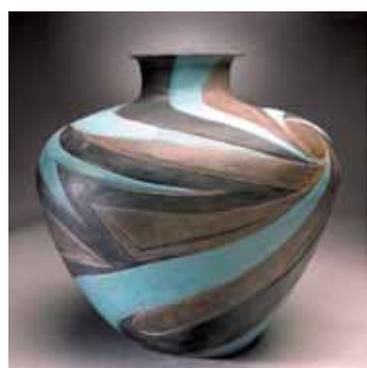
What if animals could talk?
Would housepets complain
about being bored every day
Or would they enjoy
the time spent alone
being able to sleep and eat all day
at will? Would they be yelling at you
when you pulled into the driveway
from work or praising you?

Would the deer you see run across
the street in front of your car curse
you out
for driving so fast, almost hitting
them?

Or would they apologize for entering
your path?
Would squirrels laugh and make fun
of you
when an acorn drops out of the tree
and hits you in the head?

Would all the animals come together
and go on strike
when construction workers cut down
their homes
to build human houses?
Who knows, who knows?

— KHAAMAL WHITAKER, 18, GRADE
12, DR. ROBERTA KLEIN



Lizzie Zulauf, 18, 12th
grade, Terry deBardelaben



Bucky Gerson, 17, 12th
grade, Terry deBardelaben



Elliot Karsten, 12, 7th grade, Kati Towle

MAURY ELEMENTARY

SUBMITTED BY ART TEACHER LUISA TIO.



Kianna Durocher, 2nd grade



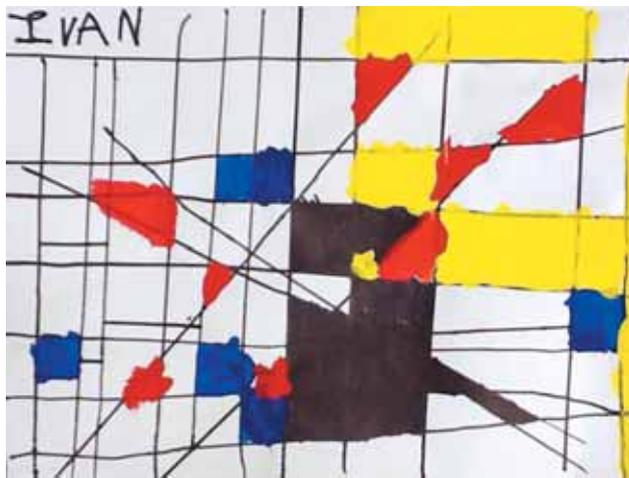
Molly Hill, 2nd grade



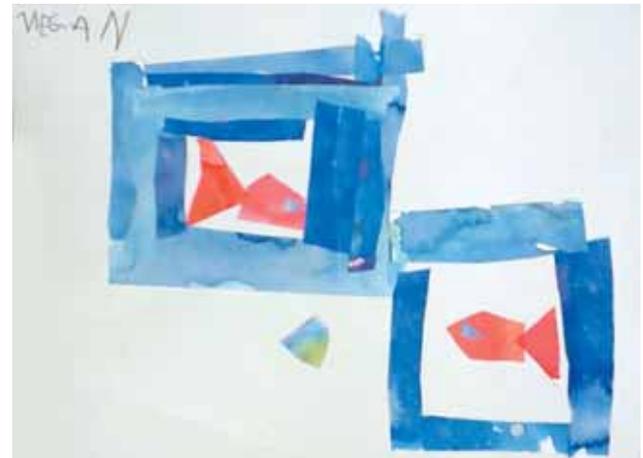
Helen Cooper, 3rd grade



Emma Lay, 5th grade



Ivan Blackwood, Kindergarten



Megan Robbert, Kindergarten



Mia Frangelo, 1st grade



Sean Leary, 3rd grade



Ayda Negash, 5th grade



Sofia Reyes, 1st grade



Claudia Cutting, Kindergarten



Yasmine Ghedira, 2nd grade

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JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 10

sleigh. The reindeer are also set," Winky said with a grin.

"Do you want to hear a joke?" Santa asked, chuckling.

"Umm ... not like you're bad at jokes or anything, but we're on a schedule."

"Very well," Santa mumbled. He sat in the sleigh, hit Rudolph with his whip and started delivering the toys. But two hours later, Rudolph's light from his nose faded and nobody could see anything. "It's always Rudolph's fault!" Santa yelled. "What's wrong with you?!"

"I have a cold and my nose is stuffed," Rudolph whined.

"Does anyone else have a glowing, red nose?" Santa asked.

"Sorry, Santa. I've got a brown nose," Prancer said.

"Actually, your nose is more of a chocolate brown. No, wait! It's tan," Cupid replied. "No, you're right! It's brown."

While the reindeer were distracted, Santa went into the toy bag and stole a flashlight. "Ho, ho, ho! What do you know? A flashlight that I did not steal from the toys."

He strapped the flashlight on Rudolph's antlers, tightly and they finished the job quickly. Sadly, for the kid who wanted the flashlight, he got coal instead.

— AUDRIANAH MILES, 5TH GRADE

Stranded

"Help!" screamed Mary as she was plummeting to Earth. "I can't die! Christmas depends on me this year and I love daddy's cookies he gets every year!"

You are probably wondering why an 'ordinary' girl is saying that Christmas depends on her. Well, Mary isn't an ordinary girl. She is Santa's daughter, and this is her year to take over as Miss Claus. "Oww!!" Mary exclaimed as she hit the ground.

"Where am I?" asked Mary, whipping the sand off of her hair and shoulders. Suddenly something burst out of the sand. "Ahh!" shouted Mary.

A girl walked out of the sand. "Hi," she said. "My name is Coca Latte. I am the princess of Starbuck Island. Follow me."

Sofia led Mary to a giant sign labeled Welcome to Starbuck Island's Cafe. Sofia clicked on a button. All of a sudden, the giant sign transformed into a giant coffee shop. "Wow!" said Mary, very surprised.

Sofia led her inside. There was a hot coca fountain with marshmallows inside, a giant coffee cup, and a pumpkin latte pool. "I know it's not much. Around here, nobody gets anything. We write letters to Santa, but he never gets us anything," said Sofia.

"I can help you. I'm Santa's daughter. Santa doesn't know where Starbuck Island is. Luckily, I crashed the sled here. Well, lucky for you, but not for everyone else in the world. Here, have this wool knit sweater," replied Mary.

"Thanks, but did you know this is a hot island?" asked Sofia.

Mary replied, "Oops. Here, have this motorcycle and helmet instead."

"Yes!" screamed Sofia. "How will I be able to repay you?"

Sofia answered, "By helping me get out of here so I can deliver the rest of the presents and get back home."

"I have some scrap metal and I'm a builder. I built this store myself. But can I come with you?"

Mary replied, "Yes."

Together, they built a new sled, Mary delivered all the presents, and Sofia was entered as part of the Claus's family.

— ATHENA SOLAMONS, 5TH GRADE
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Winter Scene

Snow is falling
Snow is falling
Snow is falling fast
Go outside
Take a sleigh ride
Hot chocolate is next!
— SABINE MEAD, 3RD GRADE

While Getting Ready For Christmas

While you bake cookies for Santa,
He's putting on his big red suit.
While you set out carrots for reindeer,
They put on their harnesses.
While you go to bed,
Santa's ready for take-off.
While you're sleeping,
He creeps into your house and gives you PRESENTS!!!
— SERENITY FLORES, 4TH GRADE

Christmas Time

As the carolers come by
Jingle bells ringing
What a lovely site

As the children wait
For St. Nick
Longing for a lick
Of a candy cane

We're heading to bed
In our Christmas PJ
We love the holidays

It's midnight
And I can here the pattering
Of the reindeer on the roof
And a deep ho ho
Now it's Christmas time
— RHYLEE HONEYCUTT, 4TH GRADE

Christmas

The Christmas tree is up
It's glowing like the stars
I'm as merry as the elves on Christmas Eve

It's now Christmas Eve
We sit around the fire
Drinking hot cocoa
As warm as the sun

It's time to put up the stockings
So Santa can fill them up
With lots of goodies

I can't wait until Christmas day
— ARIANNA STOGEI, 4TH GRADE

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Leah Nickelsburg, 5th grade



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Obituary



Geraldine C. Hager of Alexandria, Virginia formerly of Ft. Myers Beach, FL and Highland Falls, NY, left us to join her husband, father, and mother early in the morning on December 13, 2012.

Gerry, or DeeDee as she was known to her family, was born May 27, 1925 in West Point, New York. DeeDee was the only child of Eleanor and Paul Taneyhill. She grew up and went to school in Highland Falls, NY. DeeDee was the high school prom dancing partner for the famous actor Charles Durning, and she never lost her dancing chops.

It was in Highland Falls that she met and married John Hager, the love of her life, in 1948. Her husband worked as a contractor in New York before they retired to Florida in the late 1960s. Although she and Johnny were unable to have children of their own, after she retired from her federal job with the Social Security Administration, DeeDee enjoyed being able to take care of the Yancey grandchildren.

In 2006 DeeDee Hager moved to Alexandria to live with her cousin Phyllis Yancey. In the neighborhood she was known for baking a mean apple pie, an incredible key lime pie, a wicked dump cake, and for writing prolific thank you notes. Around town she was everyone's favorite patron, spreading kindness and laughter to workers at her bank, doctors' offices, dry cleaners, and hair salon.

DeeDee was a devoted member of St. Rita's Catholic Church. She is survived and will be desperately missed by her cousins Phyllis Yancey, Pat Aller, Bill Engle, Fred Engle, Bill Yancey, Annette Allgood, Mary Jo Morgan, their spouses and children, and her Beverley Hills neighborhood.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Hager at 2pm on December 22, 2012 at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home. Mrs. Hager will be laid to rest in Southern Palms Memorial Gardens Cemetery, in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

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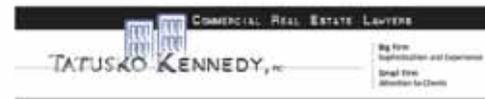
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Anna King, 5th grade



Makena Kaiman, 1st grade



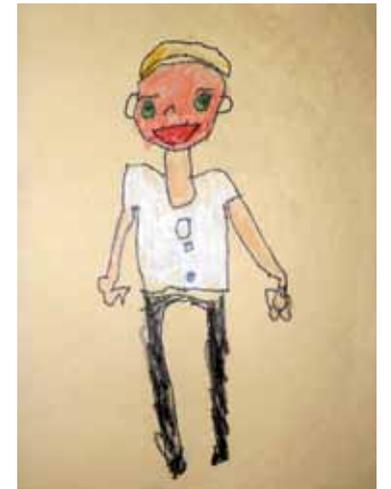
Jalen Lee, 1st grade



Joshua Tantillo, 4th grade



Stella Grimes, 3rd grade



Self-portrait, Garrett Bliss, Kindergarten

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Aktan Turdukulov, 14, 8th grade



Katie Mathews, 8, 3rd grade



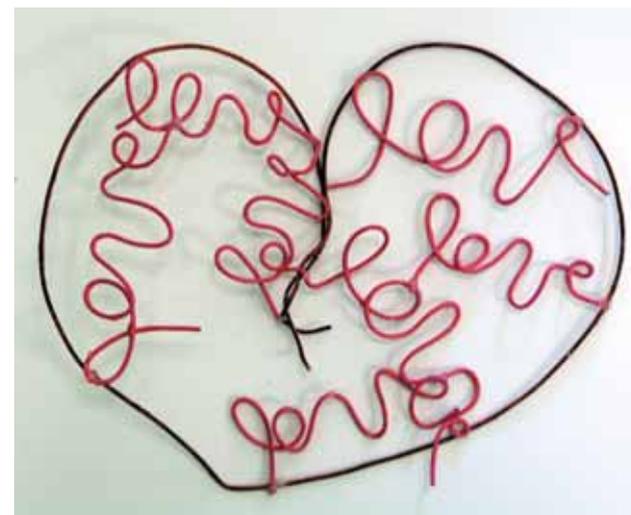
Allie Wood, 13, 8th grade



Magnus Ellehuus, 9, 3rd grade



Sarah Friedrichs, 8, 2nd grade



Abby Stephenson, 13, 8th grade

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Christopher Rodrigues-Guevara, 7, 1st grade, Laura Wollman

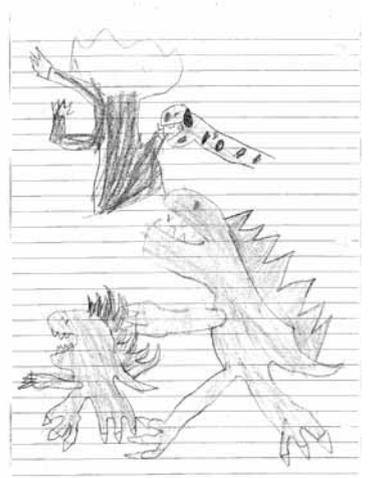


Feodora Teferi, 8, 2nd grade, Laura Wollman

Dinos
(to the tune of military march)

Some dinos are slow and fast,
All dinos lived in the past,
Some are short and some are tall,
Some are big and some are small,
Meat eaters are carnivores,
Plant eaters are herbivores,
Some don't fly but that's all right,
Some just have a poor eye sight.

The End
by: Ale Johnson 2/2/12



Poem about dinosaurs written by Ale Johnson, 1st grade, accompanied by a drawing.



Umarr Kamara, 7, 1st grade, Laura Wollman

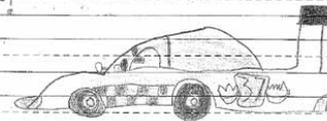
Christmas

Christmas is in December.
Kids get presents from Santa.
Some people celebrate Hanukkah.
A game to play in Christmas is dreidel.
People put lists under the Christmas tree for Santa to read and get them that present.
Santa lives in the north pole.
Santa makes all the kids happy by giving them presents.
by Satvik Vadlamudi

Poem written by Satvik Vadlamudi, a first grade student at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary.

Race cars

Race cars are really fast. With turbos that speed up faster than a rocket!
Ride in them and you will have a blast!



Poem titled Race Cars is written by Zohaib Faisal, 1st grade.



Kacey Van Chung, 11, 5th grade, Laura Wollman



Hana Neble, 9, 4th grade, Sean Murphy



Hannah Polomino, 9, 4th grade, Sean Murphy

Memmed Memmdli, 8, 3rd grade, Sean Murphy

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Stolen Lives

They played, they laughed
they were loved.
They were ripped from the arms of their
parents and thrown into the fire.
They were nothing more than children.
They had a future.

They were going to be lawyers, wives, teachers,
and mothers. They had dreams, and then had no
hope.

They were taken away in the dead of night like
cattle in cars, no air to breathe, smothering, cry-
ing, starving, dying. Separated from the world to
be no more.

From the ashes, hear our claim.

This violence to mankind cannot happen again.

Remember them, for they were the children
whose dreams and lives were stolen away.

— FEMALE STUDENT



My Mistakes

“Boom!” - It’s a massive attack,
I ask myself while I sit back,
Wick-wack was it worth it?
I scratch the back of my head & tell myself that
life ain’t perfect,

But I know that time passes by,
Quick like an airplane in the sky,
So don’t follow my footsteps, I ain’t twitter,
Hard to look back when everything behinds me
bitter,

Meaning all that I’ve done in the past,
Makes me think about my mistakes & makes me
wanna ask:

Why I gotta live like this?
I needa stay true to my religion so I’m righteous,
Mom and Dad forgive me for all my mistakes,
I’m a correct ‘em no matter how long it takes.

— MALE STUDENT



Listen

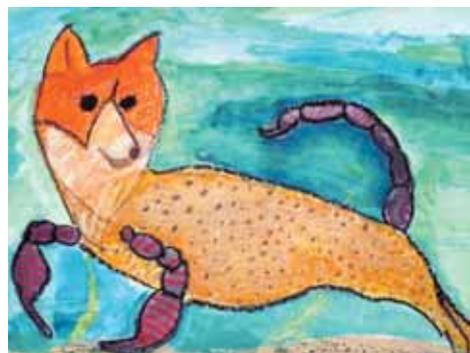
I remember one day I needed a listener,
When I have some feelings I always come to you
I tell you nothing but the truth in pink, black or
blue,

I like you the best because whenever I tell you
something you keep it to yourself,
You never go and run with my secrets and tell
someone else,

You are my way of making me feel better on a
bad day,
You have no limit on my say,
Thanks to paper I have you.

A listener

— FEMALE STUDENT



Brave

A lady
A lady with heart
A lady that was not scared to fight for what she
believed in.

Usually you stand up for what you believe in.
But no!
This lady sat down for what she believed in.

And for that she got arrested
They told her “Get up!”
And she replied with a strong and righteous
“No!”

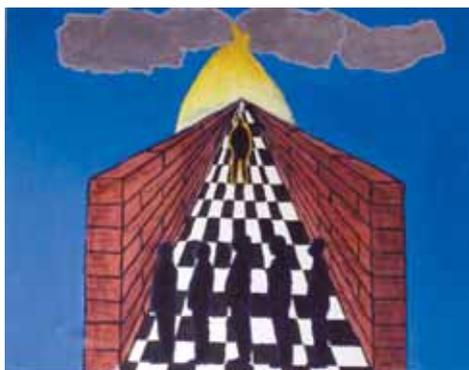
How brave she must be.

To reject,
To not be scared,
She saw it coming.
But not everything.

Little did she know her powerful ‘No’ could mean
so much.

Her bravery spread to the streets.
People thanked her
People were pleased
People clapped
And people celebrated
This miraculous lady that had heart,
That everyone knows
by the name of Rosa Parks.

— MALE STUDENT



All identifying information,
including names, has been
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to maintain privacy of
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