

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 29, 2016



Children's Gazette 2016

Maryam Hassan, 1st grade,  
Hollin Meadows Elementary — Owl.

# Home Sellers trust McEneaney Associates

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there when it counts



## Old Town \$949,000

A meticulous & complete 3-level renovation of the largest townhome in historic Wolfe Alley. This sunny, end-unit boasts marble baths, a fabulous kitchen, a gorgeous master suite, & a charming second level sunroom & terrace. 2 off-street parking spaces.

**Joan Shannon 703.507.8655**  
[www.JoanHome.com](http://www.JoanHome.com)



## Alexandria-Belle Haven \$968,000

Uber charm in this updated, classic stone house. With three finished levels, a granite kitchen, three large bedrooms, three baths, and a screened porch this home is steps to 25 acres of parkland.

**Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984**  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



## Washington, DC \$539,000

Huge 1-bedroom condo in the heart of Logan Circle with almost 900 square feet of living space. The open floor plan and floor-to-ceiling windows bring in loads of light and the extra large bedroom is a wonderful escape at the end of the day.

**Michael Makris 703.402.0629**  
[www.MikeMakris.com](http://www.MikeMakris.com)



## Alexandria-Pommander Walk \$1,295,000

Stunning townhouse set back in a courtyard facing Lee St Park near the waterfront. The interior is like flipping through the pages of Architectural Digest with top-of-the-line updates. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, bonus room/den. 2 fireplaces. Private lovely garden.

**Patricia Smith 703.728.4728**  
[www.Pat4Pat.com](http://www.Pat4Pat.com)



## Alexandria \$1,225,000

All-brick, custom, 1950s, 5-bedroom, 4-bath, 2-car garage home with reduced price. Hardwood floors, skylit kitchen opening to family room and decks overlooking the private and beautifully landscaped 1-acre property. Easy commute to DC.

**Ann Michael**  
[www.AnnDozierMichael.com](http://www.AnnDozierMichael.com)



## Alexandria \$1,200,000

Opportunities like this don't come around often! Custom built and built to last. Sited on an acre of flat, fully usable land, there's plenty of room for pool, tennis court and expansion. 4-bedrooms, 3.5-baths, 3 fireplaces. It's also a gardener's dream.

**Betty Mallon 703.989.8548**  
[www.BettyMallon.com](http://www.BettyMallon.com)



## Old Town \$610,000

Opportunity awaits your personal vision in this historic "as is" Old Town property. Layout currently offers 2 master suites with separate entrances-great rental option once fully renovated. Deep backyard is ideal for entertaining alfresco.  
[www.thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/714-wolfe/](http://www.thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/714-wolfe/)

**Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221**  
[www.TheGoodhartGroup.com](http://www.TheGoodhartGroup.com)



## Old Town \$2,150,000

End townhouse, c.1820, total renovation with 3 level addition, amazing kitchen with eat-in bar, adjacent family room and separate dining room, 2 gas fireplaces, covered patio, walled garden, river views from 2 balconies, 3 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths.

**Ginger Quinn 703.731.4139**  
[www.McEneaney.com](http://www.McEneaney.com)



## Alexandria \$458,000

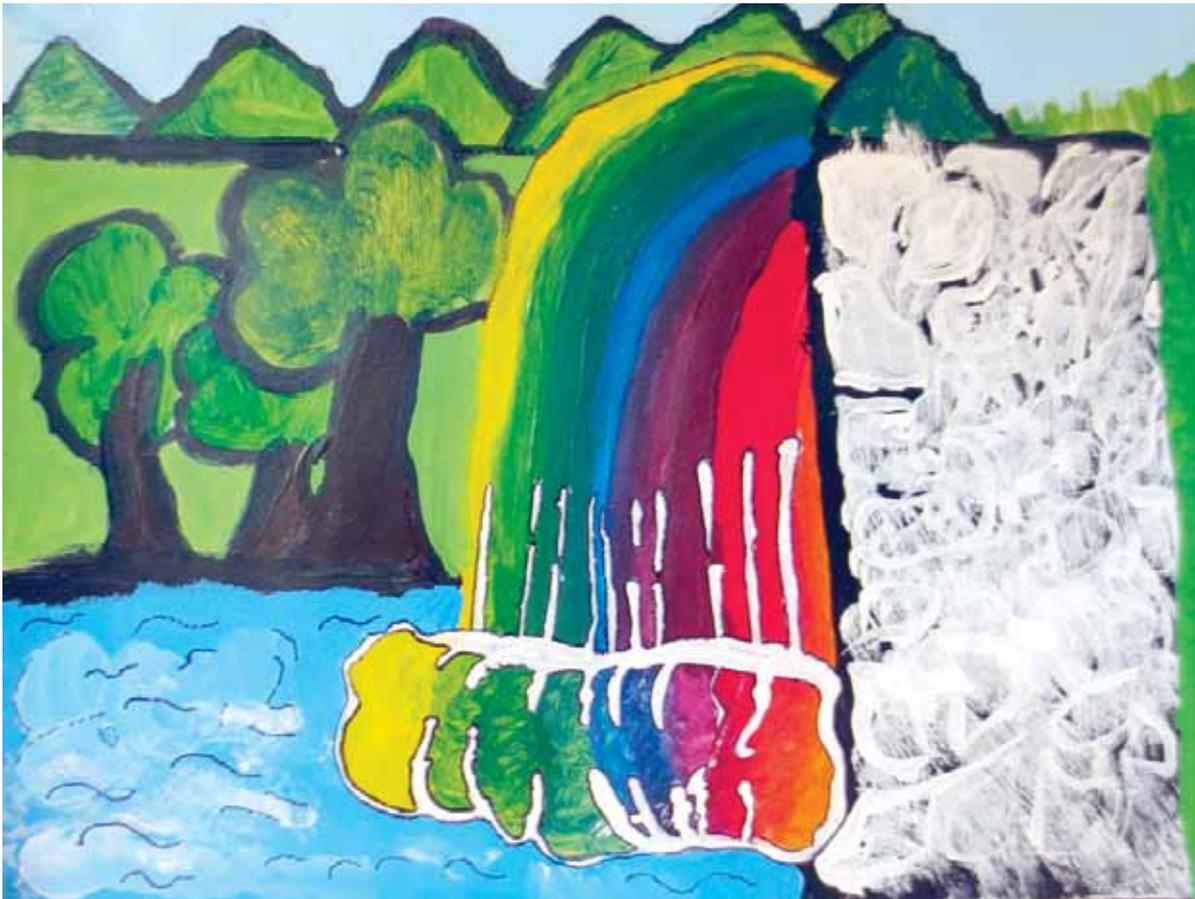
Beautiful 4-level townhouse convenient to I-395 for a quick trip to DC. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, including a private master suite with fireplace. Gorgeous hardwoods, renovated kitchen and new carpet! Attached 2-car garage.

**Melissa Shelby 703.627.0074**  
[www.MelissaSellsVirginia.com](http://www.MelissaSellsVirginia.com)

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# CARL SANDBURG MIDDLE



Laura Amaya, 7th grade



Kayla Hubbell, 7th grade



Hannah Orenstein, 7th grade

Eleanor Pennington, 7th grade



Elizabeth Hardin, 7th grade

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, The Gazette 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. Because of the response, we will continue to publish more artwork and writings through-

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

out January.

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 2017 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Gazette. 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 Ga-

zette 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](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com), but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN

### The Mount Vernon Children's Gazette

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# HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY



Mavis Harrison, 8 — oil on canvas



Kean Harrison, 11



Samantha Holt, 5th grade



Bayron Maradiaga Perez, Kindergarten



Natalie Zevallos, Kindergarten



Franciszek Lopez, Kindergarten — crayon and marker



Mi'Kai Keosombath, Kindergarten — oil pastel



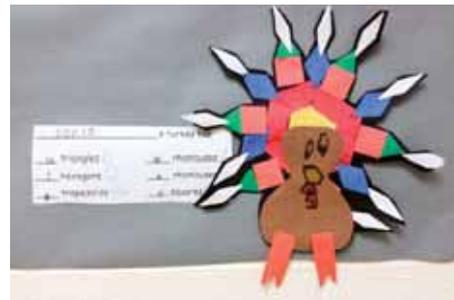
Eleena Aljaouni, Kindergarten — cut paper patterns turned into turkey bodies



Hiriya Tesfaye, Kindergarten — oil pastel



Julissa Guzman Jimenez, Kindergarten — cut paper patterns turned into turkey bodies



Sofia Aquino, Kindergarten — cut paper patterns turned into turkey bodies

## HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY Sunday's Late Game

My soccer team is called the "Pink Fierce Cheetahs" was versing the "Green Dragons." We lost 1-0, because that time I was a substitute for another player and not playing on defense.

At halftime, we had apples for snack. After halftime, I got to be on defense. The "Green Dragons" ALMOST scored! But luckily, I kicked the ball as far as I could!

Sixteen minutes later the game ended. We got chips that were as purple as plums and some weird juice mixed with lemonade. I am disappointed we lost!

— ANITA, AGE 9

## Why I am Careful At the Playground

I was a little kid, when at Kinder-Care I tried to climb on a fence, but sprained my arm. I went to my house and my grandma tried putting on multiple Band Aids on my arm. But, it did not help enough.

So I was rushed to the hospital by car. I was given a score of how much pain I was in. I told the doctor it was a 5! Then I was given a blue as the

SEE HOLLIN MEADOWS, PAGE 5

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Steven Moreno Rodriguez, Kindergarten — oil pastel and watercolor



Natalie Marquez Amador, Kindergarten — oil pastel watercolor



Alejandra Badillo Campos, Kindergarten — oil pastel watercolor

# HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

sky cast.

After I felt better! I took a picture to save the memory so I will always be careful at the playground!

— GAVIN, AGE 8

## The Time I had a Challenge

The time I had a challenge was when my mom took me to this Karate Dojo. I was petrified, because my cousin did it and almost broke his leg! I was terrified that I might end up like that.

So I just threw a tantrum and my mom was confused, because I told her I wanted to go to the Karate Dojo.

My mom still took my anyways.

When I arrived, I had to take my shoes off. I started crying again! Then I went on the mat and received my White Belt. I was confused.

"Ahhh! What is going on?" I asked myself.

Next this man told me to bow. I didn't understand what that meant. Then he told me to lean forward and then I realized what he meant.

So then he pulled out a board and said, "Break it."

"Are you crazy?" I asked. So I just did it anyways. It was actually pretty easy. If you are wondering if I had other people with me, yes I did.

Then we had sparring partners which means someone to practice fighting with you. We had this armor on. I didn't really care, I just wanted to leave. I was extremely hungry. I went to the bathroom and drank water from the sink. It wasn't bad or good, it was just alright.

Later, my Master said, "What are you doing?"

"Ahh, drinking water! Duh" I replied.

"What are you doing? Class is over!" the Master said.

"What the heck?" I asked.

So then I went home. I liked this class, mostly because I got to drink from the sink. I told my mom about the class and she wasn't really happy about it.

— EDWARD, AGE 8

## Me, Myself, and I

I have brown skin, black eyes.

And brown and light red lips.

And a small nose.

I am really kind.

I am age 8.

And braided black long hair.

I am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

My teacher's name is Miss Barson.

I go to Hollin Meadows.

I am Mama Louise

— MAMA LOUISE, AGE 8

## The Walk

One foggy evening, me and my mom were walking. It was raining, plus there was also lightning! It looked like blue and white lights appearing in the sky. We kept on walking and talking. I was talking about when we went to a farm and found a real live kangaroo! It was amazing!

During our walk we saw a family of dogs roaming the streets. We also bumped into my best friend's dad. It was nice to see him. He was dressed up very fancy, a suit, a tie, and flowers, everything that was fancy.

Suddenly I heard a giggle, it was a clown. I got scared, but it was a clown that entertains people. He was going to a party. The party was for my sister's friend. My sister's friend's dress was a yellow as the sun. It was beautiful. Then I went back home to get ready for the next day.

— AISHA, AGE 8

## When I Fell Down

I always used to fall down when I walk. My mom always gave me sandals when we went somewhere. I always fell down, until my mom and I went to buy new sneakers. My mom found some pretty shoes.

I said, "I want them!"

So my mom bought the new shoes for me. I already wanted to put them on before we left the store.

My mom said it was okay. My mom put them on me. They fit me perfectly. I felt like a new girl!

I told her, "Yay!"

Now my mom and I buy more sneakers and less sandals so I don't fall down anymore. I am so happy!

— ANA, AGE 8



## The Shadows On the Snow

Kean Harrison, 11

Two years have passed since my sister died. I'll tell you if you just keep it a secret. Now I will tell you how it happened.

It was a summer night when she caught a very bad disease. We rushed to the hospital in a helicopter.

Then her heart stopped. Next she started to fade away into a black shadow. The shadow rushed out into the window and it was never seen again, until this very, very day.

Years and years have passed. It was snowing like reindeer. One night when it was darker than my sister's soul, I went outside in a rush. Then I saw a gang of shadows and one was my sister. When I saw her, I was kind of frightened. When I saw her, I turned into a shadow too.

— AIDEN, AGE 8

## The Fire of Christmas

Once upon a time there was a kid named Dan. He played football. Dan played for the Jacksonville Jaguars. Dan's number was 11 for the team.

It was Friday. Then Dan mischievously went down the stairs. When Dan went down the stairs, he saw a glow.

Next, Dan quietly said, "That is a fireplace."

Dan was astounded that there was a fireplace. Then he saw a big man wearing a red big strawberry coat. When the big man came into the house, Dan saw that it was Santa! Dan went back upstairs. He went to sleep with his toy snake. It was brown like dark chocolate. Dan had a dream about Santa dabbling!

— CYRUS, AGE 8

## The Hardest Challenge that I Had

Something that was challenging for me was when my mom left. My sister and I were very heartbroken. We were heartbroken, because it would be a long time until my mom came back. About 2 months later, our mom called us and told us she was in school. She didn't know when she was coming back.

About two years later she found out when she would come back. She would come back to us in 2017. We were glad. We didn't have to worry anymore. We could always talk to our mom when she calls. She usually calls every single day. I am very much looking forward to seeing her again.

— OZZY, AGE 8

## When I Got Hurt

When my mom and I went to the store. I fell on my leg. It hurt so bad. Then my mom and I came home. My mom helped me. Now my leg felt better. My mom put ice on my leg. I love my mom for helping me.

— JAZLENY, AGE 8

## Swans Above Us

Once I saw a swan  
Above us  
I almost fell back  
I was so amazed to see  
It for the very  
First time!

— MAVIS, AGE 8

## The Spy Life

POW! BOOM! Aahhhh!

Hi, my name is Sky Jones. I am a spy. I just kick some butt just now! I'm 8 years old so it's cool being a spy. I am super brilliant. I like playing games with my best friend, Raya. She's 10, but it's okay. We like to play Pokemon Go. Rya knows I am a spy. It is our little secret!

— JORDYN, AGE 8



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# Season's Greetings

*During the Holiday Season,  
I find myself reflecting on the  
past year and on those who have  
helped us shape our business.  
Thank you for your  
continued support.*

*Wishing you and yours  
a Happy Season and  
a New Year filled with  
Peace and Prosperity*

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**Liz Reiley,**  
**Kelly Palmer**

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# FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY



Mercer Fox, 2nd grade — Community Collage



Anthony Irizarry-Sobell, 3rd grade — Cultural Collage



Nina Willcoxon, 2nd grade — Community Collage



Brianna Maldonado, 3rd grade — Cultural Collage



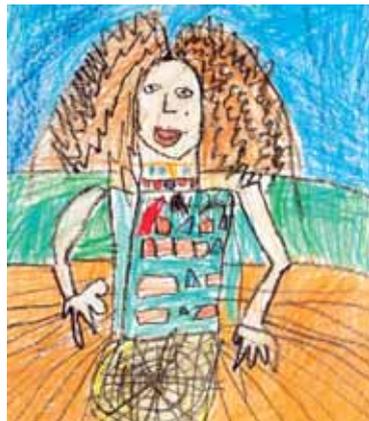
Ava Rashidfarokhy, 2nd grade — Community Collage



Calista Simon, 3rd grade — Markers



Nathan Suhy, 3rd grade — Community with Family and Friends, Crayon Drawing



Antonia Hillers, 1st grade — Family Member Portrait Drawing



Ian Monteith, 4th grade — Time on My Mind Collage



Kellan Vasques, 1st grade — Family Member Portrait Drawing



Leo Dietz, 2nd grade — Neighborhood Friends Drawing



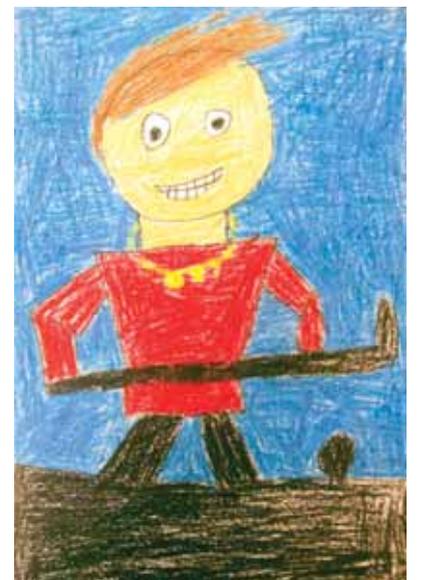
Parker Schroeder, 2nd grade — Community Collage



Bailey Kohler, Kindergarten — Animal Collage



Daniel Gasparo, 6th grade — Super You Drawing



Ryan Calligaro, 3rd grade — Cultural Identity Self-Portrait Drawing



Jadi Martinez Marquez, 2nd grade — Neighborhood Friends Drawing

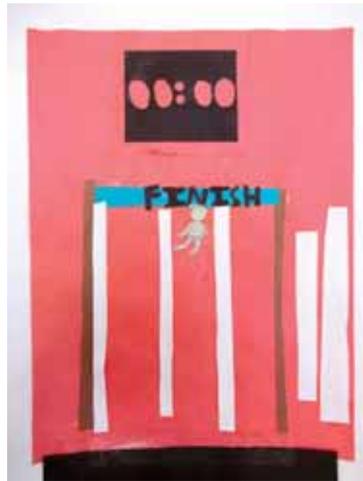


Matthew Britton, 3rd grade — Cultural Identity Drawing

# FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY



Abbey Pope, 5th grade — Memorable Journey Collage



Morgan Whaley, 4th grade — Time on My Mind Collage



Monica Morales-Barraza, 3rd grade — Cultural Identity Self-Portrait Drawing



Mathilde Iglesias, 1st grade — Family Helper Collage



Olivia Richkowski, 5th grade — Memorable Journey Collage

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## Discover Burgundy creativity!

We're thrilled to share Burgundy students' art and writing in this issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette!



At Burgundy, the fine and performing arts curriculum is integrated with core academic studies. To further enhance arts education, we're preparing to build a new Arts & Community Center!

Discover more about this project and our one-of-a-kind learning environment for students age 4 through grade 8 by visiting us!

Call 703.329.6968 to RSVP for our upcoming open house Sunday, January 8, 2-4 p.m. or schedule a personal tour of our 25-acre Alexandria campus just off the Beltway.



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# BUCKNELL ELEMENTARY



Francisco Blanco, 6th grade



Dakota Noblitt, 4th grade



Eber Blanco, 5th grade



Angie Bermudez-Rivera, 4th grade



Avery Nieuwendam, 4th grade



Jackeline Espinal-Carranza, 5th grade



Iris Ramirez, 6th grade



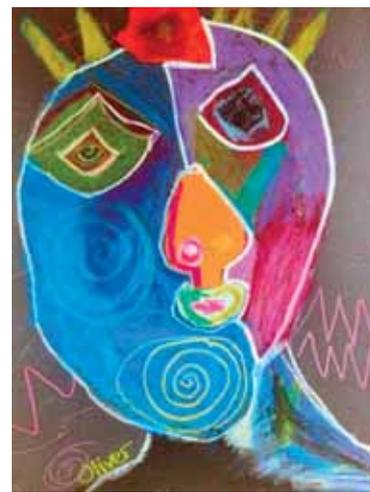
Keylin Funez-Aguila, Kindergarten



Leah Zamora, 1st grade



Monica Valle Lemus, Kindergarten



Oliver Rodriguez Amaya, 3rd grade



Patricia Pineda, 5th grade



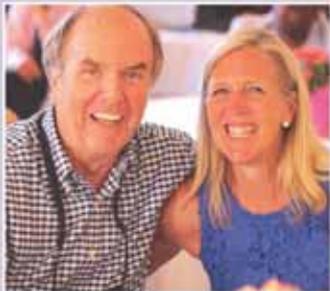
Genesis Granado, 2nd grade



Athena Wheeler, Kindergarten



Valeria Arce Ibanez, 2nd grade



# CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2017?*

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**9314 Craig Ave.**  
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**9433 Forest Haven Dr.**  
**\$745,000**

**Walk to Yacht Club!**



Unique New Orleans Colonial on gorgeous large lot in prime location near Potomac River. Features include: Updated custom kitchen, 3 finished levels, 4 BR's including spacious Master suite w/ balcony, 3 full baths, recently installed Andersen windows, oversized 2 car garage, expansive rear deck overlooks magnificent grounds which includes detached studio/office. Club



**9221 Patton Blvd**  
**\$795,000**  
Custom Built!



True custom home with bright open floor plan and Potomac views on half acre lot in premier water access community. Stunning Master suite on main level! Other features include: 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths, Chef's kitchen w/ granite counters, Gas cook top, wood floors, large deck and oversized 2 car Garage. Truly amazing value!



**5427 Grist Mill Woods Way**  
**\$899,000**

Stunning 5,686 sq ft Colonial featuring dramatic open floor plan, large room sizes, soaring high ceilings, and modern amenities typically found in \$1 Mil+ properties. Features include: 3 Fin levels, walk out lower level, 5BR's, 4.5BA's, Chef's kitchen, upgraded trim, hardwood floors, & 2 car garage. Custom deck and brick patio capitalize on gorgeous fenced grounds backing to park. Amazing Value!

# Thinking of **selling** next year? Now is the time to call!

# 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028**

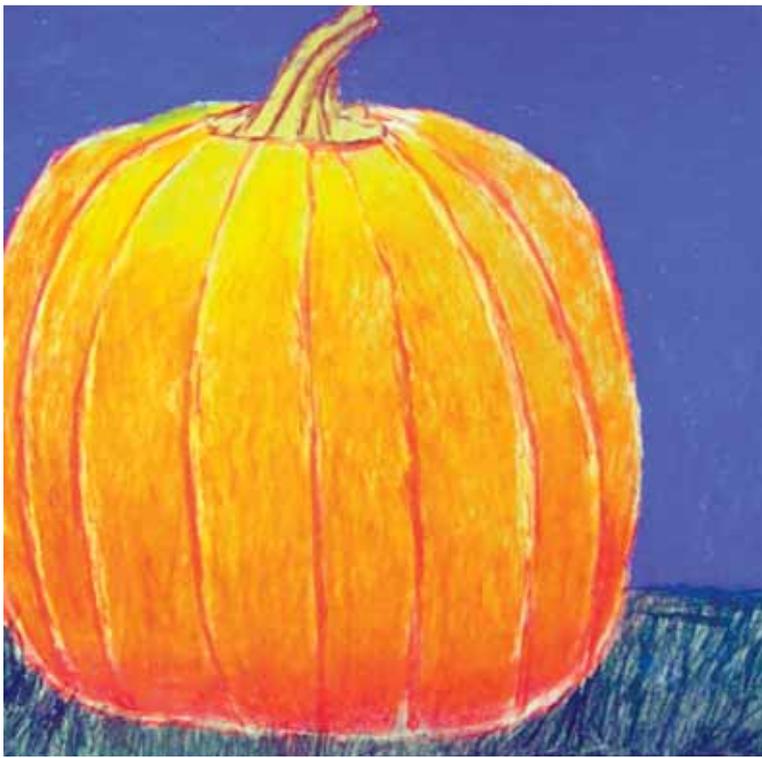
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# WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY

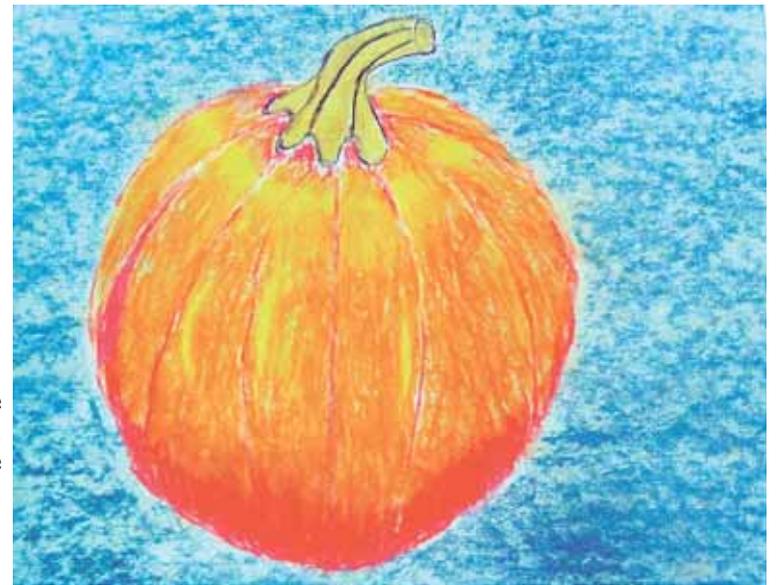


Blythe McDaniel, 4th grade

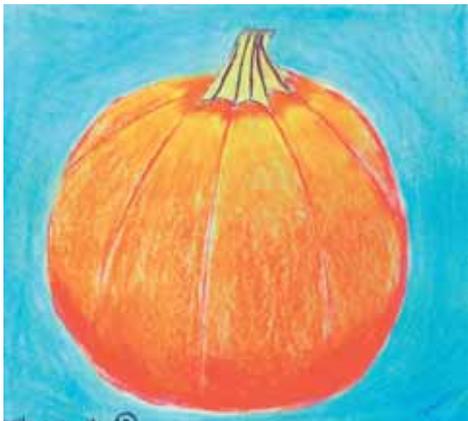
Sean Oelschlager,  
6th grade



Jillian  
Orenstein,  
4th grade



Catherine  
Preston,  
6th grade



Arabella Cyre, 6th grade



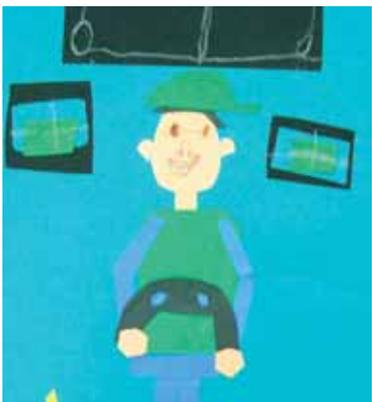
Ava Viera, 6th grade



Regan Boling, 6th grade



Samantha Collins, 6th grade



Noah Litonjua, 1st grade



Katherine Herbert, 1st grade



Finn Torgerson, 1st grade

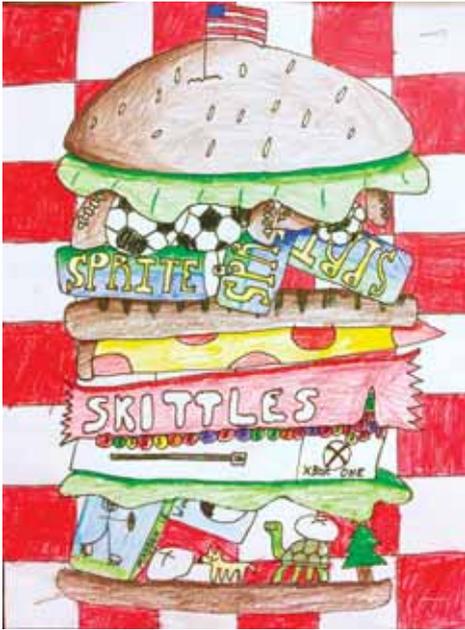


Caroline Myers, 4th grade



Reese Myers, 1st grade

# GROVETON ELEMENTARY



Christian Burke, 6th grade



Stephanie Arguenta Nunez, 3rd grade



Allyson Espinoza Serrano, 1st grade



Clara Bennett, Kindergarten



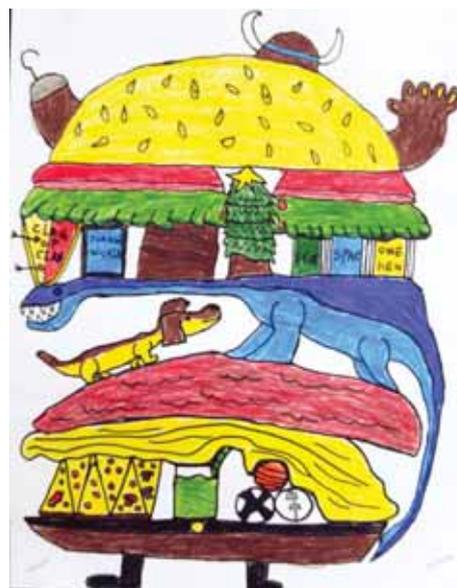
Nehllienne Liray, 1st grade



Nahya Valadares Pena, 5th grade



Somayya Chaudhry, 6th grade



Jasson Sandoval, 6th grade



Miles Gallishaw, Kindergarten



Meredith Twum Barimah, 4th grade

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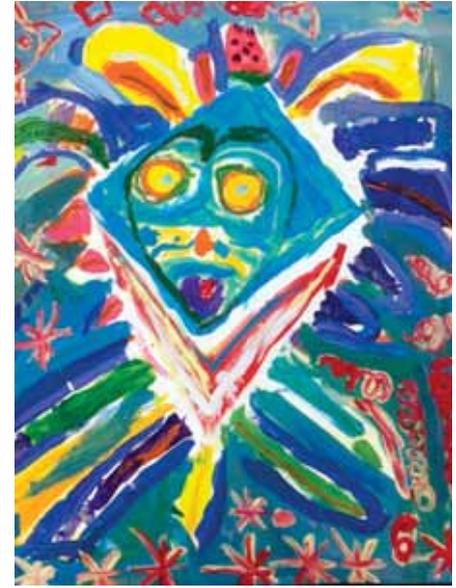
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## HYBLA VALLEY ELEMENTARY



Briana Guerro Ibaria, 3rd grade



Emily Aguilera, 3rd grade



Emma Burleyson, 3rd grade



Gaby Pereira, 3rd grade



Marely Castro-Campos, 3rd grade



Marely Chinchilla, 3rd grade



Oscar Castro-Carrilla, 3rd grade



Yostin Carrilla-Jimenez, 3rd grade

# HUZZAH!

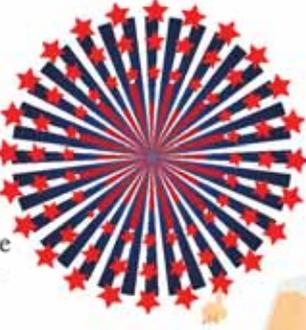
## First Night Alexandria

The 31<sup>st</sup> Day of December, 2016  
An Old Town New Year's Eve Party  
24 Indoor Venues in Old Town and One in Del Ray

### FIREWORKS ON THE POTOMAC



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Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!

Children 12 and under, and active military are **FREE**



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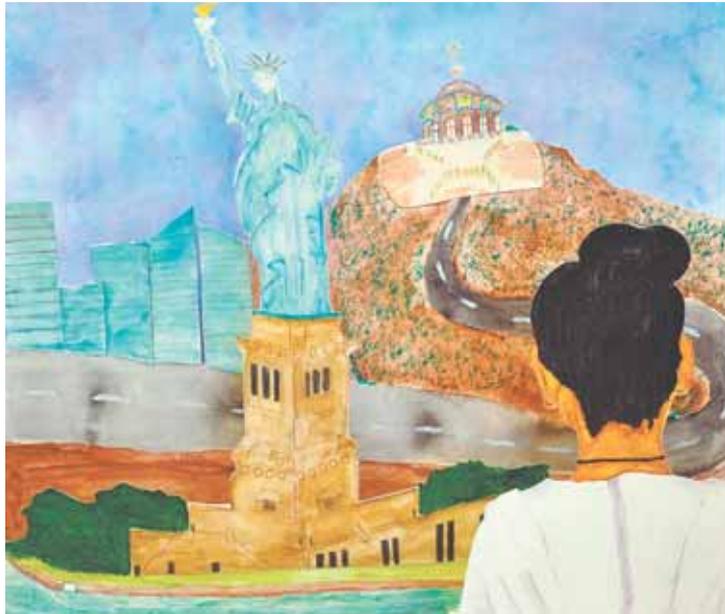
Find local businesses at [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org)  
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Second Thursday Business Breakfast  
2nd Thursday of each month  
8:00 am to 9:30 am  
Belle Haven Country Club

MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
6821 Richmond Highway / Alexandria, VA 22306

# BRYANT ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

**Bezawitt Yemam**  
— **Newtopia,**  
**Watercolor**



**Jose Ruiz** —  
**Untitled [View**  
**of Washing-**  
**ton], Water-**  
**color**



**Paola Salmerone**  
— **Fused Glass**  
**Dish**



**Gabriela Argueta**  
— **Untitled**  
**[Shoe], Clay and**  
**Acrylic**



<b>Independent Learners</b> 		<b>Please join us for an Open House</b> January 5 <sup>th</sup> January 10 <sup>th</sup> Grades K-8 • coed 2400 Russell Road Alexandria, VA 22301 <a href="http://www.acdsnet.org">www.acdsnet.org</a> 703.837.1303
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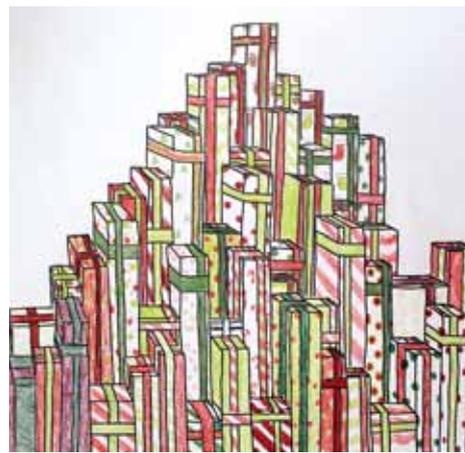
# ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



Colin Carpenter, 4th grade



Maddie Oehler, 8th grade



Peyton Zarate, 6th grade



Ari Lyubinsky, 3rd grade



Allison Bruehs, 6th grade



Alexandra Smethurst, 6th grade



Alexandra Feeley, 6th grade



Piper Foley, 8th grade



Gabby Ros, 7th grade



Ben Moore, 4th grade



Sarah Wood, 6th grade



William Heather, 3rd grade



Woodley Bohannon, 1st grade



Wynnie Eaton, 3rd grade



Zachary Roberts, 2nd grade

## All Alone

"What do you wanna do?" Anna asked, flopping down onto a beanbag. Benjamin and I shrugged. Just then, Grandma walked in. "Go play outside! It's a beautiful California day."

We obeyed, going to the backyard. "Let's go on the swing," I suggested.

"Nah, let's go in the forest instead ... Alone." Anna said. "I know the way."

"What?" I asked.

At the same time, Benjamin said, "I don't think that's a good idea."

"You heard me. Alone. Unaccompanied. Without an adult."

I got the chills as I thought about being in the forest alone.

The forest was actually just palm trees, but there were fallen logs, a creek, and even occasionally pomegranates, not to mention the strange glow of the sun peeking through the palm leaves.

I frowned. "But Grandpa can't take us, he's busy." I pointed out.

"That's okay, I know the way," Anna answered. "I live here, you know."

Don't get me wrong, I loved the forest. Climbing, running, jumping, all of it. But without an adult?

"Well," I started to talk but I was cut off by Anna. "Meet you by the forest rock!" she said, as she started running.

Benjamin and I glanced at each other. "This isn't a good idea, but let's go," he said with a frown.

I grabbed a sweatshirt, then ran outside with Benjamin on my heels.

Anna was sitting at the forest rock, picking her nails. "What took you so long?" she asked.

We started walking along, Anna in front. We kept on walking, stopping to climb trees and such.

We came across a pile of junk. There was a wheelbarrow, tricycle, a lamp, a shovel, and a mop. Grabbing the wheelbarrow, Anna said, "Here, someone hop in!"

Benjamin started to, but I said, "Wait! That might be dangerous!"

Anna rolled her eyes. "This is mine. It's safe."

We kept going instead, then a minute later stopped to climb a rock. Once we were all on top, I peeled off my sweatshirt and looked at my watch. It was 4:45. I looked out at the forest.

I couldn't see our house. Oh no. Are we lost? Do any of us know the way back? My thoughts raced.

"We need to go back, it's getting late."

"Fine. Let's go," Anna replied. Why was she always so sure of herself? I wondered. Still, I didn't know where to go, so I followed her back down the rock. As she led us through the forest, I started to relax.

Then, she turned left, even though the wheelbarrow was on the right.

"The way we came is ..." My voice trailed off, as Anna didn't seem to hear.

She kept on walking, so I followed. She was always sure of herself at the forks, turning right, left, left again, straight at the fork of three paths. I lost track.

Then, at 5:00 exactly according to my watch, she stopped.

I immediately asked, "What happened? Are we home?" Anna was quiet, but Benjamin decided to speak up.

"She led us the wrong way. We're lost," he announced.

We're lost. Only two words, but with a great meaning. We're lost, I thought, as I took it in. Lost.

I bit my lip, tasting the blood.

Why had I let Anna drag us into this? We are going to be in so much trouble if our parents find out.

Benjamin started talking. "Don't worry, it's going to be okay." I could smell the lie in his words. He was just comforting himself.

The part of my brain that I only used at school turned on. I started walking in circles, going further out each time. I looked around for something to redirect us.

Meanwhile, Benjamin was arguing with Anna, who crossed her arms and pursed her lips. "I'm not a GPS! Everyone makes mistakes!" I heard her say.

Suddenly, I caught a glimpse of something orange.

It was up high, but I realized it was my sweatshirt. I must have accidentally left it on the rock! I realized.

"I know the way back," I announced. I felt as if a war was over and my sweatshirt was a victory flag.

SEE ALL ALONE, PAGE 19

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# ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

## All Alone

FROM PAGE 18

We all ran toward the rock, then climbed up, sat down, and relaxed. It was already 5:30. "We really need to get going," I said.

At the fork, we turned right, then paused at the wheelbarrow so we could all catch our breath. "Whew! That was exhausting," I panted, as I considered the whole ordeal.

Benjamin and I both immediately looked at Anna, waiting for a smart alec comment, but for once, she was quiet.

I felt like I had been struck by lightning. She had nothing to say?

"Well ... Let's get going," I said.

"Wait, Laura," Anna said, grabbing my arm. I nodded at Benjamin to keep on going. I turned back toward to Anna.

"I know it was my fault we got lost. You and Benjamin tried to warn me, but I was too stuck up to listen," she confessed. The anger I had been feeling since we got lost finally melted away.

"That's okay, I should have been bolder in pointing out the danger. Now we both know to not take dangerous risks. Also, it doesn't hurt to forgive and forget," I smiled.

"Let's go play on the swing," Anna offered, and we walked side by side to join the laughing, playing children already there.

— LAURA DUFFIELD, 5TH GRADE

## Scooter Falls

Today was the day. Today, I would go down my biggest hill yet. Yes, the biggest hill in the neighborhood.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" My dad asked. I felt a chill run down my spine. I started to sweat. "Lauren are you okay?" I didn't say anything, he asked again. "Lauren are you okay?"

"Uhh ... Oh, yeah, I'm fine," I answered. I felt an

energy run from my arms down to my hands. I squeezed the handle bar.

With my face and chest up tall, I walked out of my old dusty garage. On the inside, I had butterflies in my stomach and my heart was thumping. Thump, thump, THUMP! The only reason that I'm doing this is to show that I'm not a sissy, I thought.

"Here ... I ... goooo!" I pushed off, going much faster than I intended. Everything was a blur. All of the sudden, I heard a voice.

"Lauren, look out for that branch!"

I looked behind me to see who had yelled. I don't know how to use the brakes! I panicked. Suddenly, I remembered the time I had played basketball against my dad.

"You'll never be able to make a basket on me. You're too much of a sissy, Lauren," he had taunted. Although it was typical trash-talk, it stuck with me.

Dad's wrong, I thought. I'm not a sissy. I can be brave. Then I remember I'm still on my razor.

Almost like it happened in slow motion, I slammed my foot down on to the concrete driveway. I flew off my razor. For a brief moment, I felt like I was a little bird learning how to fly. Then, I hit the ground with a loud THUNK.

I could not breathe. I was crying like a baby without a blanket. My tears rolled down the street. Tears of joy and hurt. I started to laugh. I'm not a sissy! I thought, as I lay on the ground. I did it!

My dad rushed to my side and picked me up. I felt like I was being wrapped up in a blanket. He walked me up the street. I saw my mom run outside, "What happened sweetie?" She yelled. Still crying, I managed to answer.

"I was going too fast on my razor and fell."

That night my dad came up to my bedroom to kiss me goodnight.

"Do you still think I'm a sissy?" I asked.

"Of course not," he said immediately. "You are the bravest kid I know. Just try not to hurt yourself next time!"

— LAUREN APPLIGATE, 5TH GRADE

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# STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY



**Gunner Dutzman, 6th grade**



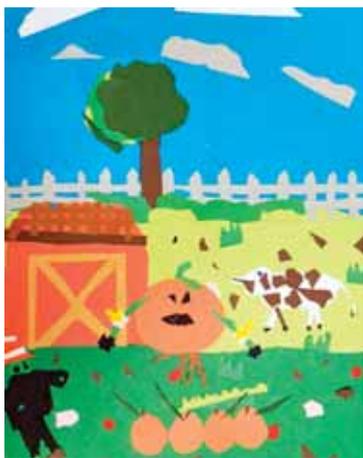
**Cameron Spaulding, 6th grade**



**Sydney Kopple, 1st grade**



**Lily Westphal, 4th grade**



**Jordan Knerl, 4th grade**



**Ezra Beschta Westfall, 2nd grade**



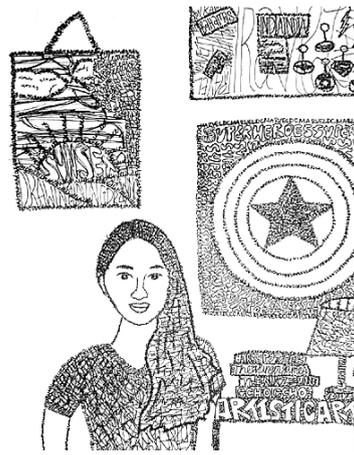
**Toron Tillery, 2nd grade**



**Addison Finley - 3rd grade**



**Ariana Alaia, 1st grade**



**Naina Srivastava, 6th grade**



**Ella Oliver, 3rd grade**



**Joseph Yap, 5th grade**



**William Dabbieri, Kindergarten**

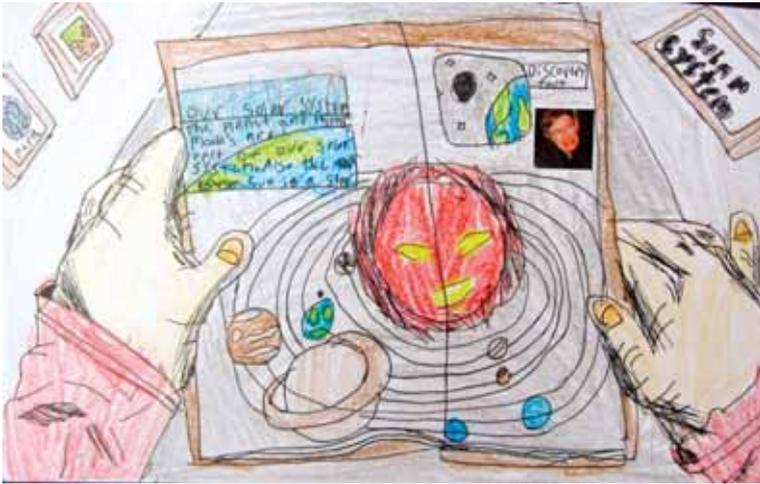


**Katherine Martinez, 3rd grade**

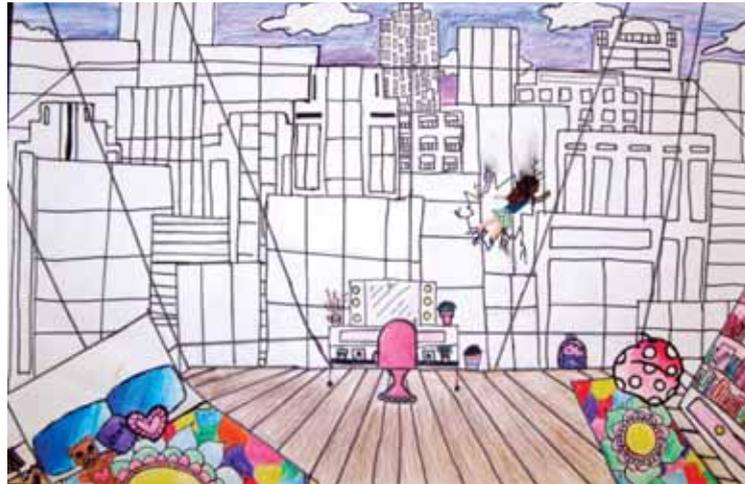


**Jack Brennell, 5th grade**

# WOODLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY



Erik Gutierrez-Orozco, 5th Grade — Contour Line Drawing



Thouaiba Salmi, 6th Grade — Super You



Josue Martinez Pagoada, 3rd Grade — Cultural Self-Portrait



Mariana Avelar-Trigueros, 3rd Grade — Set The Table



Valeria Ribera, 2nd Grade — Celebrate Good Times



Reuben Amankwaah, 3rd Grade — Cultural Self-Portrait

## Art

Art is cool  
 Art is like earth  
 The paintbrush moves like a zigzag  
 The paint splatters everywhere plop, plop  
 Mixing the colors is like mixing Kool-Aid  
 Dropping the paintbrush in the paint is  
 like dropping an Oreo cookie in milk by  
 accident

— MELANY PARADA-FLORES, 6TH GRADE

## ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL



Stella Debonis



Taylor Hellmold



Emmalyne Bobadill



Hudson Kendall

## STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY

### Behind the Scenes at the Alexandria Nutcracker

**Harper Jefferies:** What part in the Nutcracker did you want when you auditioned?

**Alexandra Glass:** "Well, my friend had the part of Tapping Soldier last year and so it was the part I really wanted and it turns out I got exactly the part I wanted!"

**HJ:** How did you feel when you got the part?

**AG:** "I was really excited! I was like, 'it's a miracle!'"

— HARPER JEFFERIES, 3RD GRADE

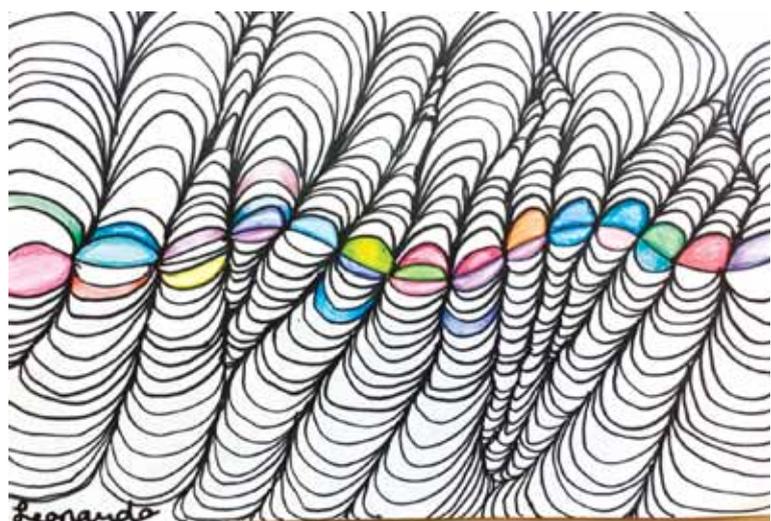


Alexandra Glass as a Tapping Soldier.



Rachel Jurta, a 3rd grader at Stratford Landing Elementary, puts on lipstick before dancing in the party scene in Alexandria's "Nutcracker" which took place at West Potomac High School.

# BURGUNDY FARM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



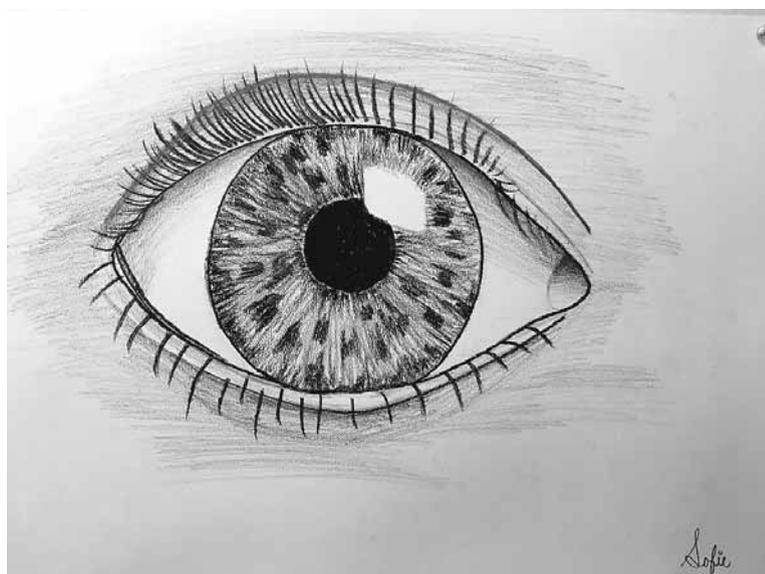
Leonardo Soriano, grade 3



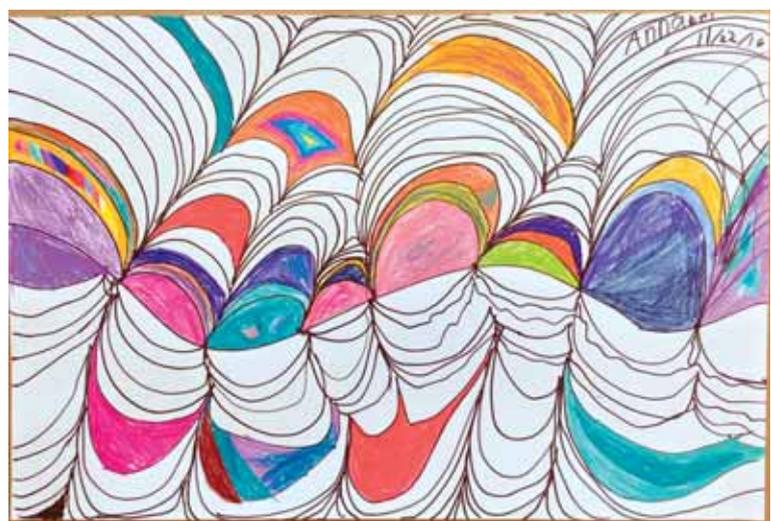
Altan Yamaner, Kindergarten



Sebastian Ming, Kindergarten



Sofie Edwards, grade 8



Annabel Helms, grade 3



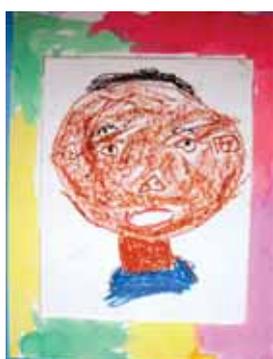
— ETHAN EDWARDS, GRADE 3



Julia Hildebrandt, Kindergarten



Anne Hubbard, Kindergarten



London Murray, Kindergarten



Christian Coates, Kindergarten

## I Am Thankful ...

I'm thankful for family. My brother makes me laugh and he plays with me. We also like to play video games together. My parents make me happy and they love me. My dad plays games with me like air hockey. My mom is happy and I like having snowball fights in the winter. My friends are sort of like my family too. My friends play with me and help me when I need help. My grandparents talk with me and make me feel comfortable. I love my family and they love me too.

— SEAN ROBINSON, GRADE 3

I am thankful for my teachers Erin and Dana. Erin is silly and joyful. It makes me feel good when she laughs at what we say. Erin is hopeful and she never gives up until the end. She never doubts us. Dana is always thinking positive about math and language arts. She helps us when we are having trouble with things. She is always kind to us and is always happy to see us. Erin and Dana help me learn new things that help me in life. I am thankful for all my teachers, especially Erin and Dana.

— LEONARDO SORIANO, GRADE 3

I'm thankful for my family because they love me. I'm thankful for my dad because he plays games with me and watches TV with me. He's funny and plays with me too. I love my mom for many reasons. Once reason I love my mom is because when I need help she helps me. She lets me stay up and watch movies. When she gets home she hugs me. I love my brother because he's very funny and likes to play. We play on our tablets together. My favorite thing to do with him is run around and build Legos. Im thankful for and love everyone in my family because they treat me with respect and love.

— ETHAN EDWARDS, GRADE 3

I am thankful for my family. My brother Peter is so funny and helpful and he's fun to play with. My guinea pigs are so cute and so warm and so precious to me. I am thankful for Mom and Dad. They are great parents and they are super nice to me and Peter. I also like it when mom chooses great books to read to us. My dad is funny and playful. I like how he lets Peter and I attack him on the couch. I love my family SO much and I am really thankful for them.

— ANNABEL HELMS, GRADE 3

I'm thankful for a lot of things but I am only going to write about one. I'm thankful for my friends because they look after me. I have a lot of friends and one of my friends is Dillon. Dillon and I play a lot of things but usually we play two square, or four square or ball tag. When he's playing with me I feel good. When we hang out he is usually funny and makes me laugh. When we play games we cooperate.

Another friend I am thankful for is Sadie. Usually we play two square and sometimes go easy on each other when nobody is in line. Most importantly, she helps me when I am hurt.

Ethan is also a friend. I am thankful for him because he is funny and makes me laugh. Usually I play ball tag with Ethan. Sometimes we do not get along but we are still friends.

I am thankful for my friends I wrote about here, and also my friends I did not write about.

— HAYDEN WAGNER, GRADE 3

I'm thankful for everything good but this is the one I'm writing about. I'm thankful for my cousins. One of my cousins is Zoey. Zoey is really crazy. She screams and runs like crazy. She drinks apple juice then burps. It's quiet. Then Zoey laughs then we giggle and laugh. Zoey loves apple juice. She's my favorite cousin. She's super cute and funny and has a British accent. Zoey is just really cute and shy but REALLY nice and silly. Even if she's in Australia she's still my favorite cousin.

Another one of my favorite cousins is Zac (Zachery). Zac is a little baby but will cry if you're not dancing with him. He loves dancing. He also loves to star jump. He's REALLY cute and chubby.

Another cousin is Brandon. He is really cool and loves basketball. He helped me play basketball when I was a little kid. He's nice when he's on his phone. He is good at cheering you up when you're sad. He's fun to play with.

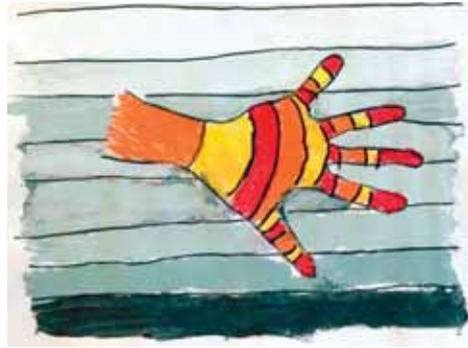
I really love my cousins Zoey, Zac and Brandon, and today I want to share I love them. They are the best cousins any kid could have. I'm thankful for really caring cousins!

— LAYLA HILL, GRADE 3

# ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Maya Repeta, 4th grade



Eli Swanson, 4th grade



Serena Moss, 4th grade



Silvana Sotelo, 4th grade



Abraham Nawas,  
Kindergarten



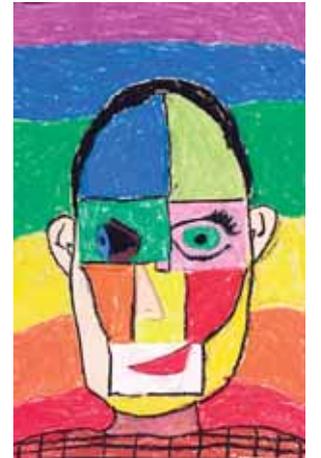
Jack Scully, Kindergarten



Will Burke, 1st grade



Michelle Dorman, 6th grade



Peter Weber, 6th grade



Michael Simental, Kindergarten



Brandy Byrd, 2nd grade



Erin Kelly, 5th grade



Mary Cotnoir, 5th grade



Claire Cheney,  
Kindergarten



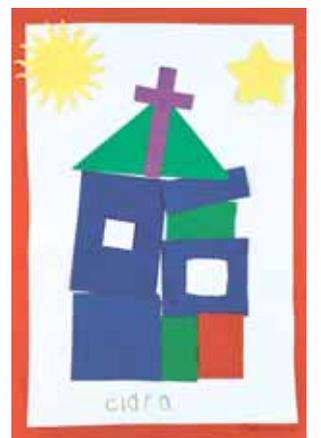
Maggie Tallagnon,  
6th grade



Santiago Rivera-Robiou,  
6th grade



Amy Anderson, 6th grade



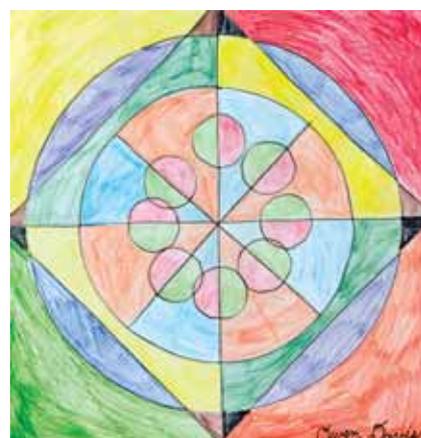
Clara Lorenzo Y Losado,  
Kindergarten



Amelia Hooper, 5th grade



Morgan Swetz, 5th grade



Owen Davis, 5th grade

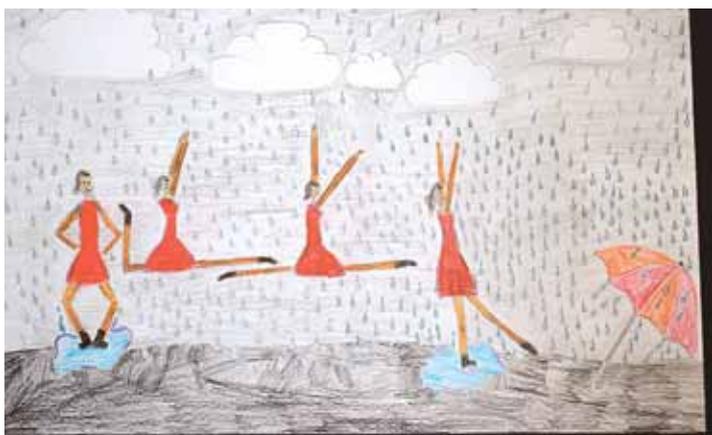


Augustine Howard, 5th grade

# BROWNE ACADEMY



Abigail Taylor, grade 3 — Danse Macabre



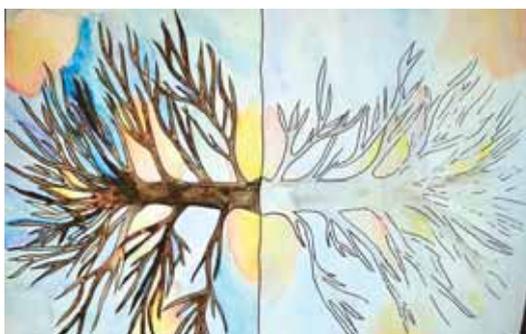
Alexis Rouson, grade 7 — girl in rain



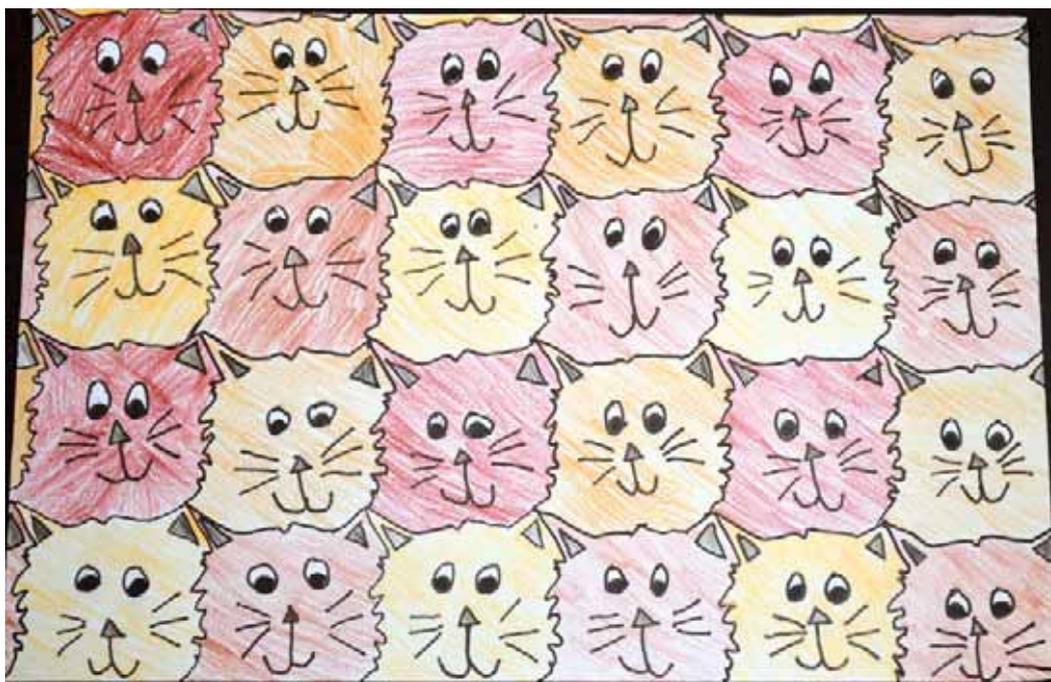
Bella Bloom, grade 5 — tessellation sharks



Summer Bickley, grade 3 — Hokusai Wave



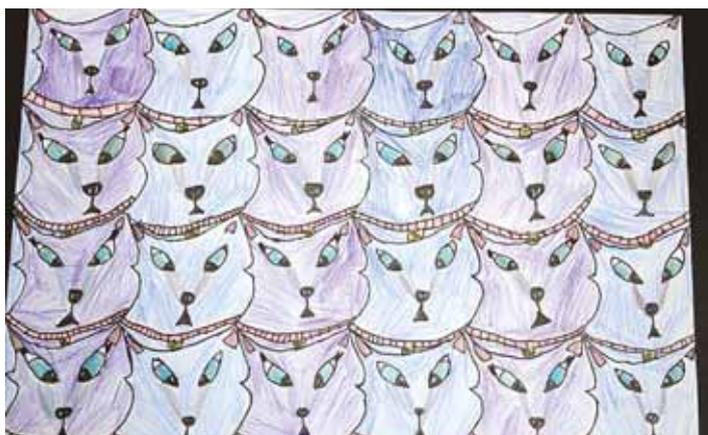
Tai'Lyn Smith, grade 8 — trees



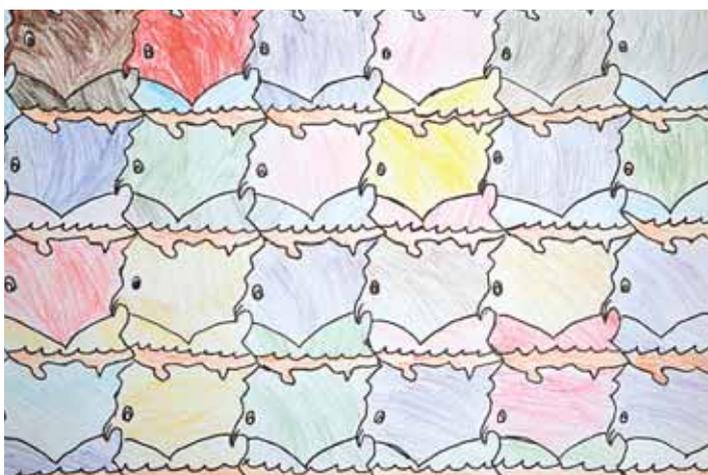
Anna Larson, grade 5 — tessellation cats



Gabriella Graden, grade 8 — tree



Tabitha Randazzo, grade 5 — tessellation cats



Tobi Odugbemi, grade 5 — tessellation owls

## My Bedroom

On the top floor of my house there is a room, my room, and it is my favorite place. As I enter, I see my cream colored walls, my soft twin-sized bed, with my beige-colored dog, Max, lying on top of it sleeping. To the left of my bed, I see my windows that have white curtains on them. I look outside and see our giant Magnolia tree with glossy green leaves and beautiful whitish pinkish flowers blooming. Back in my room, I see a wooden framed mirror that I can see my reflection in, my bookcase with books and souvenirs on it that I have collected over my life. To the left of the bookcase, I see my snow white desk filled with notebooks and writing utensils like pencils and pens in a blue cup I painted when I was in Daisy Scouts. In front of my desk is my dresser with six drawers filled with clothes, that has a grayish radio on it next to a lava lamp. I feel the smooth white comforter on my bed, my hard dark brown wooden floor, and my semi-rough cream colored carpet when I enter my room. I taste my sweet and crunchy Frosted Flakes snack. I listen to my iPad youtube videos playing while my dog's heavy breathing is in the background. I love my room.

— ZOE NORTH, 11, 6TH GRADE

## The Nike Shoe Store

I love the feeling of new shoes on my feet, and I love where I get my shoes. When I walk into the Nike shoe store, I see tons of customers and shelves full of new, cool shoes. After looking around, I pick up a pair of shoes and I feel the lace and tongue of the shoe. The shoes feel soft and have a hard base. The laces are black and the back has little pink spikes. These shoes are called "Kyrie." I look around some more and put the shoes down. I see people talking and trying on shoes. I smell the scent of pretzels and fresh shoes. I hear my sister, Belinda, telling me how I have more shoes than her and how it's not fair. I muse to myself about the number of shoes I have and the number of shoes she has. Eventually I pick a pair of shoes and join the lengthy line. I see the satisfied customers in front of us finish paying and I move up. Belinda and I put our shoes on the counter, which is very cold and I quickly take my hands off. I watch Dad pull out his leather wallet with a grim look. Then Belinda and I grab the plastic bags and say, "Thanks Dad" and walk happily out the door.

— MELINDA DANIELS-TINEO, 11, 6TH GRADE

## My Special Place

Do you have a place where you feel comfortable and relaxed, a place where you can be absolutely free? For some people it's on the soccer field, or their house, or maybe it is a place where they vacation. For me, that place is the Chesapeake Bay. Do you want to go with me?

At the Bay, I am on a paddleboard with water surrounding me as far as I can see. I put my paddle down and put my feet into the cool water. A silver fish jumps up and splashes me in the face. Little

SEE BROWNE ACADEMY, PAGE 22

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements



Alexandria City Public Schools

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-12-05**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Social Studies Instructional Materials.

Sealed Proposals with the notation **RFP# 16-12-05 Social Studies Instructional Materials** will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 20, 2017. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum to the ACPS web site.

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

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**ABANDONED WATERCRAFT**

Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of Frank Smith, 807 South Alfred Street, Apt #4, VA 22314, Telephone number 202.5695761.

Description of the watercraft:

Make: Wellcraft, length: 19 feet, year built: 1988, color: blue and white, boat registration: VA 1134 XX, hull identification number: WELT 4187B888

Application for Watercraft Registration / Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with questions.

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**ABC LICENSE**  
AR Workshop Alexandria, LLC trading as AR Workshop Alexandria, 107 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Art Instruction Studio license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Katie Wells Owner  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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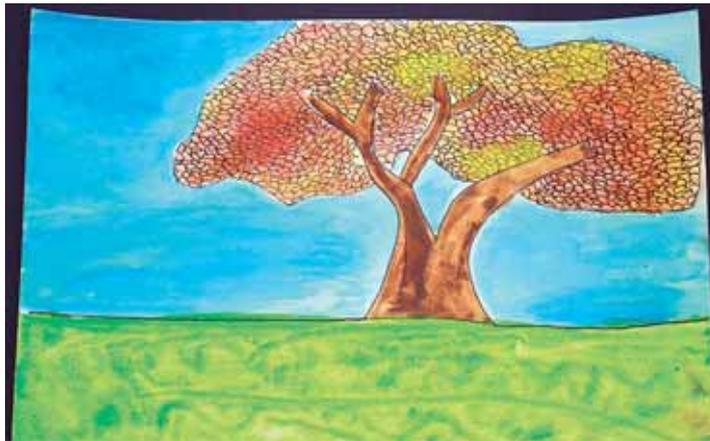
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Rachel Driscoll, grade 8 — tree

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Hugh Sullivan, grade 4 — pumpkin



Clare Helvey, grade 6 — clay pot

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Maya Soares, grade 4 — flag



Logan Brooks, grade 4 — flag

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Simone Cathey, grade 8 — tree



Sophie Atkisson, grade 6 — clay pot

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## WRITING

FROM PAGE 20

droplets of water land on me, and I lick the salty water off my lips. If I turn my head towards the east, I can see splotches of pink, yellow, orange, purple, and blue of the sunset. The seagulls squawk and chase each other. A tall sailboat passes by, making me feel like a tiny ant. I wave to the people passing by in the sailboat. I can feel the slow steady waves beneath me from the sailboat. A savory aroma of my grandma frying chicken drifts over the water. I hear my dad call me in to eat dinner, so I paddle back to our house.

— CLARE HELVEY, 12, 6TH GRADE

## Broadway

When I'm in New York City, my favorite place to visit is Broadway. I love all of the mysterious people and buildings. The streets are made in a grid which makes it almost impossible to get lost. Everywhere I look I see bright signs telling me to "Buy Coke," or to "Go Watch Hamlet!" My favorite of all the bright signs is the newsreel that wraps around one whole building. Everyone around it stops to just read the bright words. The smells are nauseating with the horses and their droppings, garbage trucks, smoke, and exhaust from cars. I wander

## CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL



Morgan Tracy, 12, grade 7 — Purple Flowers.

through Times Square with a salty pretzel in one hand and a cream cheese bagel in the other. No bagel has ever or will ever beat out this one. Every block there are people cursing and screaming at each other, but even with these flaws, I love New York!

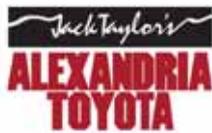
— SARAH KALO, 11, 6TH GRADE

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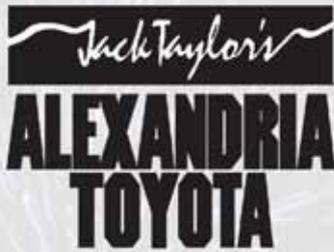
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