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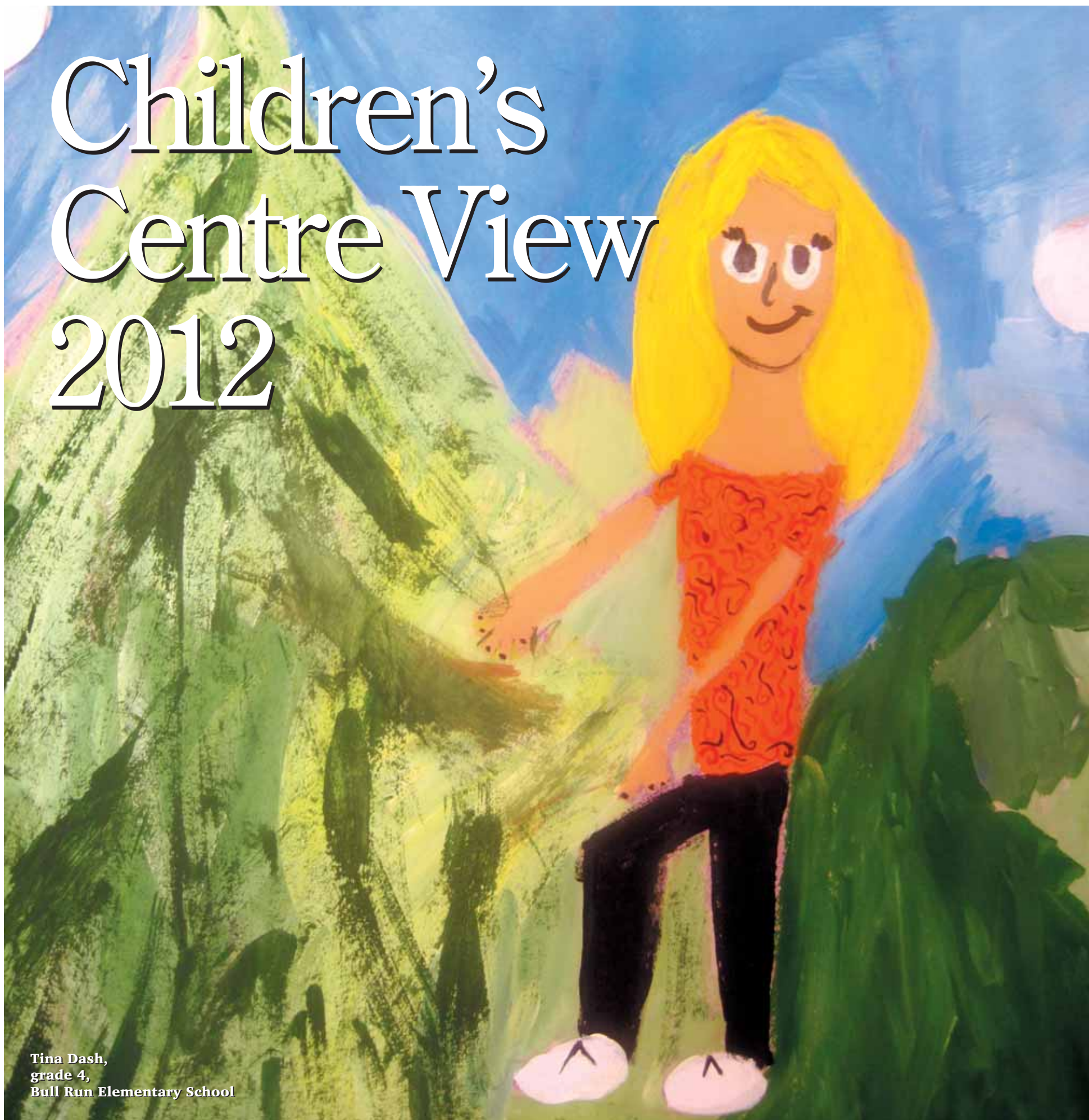
CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 2, 2012

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Children's Centre View 2012



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grade 4,
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**VIRGINIA RUN
 ELEMENTARY**



"Emotion String Print" by Haley Kakar, 11, grade 6, Ms. Coulter



"Regions of Virginia" by Kelsey Kern, 10, grade 4, Ms. Moore



"Fall Landscape" by Noah Chang, 7, grade 2, Mrs. Rhee



"Regions of Virginia" by Stanley Chung, 10, grade 4, Ms. Moore



"Regions of Virginia" by Ellie Drinkwine, 9, grade 4, Ms. Moore



"Favorite Place Painting" by Brooke Reed, 8, grade 3, Ms. Ross



"Emotion String Print" by Megan Vu, 11, grade 6, Ms. Coulter



"Fall Landscape" by Sophia Jankowski, 7, grade 2, Ms. Giffuni



"Favorite Place Painting" by Stefany Zegarra, 9, grade 3, Ms. Ross

CHILDREN'S CENTRE VIEW 2012

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Centre View 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.

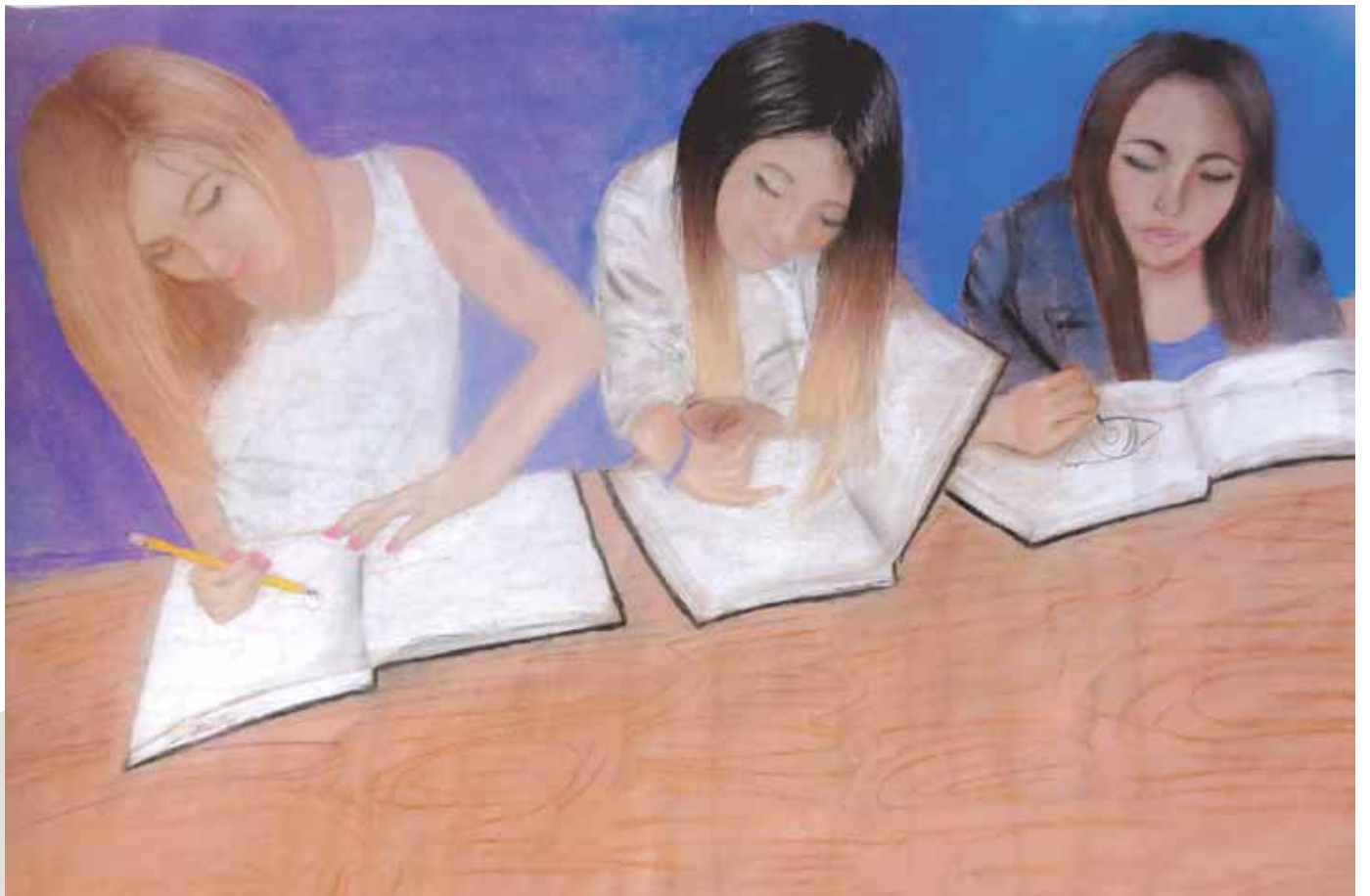
The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

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 Centre View. 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 Centre View 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 centreview@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



Youngjin (Jinnie) Lee, grade 8, Liberty Middle School



Briana Patton, grade 8, Liberty Middle School



Sky Gisin, grade 3, Deer Park Elementary School



Laura Smith, grade 6, Union Mill Elementary School

CENTREVILLE ELEMENTARY



Ashley C., grade 2



Madison N., grade 2



Peter K., grade 6



Regina L., grade 2



Yumi F., grade 6

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CENTREVILLE ELEMENTARY



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Jamie C., grade 6



Niki S., grade 6



Devon M., Kindergarten



Sherry Z., grade 6



Ian S., grade 6



Sophia P., grade 2



Pearl P., grade 3



Kaitlyn M., grade 3



Logan H., grade 3

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LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

SUBMISSIONS FROM KARA DRINKWATER'S ART CLASSES AT LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL.



Jennifer Im, grade 8



Gina Kim, grade 7



Kayla King, grade 7



Kathryn Muggleworth, grade 8



Min Woo Kim, grade 7



Sophia Edwards, grade 7

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LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL



An optimistic self-portrait: **Emme Seale.**



Depicting her as a student athlete who finds joy through active participation: **Delaney Madden.**



Showing her laughing, representing her positive attitude and aptitude for having fun: **Claudia Guillen.**



Showing a made-up story of how a young boy looks to overcome the boundary of age difference to grow up to be just like his optimistic older sister who he looks up to as a role model: **Mahnoor Zahid.**

SUBMISSIONS FROM ALYSSA SURAN'S ART CLASSES AT LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL.



Peru postcard by **Claudia Guillen.**



Includes a knitting and a drawn reference to a mythological story, representing her wanting to create her own destiny: **Jennifer Fang.**

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UNION MILL ELEMENTARY Artwork from the classes of Anne Hollis.



Carleigh Allen, grade 1



Gavin Bush, Kindergarten



Calla Murphy, grade 1



Declan Connelly, grade 4



Shreyan Dey, grade 1



Lauren Meyers, grade 2



Harkiran Singh, grade 3



Haley Crowder, grade 1



Carly Rasdolsky, grade 5



Jason Wong, grade 5



Carolyn Rohr, grade 4



Aubrey Grecco, grade 4



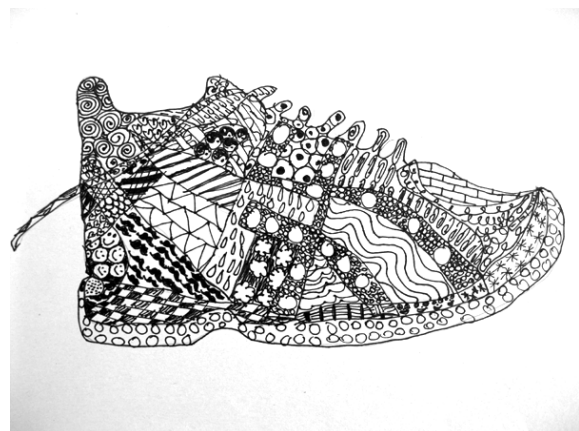
Navid Davani, grade 6



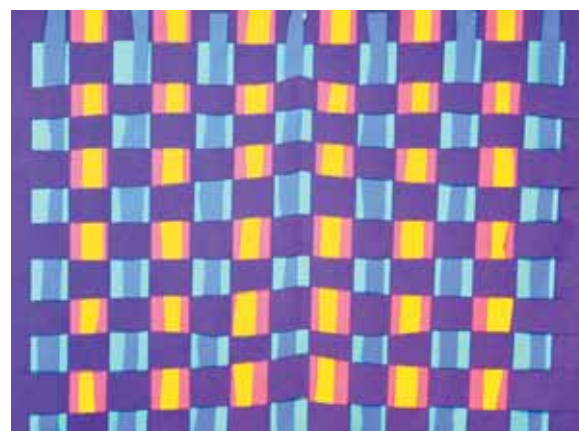
Lena Jovancevic, grade 3



Conner White, grade 6



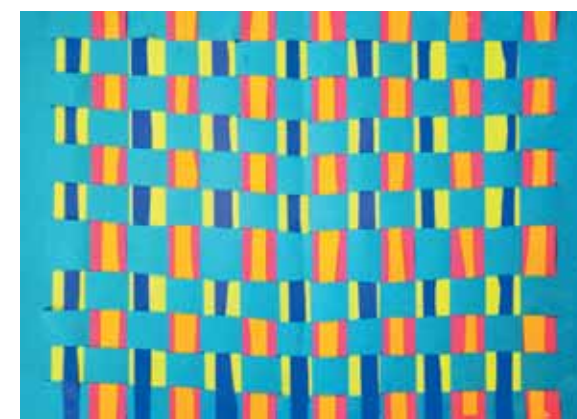
Madison Scheetz, grade 5



Morgan Carpenter, grade 1



Ali Candy, grade 4



Stella Bleeze, grade 1



Robert Roland, grade 6



Maya Bronipolsky, grade 3



Ben Alberstein, grade 6



Natalie Ponturo, grade 2



Leigh Walsh, grade 4



Derek Haynie, grade 6



Sarah Tapp, grade 6



Stephen O'Dea, grade 3



Samantha Rojas, grade 3

BULL RUN ELEMENTARY



Amar Tovhonhun, grade 4, Ms. Mahony



Caeley Souksavath, grade 4, Ms. Foster



Ryan Chon, grade 6, Mrs. Wilber



Alyssa Rim, grade 1, Mrs. Besalel

WRITINGS

Wintertime

What I like most about winter is spending time with my family. And maybe throwing snowballs and of course building a snowman. Christmas is also special when we get to open up gifts and see what we get and just maybe you will get the best gift of all ... Love!

Did you know that Santa is real? He is really Saint Nicholas. A long time ago there was a man named Saint Nicholas that would carve toys out of wood and give them to children. He loved children a lot so that's why he did that.

Santa isn't the only one to give you gifts at Christmas time. Your mom, dad, grandma and grandpa do too. You need to remember that and love the ones that give you presents and treasure it forever and ever. Now you know why I love wintertime so much.

— PAUL HOEFT, 8, GRADE 3, MRS. ADAMS

My Tradition

My tradition is Diwali. Diwali is a holiday in my culture. Part of it is that you put candles outside. During Diwali this year, in October our family we did fireworks! It was so cool! I like Diwali. It is really fun and when I mean, I really mean fun! Diwali is the coolest!

— JASON SOHI, 8, GRADE 3, MS. BEDSOLE

My Family Tradition

On Hanukkah, my family and I play dreidel. Sometimes I win. We like to play with chocolate gelt. At the end of the game, we eat the chocolate gelt. On Hanukkah, I light the candles each night. We guess which one will last the longest. Hanukkah is awesome!

— CAMRYN SONNENFELD, 8, GRADE 3, MS. BEDSOLE



Jonathan Amezquita, grade 2, Mrs. Wetzell



Avery Scott, 6, Kindergarten, Mrs. DiGiovanni



David Carranza, grade 6, Ms. O'Hara



Nicole Yoder, grade 6, Mrs. Wilber

Indian Culture Holiday

In Indian culture we celebrate a holiday called "Shankaranti." Shankaranti is a kid's holiday. It is so fun. My cousin came over to my house. We sit on the ground and we get showered with coins and candy. Then we get to eat the candy and keep the coins. It is celebrated on January 13th and it's so much fun!

— SANJANA SUBBANNA, 8, MS. BEDSOLE



Grace Kwon, grade 4, Ms. Mahony



Victoria Kremer, grade 4, Mr. Palmer



Sally Quintero, 10, and Julia Palmer, 10, grade 4



Emily Miller, grade 2, Mrs. Seymour



Helena Lu, grade 6, Mrs. Wilber

Chinese New Year

Let's celebrate Chinese New Year! The holiday season is almost here! Tofu, noodles, and moon cake! All of those are here to bake! What I love about New Year! Everyone is bound to hear!

— AARON FU, 8, MS. BEDOLE

My American Hero

My hero is my dad because when I get hurt he helps me. Every time he helps my mom and my whole family. He works five days in the week. He puts my clothes on my bed to go to school. He makes me breakfast. That's why he's my hero.

— ARIEL GONZALEZ, GRADE 2, MRS. BAJIN

Leaves

My Haiku Poem
They are beautiful.
They fly away in the sky.
They are colorful.

— PREET KAUR OTHEE, GRADE 2, MRS. BAJIN

Winter

The things that I like about winter are cuddling under the covers with my family and drinking hot chocolate! I also like it when it snows and school gets closed! I also like to listen to Christmas music. Speaking of Christmas, I love Christmas! I also love, love, love to sing Christmas carols. All of these things are why I like winter!

— JORDAN COOPER, 9, GRADE 3, MS. PARKER



Eli Kirtley was the 2012 Virginia State K-5 Chess Champion when he was a 4th grader. He is currently a 5th grader at Bull Run Elementary. His teacher is Ms. Nolan. He lives in Virginia Run, Centreville.

I AM a Chess Piece

I AM a chess piece.
My Mother would describe me as strategic, sacrificing, and demanding.
My friends call me when they need my help to capture another piece,
I keep on moving,
I remember my previous battle,
I've learned different strategies,
I hide when I'm under attack,
I read when things are peaceful.

I shout when a major piece is captured,
I AM a chess piece,
I see a pawn that I can capture,
I hear my teammates having a conversation about how to control the center of the board,
I taste blood when I'm injured,
I feel the leather board under my feet,
I think my teammates are planning to trap the enemy knight.

I whisper "Alakazam" to perform

magic on the other side,
I AM a chess piece.

I want to win all my games,
I will try to win,
I won't ever turn against my side,
I can move across files,
I pretend to attack pieces.

I sing when I'm happy,
I AM a chess piece.

I dream I have the ability of all pieces,
I'm afraid when the enemy queen is near our king,
I reach for my goal to be a king,
I say I'm sorry when I let another piece get taken,
I love playing in games.

I declare for the world to hear that I am a chess piece.
I AM a chess piece.

— ELI KIRTLEY

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY



Family Trees by Mrs. Phucas' first grade class



Griffin Burrage, grade 6



Spencer Warren, grade 6



Manvir Khangura, grade 6



Ian Shedlick, grade 4



Leslie Choi, grade 1

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Susan Xu, grade 4



Justin Thomas, Kindergarten



Austin Rogers, grade 4



Victoria Cunningham, Kindergarten



Priscilla Lee, grade 1

WRITINGS

What Is One Thing You Would Change About School?

One thing I would change about school would be no homework on weekends. I think that weekends are a time to play and not to do work. A lot of people have so much homework that they don't even get time to spend time with their family on weekends. "No homework on weekends, period!" I think that would make school a better place.

— JAKE GLISSON

What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up?

I want to be a plastic surgeon because I can earn a lot of money. Also because I get to turn people from wrinkly to beautiful. The good part is I get to make more friends and I love it so much. I will get educated. I am going to love doing it.

— ANTHONY KHOURY

What I'm Going to be When I Grow Up

I might be a doctor when I grow up. I want to be a doctor because they earn lots of money and my mom wants me to. I want to be a doctor because I want to meet new people. If I can't be a doctor, I can be an author, vet, manager, store owner, principal, teacher, music teacher, or an art teacher. I'm excited to choose my job when I grow up!

— ANKITA SAHU

The Worst Thing that Ever Happened to Me

The worst thing that ever happened to me was getting stitches. I hated it so much because I did not know what was happening at all. I just woke up from fainting at the doctor's office on Columbus Day. I started to cry because the nurse said that I had to get stitches! I had to get eight numb shots and four stitches. Carson ran away because he was so scared. "I hope I never get stitches again!"

— HARRISON SAINT GERMAIN

My Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is a puppy. I like puppies because they are cute, tiny, and soft. I would like to name my puppy Bella because I like that name. If I had a puppy, I would want its color to be white because it is cute and if I want to play hide and seek, it will blend into the walls. I really want a puppy.

— BRIANNA DO

What I Want to be When I Grow Up

When I grow up I want to be a doctor. Not because I can get a lot of money, but because I want to help people. I want to be a doctor because my grandmother had a stroke. I wanted to help, but I couldn't help. I was sad. Now she's OK because the doctors took care of her. I know it's a lot of hard work, but I can try to help them.

— SARAH THOMAS

WESTFIELD HIGH



Photos by
Luisa
Josephine
Lacsamana,
of
Centreville,
grade 12,
Westfield
High School,
teachers Kim
Basinger and
Elaine
Florimonte



WRITINGS

A Snowy Day

I woke up to snow on the ground one special day,
I was so excited I didn't know what to say.
The snow was so high,
It seemed to touch the sky.
The snow was so white,
I shaded my eyes from the bright.
I went out to play,
With my friends that day.
We made a man out of snow,
As the sun was sinking low.
I went to bed tired and happy that night,
And dreamed of more snow, my favorite delight.

— SAM PEWETT, 10, GRADE 5,
CLIFTON
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The First Christmas

One dark, starry night two lonely figures did tread,
To Bethlehem they reached but could find no soft bed.
There, in a stable, the Christ child was humbly born,
And cradled by His mother in blankets old and worn.
Far away, shepherds were tending to their sheep,
Unaware of the miracle that occurred during their sleep.
Suddenly, angels came down from heaven above,
Telling of the wonder of Christ's birth and great love.
"Do not be afraid!" they cried while shining with great light,
The shepherds fell down in awe of the bright sight.
When the angels had gone, the shepherds gave haste in the morn,
To visit their King in the place where He was born.
They arrived at the cave to see the Chosen One,
They fell and worshipped at the feet of God's only Son.
The shepherds departed with joy, telling everyone
About the miracle, the birth of God's only Son!

— ALLISON PEWETT, 12, GRADE 7,
CLIFTON

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Ancient Peruvian Mask, Agnella M., grade 7



Ancient Peruvian Mask, Kira R., grade 7



Colonial Church, Abigail T., grade 1

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Cornucopia, Adelaide M., grade 4



Cornucopia, Jack N., grade 4



Colonial Man, Cristian M., grade 1



Cornucopia, Patrick N., grade 4



Cougar, Amelia M., grade 5



Colonial Man, John P., grade 1



Cougar, Cora T., grade 5



Cougar, Maddie B., grade 5



Cubism, Sabrina S., grade 7



Cougar, Megan B., grade 5



Cubism, Agnella M., grade 7



Weaving, Anna M., grade 6

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What Am I Thinking?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What I think I feel. What I'm afraid to think I feel. Moreover, is what I feel symptomatic of what I'm afraid to feel? Is it the cancer doing what cancer so often does: create pain and suffering? Or is it simply an older age than I've ever been: middle age, manifesting itself with all the associated mental, physical and emotional adjustments that come along with living longer than you ever have? Unfortunately, the timing of all of it couldn't be more problematic in my determining whether any pain or discomfort I feel is symptomatic of a cancer on the move or characteristic of an age whose effects I'm only beginning to understand.

The underlying and complicating factor to my constant self-assessment is that I don't want to think any of the physical effects I feel are the cancer. I want to believe they're middle age. As a result of this continual denial, I neglect to admit that what I think I feel is potentially cancer-significant and presume instead that it's just another day in middle-age paradise (alive and reasonably well; not terminal) – it's befuddling, sort of. Am I being incredibly stupid, stubborn and irresponsible with respect to not acknowledging certain symptoms that might be e-mail-worthy to my oncologist or, have I found the key to living with cancer: not making too much of anything?

I feel this because I worry that once I open that door, I'm likely going through to the other side – and likely not coming back. As my father jokingly asserted about his car: "If I don't take it to the dealership, they can't find anything wrong with it." The related advisory concerning life and health that I've often heard is: once you're admitted to the hospital, you're not coming out – alive. It's a slippery slope between the fear and loathing (with attribution to Hunter S. Thompson) of being sick and lying in a hospital bed versus what the medical professionals don't know not being able to hurt me. (I know, I might as well be Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz" clicking my heels together three times: I don't have cancer. I don't have cancer. I don't have cancer.)

But the fact that I'm still alive and not just beating the life-expectancy odds I was given, but smashing them to smithereens, is a kind of reinforcer to "what I feel" and "what I'm afraid to think I feel." Having survived for as long as I have might just be blind luck or inherited DNA doing what I had no reason or expectation to believe it could: enable me to survive the stage IV non-small cell lung cancer with which I was originally diagnosed and live beyond the "13-month to two-year prognosis" that went along with it. Or, however, why ever I'm doing what I'm doing, or not doing what I'm not doing or not admitting what is likely symptomatic – or not; all this confusion, juxtaposing and double-negative rationalizing might somehow make a positive.

I realize this haphazard approach is hardly a strategy, but perhaps it is and has been so far, a means not to my end. And considering that I haven't reached that end as yet, maybe the means are justified? No one knows for sure, and that's what I'm counting on. It's too late to stop now; heck, why would I? See you next week.

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

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