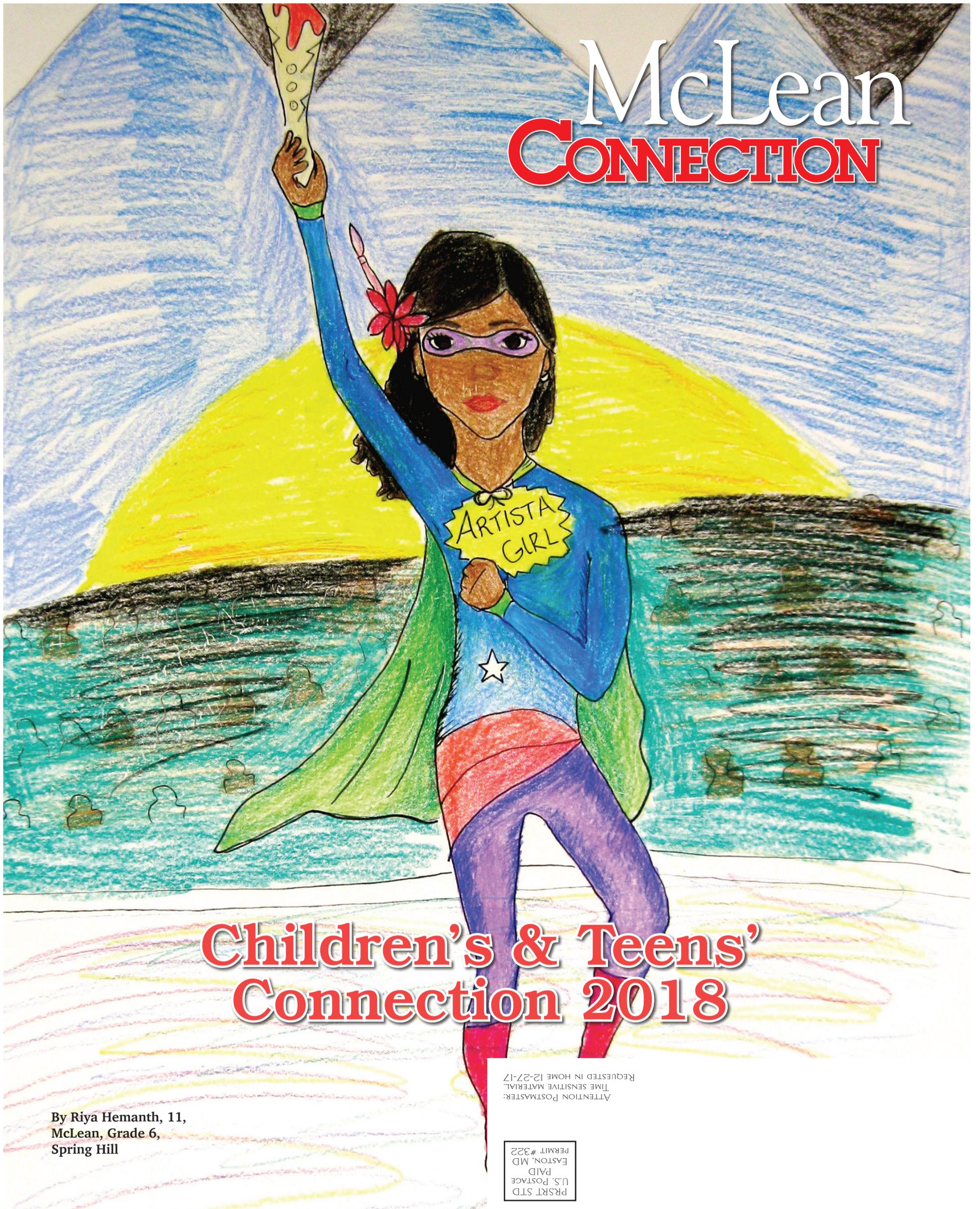


# McLean CONNECTION



## Children's & Teens' Connection 2018

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

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# HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY



By Grant Dougherty, Grade 2



By Mackenna Galbraith, Grade 1

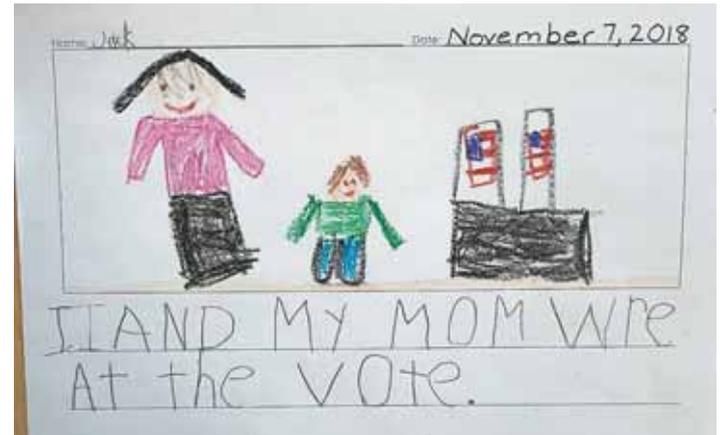


By Sadie Janisko, Grade 2

Submitted by art specialist Sharon Baumgartner

## 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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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



By Rylee Liang, 5, McLean, Kindergarten, Homeschooled



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

## 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'

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](mailto: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



ANGELA, drawing by Angela Yang, McLean, Grade 7, Longfellow Middle



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE MORIN, 13, McLEAN, GRADE 8

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



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

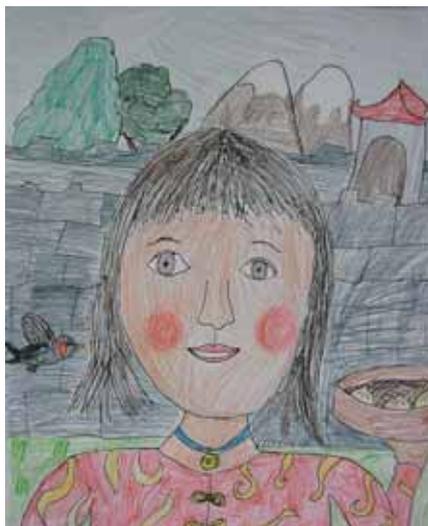
# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## SPRING HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Submitted by students of Dorothy Moon, Art Specialist



By Bradley Wang, 7, McLean, Grade 2  
(homeroom teacher Ms. Waters)



By Anya Tong, 8, McLean,  
Grade 3  
(homeroom teacher Mrs. Fisher)

Submitted by students of Carolyn Gore-Ashe, Art Specialist



By Aaron Le, 8, McLean, Grade 3  
(homeroom teacher Rebecca Munroe)



By Isabella Robertson, 11, McLean, Grade 6  
(homeroom teacher Mary Kenely)



By Amara Wang, 8,  
McLean, Grade 2  
(homeroom teacher Melinda Coleman)

## POETRY CLUB

### 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

### 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

### 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

SEE POETRY, PAGE 5

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## 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 8, 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

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# COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

From the students of Lindsay Bovenzi



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE MORIN, 13, MCLEAN, GRADE 8

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



PHOTO BY AARTI SABHARWAL, 14, MCLEAN, GRADE 8

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

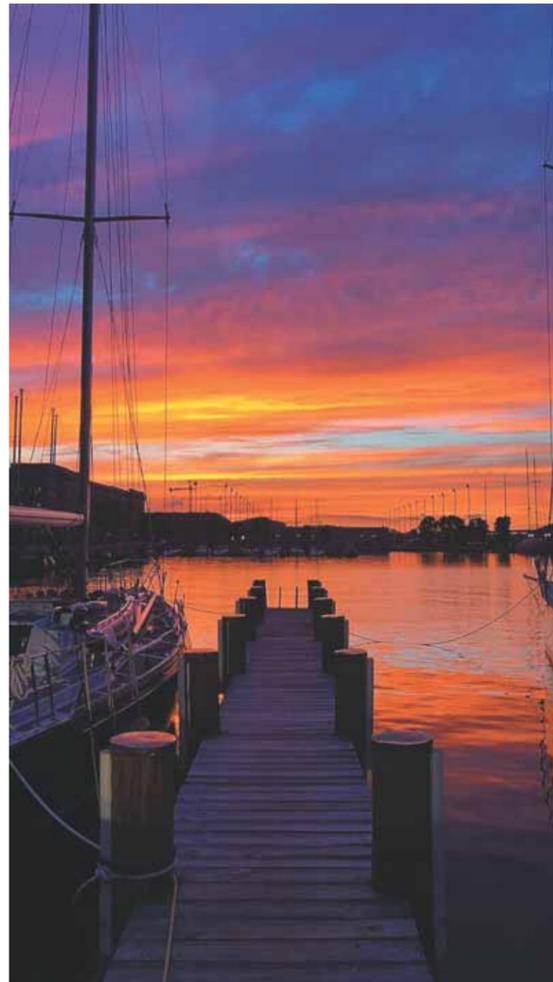


PHOTO BY CAMPBELL COLLINS, 13, MCLEAN, GRADE 8

**A beautiful sunset over the water on the Naval base in Annapolis, Md. I am thankful for all the beautiful moment that nature gives us.**



PHOTO BY RYAN SAWTARI, 13, GREAT FALLS, GRADE 8

**I am very thankful for my dog Ceaser. He has brought so much joy into my family and my life.**

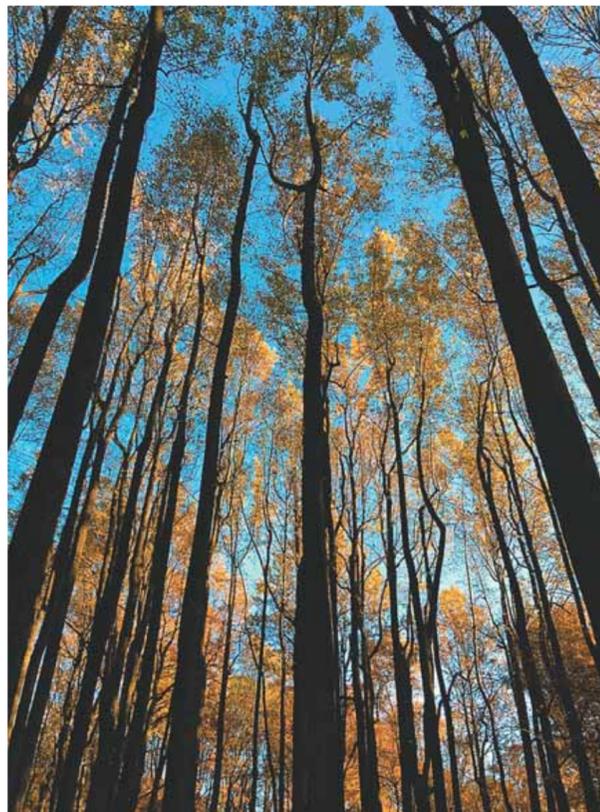


PHOTO BY IRENE SONG, 13, MCLEAN, GRADE 8

**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!**



PHOTO BY RUTH JOY WEBER, 14, RESTON, GRADE 8

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



PHOTO BY REGINA MAZA, 13, GREAT FALLS, GRADE 8

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



PHOTO BY TIM KUANYSHV, 14, MCLEAN, GRADE 8

**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.**

## COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

### What the Holiday's Really Mean to Generation Z

From the point of view of Generation Z, what the holidays are really about by students in Mrs. Kahrs' class.

In 1963 Andy Williams sang the lyrics, "It's the most wonderful time of year" to families around the US. Many citizens today still believe in the joy and love that the season brings but have the reasons behind that special feeling changed?

For generation Z or people born from 1995-2012, the holiday season is very special in a world that continues to move faster and faster. It is not because of the presents or the weather. It is about the feeling around the holidays. Everyone seems to be more joyful and happy around the holidays. We are more likely to laugh together and not worry about our differences.

Maybe it is because normally we are stressed and worried about school or other distractions but around the holidays we can take a break. It's time to relax and self-reflect on our wonderful lives. Although no one can identify exactly what the cause is for the joy around this season, no one can deny that there is a least some truth in "the most wonderful time of the year."

— ALI DeLONG, 12, GRADE 7

What do the holidays mean to you?

I believe the holidays are about appreciating everything that you have in life and being aware of how fortunate you are. Many people don't realize how good of a life we live in our area, and the holidays are a great time to show your appreciation. Some people give back by helping out in soup kitchens, visiting animal shelters, donating to toy drives, and other things to bring joy to others.

Holidays are about giving and sharing, but also about having a good time. Some celebrate the days for their religion, and others celebrate just for joy. These days are supposed to make you peaceful and content with yourself and your family. It's a time where you can come together with your loved ones and make cookies, bake pies, and watch Christmas movies together.

Many people think holidays are meant for receiving gifts and getting expensive items. That is not the case during this season, as people should focus more on spending time with the ones they love and appreciate. The true meaning of presents is to show appreciation to one another, but people can get caught up in the true meaning.

Overall, the holidays are a time of celebration and being kind to one another. We should appreciate our circumstances and happiness for we can be more thankful.

— JACQUELINE VARGAS, 13, FROM MCLEAN, GRADE 8

Is the presents? Is it decorating? To me, it is spending time with friends and family.

Every year kids all over the U.S hear the question "What is the meaning of Christmas to you?" Over the years my answer has been different, and most likely I would just say "I don't know." For me, I know the answer to this question is spending time with friends and family but for many young kids, the answer is presents.

All young kids should learn the meaning of the holidays sooner because it always makes me a bit upset when I ask a young child the question "what is the meaning of Christmas" and I get the answer "presents." Young kids need to know the magic, fun, and merriness of the holiday season because it is truly amazing.

Kids today only see the shiny new toys that they get on Christmas and this is a huge problem because they need to learn to appreciate the important feelings and people that are around during the holidays. In a world that is constantly creating cool and new toys and gadgets, presents may seem like the meaning of the holidays.

Even though presents can be a very important Christmas tradition it is definitely not the meaning of the holidays to me. To me, the holidays are all about spending time with friends and family, and though the answer to the well-known question may vary for some people the answer I typically get from my friends is the same as mine.

The holiday season is truly wonderful. It is a time of the year where people are together and happy and peaceful. In a world that is chaos, the holidays are a great time to kick back, relax, and have some fun with friends and family. The holidays are also a time of giving and love. However you say it the holidays really are the most wonderful time of the year.

— KENDALL SNOW, 12, FROM MCLEAN, GRADE 7

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

LONGFELLOW  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Chinatown** by  
Tiffany Huang, 13,  
McLean, Grade 8

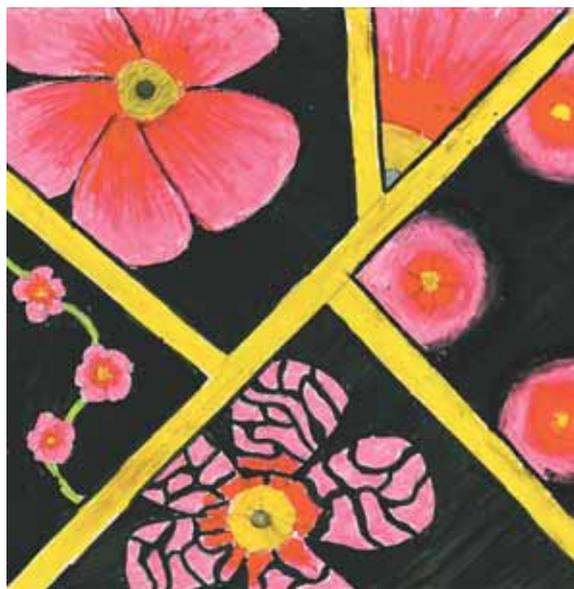


## Gasp

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?

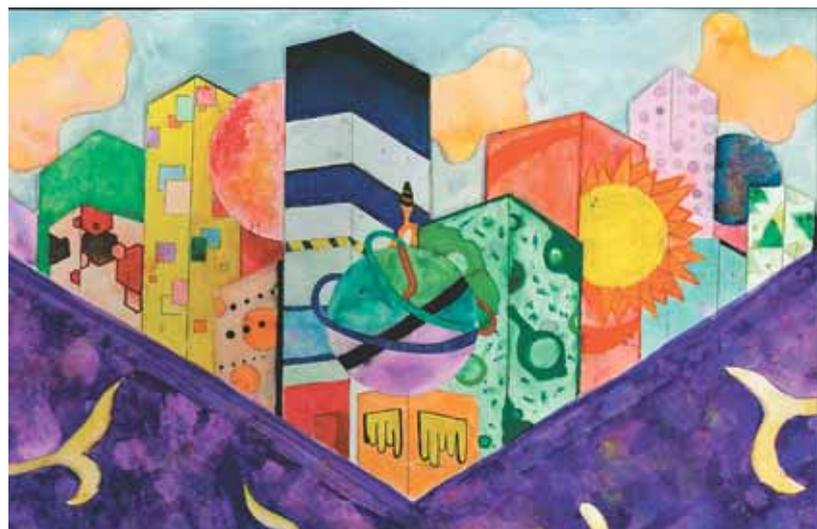
—CALLA SERYUNG. YIM, 11, OF MCLEAN,  
GRADE 6 AT CHESTERBROOK ELEMENTARY  
TEACHER MOON JEUNG CHANG



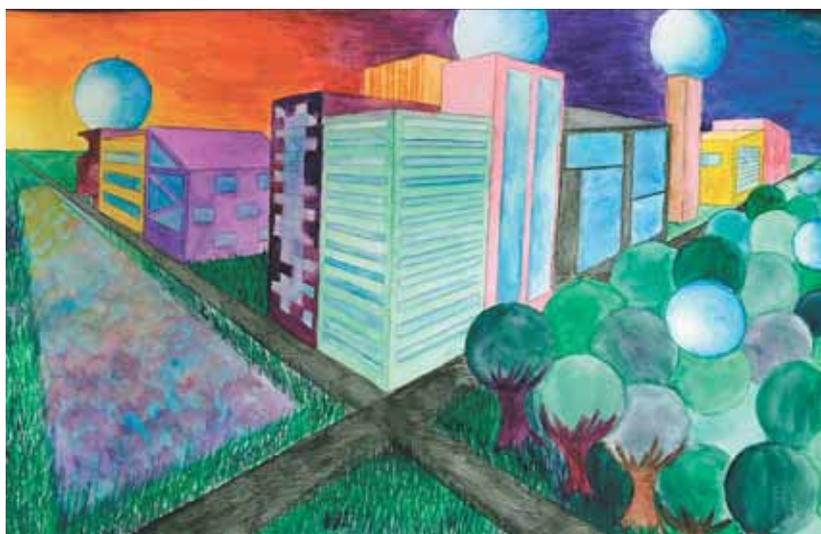
**Flower** by Cora Johns, 12,  
Falls Church, Grade 7



**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

## 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 MOONJEUNG 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

# YOUNG ARTISTS



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



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



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



**Re: Dr. Kathryn Sowerwine**  
Dermatology & Allergy Specialists of Virginia  
1800 Town Center Dr. Suite 415, Reston VA 20190  
1715 N. George Mason Dr. Suite 105, Arlington VA 22205

Dear Patient:

For professional reasons, I have decided to close my Allergy & Immunology portion of practice at Dermatology & Allergy Specialists 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. Daneshvar will be taking over the Allergy portion of the practice at his offices. Dr. Daneshvar 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 regarded in the medical community.

Dr. Daneshvar of Allergy & Asthma Care Center provides exemplary care to both pediatrics and adult populations suffering with immunology, asthma and allergy concerns. Dr. Daneshvar is continuing care initiated by this office and looks forward to this opportunity to continue in your care and wellbeing. 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 websites and telephone numbers.

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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**

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Leesburg; 703-777-1411  
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American College of Asthma, Allergy & Immunology (847) 427-1200  
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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, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents

## 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, "Liner Notes"**  
Sunday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.  
\$25/\$15 MCC district residents



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## 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. *Your Teen Magazine For Parents*, in an article entitled "Understanding your teens identity," explains that middle schoolers are only beginning to consider the fact that they can make decisions. They finally have a chance to figure out what they like and don't like.

"You can start to notice the development of a whole new sense of self," said the article.

Through the project Donohue will also get to know the students better. As if that weren't enough, it is also meant to develop the skill of finding characters' identities in a story.

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. Students were able to add words that described them on the photo they took on the computer. Sydney Miller, an eighth grader who had Mrs. Donohue last year, liked how she got to "photoshop her pictures and how she got to be creative." Students were given plenty of time to do this in class and they started to work on this project the fifth day of school.

Donohue wanted to create an "exhibit of our own identity." She wanted to make sure more people saw it rather than just people coming into her room.

It was also impressive to see how many posters there were, each one unique.

Sydney also liked how the exhibit enabled her to get to see other people's hobbies and interests.

Donohue hoped that at the end of this project, students would feel a sense of belonging and pride knowing they can work together and create something incredible, which was also a main goal of this project.

Students also learned the process of writing and the difference between creating writing versus art and how it may take many drafts. The identity project was more than just a regular project. The meaning behind it was much more powerful.

— 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 Madison Bohrer, 13, Falls Church, Grade 7

**The hallway next to Gym 2 looked like an art gallery in the beginning of the year when Ms. Donohue'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.**

### Technology: Our Biggest Blessing, or Our Biggest Curse? Why the Technology that Drives Generation Z is Our Greatest Challenge

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 whether a source is real or "fake" better than any other generation so far.

However, our reliance on technology for everything from homework to friendship leaves us vulnerable to online predators assaulting us through the keyboards on our computers and the apps on our phones. We need to be aware not only of faulty sites, but also of social media, apps, and unknown players seeking you out in your favorite games.

Adding to the technological drama for Generation Z is that many of the popular web browsers sell your personal data to advertisers looking to target you with appealing ads. Sound

harmless? It may not be as innocent as it seems. Search engines sell your name, favorite sites, and can even geolocate you when you access the web, something most middle schoolers have never even considered.

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 up to us, Generation Z, 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 GRADE 7 AT COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SARA KAHRS' CLASS.

## 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 II, 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

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## 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-infusion-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, stage IV, almost 10 years ago. A diagnosis which came with a "13 month to two year" prognosis.

By most 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 midday sun. I mean... well, I presume you know what I mean.

But here I am, alive and reasonably well; not boasting, 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 alternatives) as in thinking I've fallen through some crack somewhere and have been forgotten by whatever reaper is sowing 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 positivity; as in I must remain positive about the negative and not allow any semblance of "woeing" about me or moaning and groaning 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 be 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, "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.

If I stray 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 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 adversely affected or diminished by my situation.

I pretty much do whatever I want to do anyway. Though there are many things I can't do (particularly, 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.

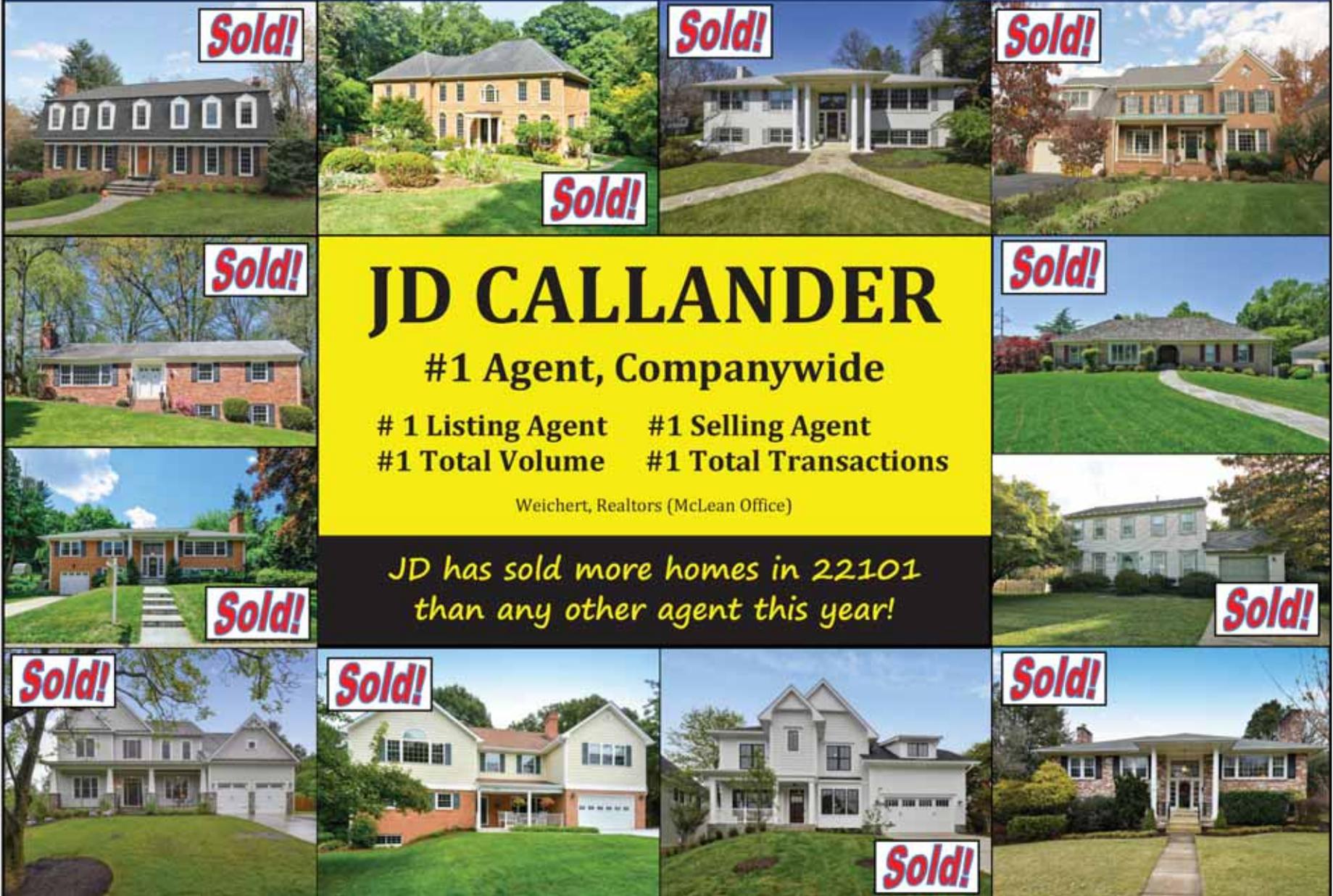
For me to survive the ordeal of cancer requires taking the emotion out of it. The highs and lows must become evens. And the levels and test results which occasionally have become odds, merely moments in time and subject to change.

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.

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