

Children's Connection 2015

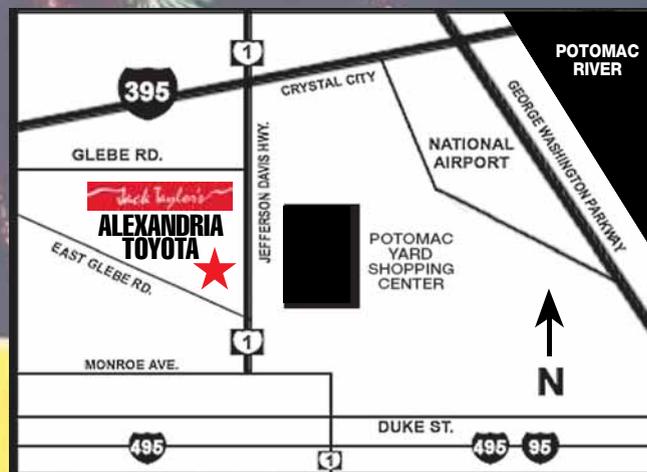


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JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!

TOYOTA Let's Go Places

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Hallie Morrison, Burke, Fairview Elementary, kindergarten, Mrs. Harstad



Cherry Run Elementary, Mrs. Thieman's and Mrs. Quigley's grade 1 classes

Welcome

Dear Readers:
This week, The Burke Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue.

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

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2016 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection.

Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

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

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to south@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



Ainsley McCormick, Terra Centre Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Kristin Smith, "Identity Map"



Ashley Dondes, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas



Madeline Brown, Cherry Run Elementary, kindergarten, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Let's Go, Bruins!

This year, my family went to a football game at Lake Braddock for the first time. My family tailgated at Lake Braddock parking lot. We ate grilled hotdogs and Doritos. My brother and I played football in the grass. At 6:30 p.m. it was time to go to the stands to watch the game. I like Lake Braddock games, because I like how the announcer has a special way of saying first down, "IIIIIIIIIIIT'S FIRST AND TEN LAKE BRADDOCK!!" I also like the marching band, because they play great. I might try out for the marching band when I'm in ninth grade. I started going to more games. I hoped they would keep winning, so they could remain undefeated. Even though Lake Braddock lost in the playoffs, at least they got there. Next year I will go to a lot more Lake Braddock football games, because I believe in purple and gold.

—MICHAEL BEENE, 11.
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6, MRS.
STRING

The Greatest Teacher in the World Award

Mrs. Manikas is such a great teacher. She is especially good at teaching math. She is enthusiastic and energetic. For example, she likes to teach us by using silly songs. The songs really help you remember the concept. She is considerate of teaching many different ways. She is a very determined teacher. She made sure her students knew all of the 4th grade concepts. She even taught some of the 5th grade concepts as well. Even though she isn't my teacher anymore, she still comes and watches me play baseball sometimes. It makes me feel really happy, and I think I even play better. She does what is best for her students, which makes her the greatest 4th grade teacher in the world.

—TYLER KIMBLE, 10.
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 5, MRS.
RIEDLE AND MRS. STRING

A Rare Guy

Triplets are very rare. In fact there are only 7,000 triplets in America. That's not many, considering that there are 318,900,000 people in America. I am one of the rare ones. A lot of people ask me: Do you have brothers or sisters? I have 2 sisters. Another common question that people ask me is: Who was born first? I tell people that Ainsley was first, then Ava, then me (it's good to be young!). I am happy to have sisters. Pros about triplets are: triplets share other toys with their brothers or sisters and three birthday cakes! Also, we help each other with our homework. Ainsley helps me with reading, and I help Ava with math. Cons about triplets are all of us have to



Emily Morosco, Burke, Fairview Elementary, grade 2, Mrs. Hayes

agree so you do a thing that you all want to do. It's a lot of fun being a triplet.

—GRAYSON TAYLOR, 10.
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY,
GRADE 5, MRS. RIEDLE AND
MRS. STRING

The Legend of the Swamp Giant

It was a dusky night at the Dismal Swamp. A couple of settlers were lost in the swamp. "It's...C..c.cold out here!" the cowardly one said. "It's just a little rain," the fearless one chuckled. "Help! Help me!" The fearless settler heard a woman call. He and the cowardly one ran to the rescue to Lake Drummond. They saw the woman...but she wasn't even human! She...or it...was a giant! It was covered in mud, tree trunks, dead animals and soil. The monster grabbed the men and swallowed them whole never to return to their colony. The monster only wanted a snack! So, when you go to the Dismal Swamp, don't cry or worry when you hear: "ARR WARRRRR!!!" It's just the poor Swamp Giant asking for a picnic with you. Bring a snack like a bunny or apple, and you might meet a new friend! This brings our story to an end, and we will see you in your dreams...

The End! Or is the story...just beginning?

—NATALIE WEATHERINGTON,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MS.
MARY ELLEN ZAVALETA



Eduardo Rodas Medina, Burke, Fairview Elementary, grade 6

Baseball Third Inning

One chilly baseball game in the third inning. The score was tied 1-1 and it was my turn to bat. I am the first batter in the inning. The first pitch is a ball, second strike ball. Ball strike, ok now it's 3-2 full count last pitch, I hit. I say to myself, "Oh yeah" and I sprint as fast as I could to first base and I am safe!

Now my friend Aaron is up to bat. First pitch is a wild one so I started to steal. I ran as fast as I could to second base and it was an easy steal because the catcher didn't get even to second base. Next pitch Aaron hits it right next to me so I didn't run. Then, I started but the shortstop had the ball and was chasing so I dove back to second base. I was just nearly but Aaron was so safe -maybe even too safe. Someone else is up to bat. Aaron and I were on base. One pitch ball, ball, strike ball, ball now it's soft toss and the coach tosses the ball up. He hits it to second base and he was safe at first. 3 strike outs later...

Now we are fielding, one out later. I am a third baseman. The batter is having soft toss. The batter hits it. I dive to catch it and the guy at third starts running but didn't touch third base because I caught it. It is a rule so I touched third and I got a double play. The whole team doggie piled on me and I felt so happy.

The End.

—NOAH GIDEON,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY,
GRADE 4, MS. MARY ELLEN
ZAVALETA

Big Ice Cream

It was a Thursday and the sun was shining. This was when I lived in Germany. Every day the ice cream man would come on base after school and I would buy two scoops of ice cream on a teeny cone. I was in my house and I heard ice cream music. I asked Mom to get money and she got her purse but it was TOO LATE!

So, we got in the car. It was a high speed chase! It got to the point that we drove off the base. We were still chasing the ice cream man. We were on the highway honking the horn.

The ice cream man pulled over and we pulled over. He gave me a humongous ice cream cone with tons of scoops of pistachio ice cream. I had a great time with my ice cream cone. Sadly, it only lasted 5 seconds flat around.

—MILLIE MARCH,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MS.
MARY ELLEN ZAVALETA

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

My Favorite Gift

My favorite gift was my first American Girl doll. I liked the doll because she had long hair and I could braid it. Braiding is harder than it looks. I also liked the doll because I could shop for its tiny clothes and then put them on her. I could take her anywhere and I could play with her by myself or share with friends. I named her Audrey.

—AUDREY HOWELL, FAIRFAX STATION, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY, GRADE 5, MRS. SAROYAN

My Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is the baby penguin. It is so cute and small. A baby penguin is very fluffy. Penguins have small wings but they do not fly. They like cold weather.

—EVITA JOHNSON, BURKE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY, GRADE 3, MS. SMITH

What Makes a Great Parent?

Things that make a good parent are: parents that discipline, help with activities, teach you, help with homework, are gentle, and reward good behavior. They take you to cool places. My parents have all of these things.

—GENEVIEVE DEADY, BURKE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. CHIAPPONI

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

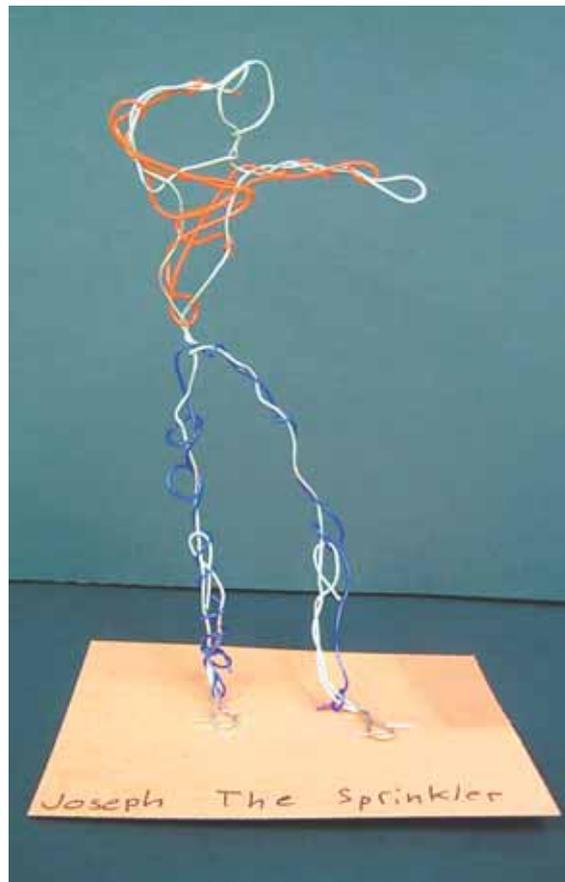
TERRA CENTRE ARTWORK



Grace McCarty, Terra Centre Elementary, grade 3, Ms. Kristin Smith, "Christmas"

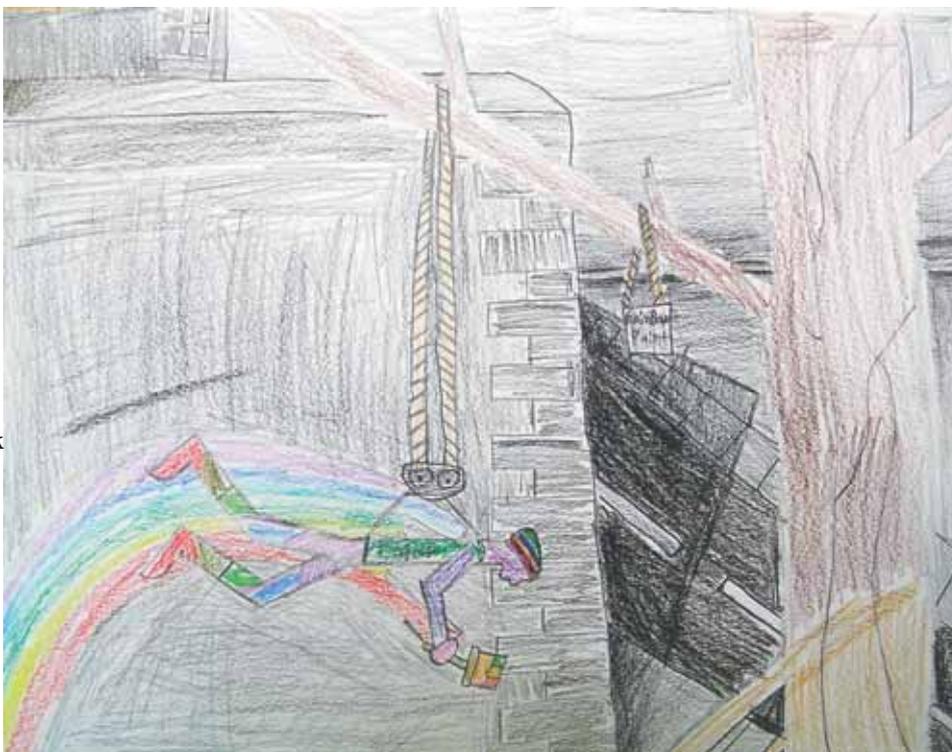


Emily Pryor, Terra Centre Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Kristin Smith, "Me and Allison in my Bedroom Dancing"



Joseph Borda, Terra Centre Elementary, grade 4, Ms. Kristin Smith, "The Sprinkler"

Iain LeRoy, Terra Centre Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Kristin Smith, "Bringing Color to a Dark World"



Iyla Sharifahmadian, 5, Fairfax, Nysmith School, Mrs. Hand. "Iyla and Minal Visiting the Zoo."



Zani Xu, 9, Fairfax, Nysmith School, grade 4, "Yardsale"

Two Dogs and a Shoe

Have you ever chased a dog that had your shoe in his mouth while your great aunt tries to sweep the dog? There I was in gleaming, sunny Italy early August. I was about to leave for a small town in the mountains. I go out onto the porch to grab my sandals and only noticed...ONE?! I begin the search. Then when I finally start to give up, I hear one...TWO! barks. I look over next door to see two adorable puppies! One was running around like crazy and the other one had my shoe in his mouth. First, my mom and brother hear the barking and they come over to see the two barking dogs. One running around like crazy and the other with my shoe in his mouth. "It'll get the shoe!" My brother yells, "No, be careful!" My mom replies. Then, my great aunt came outside, she says something that I don't understand. Soon I notice that she said "I got the broom" because she comes out of

the shed with a broom. "What the heck is she doing?" I ask my mom "I'm not sure," she replied. Then, Zia (my aunt) begins to sweep the dogs. I feel so bad. Then all of a sudden the hectic adventure gets crazier! My aunt's cat runs around on the porch...ALSO! The dog with my shoe drops the sandal and darts after the cat (who by the way was not behind the wheel of the car). Then Zia gets Mad!!! All I hear is blah blah blah something in Italian. Then, Zia sprints after the dog. Finally, she comes back and I notice the dogs running home. It takes about 5 hours for the cat to SAFELY jump off the roof. We stand there mouths open. Finally, I say, "At least we got the shoe!" So now you know this about me: Now you know that my family is crazy and I love it.

—EMILY MONAHAN,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE
4, MS. MARY ELLEN ZAVALETA

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

REFLECTIONS

A Friend

A good friend needs to have some interesting qualities. Most of those qualities you should know about. One of those is, the friend must be caring. All friends should know you and like you. Friends should play and do other stuff with you. An awesome friend does not have to have any of the same qualities as you do.

—ANTHONY AGLIECO, 10,
ALEXANDRIA, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN

If You Could Give Your Parents a Gift

The free gift I would like to give my parents is a surprise visit from my grandparents. My parents would cry from happiness, since we don't get to see them but once a year. I would do anything to make my parents happy and I think this gift will make my parents super happy. I wish I could go all the way to New Mexico and bring my grandparents to surprise my parents and make them cry from excitement. This surprise visit would create so many memories for them that they could cherish forever.

—ELAINA CANO,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6,
MS. MOLLY MOORSTEIN

Blizzard

I am looking forward to blizzards and snowball wars next year. School would definitely close that day. It would be incredible. Ten feet of snow would be great. I would like everyone to have a good time that day. It would probably happen around Christmastime when presents are around. It would be stupendous. That is my dream for next year.

—PATRICK DONOVAN, 10,
DUMFRIES, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN

What makes a good friend?

What makes a good friend? Well lots of things make up a good friend. The first thing that comes to my mind is that they like you for who you are not what you look like.

Kindness can make up a good friend. Oh and loyalty or generosity. Honesty is a big part of a good friend. Friends should always be there for you no matter what the problem. Good friends listen to you and help you when times are

hard. This is what I think makes a good friend. What do you think makes a good friend?

—REYNA EBERHARDT,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
GRADE 6, MS. MOLLY MOORSTEIN

The Perfect Friend!!!

What makes the perfect friend? There's a lot more to friendship than you think. Here are some rules on having a healthy friendship! The first rule is don't be friends with someone because they're popular. Be friends with someone because they make you happy and you enjoy each others' company. Another rule is don't lie or be secretive with your friends. If you do, it shows you don't trust them and you are trying to impress them by saying things that aren't true. You can discover more on how to be a perfect friend at your local bookstore.

—CATHERINE HANSEN, 10,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN

My Soccer Future

When I grow up, I want to be a beast soccer player. I want to play soccer because it has touched me since I was little. I love showing off my amazing skills; I can rainbow, scissor and do other awesome skills. When I was 9, I traveled to Walt Disney World to play in the best 3 v. 3 tournament in the country on the ESPN Zone. It has been my dream since I was 6 to play for the Catalonian Giants Barcelona. My favorite soccer player is Neymar Jr. I hope to be the greatest soccer player ever.

—NATU SENAI, 10,
LORTON, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN

When I Grow Up

When I grow up I want to be a baseball player. I want to be a baseball player because I'm a lefty. I already know how to pitch, play first base and outfield. My role model is Adam Jones and Jackie Robinson. Adam Jones is a great player. He has a great work ethic. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. He was also a Type 1 Diabetic. I have the same disease. He proved that you can do anything even if you have a disease. That's why I want to be a baseball player.

—MCGREGOR YARBROUGH,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

CHERRY RUN ARTS GALLERY



Lyla Movahed, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Colleen Dolinger

What Makes A Good Friend?

When you make a new friend, it's always exciting. But what is the difference from a good friend and a bad friend?

First, you need to see what they do. If they are part of a naughty group you might want to leave them alone. Next, the actions. If they do stuff you don't want to, that's also a problem. Although you might think that every friend is nice, sometimes they aren't. That doesn't mean you can't, though! If you want to find a friend, find someone who is nice and caring. It's not hard!

—ZACHARY CHAE, 11, FAIRFAX, COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6

A good friend is someone who is always there for you and who can perceive what you feel within.

He/she shares the joyful moments and is there for you in times when you need someone to be with you, to cheer you up and help you.

A good friend celebrates your successes and soothes your sorrows. If something goes wrong, a good friend comes forward to help you even without you asking for it.

—HAMSINI RANGARAJAN, MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MS. MULLANEY



Hannah Lynch, Greenbriar East Elementary, grade 2



Lindsey Cassady, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 3, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas



Madison Inscoc, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas



Alex McKinnon, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 4, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas



Hannah Wilken, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas



Katelyn Richey, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 4, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas



Sophia Scott, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas



Colton Elliott, 12, Lake Braddock Secondary School, grade 7, "Husky Flyer," If my dog, Clutch, could fly he would be a husky flyer.

The Best Gift I Ever Received

The best gift I ever received was my puppy, Cookie. I always wanted a puppy, and when I was 8 years old, my dad and I stopped by my brother's teacher's house. To my surprise when she opened the door three Shih Tzu puppies ran up to greet me. They were all so cute, but the cutest puppy was the littlest black and white one. I wanted that one. But the owner said she wanted to keep that puppy, because she was the runt. Then she looked at my dad and said if your daughter really wants that one she can have her. When I got home that day I was thinking of names, and finally a name clicked in my head: COOKIE. I named her that because she reminds me of a cookie, and my brother's dog is named Oreo, so when they're together their names are Oreo Cookie.

—GABBY MOFFAT, 12, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6, MRS. STRING

The best gift I ever received was my dog. My dog's name is Winston. We got my dog Winston in September at Yorktown, Virginia. He is a toy poodle, and he has black fur, gray fur, white fur and a tan mustache, too. His fur is really fuzzy and soft. Winston is a cute puppy. He just turned 2 years old. We walk with my dog Winston on his leash and collar. My dog Winston goes outside to go to the restroom. Winston comes upstairs to my room or my brother's room or sisters' room to sleep and play with us. Winston chases his toys, and we fetch them. My dog Winston loves me, and that's why he is the best present I ever received.

—HANNAH MCLAMB, 12, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6, MS. EHLERS AND MRS. STRING

"We were driving to my mom's friend's house. When we entered, there were two dogs. I thought we were here to play, but my mom told me we were getting the smaller black and white puppy. I was yelling! We were getting a puppy. We named her Scarlett."

—LUKAS JELENIEWICZ, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA



Karli Bonilla, Cherry Run Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Melanie C. Rodas

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

ORANGE HUNT ELEMENTARY ARTWORK



Taylor Dunbar, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 3



Taylor Odom, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 3



Clara Jury, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 4



Ce Su, 6, Springfield, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 1, Mrs. Facinoli, "Going to Giant, Wal-Mart, ice cream and Target by bike"

POETRY CORNER

What If I could Fly

SORAYA NATH, GRADE 5
KEENE MILL ELEMENTARY, MS. MACLIVER

What if I could fly?
Touch the stars, touch the moon, touch the sky
With no gravity
Nothing that can stop me
If I could fly
Would I have wings
Or could I just jump into the gleaming moonlight?
Can I take others with me
Into this paradise?
If I could fly
How high can I fly?
Until I reach space
Would I leave everything below me?
And forget?
Or remember?
So many questions
What if I could fly?

Butterfly poem and Tree poem

Butterflies
Butterflies, Butterflies
Majestic in their own way
Their wings are pretty and have lots of patterns
Monarchs to me are the prettiest of all
Butterflies, Butterflies
We never know what we will find!

EUNICE CHOE, 9,
GRADE 4, HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD

Trees

Some trees are red
Others are green
Some are blown away by the wind
Others stand still
Some lose their leaves in the winter
Others stay green and cold
Some grow at the beach
Others thrive in rainforests
Trees are trees no matter what

EUNICE CHOE, 9,
GRADE 4, HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD

Winter Wonders *

BY ALEXANDRIA STEIN, 11,
GRADE 5
KEENE MILL ELEMENTARY, MRS. AMY MACLIVER

I was sitting on the floor watching TV when I heard my dog barking to let her outside. When I slide open the door, at that moment, a chilly breeze accompanied by two or three frosty snowflakes cooled my face. I took another step forward and my face lit up. It was snow! I had never seen snow except on T.V. Living in Alabama for the past 10 years of my life, meant no true snow.

Not caring that all I was wearing was an old t-shirt and shorts, I pranced into the snow, picking it up and throwing it. When the snowflakes hit my face and I kicked around piles of snow in tons of different directions, it made me feel warm inside. It was just like when you're all gathered around the Christmas tree or doing other special things like that.

About an hour later, I was freezing, but I wanted to play more. So, I went inside to get my brand new snow gear. Sadly, by the time I went outside again, the snow had stopped falling in a flash. It might be gone today, but I knew there would be more snowflakes to come, this winter and many more.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



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Aya Noori, 6,
Accotink
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kindergar-
ten, Mrs.
Druggan

Brooke Hamilton,
6, Accotink Acad-
emy, kindergar-
ten, Mrs. Druggan



Bryan Murray,
5, Accotink
Academy,
kindergarten,
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Leryn Tibayan, 6,
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Zara Rasuli, 5,
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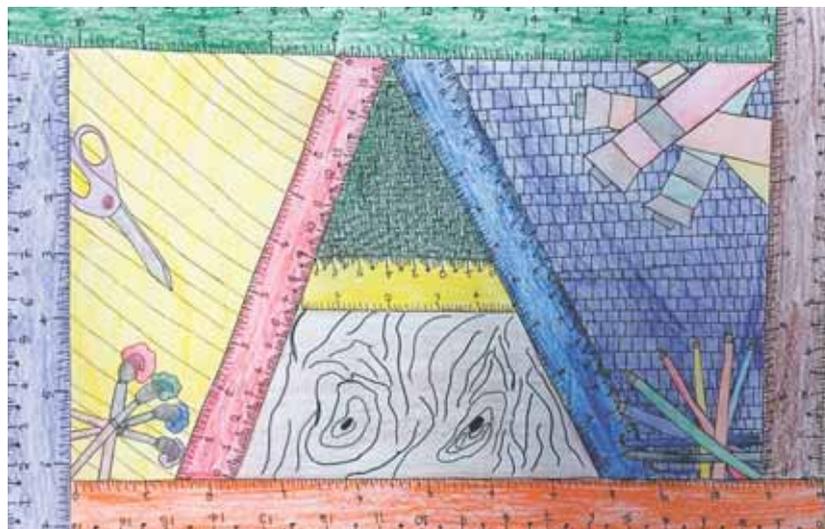
CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

MARK TWAIN MIDDLE ARTS GALLERY

**Sophia Zawidzki,
Mark Twain
Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



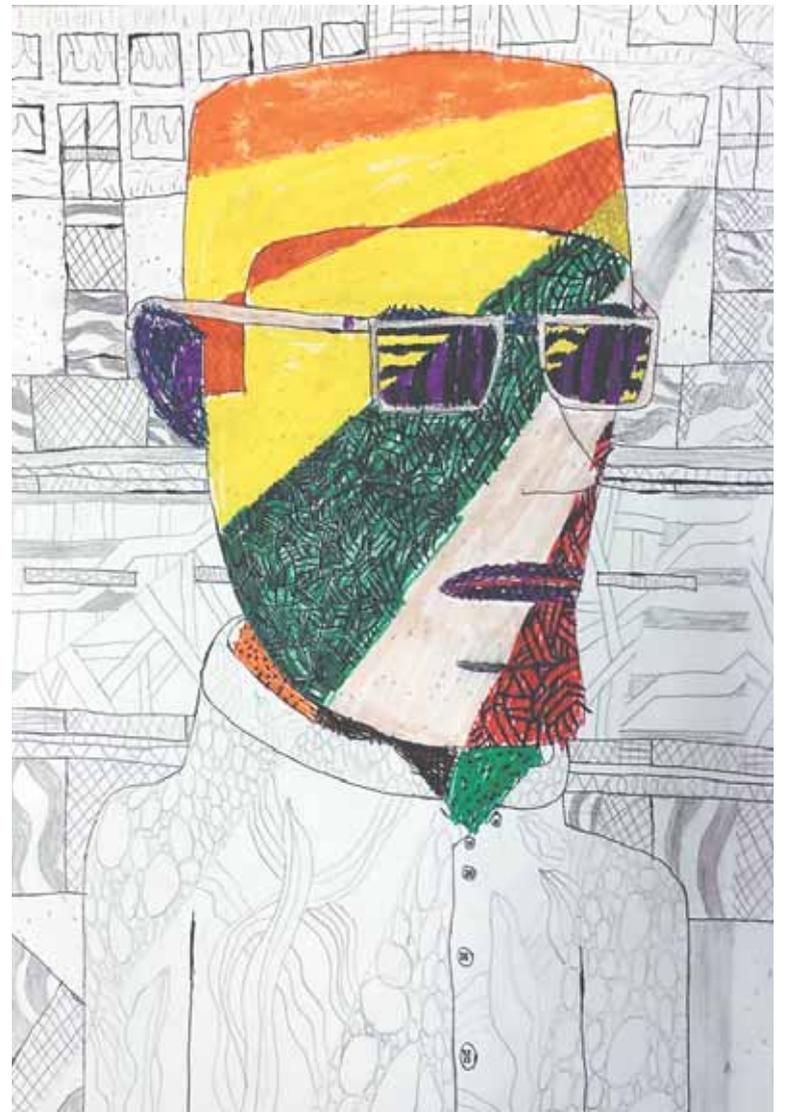
**Rahma Elseidy,
Mark Twain
Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



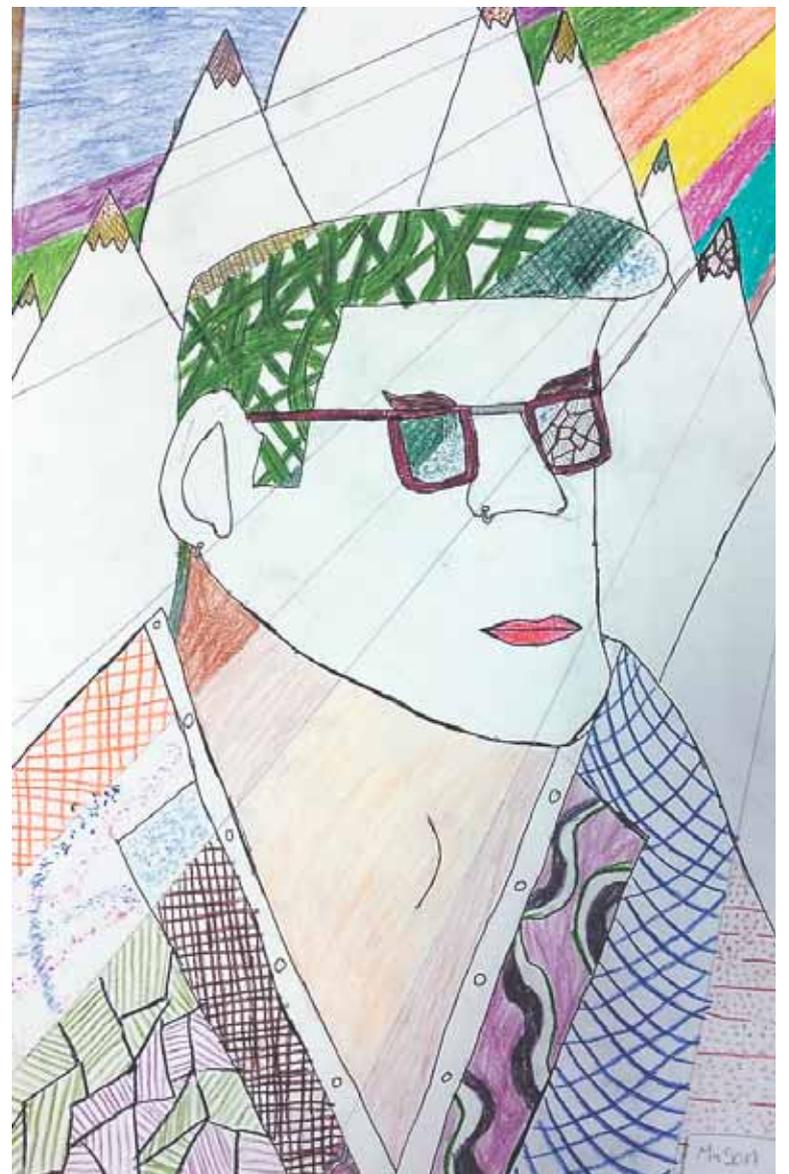
**Katelyn Humiston,
Mark Twain
Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



**Nathan Stephenson,
Mark Twain Middle
School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



Alex Travia, Mark Twain Middle School, Ms. Carol Zeitlin



**Mason Gower, Mark Twain Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Thanks and Giving

"Patrick is my older brother. He loves to read and he has a great imagination. For three years he has been an ambassador for the diabetic Association. He and our family ride our bikes in the Tour de Cure to raise money for Diabetes research. Patrick has given speeches and has been interviewed many times. I am so proud of my brother. He does great work."

—MICHAEL SWINGLE, 9,
SPRINGFIELD, NATIVITY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL, GRADE 4, MRS. VIDAL

"After the piñata, someone didn't have candy. So I gave him all of mine."

— EMMA RICHEY,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE
4, MRS. ZAVALETA

"I remember the time when my friend Will went to Texas for Christmas, so I had to feed his fish for the week. The day he got back, he came to my house with something. He was holding it behind his back. He pulled it from behind his back like a magician! He bought me a hat from Texas."

— NOAH GIDEON,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE
4, MRS. ZAVALETA

"It makes me happy when my siblings joyfully just play with me

and we don't fight."

— EMILY MONAHAN,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE
4, MRS. ZAVALETA

"I am thankful for the time my mom and her friend Rachel surprised me on my birthday for lunch at school."

— KATELYN RICHEY, CHERRY
RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4,
MRS. ZAVALETA

"Sometimes in the summer, my sister and I have sleepovers in her room. We play on our computers, talk and sleep. It makes me glad that I have a sister, even if she can be a little annoying!"

— NATALIE
WEATHERINGTON,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE
4, MRS. ZAVALETA

The Magical Apple

BY SARAH VOELKEL
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Hi! It's me, Ida!
Let me tell you a little bit about myself:

My favorite colors are green and yellow.
I play the saxophone.
I really like chimpanzees.
I have no pets.
(I want a dog!)
I Love School!

Speaking of school, I think I heard Mom call my name.

"Ida!" she yelled up to me. "Are you ready for school yet?" As you know, I love school, so I said, "Yes, Mom!" but I really wasn't.

As I was brushing my hair, I noticed an apple on my desk. I walked over to it and picked it up. I felt something tickle the back of my hand, so I turned the apple around and found a note.

It read: Have a nice day at school! — XOXO, Mom
I frowned and put it in my sweatshirt pocket. Then I walked to school confused.

When I got to school, I said "hi" to all of my friends and sat down in my seat to unpack my backpack.

Then the 9 a.m. the bell rang, and my teacher clapped her hands to let us know that the day was starting. "Claaaaass?" she said, calmly but loudly. "Yeeeee?" we echo her.

"Today everyone is going to choose one type of apple, and do a report on it. It is due tomorrow at noon."

The moment she said the word "apple," I put my hand in my pocket. But I felt no apple. Instead, I felt a piece of paper.

The next morning, I took the paper out of my desk, where I had put it, and went to the computer to look up, "kinds of apples." When I finally decided to do my report on crabapples I started jotting down notes. As soon as I finished writing the word "crabapple," whole 5

paragraphs about apples magically appeared on the paper!

When I went to school the next day, I knew that I got an A+ by the look on my teacher's face!

When I got my paper back the next day, I showed it to Mom, she was in the same amazement as my teacher.

That night, when I went up to bed, I saw my report lying on my bed. But as soon as I touched it, it turned back into an apple.

I wonder
what Mom's
going to
say when
I tell
her that
I ate
my homework...

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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1/13/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18
1/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
1/27/2016.....Community Guide
1/27/2016..... Winter Fun, Food, Arts
& Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/3/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/3/2016.....Wellbeing – National Children's
Dental Health Month
2/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
2/10/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
2/24/2016.....Pet Connection

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-Theodore Roosevelt

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-William Van Horne

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**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN OF
CLIFTON TOWN COUNCIL**

JANUARY 5, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of the Clifton Café, located at 7144 Main Street, to include an expansion of the use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats, inside and outside; an increase in parking onsite; expansion of the hours of operation; increase in employees. The application for the proposed amendment to the Clifton Café's special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton Café's special use permit.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CODE**

JANUARY 5, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124, directly after the special use permit hearing at 7:30 P.M., to review and implement proposed changes to the fee schedule for use permit applications and other items pertaining to the administration of use permit applications in the Town Code Section 9-10 c. The proposed changes are available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed changes to Clifton's Town Code.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

About Friendships, Parents, Hopes ...

Observations from Angelus Academy sixth graders.

What makes a good friend, in my opinion, is honesty. Let's say someone liked broccoli and the person they are trying to befriend hates broccoli. You would most likely lie to them. This isn't really a serious lie but, let's say someone was dating your girlfriend right behind your back and that someone is your best friend. Of course they would try and hide it from you but eventually you would find out. When you finally do, the honesty and trust that you have built over the years would have been broken. This is why honesty makes a good friend.

—ALEXIS BORBRIDGE, 11,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

When I grow up I want to play The Doctor in the T.V. show Doctor Who. I could be the first American one in the history of the show. I would even settle with being a companion. If I couldn't play either parts I would at least be a writer for it. I already have some good episode ideas. For example: The Doctor can only save five people during an Auton takeover of an alien mall.

—TIM O'CONNELL, 12,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

The worst thing that has happened to me is when my best friend got a medical condition. She didn't come to school. I called her, she said she had nerve pains. I comforted her but I still felt empty. I played minecraft with her and that made it better. After that day she came to school about one day a week. I am all full of joy, and silliness. Yes, my friend and I are pun buddies, only because we are so punny. That is the worst thing that happened to me.

—ROSE FRELK, 11,
WOODBIDGE, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

A good friend is kind, loving, and charitable. I have many good friends in my school and I am very lucky. A friend helps you when you need it. When you're sad, mad, or need to just scream you can always go to a good friend and express your feelings. Good friends tell the truth even if it's not an easy thing to hear. When a friend teases or annoys you for fun it doesn't bother you. That is what I look for in a good friend.

—MARIAH LASH, 11,
FALLS CHURCH, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

My favorite animal is a lamb. I like lambs because they are fluffy and cute. I also like lambs because Jesus is the Lamb of God. Another reason I like lambs is on my first Easter my grandma got me a stuffed sheep then my cousin gave me hers and now they are my two favorite stuffed animals. I am



Abigail Viggiano, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Deborah Ehlers

deathly in love with sheep they are just so cute. I hope you love sheep, too.

—ABIGAIL BUTKOVICH, 11,
FAIRFAX STATION, ANGELUS
ACADEMY, GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

I'm 11 years old and I live in Springfield VA. When I grow up I want to be a mom, astronaut, dancer, cheerleader, singer, doctor, Olympian, contractor, stylist and author. I know I might not be able to do all the things but I can try. I want to be the first person to go on Mars. I also think it will be fun to be a mom because I love kids. I also want to be a teacher so I can teach kids.

—ELIZABETH MICHAEL, 11,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

A good friend is someone who you can rely on. If you get hurt or you are in need of help a friend should always be there for you. A friend should be honest in whatever they say and do. Friends make you happy, comfort you when you're sad, and calm you when you are mad. Everyone should have a good friend to help them on their journey through life.

—GRACE HANNA, 11,
ALEXANDRIA, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

When I grow up I want to become a nurse and a mom. I also want to be a kindergarten teacher. I want to become a nurse because I like the smell of the doctor's office and I think it would be fun. I want to be a mom so I can have kids, and a kindergarten teacher because kindergartners are usually adorable and the things I would be teaching would be easy.

—MARIA HURLEY, 12,
ANNANDALE, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

I want to be an architect or a doctor when

I grow up. I think it would be cool to be an architect because I could design all kinds of cool buildings. My dream is to design my own house. It would also be cool to be a doctor, especially a pediatrician. I have always wanted to be a pediatrician. I think I got the idea from my doctor, who has the same birthday as me. It would be pretty cool to be able to work with kids AND be able to use cool medical instruments, such as a stethoscope.

—RILEY LEBON, 11, RESTON,
ANGELUS ACADEMY, GRADE 6,
Ms. OSELLA

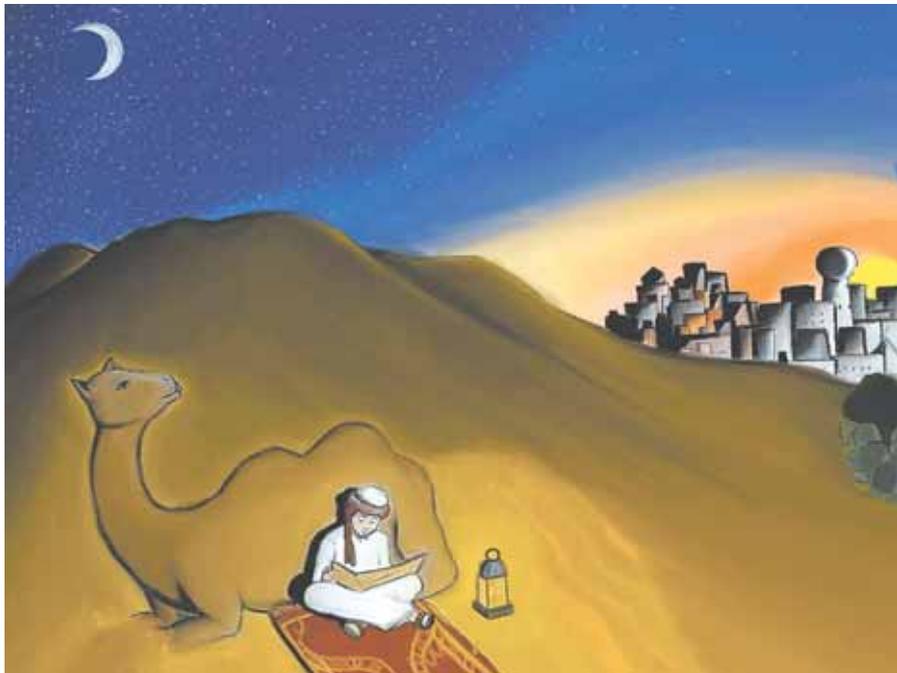
The thing I am looking forward to next year is Easter. I am looking forward to Easter break because we are going hiking from Washington D.C. to Harper's Ferry on the Appalachian trail with my grandpa and cousins. My grandpa and I love hiking. We will spend the night in tents on the trail and hike all day. I am also looking forward to seeing my cousin who is a tiny bit older than me. We like to do the same stuff and almost never get mad at each other. I am really looking forward to Easter break this year.

—SEBASTIAN LYONS, 12,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

A good friend is kind to you. If you are not kind to one another how can you even be friends with them. A good friend backs you up and always knows what to say if you are really sad or mad. I have a lot of good friends who always cheer me up and always have my back. You want to have a friend that you can tell what you're feeling and they will understand. And even if they don't understand, they will cheer you up. This is what a good friend is to me.

—PAYTON HURLEY, 11,
WOODBIDGE, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**Aseel Elayan, 17,
Fairfax, Woodson
High, grade 12,
"The Desert"**

WOODSON
HIGH GALLERY

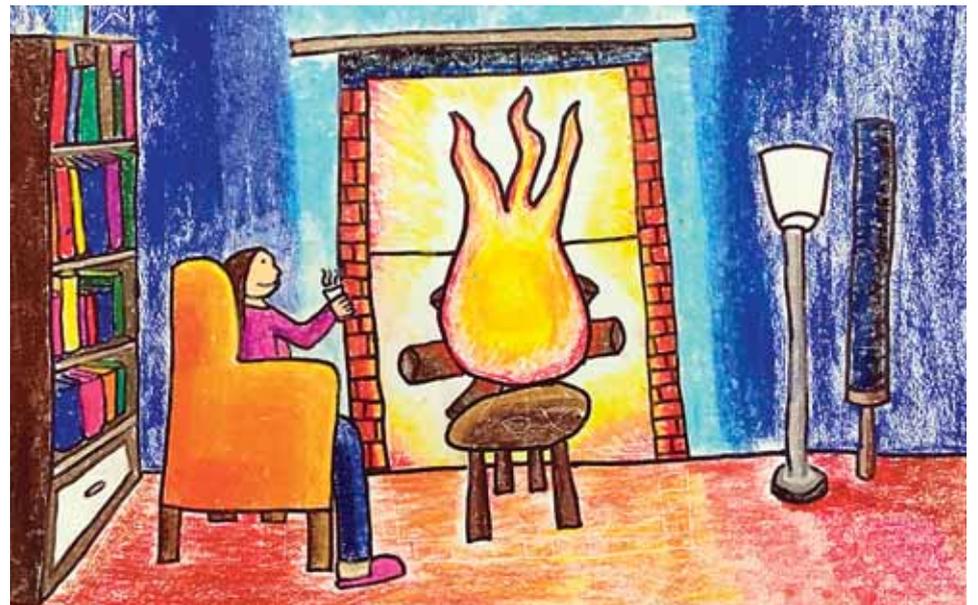
**Olivia Newell, 17,
Fairfax, Woodson
High, grade 12,
Ms. Donna Head,
"A Real Pickle"**



**Olivia Newell,
17, Fairfax,
Woodson
High, grade
12, Ms. Donna
Head, "Space
Whales"**



**Julia Gacek,
16, Fairfax,
Woodson
High, grade 11,
"Storybook"**



NAVY
ELEMENTARY

**Angelina Xu, 10,
Fairfax, Navy El-
ementary, grade 5,
"Warm Home,
Sweet Home"**



**Isabel Wang, 8,
Navy Elementary,
grade 3, Ms. Lee**



**Hannah Dai,
Fairfax, Navy
Elementary,
grade 2,
Ms. Curto**



**Gabriel Xu, 8, Fairfax, Navy El-
ementary, grade 3, "My Sister"**

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