Bull Run Elementary  Submissions from art teacher Kim S. Talian.

By Deva Raj, Grade 3

By Alisson Ascensio-Hernandez, Grade 6

By Britney Tsai, Grade 6

By Dhillon Ball, Grade 3

By Isabella Paz, Grade 3

By Zoely Antequera, Grade 5

By Sarah Ayele, Grade 1

By Kiera McCreah, Grade 4

By Breanna Zazzala, Grade 6

By Kadija Sesay, Grade 6

By Analucia Gutierrez, Grade 6

By Allie Cratty, Grade 1

By Kimberly Jebessa, Grade 6

By Britney Tsai, Grade 6

By Analucia Gutierrez, Grade 6

By Allie Cratty, Grade 1

By Kimberly Jebessa, Grade 6
Dear Readers:

This week, Centre View turns over its pages to the youth and students. We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue. The response, as always, was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art. Because of the response, 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 2019 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Centre View. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

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

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

— Editor Steven Mauren
London Towne Elementary

Submissions by teacher Joseph G. Fischhaber

By Leyna, Grade 4

By Katherine, Grade 4

By Deema, Grade 4

By Victoria, Grade 3

By Natalia, Grade 4

By Summer, Grade 4

By Aline, Grade 3

By Amanda, Grade 3

By Anderson, Grade 3

By Christian, Grade 3

By Danelia, Grade 3

Virginia Run Elementary

By Max Priester, 6, in Ms. Nix’s class at Virginia Run Elementary School

By Anthony Yu, 7, Centreville, Grade 2, teachers Sra. Tricoli and Ms. Arbuckle.

By Kaila Le, 11, Grade 6

Colin Powell Elementary

Christmas Tree Shopping by Kaila Le, 11, Grade 6
By Colette Markun, Grade 8
I chose to create Ramen as this item represents my love for food, food is my comfort. I also drew a doll and some of my OCS to represent my love of creating new characters, customizing things to be completely my own. I put those in my drawing because these things help shape me.

By Alejandro Guerra, Grade 7
I chose to create a paintbrush, this item represents the passion I have for drawing/art in my life, the creativity you can use with a paper and pencil. I also drew a dragon, volcano, and video games to represent the things that interested me as a kid.

By Hannah Pazo, Grade 8
I chose to create the American flag, this item represents a new beginning in my life. This item transformed me because I changed culture, language, and country. I also drew ice cream and a sunset to represent how every afternoon after school we went to get ice cream and the sunset represents the dream I have.

By Aminah Chowhan, Grade 7
I chose to create a cat as this represents my favorite pet in my life, I spent a lot of time playing with my cats. I also drew my old house and the motel my dad owned to represent where I used to live.

By Nadia Boggs, Grade 7
I chose to create a tree because this represents my friends in my life and the tree was a major part of my childhood. I also drew my dogs and cats because they were like my soulmates, of course my family because they also transformed me.

By Katherine Lynn, Grade 7
I chose to create a horse because this represents horse camp and horseback riding. This event changed my life because I would have never have been to a horse show. I also drew Colorado mountains and a cat to represent my time in Colorado and my cat Maggi.

About the Cover
By Kelly Kohout, Grade 7, Ormond Stone Middle School: I chose to create the Eiffel tower, this item represents love, courage, and trying new things in my life. This item transformed me because I used to hate flying, but now that I am older I’ve realized that I shouldn’t stay in one place just because I am scared. The Eiffel tower reminds me of the beauty in the world and encourages me to wander throughout life. I also drew my family and music notes to represent how my family is always there for me and how music played a strong part in who I am today.

By Jack Stone
Union Mill Elementary
Submitted by art teacher Anne Hollis.

By Emma S., 7, Clifton, Grade 1
By Bella G., 7, Clifton, Grade 2
By Jacob T., 6, Clifton, Grade 1
By Alan C., 6, Clifton, Kindergarten
By Max B., 11, Clifton, Grade 5
By Sophie L., 8, Centreville, Grade 3
By Matt M., 10, Clifton, Grade 5
By Gwyneth C., 12, Centreville, Grade 6

Brookfield Elementary
Submissions from Rachel Samsky, art teacher.

By Aylin Argueta, Grade 5
By Fiorella Soto, Grade 6
By Ian Fisher, Grade 6
By Kathy Tran, Grade 6
Greenbriar West Elementary

Artwork submitted by art teacher Seung-Ae Kwak.

Aaron Newberry, Grade 2 – Duck Architecture: Pet Store, Paper Collage, 12”X18”

Erin Green, Grade 4 – Self-Portrait; Secret Message, Drawing (Crayon), 12”X18”

Abigail Solomon, Grade 2 – Duck Architecture: Lemonade Shop, Paper Collage, 12”X18”

Marisa Bell, Grade 3 – My Cultural Identity Self-Portrait, Drawing (Crayon), 12”X18”

Tanya Munhenga, Grade 3 – My Cultural Identity Self-Portrait, Drawing (Crayon), 12”X18”

Suan (Zesuan) Gao, Grade 4 – Self-Portrait; Secret Message, Drawing (Crayon), 12”X18”

Shane Miller, Grade 3 – My Cultural Identity Self-Portrait, Drawing (Crayon), 12”X18”

Eric Kim, Grade 5 – Washington Monument, Paper Collage, 12”X18”

Harry Xiao, Grade 6 – Positive Identity: Contour Line Drawing, 12”X18”

Ryan George, Grade 6 – Positive Identity: Contour Line Drawing, 12”X18”

Alisha Khan, Burji Khalifa – Grade 5, Paper Collage, 12”X18”
“Abstract Analogous Animals Oil Pastels” by TJ Anderson, Grade 6

“Set the Table Paper Collage” by Sravya Karri, Grade 3

“My Future Self Portrait Oil Pastels” by Alessa D’Amore, Grade 4

“Abstract Analogous Animals Oil Pastels” by Elizabeth Klanderman, Grade 6

“My Future Self Portrait Oil Pastels” by Justin Chong, Grade 4

“Pen and Ink Identity Micrography” by Mason Waterfield, Grade 6

“Painted Primary Color Robots” by Nicholas Nguyen, Kindergarten

“My Family Pet Paper Collage” by Aidan Zacahariah, Grade 1

“Summer” by Alexander Yu, 10, Centreville, teacher Mrs. Scott

“Greenbriar West Elementary”
By Lily Chang, Grade 2

By Vivian Thompson, Grade 5, Greenbriar East Elementary

By Mattilyn Dawson, Grade 5

By Nathan Crowley, Grade 3

By Emily Tien, Grade 2

By Joel Kim, Grade 5

By Esra Aydin, Grade 5

By Maria Ivanova, Grade 3
By Grayson Macaspac, Grade 4

By Laya Abou Alkir, Grade 3

By Nora Li, Grade 2

By Kenneth B. Lourie

Now that the drama of the last five weeks—
and the last three columns—is mostly over, life
can return to its previous/visual ebb and flow of
cancer highs and lows.

For the moment, what I don’t know: the effect
on my “Adam’s Apple” tumor (as I will call it) of
the aggressive, every-three-week-infusion sched-
ule I’ve been on since early October, is definitely
not hurting. Though I am under no delusions
about what my next CT scan might show. I also
have no confusion as to the road ahead: stay
positive and remain engaged and live life with
the least amount of focus and conversation on
the dominating fact that I was diagnosed with an
incurable form of cancer: non-small cell lung
cancer; in a stage 2A/II classification.

This knowledge has cast arosom as I am
likely to remain for some time in therapy—
conventional treatment (non-Western alternatives)
as in thinking I’ve fallen through some crack
somewhere and have been forgotten by whatever
reaper is sewing these things.

Granted, he/she/it has a lot of work to do and
an incredibly long list to get through; still, as
the centuries have confirmed, eventually, everyone’s
die is cast.

Having survived so long when so few of the
thousands of similarly diagnosed cancer patients
have not, certainly gives this one pause. But
the pause passes quickly and is taken over by positiv-
ity, as I must remain positive about the negative;
and not allow any semblance of “woeing” about me
or meaning and meaning about what I’m able to
do or disabled and unable to do. Never!

I have been given the gift of life and I see no
point in looking that gift-horse in its mouth. It
is my job, if it could even been characterized as
such, to keep my head down and keep moving
forward, figuratively speaking. There is no point
in thinking backwards or wondering who, what,
where, when and how. The point is the future, not
the past.

I like the country music song by Tim Mc-
Grace, “I Live Like You Were Dying,” I don’t want
to live like I’m dying, I want to live like I’m living. A
living which takes into account the good, bad and
the indifferent.

I stay from what I perceive to be my usual
path, I will know that I’m doing so for a reason:
cancer.

And since not even want to reinforce a negative,
let alone give it room to roam, I will continue to
try and take it all in stride and be grateful along
the way for the life I’ve been granted and try not
to weaken in my resolve to not let others be adverse-
ly affected or diminished by my situation.

I pretty much do whatever I want to do any-
way. Though there are many things I can’t do (par-
icularly, bending), there are still many activities I
am able to enjoy.

To quote Spock from Star Trek: “The good of
the many outweigh the good of the few.” A lot of
a stretch I know, but I hope you get the association.
For me to survive the ordeal of cancer requires
taking the emotion out of it. The highs and lows
must become events. And the levels and test results
which occasionally have become odds, merely
moments in time and subject to change.

If I am to finish this race, time cannot be of
the essence, time must be what I make of it.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative
for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
Every year thousands of kids participate in SYA sports. With 13 sports, there’s something for everyone. While the sports may be different, the kids share one thing... the moment.

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