Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2018

By Riya Hemanth, 11, McLean, Grade 6, Spring Hill
Haycock Elementary

By Grant Dougherty, Grade 2

By Mackenna Galbraith, Grade 1

Submitted by art specialist Sharon Baumgartner

By Sadie Janisko, Grade 2

Kindergarteners Report

Submitted by Haycock Elementary teacher Leah Yoo.

Jack Theurer, 5, Kindergarten: “I and my mom were at the vote.”

Rose Li, 6, Kindergarten: “I am in the zoo.”

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Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the McLean 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 & Teens’ Issue. The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art. We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We’d also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2019 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year’s Children’s & Teens’ Issue. 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 mclean@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

Ace at Capitol Challenge: Never full enough, Ace of Spades gazes longingly for yet another peppermint.

By Rylee Liang, 5, McLean, Kindergarten, Homeschooled

By Skye Martin, Grade 6, Haycock Elementary, submitted by art specialist Sharon Baumgartner

By Audrey Zecca, 11, McLean, Grade 6, Spring Hill Elementary
Volcano

Dark sky
Steaming earth
Shaking ground
The fury of nature

Earth went mad
Spitting lava
Throwing rocks
Burning everything

It feels like
The end
But also
The start

From ash grows hope
From loss buds life
End is beginning of new
The law of nature

— Yeonho Nam, 17, McLean
Grade 11, Langley High School, Anna Cohen’s class

Birthday

It is that time of the year
My favorite day of the year
It is the one and only birthday
Which means it is time for us to play

I invited friends to my party-
With bonds that are hearty
I finished up what my mom set up
While she put on her make-up

My friends finally arrived
Which had my soul revived
First, we filled up our tummy
Before we ate gummy

I got my presents
Which were filled with good intents
Then, we went outside to run around
And play tag at the playground

After all the fun
It is time for them to be gone
At last, my routine comes back
And I wait for this day to come back.

— Hyunjae Chung, 14
Grade 8, Longfellow Middle

Greed

Shiny as silver,
Round as a moon
Flat like horizon
Strong like a dictator
Clang like a factory
We call you money

We can’t see it
But it’s always on our mind.
The more, the better
It’s a world order,
Don’t let it take you over
You could always say no

— Dogyeong Kim, 16
Grade 10 at McLean High School, English teacher Allison Emmons

Poetry Club

See Poetry, Page 5
My little sister, Olivia
By Valerie Wu, 8, McLean, Grade 3 at The Potomac School: “I’m thankful for my little sister. On the weekends, I push her on the swing. She makes me happy when I am sad. I love my sister.”

Poetry
From Page 4

Nightmare
Last night
I got to meet again
The people
I always love
The place
I always miss
The memories
I always cherish
Like in a paradise
I was full of joy
But then
I’m back in my room
D-Day
Of the dreadful Algebra test
My beautiful dream
Now turns into a nightmare

— Irene Song, McLean
Grade 5, Cooper Middle School

Lost in the Maze
You’re afraid
Of those who beat you down
You’re afraid
Of what you’ll face
You’re afraid
Of how they think about you
You don’t know the joy of life
You don’t know where I am
You don’t know who I am
You don’t know what I am
But I can tell you one thing
Everything will pass by
Everything will go away
Someday that’s not far away
You’re just lost in a maze.
A long and winding maze
A maze of your life
But soon, very soon,
You’ll find a compass
That will guide you out
Once you’re out of the maze
You’ll know the joy of life

— Jiwoo Hwang, 12, from McLean
Grade 7 at Longfellow Middle School in Mrs. Donohue’s class
I am very thankful for my dog Ceaser. He has brought so much joy into my family and my life.

I’m thankful for my parents, they always supported me in my pursuits and helped me in life. The photo was taken by me at my older sister’s graduation ceremony.

I took this picture at Shenandoah National Park. The weather was wonderful, making the trees’ various colors even more beautiful. I am thankful for fall, since it is my favorite season. The weather, scenery, and thanksgiving in fall are amazing!

What do the holidays mean to you? What are the holidays all about? These are two questions that young people often ask themselves during the holiday season. The holidays are a time of giving and love. However you say it the holidays represent a time of joy and happiness. In a world that is constantly moving and creating cool gadgets and this is a huge problem because they need to learn to appreciate the important feelings and people that are around them.

I believe the holidays are about appreciating everything that you have at home and giving back as much as you can. It is important to give back and help others in need. The holidays are a time to come together with your loved ones and enjoy the company of each other. It is a time where you can come together with your loved ones and feel appreciated and appreciated.

I am thankful for my dog Lovey. We just got her a couple weeks ago, and she is 3 months old. The photo of my new puppy Lovey: We just got her a couple weeks ago, and she is 3 months old.

I am thankful for the beautiful trees and shrubs that surround us.

I am so thankful for my dog. My dog Sherlock helps me get through difficult situations and always lifts my spirits.

I’m thankful for my parents, they always supported me in my pursuits and helped me in life. The photo was taken by me at my older sister’s graduation ceremony.

I am very thankful for fall. It is a time of the year where people are together and happy and joyful. It is always wonderful to be in the company of others and to have a good time. The holidays are a great time to reflect on what you are thankful for and to share your gratitude with others.

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Children's Connection

McLean Connection

Chinatown by Tiffany Huang, 13, McLean, Grade 8

Flower by Cora Johns, 12, Falls Church, Grade 7

A Current Outlook by Keira Hansen, 13, McLean, Grade 8

Planet Jam City by Lydia Kabiri, 13, McLean, Grade 8

Sunset in the City by Alena Clark, 14, McLean, Grade 8

Begin Again! September...

Vacation is over, classes have started
Some are somber, others excited
Listen to those heartbeats pounding in eagerness
Look at those butterflies fluttering in nervousness
Old friend reunifications cause jubilation
New face adaptations cause frustration
One grade level higher with a lot more to learn
Another year older upon our anxious return
It’s all right, everyone feels the same
You’ll do great, just have a high aim
Look at all the adventures to come
There really is no need to look glum
The huge mountain ahead is for us to climb and conquer
The arduous hike will make us sore and suffer
At the summit, we’ll be much brighter and wiser.

—Minjae Hur, 14, McLean High, Grade 9
(teacher Moon Jeung Chang)

Growing Up

When I was 5
I dreamed to be a princess
I wished to live in a castle
I wanted to grow up rich

When I was 9
I dreamed to be a teacher
I liked to teach and talk to my dolls
I wanted to grow up smart

Now I am 14
I don’t know what my dream is
I don’t know what I like
I don’t want to grow up

But one day
I will miss my young dreams
I will find what I like
I will find my way
I will grow up

—Jisoo Hwang, 14, McLean High, Grade 9
(teacher Rosalie Clements)

Winter

Memories
have a tune
that makes me hum to the beat
and listen to those moments

Memories
have a smell
that makes me take a deep breath
and savor it once again
I didn’t know
that a song could be my winter
That my winter could be
the smell of mom’s mittens and
the train and puddles’ splatter
The joy of a snow day
is a Taylor Swift song
The scent of my house,
a warm place in my heart.

—Haine Jung, McLean
Grade 10, McLean High

Gasp

A gasp for every thrill
a haunted house gives.
A gasp for every surprise
party that is given.
A gasp for every A-Plus
a student gets in school.
A gasp for every plot twist
a writer creates.
A gasp for every present
Santa gives us for Christmas.
A gasp for every win
we get in our tournaments.
A gasp for every new life
that comes into the world.
What would we do
without gasps?

—Calla Seryung, Yim, 11, of McLean,
Grade 6 at Chesterbrook Elementary
Teacher Moon Jeung Chang

Flower by Cora Johns, 12, Falls Church, Grade 7

A Current Outlook by Keira Hansen, 13, McLean, Grade 8

Planet Jam City by Lydia Kabiri, 13, McLean, Grade 8

Sunset in the City by Alena Clark, 14, McLean, Grade 8

— McLean Connection ♦ Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2018-2019
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Young Artists

By James Pijai, 6, of McLean, Grade 1, Kent Gardens Elementary

By Sullivan Yoo, 7, Grade 2 at Haycock Elementary.

By Kyler Liang, 7, McLean, Grade 2, Homeschooled

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Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Closing Notice

New Year's Day
MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1, and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

The Old Firehouse
WINTER BREAK TRIPS

Snow Tubing & Ice Skating
Wednesday, Jan. 2, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
$60/$50 MCC district residents

Laser Tag & Indoor Paintball
Thursday, Jan. 3, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
$60/$50 MCC district residents

Upscale Bowling & Movie
Friday, Jan. 4, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
$65/$55 MCC district residents

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MCC is Newly Renovated
We're Showing Off!

Community Open House
Saturday, Jan. 5
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Free admission.

Presented by The Alden

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, “Linier Notes”
Sunday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.
$25/$15 MCC district residents

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Re: Dr. Kathryn Sowerwine
Dermatology & Allergy Specialists of Virginia
1260 Town Center Dr. Suite 415, Reston VA 20190
1715 N. George Mason Dr. Suite 108, Arlington VA 22205

Dear Patient,

For professional reasons, I have decided to close my Allergy & Immunology portion of practice at Dermatology & Allergy Special- ists of Virginia. Thus, I will no longer be able to provide your medical care. The last day I will see patients is January 31, 2019. I will be available for emergency care and scheduled appointments until the closing date.

We are happy to notify you that Dr. Danielleh will be taking over the Allergy portion of the practice at his office. Dr. Danielleh is board certified in Allergy, Asthma and Immunology as well as Internal Medicine. He is the president of the Allergy and Asthma Care Center and has been in practice for more than 25 years. We are glad to offer our loyal allergy, asthma and immunology patients a provider who is highly respected in the medical community.

Dr. Danielleh at Allergy & Asthma Care Center provides exemplary care to both pediatrics and adult populations suffering with immunologic, asthma and allergy concerns. Dr. Danielleh is continuing care initiated by this office. I would welcome the opportunity to continue in your care and well-being. He has office locations in Reston, Leesburg and Alexandria is accepting new patients at this time. His website and telephone number can be found below.

Your health and well-being are of utmost importance to me and my staff at Dermatology & Allergy Specialists of Virginia. I encourage you to choose another provider as soon as possible to ensure uninterrupted care. For your convenience, I am including contact information for the Virginia Hospital Center, Reston Hospital patient referral line and websites as well as the American College and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology website and telephone numbers. Please check your insurance company for providers covered within your network and region.

If you have a medical emergency, please dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency department.

As a reminder, your health records are confidential. A copy of your medical records can be released to you or your new provider with your written permission. To obtain an electronic copy of your medical records at no charge please access your patient portal at www.dermatologyspecialistsva.com. Please complete the records release form and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope and the fee, if requested a paper copy record will be $30 per page for the first 50 pages then $.50 per page after that. Postage and a $10.00 handling fee will be charged to the patient.

Thank you for trusting me with your healthcare needs. It has been a pleasure to provide your care, and I wish you the best in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathryn Sowerwine
Dermatology & Allergy Care Center: Reston; 703-796-7736 Alexandria; 703-931-2164
Leesburg: 703-777-9411
http://www.allergyandasthmacenters.com/dermatology
Virginia Hospital Center: 703-559-8000
https://www.virginiahospitalcenters.com/doctors/default.aspx
Faro: Hospital Center: 703-761-9000
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http://asthmaallergynet.org/find
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (847) 427-1200
https://local.org/location-antigist
Children's Connection

Project Inspires Students To Reveal Inner Self

This article was published in the November edition of The Longfellow Lead.

Getting to know other students is a classroom rite of passage experienced in almost every subject, but it’s not every day students are asked to get to know themselves. In the beginning of the year, Team Hesperus English teacher Meghan Donohue assigned the Identity Project, which does both of those things.

Not only is the identity project a way for students to get to know each other, but for students to reflect on their own self-identity. Middle school is a time when many students are trying to figure out who they really are.

This identity project was different because students had everything they would’ve put into an essay added to a photo of themselves. Students were allowed to use whatever computer program they wished, which meant, according to Donohue, the sky was the limit.

This escalates as hackers intercept your data, and ad companies reconstruct where you like to go and when you will be there. Facing these challenges head-on is the next step in solving our problem. It is in your best interest to make the Internet a safer place for everyone who uses it, and we will need to do this through further developing our greatest strength, technology.

— Peyton Walcott, 12, of Great Falls

Technology: Our Biggest Blessing, or Our Biggest Curse?

As Generation Z, we are the first generation to grow up in a technology-driven world, with technology becoming both our greatest strength and our greatest challenge. Among the benefits of this in today’s world is that Generation Z’s all-encompassing exposure to technology allows us to judge benefits of this in today’s world is that Generation Z’s all-encompassing exposure to technology allows us to judge whether a source is real or “fake” better than any other generation so far.

Project inspires students to reveal inner self.

The hallway next to Gym 2 looked like an art gallery in the beginning of the year when Ms. Donahue’s seventh-grade English class projects took over the space. The classes composed and manipulated photos with aspects of their personality to show a little bit about themselves, resulting in some striking artwork and self-reflection.

— Jenna Skoric, 14 Falls Church, Grade 8 (journalism teacher Andrea Duggan)

By Noah Cha, 13, McLean, Grade 7

By Nora Ballow, 12, Falls Church, Grade 7

By Noah Cha, 13, McLean, Grade 7

By Nora Ballow, 12, Falls Church, Grade 7

By Madison Bohrer, 13, Falls Church, Grade 7

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Volcano

Dark sky
Steaming earth
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Earth went mad
Spitting lava
Throwing rocks
Burning everything

It feels like
The end
But also
The start

From ash grows hope
From loss buds life

The law of nature

— Yeonho Nam, 17, McLean
Grade 11, Langley High School,
Anna Cohen’s class

Forever Friends

Sometimes we have bad days
And bite and scratch and cry
And sometimes we have good days
Where we hug and laugh together
And sometimes we don’t talk
For days and weeks and months,
But one thing never changes:
We are forever friends

— Olivia Park, 11, McLean,
Grade 6, Churchill Road Elementary

Back to Abnormal

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 usual 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-injection schedule 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 at stage IV, a diagnosis which came with a “13 month to two year” prognosis.

By accounts, I shouldn’t be writing this column – or doing anything else for that matter. I should be somewhere else – doing absolutely nothing, so far as we know, anyway. And I don’t mean lying on a chaise lounge somewhere soaking in the local culture as I try not to sunburn in the middle sun. I mean… well. I presume you know what I mean.

But here I am, alive and reasonably well, not boating, just saying.

Because, as amazingly fortunate as I am to still be anywhere nearly 10 years post diagnosis, there’s a part of me that believes not so much in what I’ve done to support my chemotherapy/conventional treatment (non-Western alternative) as in thinking I’ve fallen through some crack somewhere and have been forgotten by whatever raider 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 positivit y, as I must remain positive about the negative and not allow any semblance of “woe-ing” about me or meaning and grieving 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.

Unlike the country music song by Tim McGraw, “I’ve 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 I never want to reinforce a negative, let alone give it room to roil, 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 adversely 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 ticularly, 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 bit 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 even. And the levels and test results which occasionally have become odd, 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.

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