

# Burke CONNECTION



By Victoria Phinzy,  
Grade 6, White Oaks  
Elementary, submitted  
by Art Specialist  
Susan Mosios.

## Children's & Teens' Connection 2017

2017 -  
2018

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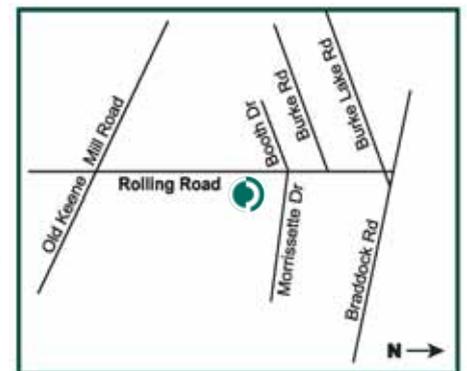
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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

**Dancers by Claire Ashley, Art Classes in Burke, Instructor Carol Zeitlin**



**Winter Fun, by Allyson Nguyen, Grade 8, Lake Braddock SS, Teacher: Victoria McGrath**



**By Noah Kwasnoski, Grade 6, White Oaks Elementary, submitted by Art Specialist Susan Mosios.**

## 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 was always 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 2018 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](mailto: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



**By Riley Betzel, Grade 4, Cherry Run Elementary, Art Resource Teacher Melanie C. Rodas.**



**Cherry Run Spirit Day, dressed up as "teachers" — Brielle Crowell, Victoria Shea, Kiera Crowell, Deborah Busch (Submitted by Mary Ellen Zavaleta, Fourth Grade Teacher)**

# CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Photos submitted by Mary Ellen Zavaleta, Fourth Grade Teacher

**Cherry Run Elementary fourth graders displaying words they love. First row: Fiona Mulcahy, Faith Emerson; Second row: Dalton Childress, Nathan Hodge, Brielle Crowell, Kiera Crowell, Leo the guinea pig (on lap), Victoria Shea; Third row: Courtney Dang, Keshav Parikh, Anthony Manikas; Fourth row: Alex Robehmed, Samuel Griffith, Fifth row: Nicolas Moreno, Randy Steele.**



**Fiona Mulcahy: Picture Puzzle Piece by Shel Silverstein**



**Fourth grader Deborah Busch with the class guinea pig, Leo, sharing him with her dance class friends - Bella Turner, Victoria Barnhouse, Anna Drozdova and Chloe Busch.**



**Kiera Crowell: Cat by Marilyn Singer in "Turtle in July."**

Fourth Graders' Opinions in Mary Zavaleta's class.

## Favorite animal?

A human- because I'm a human and we can find a way to live peacefully (or not.)

—EVAN JONES

Cheetahs- it must feel good to run that fast! I wish I could. Do you?

—VICTORIA SHEA

Elephant- When I was younger, I thought an elephant could give me a shower. When I was 2 or 3, I wanted to be an elephant when I grew up. Even now, I still like elephants because they are very cool.

—FIONA MULCAHY

A Galapagos tortoise- I want to ride it! They were almost instinct.

—KESHAV PARIKH

A dog- It's a very interesting story about how dogs came to be real. They have super puppy cuteness that can make a heart melt. They are friendly-well, most of them. You can teach them tricks.

—SAMUEL GRIFFITH

## Favorite game?

I like soccer because it's a sport that can burn your energy. If you're feeling squirrely, you should play this sport. It requires a lot of stamina, endurance and brainpower and skill. Can you kick a ball?

—SAMUEL GRIFFITH

Roblox is a game I love to play. You can play tons of different games on it. You can create an avatar. You can have friends. You can enjoy relaxation time.

—SAMUEL GRIFFITH

My favorite game is Rocket League. It's a game where you have cars and you can play hockey, soccer or basketball. You hit the ball or puck with the car and try to make a goal. I play it with my neighbor all the time.

—NICOLAS MORENO

I think Minecraft is a very convenient game because you can play it on almost any device, from your X-box to your iphone! Minecraft is good to build things and has two main game modes: Creative and Survival. In Creative, you are free to do and build whatever you want, but in Survival you have limited resources.

—FIONA MULCAHY

## Something you remember doing for the first time?

I remember the first time I rode my bike. It was on a soccer field. Then when I got the hang of it I rode on a tennis court. When I mastered that, I went on the sidewalk and road.

—NICOLAS MORENO

I remember going to a farm. The farm had roasting marshmallows, a mountain you could look up to see its beautiful land, and apple trees that had not-ready apples, rotten apples and good apples on the ground.

—BRIELLE CROWELL

The best thing that ever happened to me was when I caught a grass carp. It weighed 24 pounds and was three feet long. It was the biggest fish my family ever caught. It was the size of my little brother!

—DALTON CHILDRESS

## Favorite restaurant?

I went to Cava. It had a handwash-o-matic! You would roll up your sleeves then stick your hands in it. It would spin and spray water.

—KESHAV PARIKH

## What would you like to do for your first paid job (as a teenager)?

I would like to work at the Nike store. I like Nike clothes and shoes. Nike and Adidas are my favorite brands.

—NICOLAS MORENO

When I'm a teenager, I want to be a nature guide. The thought of spending all day in the forest makes me happy. I love watching animals, playing in the woods, and building shelters made from natural resources, so that's the job for me. I am good at talking to people about nature and I can memorize trails. I would like the job as a nature guide very much.

—FIONA MULCAHY

I want to be a lacrosse player because playing lacrosse makes me feel so happy when I'm with a team.

—KIERA CROWELL

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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## Cherry Run Elementary

Artwork submitted by Mary Ellen Zavaleta, Fourth Grade Teacher



By Kiera Crowell and Victoria Shea



By Dalton Childress 10, Burke

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## Lake Braddock Secondary School

Artwork submitted by Ceramics Teacher Josephine Stokes



Snake Vase by Mark Dubon — 3D AP Studio Art.



Flower vase pair by Victoria Cecchetti — 3D AP studio Art.



Autumn Leaf bowl by Devin Sheridan — Ceramics 1



Crown of Thorns by Zoe Mermagen — 3D AP Studio Art.

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Ethan Brown, Grade 4

## Cherry Run Elementary

Artwork submitted by Melanie C. Rodas, Art Resource Teacher.



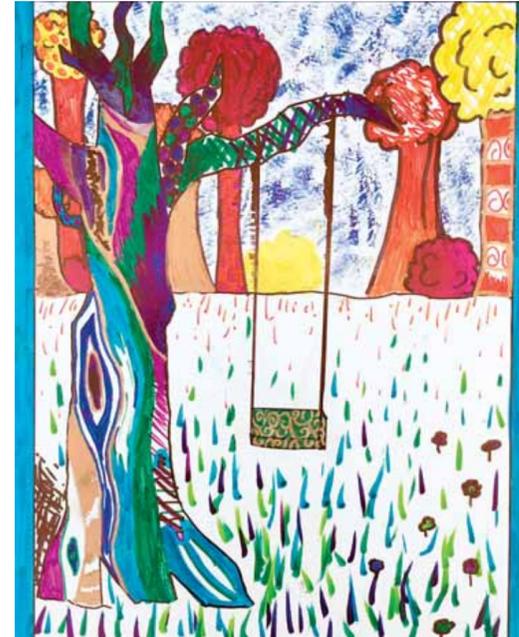
Abigail Schuettler, Grade 4



Stanley Carroll, Grade 2



Alicia Cali, Grade 1



Julia Woods, Grade 6



Braden Hodge, Grade 1



Shelby Anderson, Grade 2



Ayden Dang, Grade 4



Gavin Smith, Grade 2



Wyatt Jarosz, Grade 2



Sydney Scott, Grade 6



Rouben Ohannessian, Grade 6



Ben Taylor, Grade 3



Anna Sinclair, Grade 3

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# ART CLASSES IN BURKE



Seasonal Drawing by Josephine Bronson in Art Classes in Burke



Seasonal Drawing by Jean Seo in Art Classes in Burke



Seasonal Drawing by Kayla Martinez in Art Classes in Burke



Original Female Character,  
line drawing by Kayleen  
Grasso, Art Classes in  
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INSTRUCTOR  
CAROL ZEITLIN



Self-Portrait drawing by Katie  
Weyrich in Art Classes in Burke



Seasonal Drawing by Holly Barker,  
Art Classes in Burke

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

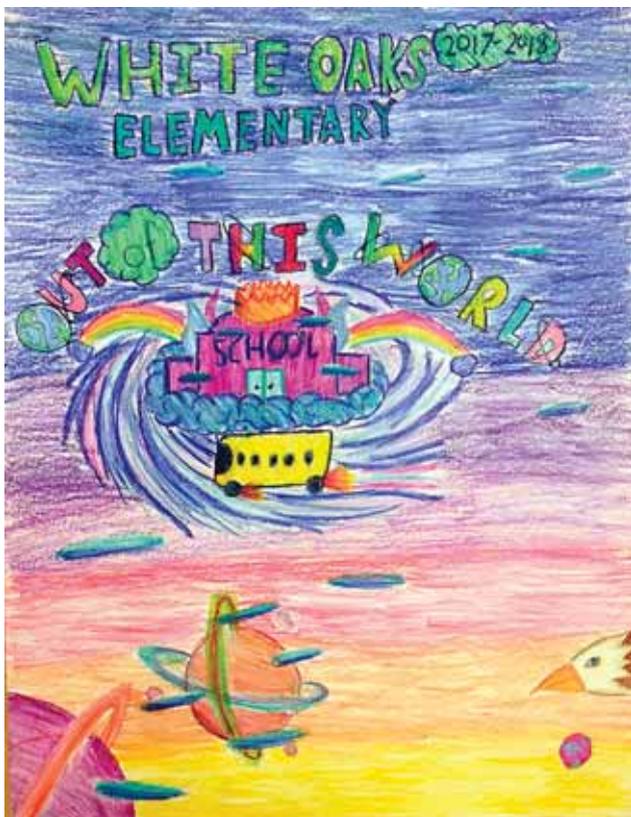
## White Oaks Elementary

Artwork by sixth grade students submitted by Susan Mosios, Art Specialist.

By Michelle Wang



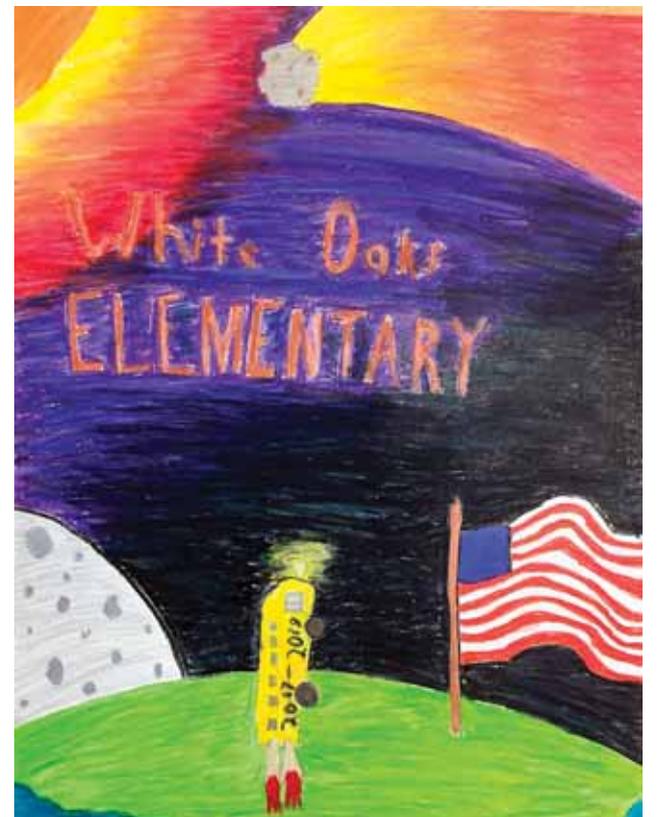
By Owen Corley



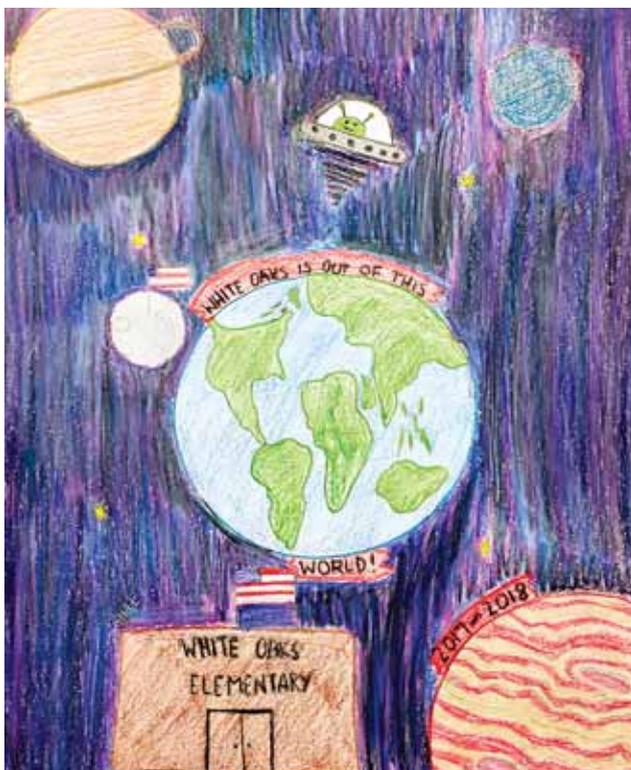
By Anna Gospodinova



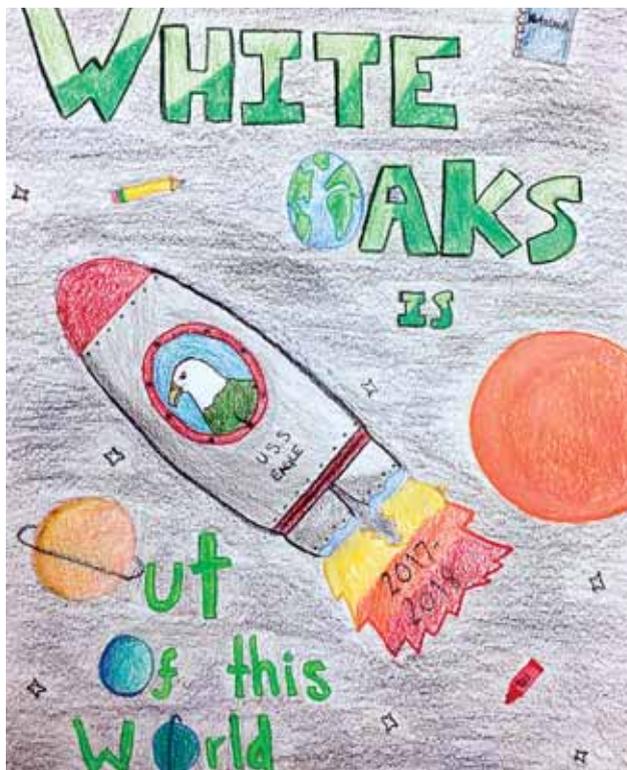
By Ariana Marticio



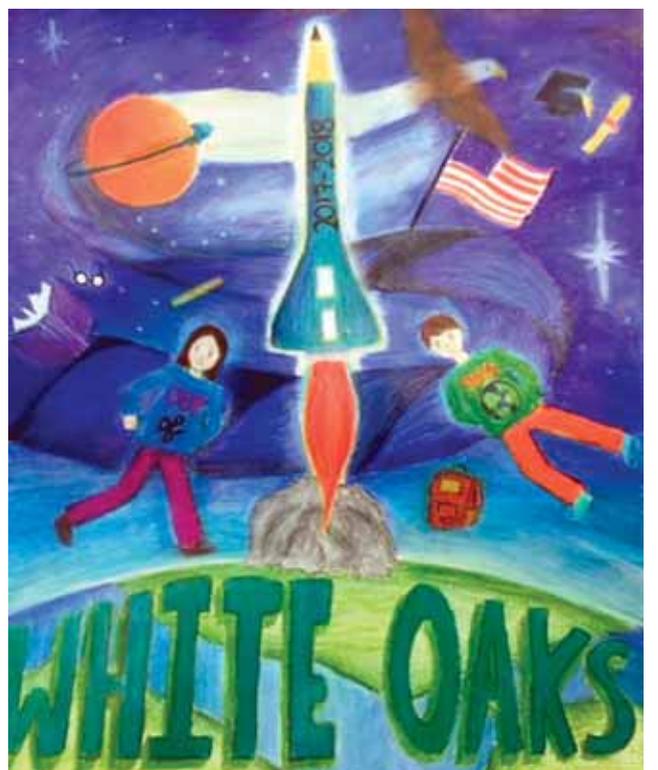
By Devon Rudolph



By Jeevan Kaur



By Katelyn Sullivan



By Maribelle Chu

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## POETRY

### A Flight in the Night

Soaring with my might  
In my midnight flight  
The moonlit sky  
Filling up my eye  
Barely moving my wing  
So happy I could sing  
Oh what a sight  
That is to be seen at night!

—JIMIN YIO OF FAIRFAX, 12, GRADE 7,  
ROCKY RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL

### The Gift

If I were to give a gift to my parents,  
it would be something that's not so apparent.  
It's something that can grow like a tree  
and it's something that can be from you and me.  
Love is the word that I'm thinking of,  
It flies into life like a little dove.  
It doesn't matter whether you're big or small,  
As long as you know that there is love for all.

—PETER SHERIDAN, AGE 11- GRADE 5,  
LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY

### The R in RESPECT

Respect is a gift.  
The most important thing to a friend.  
Respect is a beautiful and delicate thing,  
Worth being treasured in every way imaginable.  
The gift of respect is giving to people of all different sizes.  
Respect is given to the tall,  
Respect is given to the small,  
Respect is given to the strong,  
Respect to the wrong.  
Respect to yourself,  
Respect to your peers and toys on the shelf.  
But the R in RESPECT, is for resilience.  
Resilience to love, resilience to respect everyone.  
The R in RESPECT represents the people who care,  
Who love, who hope, who dream,  
Who live, who laugh, who respect.

—VIOLET TAYLOR, AGE 11,  
LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY

### Hope

Earth is a fallen world  
So many disasters  
But there is one thing we can clutch onto to preserve it  
forever  
Hope  
We must share it with others  
It's too good to keep to ourselves  
We must believe that everything will be alright  
We need to hold on tightly  
To hope

—GRACE OH, GRADE 6,  
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY



Autumn by Amanda Liu, age 6, First grader in Mrs. Tredinnick's class at Canterbury Woods Elementary School in Annandale

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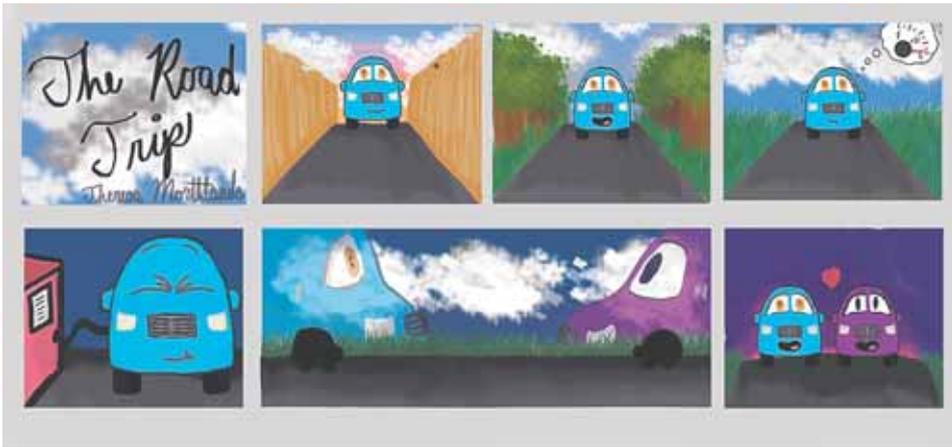
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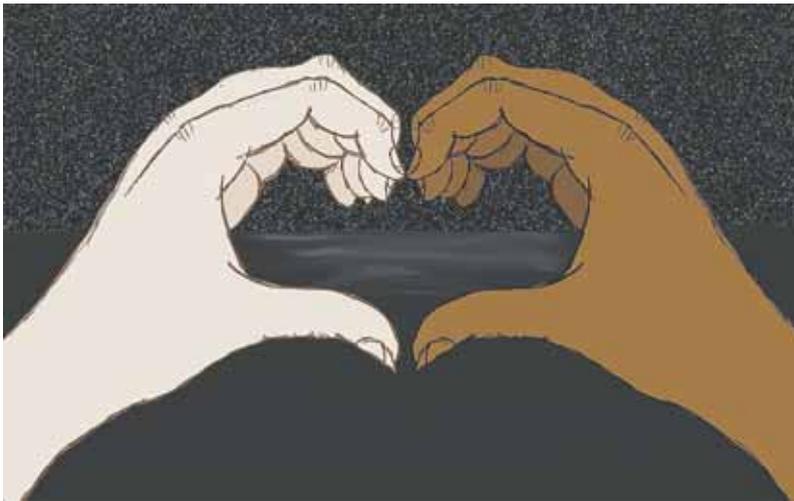
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- Vienna/Oakton Connection

# LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL



Road Trip Comic, by Theresa Morthland, Grade: 12, Class: Digital Art 4, Teacher: Mr. Feeney

Love Knows No Bounds, by Theresa Morthland, Grade: 12, Class: Digital Art 4, Teacher: Mr. Feeney



Friends, by Lily Miller, Lake Braddock Secondary - Middle School, Grade 8, Teacher: Victoria McGrath

Precious love, by Kealani Nanz, Grade 8, Lake Braddock SS, Teacher: Victoria McGrath



## City of Fairfax Children's Events

### Funday Monday

Mondays, 10:30am, Old Town Hall

Free, weekly children's series sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts

Jan. 8 - Story Time & Craft

Jan. 22 - Zumba Kids

Jan. 29 - Oh Susannah

Feb. 5 - Mr. Skip

Feb. 12 - Story Time & Craft

Feb. 26 - Zumba Kids

Mar. 5 - Mr. Skip

Mar. 12 - Story Time & Craft

Mar. 19 - Drew Blue Shoes Magic

Mar. 26 - Zumba Kids

There is no Funday Monday on Jan. 1, Jan. 15, or Feb. 19 due to City holidays.



## Sherwood Family Movie Nights

Select Fridays

7:00pm

Sherwood Center



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January 19 - Smurfs Lost Village

February 23 - Captain Underpants

March 23 - Despicable Me 3

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**Announcements**

**POETRY CORNER**

**Heart of Ice, Cave I Dwelled**

My eyes drifted to the snow  
Feelings faster than the storm  
I saw my joy fade  
The sun's light fading  
Foggy mist  
I couldn't see  
My steps led me to snow  
Like being buried  
Beneath it all  
My heart stung  
The wolves hungry for my soul  
I started forward  
I didn't look back  
Mind swirling  
Tears a blizzard  
White scattered my path  
Icicles dripped like how I faded  
I Wish you could know  
I'm sorry  
But I knew I must keep going  
The fog then lifted  
Bringing the sun to my heart  
It reached out its hand  
I opened my eyes  
The frozen dew sparkled  
The snow endless mountains of white  
I cried for it  
I didn't know why  
As the wind shifted my coat  
My heart as well  
I found myself on a cliff  
I slipped on pure ice  
And started to fall  
The ice was so pure  
It's cold, the sparkling crystals swept me off my feet  
It wasn't just my feet  
I hung paralyzed  
Lost  
Afraid  
Alone  
My joy ran away  
It leaped so fast a blur  
Swallowed by shadow  
My heart of ice  
But it came back to me  
Back to me as wonder  
With wonder came joy  
As I hung with shadows growling  
The jagged peaks begged for gloom  
I only held on tighter  
I then knew I must not fall...  
Delicate snowflakes stroked my skin  
I knew those who need me

I hung  
My eyes glistening with glaze  
If you were to throw an arrow at my heart  
It wouldn't pierce my heart of ice  
I'm so sorry  
I let go  
My heart was glowing  
Brighter than that below  
Fell to the cliffs...  
Fell to the peak of my life...  
The shadow...  
The snow that scarred me...  
Landed on a cloud  
I lived  
I yelled  
I yelled because of it that haunted me  
For the snow that had me survive  
No, I'm going back  
I started to run  
The frozen pond singing  
Tears dripping  
Heart knowing not  
But to keep going  
Not today...  
Not today...  
I will run till I die  
Death's scythe will not touch me...  
It's not my time...  
I grasped onto my life  
I knew  
And I ran home  
That it wasn't I  
But my wonder  
Than the light  
It came through the clouds  
Not a seep  
But the entire sky  
I hugged my life  
Only I will touch  
You will not haunt me  
I had run away  
I had fallen  
But had gotten up again  
The birds of past screeched  
The present birds cried  
The future eagle looked with its eyes  
So that it pierced so much  
My heart of ice melted  
I do not know why  
The ice wrapped around me  
And then I flew

BY HANNAH BANG, 12, 6TH GRADE  
GRADE 6, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

**Can you guess my favorite season?**

It's a season where people may get fevers or shivers from the cold  
It's a season where divine, decorative, and delightful snowflakes unfold  
It's a season with laughter and soft and warm dinks where we hit them together and they go CLINK!  
This season gives you a reason to go to the ice skating rink  
Did you guess it, it should be clear, so grab your coats because my favorite season winter is here

—RUGIATU AISHA WURIE, 11, FAIRFAX, GRADE 6, COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY



lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.  
2. not appreciated or understood.  
3. no longer owned or known

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# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## HOLIDAY SOBER-RIDE

**Free Sober Rides.** The annual Holiday SoberRider program will operate 8 p.m.-4 a.m. each night from Friday, Dec. 15, 2017-Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. Area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's weekly Holiday SoberRide promo codes will be posted at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15, Dec. 23 and Dec. 31 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

## BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

**The American Red Cross** urges eligible donors to give more life by giving blood this December. In December, donations decline but the needs of patients remain steady. During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give the most important gift – give blood and give more life. All those who come to give blood or platelets Dec. 21, 2017, through Jan. 7, 2018, will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last. Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

### Springfield

- Dec. 26: 1-5 p.m., South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive
- Dec. 27: 12:45-8 p.m.
- Dec. 28: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Pennino Building 10th Floor Conf Rm, 12011 Government Center Parkway
- Dec. 28: 12:45-5:45 p.m.
- Dec. 29: 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Dec. 30: 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Dec. 31: 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 9

**American Legion Post 177 Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Presentation on "Advanced preparation and arrangement for funeral/memorial" by Peter Hause, Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home. \$11. Call 703-280-2356 for more.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or [eileen.thompson1@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.thompson1@gmail.com).

**Haven of Northern Virginia** provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

## ONGOING

**Volunteers needed** at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), or call 703-425-9225 for more.

**RSVP**, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

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## "Cansir"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I want to treat the disease – and my having been diagnosed with the disease, with respect, I don't want to treat it with the utmost reverence. I mean, it's not the Pope.

It's an affliction, not an affection. Certainly not one worth embracing anyway. But definitely one which needs engaging.

Treating and living with lung cancer shouldn't be a vertical-type, up or down, either-or set of options. There should be more integration with non-Western, holistic and alternative approaches rather than, as has been my experience: you're on your own; and your oncologist, generally speaking – or potentially legally-liable from speaking, knows/say less about it than you the patient.

I've tried to straddle this line going on nearly nine years now. Adhering to the conventional wisdom/treatment didn't seem like enough. Perhaps hearing the extremely grim prognosis that I received on Feb. 27, 2009: "13 months to two years," affected my thinking. Perhaps hearing the equally grim likelihood – statistically referencing, of living beyond five years (low single digit percentage); heck, even living beyond two years, might have given me pause as to what course of treatment: chemotherapy, I was starting and why. But what did I know? I had just been blindsided and then bewildered as to why and how I was going to live the rest of my life.

Yet here I sit, nine-years old, so to speak. Some days I believe my amazing good fortune has to do with the treatment and care I've received from my oncologist and staff at the Infusion Center. Other days, I think it has to do with some of the alternatives I've assimilated into my life. Though I can't honestly include exercise in that life, I have modified my diet somewhat and most definitely can mention vitamins, supplements, alkaline water and apple cider vinegar, among a few others; along with a positive attitude with mostly good humor, as important elements. It hasn't been easy, but it has been me. Meaning, I am proud of how I've managed a bad situation and so far, not made it worse.

Though I am somewhat unique, statistically measuring, in how long I've survived (however, I'm not exactly 108-year old Paul Edgecomb/Tom Hanks from the movie "The Green Mile"), I don't know that the varied steps I've taken and the humor and attitude with which I've put one foot in front of the other are likewise unique.

Of the many patients/survivors I've met along this way, many, if not all, have exhibited similar good humor and more of a can-do attitude quite frankly, than I. I've always been happy to make their acquaintance and eager to hear their stories, as they have been interested in hearing mine. Although cancer is not exactly catchy, I've found that, in speaking/sharing with fellow cancer survivors, what goes around comes around. And what "that" is that is going around is, to invoke The Beach Boys: "Good Vibrations," and that is catchy and healthy too!

When I was first diagnosed – and caught up in my own circumstances, I was not interested – too much, in interacting with other lung cancer patients/survivors. I was more concerned with my own fragile emotional state and was afraid that exposing myself to more bad news: other "terminal" lung cancer patients' stories would weaken my resolve.

I don't recall how many months or years it was before I realized how wrong I had been. Weaken? My involvement with fellow lung cancer patient/survivors has only strengthened my resolve. Has that openness and appreciation for my fellow lung cancer patient extended my life? I'd like to think it has.

But if it hasn't, I guess the jokes on cancer. And that's a laugh with which we can all live.

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

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