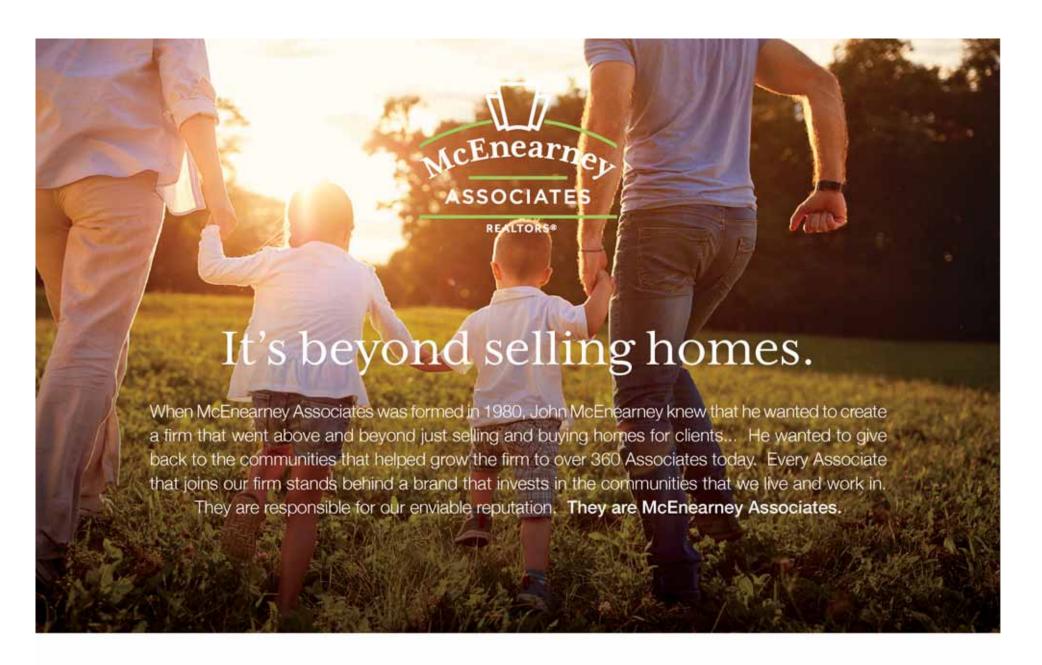
## Mount Pernon Gazette

Children's & Teens' Gazette 2017 Gunner Dutzman, 7th Grade, St. Louis Catholic School in Alexandria



With sincere gratitude, thank you to these organizations and non-profits that we have worked with to strengthen our communities for the past 37 years.

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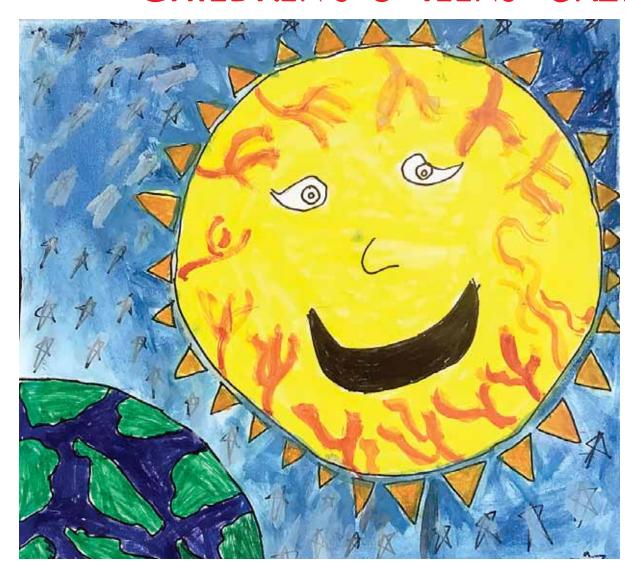








## CHILDREN'S & TEENS' GAZETTE



Jhonnatan Henriquez, 4th Grade, Bucknell Elementary School



By Austin Moss, 1st Grade, St. Louis Catholic School



By Maggie W., 4th Grade, Burgundy Farm Country Day School



By Violet Curtis, 3rd Grade, Woodley Hills Elementary School

## The Mount Vernon

Children's Gazette
is published by
Local Media Connection, LLC.

A digital version of this publication and 14 sister publications available at www.connectionnewpapers.com/ documents

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#### Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Mount Vernon 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 re-

sponse, we will continue to publish more artwork and writings in 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 2018 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 Gazette 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 schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— Editor Steven Mauren

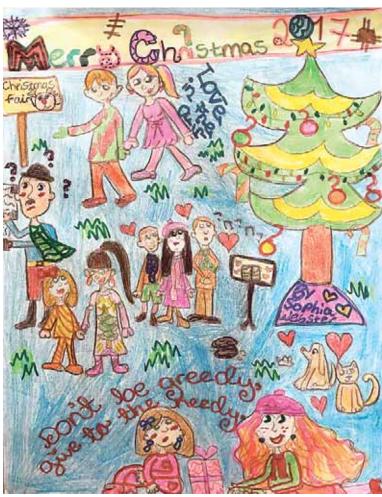
## FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Merry Christmas from Owl Family by Benjamin Webster, age 8, 2nd Grade



Santa by Michael Webster, age 10, 4th Grade



Don't be Greedy, Give to the Needy by Sophia Webster, age 12, 6th Grade

# Inquire, Innovate, Inspire Educating for the Future Browne Academy



### FINAL OPEN HOUSE: January 9

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FIRST NIGHT us what you think **ALEXANDRIA** December 31, 2017 An Old Town New Year's Eve CELEBRATION 24 Indoor Venues in Old Town and One in Del Ray FIREWORKS ON THE PLUS afternoon adventures with the Ninth Annual Fun Hunt and new creative and culinary activities all around town. 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 Badge and schedule information at PRESENTING SPONSORS FirstNightAlexandria.org Dominion Energy #ALXFirstNight

## Woodley Hills Elementary School

Submitted by Art Teacher Nathan Johnson



By Grace Robinson, 3rd Grade



By Brenda Solorzano, 3rd Grade





By Violet Curtis, 3rd Grade

By Patrick Stevens,



By Kristen Martinez, 2nd Grade



By Zane Ammar, 6th Grade



By Delia Maxwell, 2nd Grade



By Grace Robinson, 3rd Grade



By Helen Ventura, **3rd Grade** 

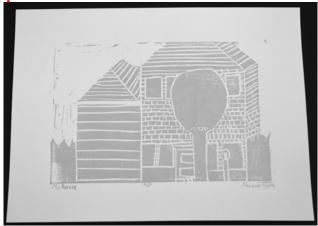


For more information: www.RexReiley.com

BROWNE ACADEMY



Hokusai Wave by Sammie Weinstein, age 9, 3rd Grade, Alexandria.



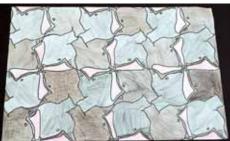
Block Print by Alexander North, age 11, 6th Grade, Alexandria.



Paul Klee by Abigail Taylor, age 9, 4th Grade, Alexandria.



Tessellations by Abby Zadareky, age 11, 5th Grade, Alexandria.



Tessellations by Chelsey Ko, age 10, 5th Grade, Alexandria.



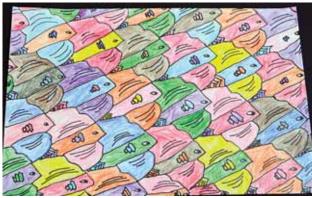
Tessellations by Sylvia Locatelli, age 10, 5th Grade, Alexandria.



Hokusai Wave by Vanda Horejsova, age 8, 3rd Grade, Alexandria.



Hokusai Wave by Nadia Chebinou, age 9, 3rd Grade, Alexandria.



Tessellations by Hugh Sullivan, age 11, 5th Grade, Alexandria.



Tessellations by Maya Soares, age 10, 5th Grade, Alexandria.



Plaster Arm Cast with Cultural Symbols by Olivia Barsa, age 14, 8th Grade, Alexandria.



Plaster Arm Cast with Cultural Symbols by Hannah Shiblaq age 14, 8th Grade, Alexandria.



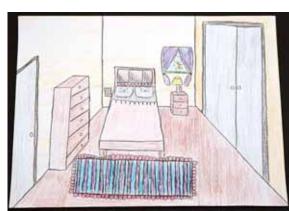
Plaster Arm Cast with Cultural Symbols by Bryanna Bonner, age 14, 8th Grade, from Alexandria.



Plaster Arm Cast with Cultural Symbols by Allie O'Keeffe, age 13, 8th Grade, Alexandria.



Special Place Drawing by Prokop Horejs, age 11, 6th Grade, Alexandria.



Special Place Drawing by Ahlam Idris, age 11, 6th Grade, Alexandria.



Peacock by Ilaria Locatelli, Shah, age 6 age 7, 2nd Grade, Alexandria. Alexandria.



Matisse Goldfish by Jay Shah, age 6, 1st Grade, . Alexandria.

## BROWNE ACADEMY Submissions from Mrs.

#### Sandlake

We go to Wisconsin every summer. We always go to Sandlake because we have a cabin there. In the evening, I like to walk down the rocks to the dock. I will take a camera and sit on the end of the bumpy dock and take beautiful pictures of the yellow, pink and orange sky with the green and in the shade black trees in the background.

Most of the time, I hear the loons in the background along with the buzzing mosquitoes behind me. When I go there, I feel very happy. I love to watch the sun setting behind the pine trees across the lake. The sky is very pretty in the evening. Sometimes the lake smells like fish, and sometimes you do not smell a

You can get the best pictures there when the sun is setting, but you have to get there at the right time to catch the perfect glimpse of the sun going down. I have gotten many beautiful pictures of the pink sky and the reflecting water. Every summer I love returning to this special place and next summer, I hope I can get even more beautiful pictures of

By Maren Lynch, age 12

#### Ziplining

"Here we go," I thought to myself as I was getting ready to climb the tree. "It's finally your turn." I put my foot on the first step of the ladder and climbed quickly. Now it was time to step onto the actual tree. I had never climbed the tree a regular way or with staples. I stepped off the ladder. "Hey. This is pretty easy," I thought. I climbed the tree fairly quickly and then it was time to get onto the wire. Looking back, this was the scariest part. I climbed over the log and slowly stepped onto the wire, one foot at a time.

"Wow. This is really shaking," I thought. I stepped one foot in front of the other, keeping my eyes on the platform. One of the hardest parts was that my helmet kept getting caught on the wire above my head. I shook every time that I took a step. I finally made it to the platform where the instructor was waiting. She attached me to the tree while she was attaching me to the zipline. Then I had to duck under the wire I had come across. She told me to sit down on the edge and put the rope on my arm. The she told me I would go whenever I was ready. I was ready. I was so excited. I zipped down the zipline.

"This is so much fun!" I thought to myself. Then I got to the end. I dropped the rope. The other instructor at the end stepped on the rope so I would stop. Maren and Tabitha brought the ladder over. I climbed to the top of the ladder and the instructor climbed the other

side. She unclipped me from the zipline and I climbed down. I was sad that it was over, but I had had a lot of fun.

By Amanda Klock, age 12,

#### Nantucket

My favorite place on earth is Nantucket Island. I go to our beach house there every summer with my family. From the window in my room, I watch the waves crash onto the beach and hear the sweet songs of little birds. When I go to the beach, I feel the grainy sand on my feet and the hot sun in my face. I love swimming in the cool ocean, and sometimes get a taste of the very salty sea water. Yuck!

I like to go into town with my family. I love the small shops with their old shingles that look like they would fall off with a gust of wind. My favorite shop is the Juice bar. They serve cold, creamy ice cream that I can't get enough of. I like to look for funny-looking cars with my mom as they drive down the cobblestone roads. I love Nantucket.

BY BRENNAN WISE, AGE 11,

#### Virginia Beach

One of my favorite places to go is Virginia Beach. My family and I go there a lot because my grandparents live there. It takes about 3-4 hours depending on traffic to get there from where we live. Once you get there, it feels like a miniature Florida. There are shops everywhere selling swim suits, sunscreen, and other beach products you would need to enjoy your time.

I can hear the happy yells of kids running around or the loud music that the ships play during the day.

To get to my grandparents' house, you need to pass beyond the center of town. My grandparents' house is a tall, wide beach cottage. Inside, you get a blast of cool air and sea smell that trickles through you. The cold tile floors send excited vibes up my spine.

The beach itself is amazing. The waves crash together to sound beautiful. The sand between my toes is warm and calming, like a tiny massage on your toes. The green-blue water gives you a cool feeling when you step into it, and you can smell the crisp smell of salt in the air. You'll also see people crashing against the waves, boogie boarding or just splashing around.

When my family goes to the beach, we have a family tradition of making an underground hut. My dad and brothers dig up the dry, hot sand, until they get to the wet, cool sand underneath. Once they finish, you can go into the hole and hear a sort of echo sound of everything. Virginia Beach is an amazing place to

By Isabella Bloom, age 11

JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

#### REMODELING + DESIGN SEMINARS

Are You & Your Family Enjoying the Most From Your Home?

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Saturday, January 13th, 2018- 10am-2pm

Where: Sun Design Corporate Office 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015 (located behind the Kohl's shopping center)

Seminars run from 10am-12pm. Lunch to follow. Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in. Seating is limited!

RSVP: info@sundesigninc.com or call Erin at 703.425.5588

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## Aldersgate Day School



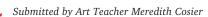
Accepting applications for new families beginning Tuesday, January 2nd at 8:00 am

Applications and instructions may be found at www.aldersgate.net/dayschool.

This process is ongoing beginning January 2nd until all spaces are filled We accept children 12 months - 5 years old.

1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308 (703) 768-8351

## BUCKNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Submitted by Art Teacher Meredith Cosier





Ana Garcia, 5th Grade



Andy Hoang, 5th Grade



Jeremiah Diaz, 5th Grade



Donovan Solis, 2nd Grade



Giselle Romer, 2nd Grade



Kathleen Raymundo-Zaldana, 6th Grade



Collin Adams, 3rd Grade



Fidel Addea-Mintah, Kindergarten



Gemma Ali, 1st Grade



Inti Olguin, Kindergarten



Jamie deMaye, 1st Grade



**Daniel Castro, 6th Grade** 



Olivia Peck, 1st Grade



Thomas Vermillion, Kindergarten

www. Connection Newspapers. com

## STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY

#### Going Full 'STEAM' Ahead

By Julia Himes AGE 8, 3RD GRADE, SLES, Alexandria

When I first walked into the Stratford Landing Elementary STEAM classroom, and the teacher started to explain what we were going to do, I was thinking, "Wow. This is going to be really challenging!" That first day we made a tower out of 25 index cards. The project was meant to simulate a statue design which could be placed on the SLES campus at some point. I was surprised that our tower actually worked! By the end of the class, I realized that STEAM was going to be my favorite part of school. I was really excited for the next class.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. The difference between STEAM and STEM is that STEAM has an art component whereas STEM does not. This helps add creativity and design to the four areas. Grades K-2 go to STEAM once a week for 30 minutes, while grades 3-6 attend for 45 minutes. Each grade level works on different group projects, such as a ping pong ball course using simple machines and making a structure out of newspaper — basically like a skyscraper prototype. All STEAM classes try to simulate projects and mindsets similar to real world jobs.

Data from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation says that the U.S. leads in STEAM's education at the college level, but only 15 out of 100 were



Third graders --- Joe Scully and Trey Staten use their structural engineering skills to build a bridge prototype.

high school graduates from the United States. That means that 85% of STEAM's university students are from other countries, most of whom go back to their home countries after their STEAM education. In America, 80% of employers complained in surveys that they do not have enough U.S.-qualified engineers and scientists. Through STEAM programs like the one here at SLES, we are

working to improve those statistics.

"I am excited that my daughter has this opportunity because it will prepare her for challenges later on in life and expand her critical thinking," said Josh Himes, a parent of a student at SLES. I think STEAM is a really fun program and may even be my favorite 'special.' I'm glad SLES has such a wonderful pro-

## Discover Burgundy creativity!

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



At Burgundy, the arts curriculum is integrated with core academic studies. To enhance arts education, we're close to opening 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.

Join us at an open house January 7, 2-4 p.m. or schedule a personal tour of our 25-acre Alexandria campus.



RSVP at 703.329.6968 or www.burgundyfarm.org/visit!

Inside or out...



Burgundy Farm Country Day School 703.329.6968 · www.burgundyfarm.org www.facebook.com/burgundyfarm

#### St. Aidan's Day School

"Owl Moon" by Mrs. Forsythe and Ms. Whitaker's four-day 4s.



By Sophia



**By Margaret** 



By Maggie www.ConnectionNewspapers.com





## Alexandria Country Day School



Alexander Kocsis, 2nd Grade



Andrew Talay, 3rd Grade



Ava Lyubinsky, 2nd Grade



Libby Maglaughlin, Kindergarten



Chloe Campbell, 3rd Grade



Olivia Cushman, 4th Grade



Sean Campbell, 2nd Grade



Payton Rizzeri, 1st Grade



DJ Heiber, 5th Grade



Alban Erdle, 7th Grade



Emmy Bobadilla, Kindergarten

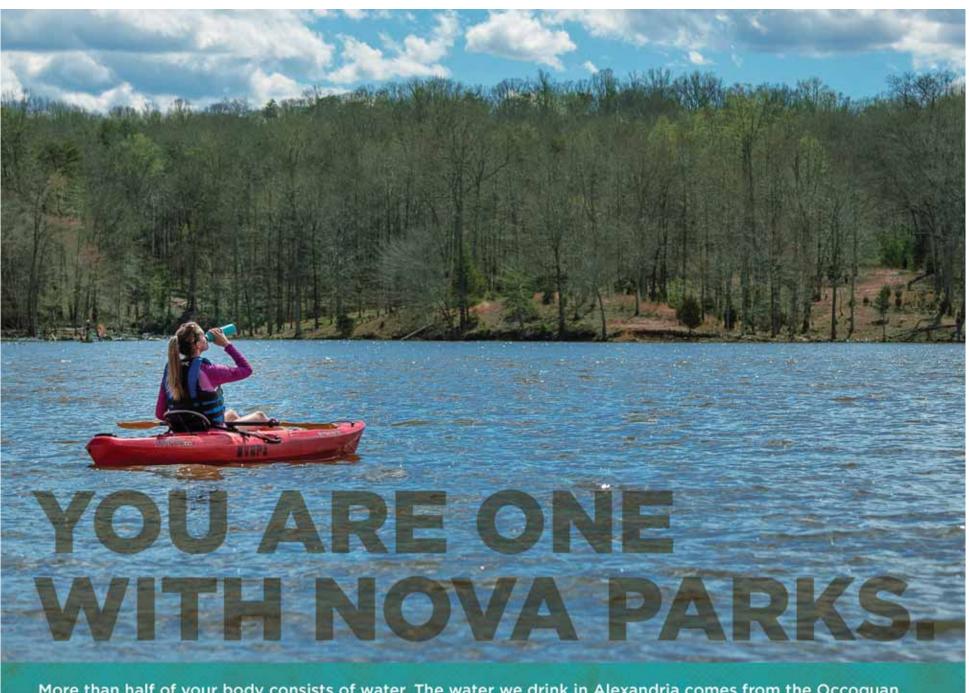


Sadia Hussain, Kindergarten



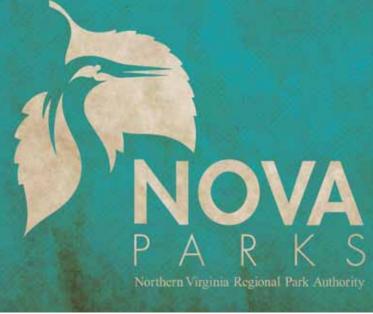
Ellie Harris, Kindergarten

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



More than half of your body consists of water. The water we drink in Alexandria comes from the Occoquan Reservoir, and NOVA Parks has over 4,000 acres of forests around this body of water providing a natural buffer. NOVA Parks has an additional 4,000+ acres of parkland adjacent to the Potomac River. These lands offer opportunities for people to reconnect with nature while hiking, camping and boating. They also protect our natural resources. These same lands provide sanctuary for endangered species like the Eastern Wood Turtle, and the Small Whorled Pogonia, as well as habitat for Bald Eagles, Great Blue Heron and many other species.

Come out this weekend and rent a kayak or hike a trail, explore your regional parks, and connect with nature. Pohick Bay and Fountainhead Regional Parks are both located less than 25 minutes from Alexandria.



WHAT'S
WHAT'S
Find out at
novaparks.com

## HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL From the students of Debi Sita's advanced academics Grades 3/4 class.



By Ajzmina Shrestha

Ajzming Shrestha-Mrs. Sitas Alpan not placed at all then I the day I lost ing man wiped my tears away.

One day on September 5
2014 my momand I went
shopping at Shoppers. We hought
town things. But when my
momand I were in line. I asked
my mom if I could go to
the restroom. My mom said
"yes I will stay right here"then
I went to the restroom and
when I go tout my mom was
gone! I started crying I was

not placed at all then I wiped my tears away and started to search for my mone with an acute mind but a screne face. Then my mom found me and huged me The End.

Shivran Mia Mrs. Sitas AAP 3/4 class Hollin Meadows ES Alexandria. What make agod friend?

Here are a few things that make a good friend. You have to manifestly be amiable and NOT be odious. You should also be serene or placid. When I you are trying to make a friend don't be tremula Do not talk to fast or you will people without, Those are so few things that makes a good friend.

that you should DO with your new friend.
You should take turns doing what you like and what they like Both of you proberly have something singular but you will both have something incommon.



By Shwran Mia



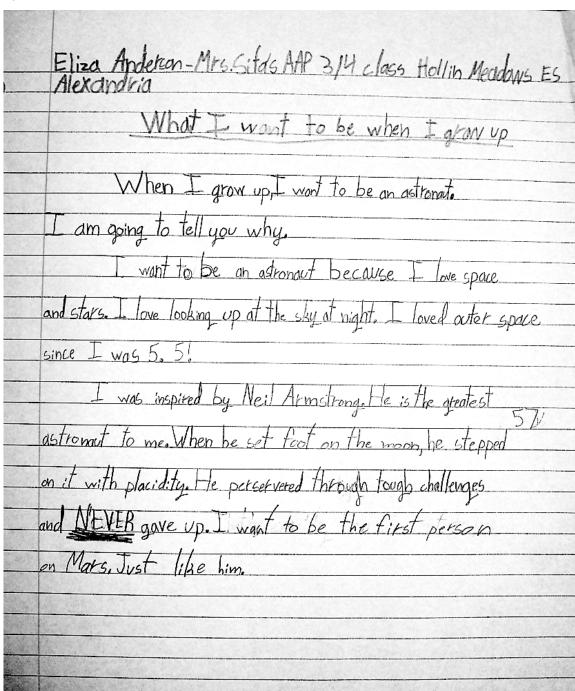
By Anna Flores

inspired by. I'm inspired by Darci Lynn, who's a Singular = Ventriloquist. Af first I saw Darci on America's got talent. On her first performance she performed with Putunia her rabbit. On her second performance She performed with Oscar her mouse On her third performance she performed with Edna her grandma. On her forth performance she performed with Putunia Oscar. On her last performance She performed with Putunia and invited her idol with his pupplets te. (Darcii performs with her puppets not humans.) Darciwon America's got talefat. I'm inspire by Darci because She's a ventriloquis' and I want stoylog adventridageist. It to be be

## HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



By Eliza Anderson









Mount Vernon Gazette & Children's & Teens' Gazette 2017-2018 \* 13

## NINA'S DANDY

FINE DINING ON THE POTOMAC

After 38 years of supporting Alexandria, the City no longer has space for us on her waterfront.

In order to continue offering unparalleled views of our Nation's majestic monuments, we are pursuing alternate docking arrangements for the 2018 sailing season.

We welcome the City re-considering their decision

We would love to serve you one last time as a fellow Alexandrian. Sail on our New Year's Eve Farewell Fireworks Cruise.

Please Call 703-683-6076 to Make Reservations



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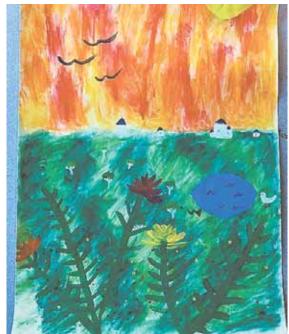
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## BURGUNDY FARM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



By Leonardo S., 4th Grade



By Annabel H., 4th Grade



By Aubrey G-K



By Amina C-K



By Sam P., 5th Grade



 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ Joshua C-K.

**Peace by Peter** H., 2nd Grade

Peace Looks Like

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Susie Pullen

#### **Gymnast**

When I grow up I want to be a gymnast. I can do any flip like a cartwheel and many more flips. I started flipping when I was three years old. Then I started doing more and more flips. When I got older I did my favorite flip, it is round off back walkover. I like that flip a lot. I show my sister how to do some flips that I do. She can do a cartwheel. I like it when she does that flip and it's really cute when she does it. I like teaching my sister gymnastics.

BY TAYLOR ROBINSON,

AGE 10

#### Life-ish

Hmmm wow, wow! There so many thing that I can be, I am going to look up to my parent jobs to see what they do. My mom is working on a YouTube channel and has a Facebook business. On the other hand my dad works at Cox which is a company that helps people. My mom was into gymnastics when she was little. Maybe I can ask my mom if I can do gymnastics now. Yes, that's what I will do. Now that I know what I want to be when I grow up, I will need to practice.

By Jordyn Sumo, age 9

#### My Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is a wolf it is also my spirit animal. I like the color on them. In some pictures they are cute in some they are not cute. I still like them though. I've seen a lot of wolves. I've never pet a wolf before. I wish I could have one. It's my dream to pet one! I know a lot about wolves they eat meat, they live in the forest. It is super cool, I have a book called the Animal book and I read the page on grey wolf. They call them grev wolves because they are grev and a little of white. My dog looks like a wolf. I am glad we have a dog. Some are calm, some are very bad and some are both. I love wolves!

BY SAMUEL FINNEGAN,

AGE S

## Holmes Middle School **Memories**

I see, I see A little bird cries This place where I perch Is close to the skies

The memories and lies We have carved from stone Brings heavy sighs, A laugh, a song, a moan

And when the sun doth set Through darkness Moon will rise My soul leaves no regret Though my shadow Never dies

BY BRIDGET MURRAY
AGE 11, 6TH GRADE

## Burgundy Farm I am Grateful ...

I am grateful for the mountains I love to climb and how would you do that without mountains? One way I was going down a trail and it was so much fun. I always believed climbing is the best. I love to climb. Mountains are the best way to see the world.

By Taaj, 3rd Grade

#### What Makes A Good Parent?

A parent gives you the best gift. The Gift for you is their love and care. They give you all you want. But when you behave badly it does not mean they punish you on purpose it's because they want you to behave good next time. You should love your parents as much as they love you. So if you don't have them anymore and you keep behaved well with them. So love your parents as much as can.

By Kennya Segovia, age 9

#### Red Panda

My favorite animal is a red panda? Do they eat bananas? I try to ask my nana? Do they eat bananas skin? Is it very thin? Or is it thick like a fin? Do they eat it yellow? Is it plushy like a pillow? Is it ok to swallow? Is it ever hollow? Do they have hands? Can they play in a band? Do they ever play in sand? Can they play with clay? Do they ever play? Can they walk?

Do they ever talk?
Is it true they lean?
Are they as small as bean?
BY AISHA RIYAZ QURESHI.

### My Favorite Animal

A tiger cub is my favorite animal. They are very interesting! The mommy leaves the baby tiger cub and will hide in the grass. It has stripes and it is orange. I like it because it is little and cute. It has 4 paws and it looks just like a cat or a kitten.

By Yahira Jefferson, age 9

#### The Great Gift

I want to give my friend a gift but I have no money. Maybe I can get a stick, a dog; no that cost money. A log? No, a bone? No. a leaf? A flower? No, and no. Maybe I'm thinking too hard. A drawing? No. A lost dog? No. My Mom would not let me do that. A hug no that's too little! A story? No. A friend? No, too deep. Maybe I'll just keep it simple and give her a hug and my time.

By Addison Mysuik, age 9



Unpredictable rent increases, overcrowded conditions, and lack of affordable home options keep many low-income families in the City of Alexandria from reaching a pathway to stability.

For more than 25 years, Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia has fostered strong and stable families and communities through affordable homeownership. In 2018, we have the opportunity to transform the lives of many more people in our community.

Your gift today of \$50, \$100, \$150 or more to Habitat NOVA will help support the construction of five new townhomes in the City of Alexandria for five hardworking families.

Working together, we can help ensure *local families* find strength, stability, and self-reliance in 2018.



habitatnova.org/donate

## St. Louis Catholic School



By Bernadette Gorman, 1st Grade



By Belan Lorenzo Y Losada, 4th Grade



By Alison Nienaber, 4th Grade



By Cameron Krebs, 5th Grade



By Katherine Davis, 5th Grade



By Lucia Chavez, 4th Grade



By Mirabelle Brantley, 4th Grade



By Maya Repeta, 5th Grade



By Sophia Elling, 3rd Grade





## St. Louis Catholic School



By Sophia Parrish, 1st Grade



By TJ Mitchell, 4th Grade

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By Nicole Rooney, 2nd Grade



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By Abadullah Mustafa, age 11, 6th Grade in Ms. Huber's class at Clermont Elementary School.



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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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You worked me up all day with a little time to

You counted my kind on your plantations like we were animals on farms or, some worthless

You used me, you took away my pride and dig-

You made jokes about my looks and culture.

You try to take away the only thing I had left (my hopes).

You made sure that even when I'm in the grave I'll suffer But, the question is why did you really do all of

this? Why were you so disgruntled with me?

Is it because of my skin color and/or my beauty? Because, I have no control over those things they

are just outer qualities. When they cut me and you open they'll see all of the same parts so, why should you treat me any different?

BY ANNETTA SHERIFF, 8TH GRADE

#### HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY

Submitted by Teacher Teresa Johnson

#### The Sad Day

One time my team had a soccer tournament in South County. In our first game we were playing a team called Arlington. When we started playing they seemed like an easy team but they weren't. At the end of the game the score was two to one.

In the second game we were playing Strikers; they were a good team and beat us one to zero. We only had one game left and if we had won that game we would've probably gone to the finals. We were playing the Velasques team. We knew they were a hard team because they won all their games. I was captain.

In the last 10 minutes we were winning three to two. But they scored in the last three minutes. We knew that we weren't going to the finals. But our best player was so mad that he took the ball all the way to the other goal and scored. We won the game. We were still not sure if we were going to the finals but the manager of the tournament said we were in the finals. We were so lucky.

Me and two of my friends stayed for two hours until the game. This was it, the last game was about to start. It was a super close game in half time. It was zero to zero. When it was second half. There was only minutes left. The other team had the ball. When they shot at my goalkeeper I thought that that was it, but it wasn't, it hit the post.

"NOOOO" yelled a player from the other team. "SO CLOSE" the referee blew the whistle. We were going to 10 minutes of extra time. When it started it was still zero to zero. There was about one minute left, a player from the other team kicked the ball over my goalkeeper and they scored. Just then my heart stopped beating, the referee blew the full time whistle, the other team won the finals. Many of our players started crying. I felt like I wanted to cry but I just held it.

"You guys did well," our coach told us that it was fine. When we went to get our second place medal I remembered the time that my team actually won. I knew I was going to lose something. We deserved it we also just started to learn stuff about each other because that was a new team.

"Good job guys you did well," our parents kept saying to try to cheer us up but I knew my friends did not bother to listen. We were all sad and we never forgot that day.

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By Anthony Boom! ALVAREZ Boom! Age 10, 5th Boom! Grade The night sky is full of colors.

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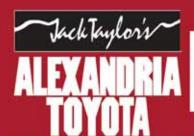
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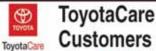






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