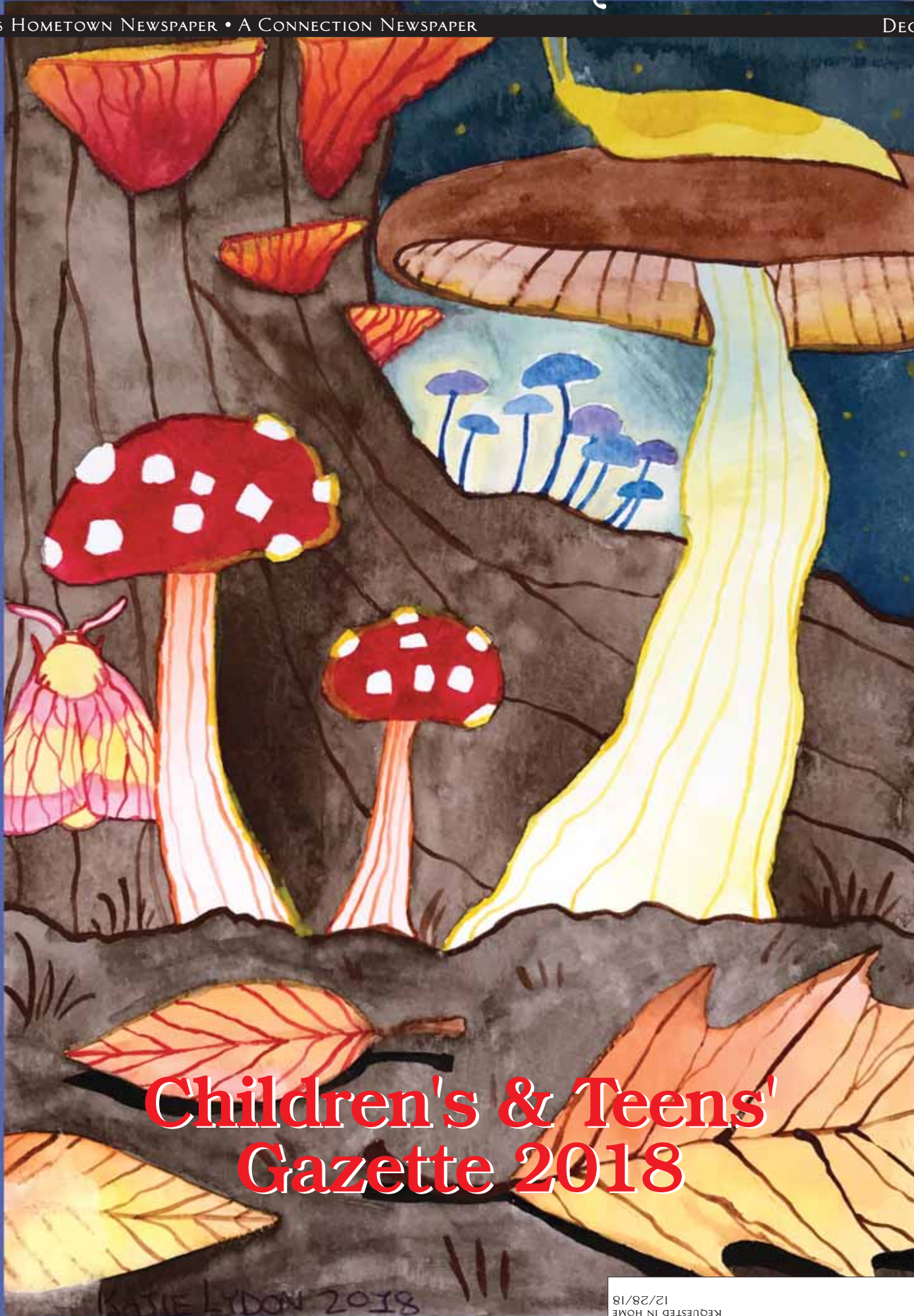


# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 27, 2018



By Katie Lydon, Grade 11, Quander Road School

## Children's & Teens' Gazette 2018

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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' GAZETTE



By Norah Emery, Grade 6, Fort Hunt Elementary



By Amelia Cole, 12, Grade 7, Homeschool



By Rachel Jurta, Grade 5, Stratford Landing Elementary



Christmas Quilt by Everly, 4, St. Aidan's Episcopal Day School



Cubist Self-Portrait by Anna Larson, 12, Grade 7, Alexandria, Browne Academy

## The Mount Vernon Children's Gazette

is published by  
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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 2019 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](mailto: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

# CHILDREN'S & TEENS'



By Peter Scoma, 9, Grade 4, Mr. Rathman's class, Washington Mill Elementary, Mount Vernon, in celebration of Romania's 100th Anniversary, a traditional Romanian custom, "Painting on Glass," Romanian Orthodox Christian.

"Whiskers, the Cat" by Alvin Scoma, 9, Grade 4, Mr. Rathman's class, Washington Mill Elementary, Mount Vernon.



Friends in kindergarten by Isabel Anderson, 5, from Alexandria, Kindergarten at Hollin Meadows Elementary, Ms. Wilson.

## Christmas December 26, 1611

Dear Diary,  
Yesterday was my family's very 1st Christmas here in Jamestown. My family and I arrived in May, so it's been about 8 months. Anyway, yesterday we all gathered around our town Christmas tree and sang carols. After that, we went back to our dwelling to receive presents. We each got 2 presents. I got a corn-husk doll and a warm blanket. I am the youngest out of 6, so you can imagine my presents weren't the best. For dinner, we had my favorite, something we

can only have once a year. We had ham. We shot a pig and roasted it over a fire 3 months ago. We finally had it all — 6 pieces each — yesterday on Christmas. So to all a Merry Christmas, and to all a good night.

Fondly,  
Elizabeth

— ELIZA ANDERSON, 9,  
FROM ALEXANDRIA  
4TH GRADE, HOLLIN MEADOWS  
ELEMENTARY, MRS. McVEIGH



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## A Cinquain Poem

Dunkin'  
Slide, Glide  
Take a ride  
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Dunktown

— PEYTON COLE, 8  
GRADE 2, HOMESCHOOL

## Fairy Tales

Fairy tales are real, that's for sure

It's the Big Bad Wolf from under the floor

It's the pitter patter of small feet  
When you just can't get to sleep

Yes, there are fairies  
Yes, there is magic  
They've just been doing the wrong things  
And having the wrong habits

I'll give you a tip  
Or two or three  
Keep your head down and follow me

— MOLLY COLE, 10  
GRADE 5, HOMESCHOOL

**FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY** *Neighborhood Friends Drawings from Fort Hunt's 2nd Grade.*



By Keira Phillips



By Henry Foote

By Anna Kate Leeth



By Havana Chapman-Edwards



By Benyah Sutton



By Kyana Canizalez



By Banays Alemayehu



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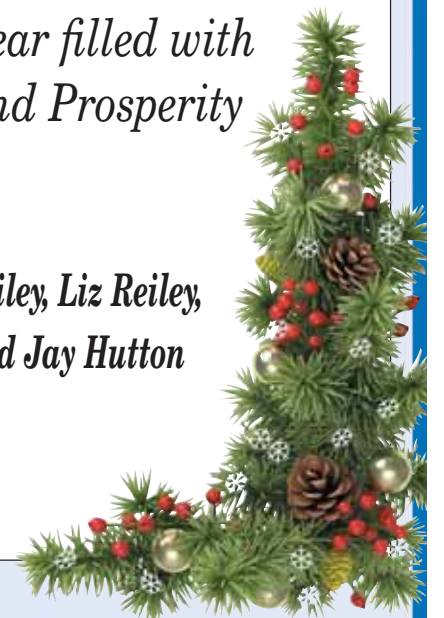


# Season's Greetings

*During the Holiday Season, I find myself reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped us shape our business. Thank you for your continued support.*

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# FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY Submitted by Andrew Green on behalf of Fort Hunt's Kindergarten and 1st Grade.



**Family Member Portrait by Ben Henry, Grade 1**



**Self-portrait by Brendan Holmes, Kindergarten**



**Family Member Portrait by Daphne Zingerline, Grade 1**



**Family Member Portrait by Delilah Hill, Grade 1**



**Self-portrait by Isadora Cabrera-Catacora, Kindergarten**



**Family Member Portrait by Josselyn Moran-Moran, Grade 1**



**Family Member Portrait by Leila Espinosa Luna, Grade 1**



**Family Member Portrait by Tessa Bennet, Grade 1**



**Family Member Portrait by Tommy Curry, Grade 1**



**Family Member Portrait by Tori Allen, Grade 1**

*Cultural Identity Self-Portraits from Fort Hunt's 3rd Grade.*



**By Ellie Kim**



**By Elsa Lewis**

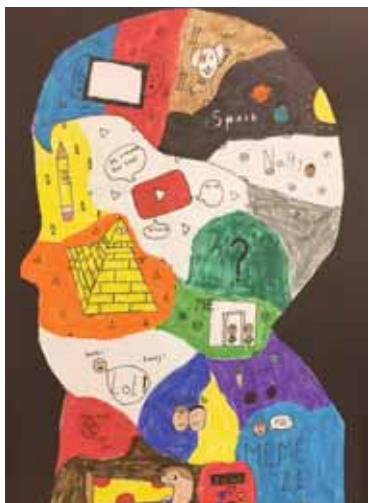


**By Petra Adonteng**



**By Thomas Granieri**

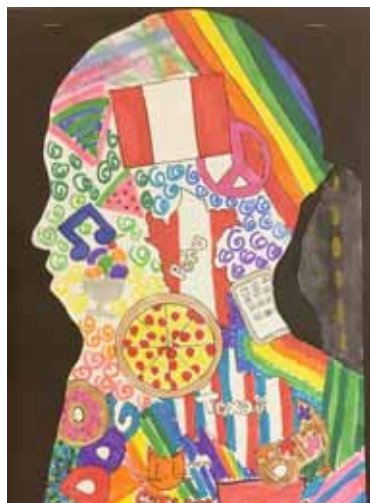
*Silhouette Drawings from Fort Hunt's 6th Grade.*



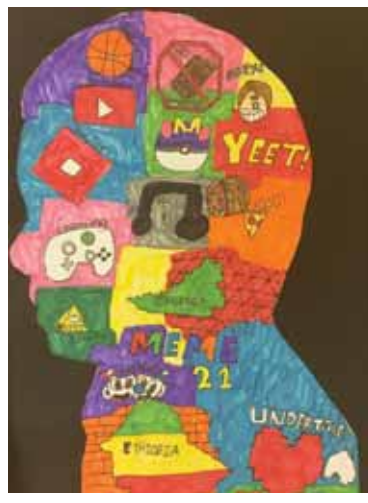
**By Alex Rodriguez**



**By Devin Stanco**



**By Isabella Wheeler**



**By Natnael Wassihun**



**By Norah Emery, Grade 6, Fort Hunt Elementary**



*Brandywine resident since 2014*



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## FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY



Giraffe by Lilah Goel, 8, Grade 2 at Fort Hunt Elementary, Mrs. Holland.



Seasons by Luke Goel, 6, Grade 1 at Fort Hunt Elementary, Srta. Marrer

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# FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY



Still Life Drawing by Ben Briede



Design for the Future Architecture Drawing by Eli Briede



Design for the Future Architecture Drawing by Cassidy Cooper



Still Life Drawing by Danielle Dixon



Design for the Future Architecture Drawing by Estella Mayhew



Still Life Drawing by Katerina Kavaljian



Still Life Drawing by Marisela Martinez



Still Life Drawing by Shatoya Stewart



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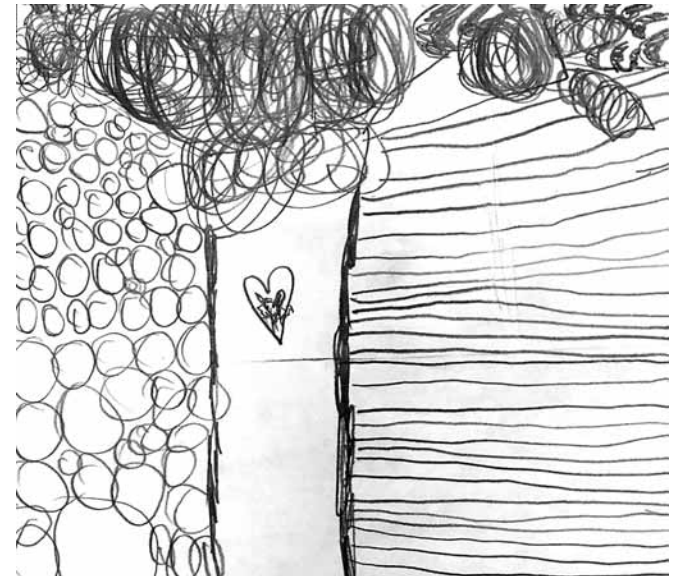
# STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY Submitted by Julia Schickel, Art Teacher.



By Ethan Dwyer, Grade 2



By Jude Dauer, Kindergarten



By Matthew Brannon, Grade 3



By Emma Scully, Kindergarten



Kent Mitchell, Grade 3



By Han Le, Grade 4



By Foster Marchand, Grade 1



By Gwynne Letcher, Grade 4



By Sariah Carter, Grade 1



By Rory Sheehan, Grade 3



By Lilly Brady, Grade 4



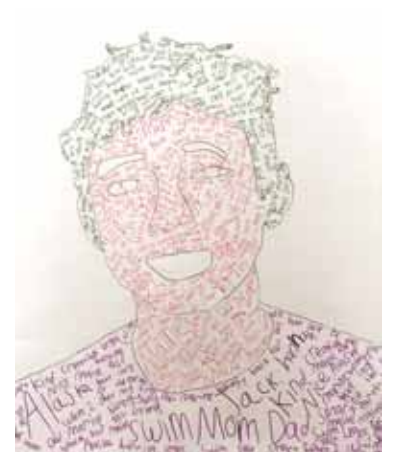
By Sabine O'Shea, Grade 5



By Avery Garr, Grade 5



By Jack Letcher, Grade 6



By Nate Brennell, Grade 6

# STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY

Submitted by Julia Schickel, Art Teacher.



By Abbie Bachmore, Grade 4

Submitted by Sharon Burke, Art Teacher.



By Maria Chintillova, Grade 1



By Cyrus Fakhori, Kindergarten



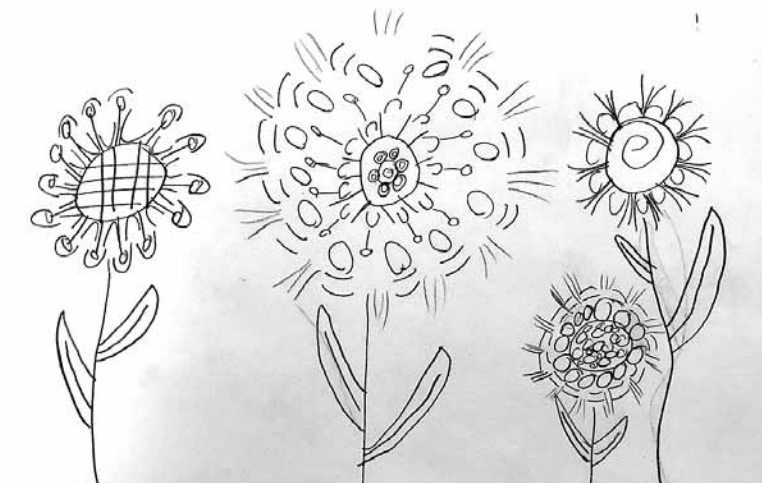
By Rush Swanson, Grade 5



By Grave Barrett, Grade 3



By Kaitlyn Hoewing, Grade 2



By Francis Ngo, Grade 6



By Noura Barka, Grade 3



By Nolan Tunyavongs, Grade 3



By Norah Crowley, Grade 3



By Adam Pedigo, Grade 6



By Marcus Rusten, Grade 3



By Maria Blaylock, Grade 3



By Katelyn Soriano, Grade 5

# QUANDER ROAD SCHOOL

Submitted by art teacher Anne Lewis.



Work's Gate

Brandon Dietz

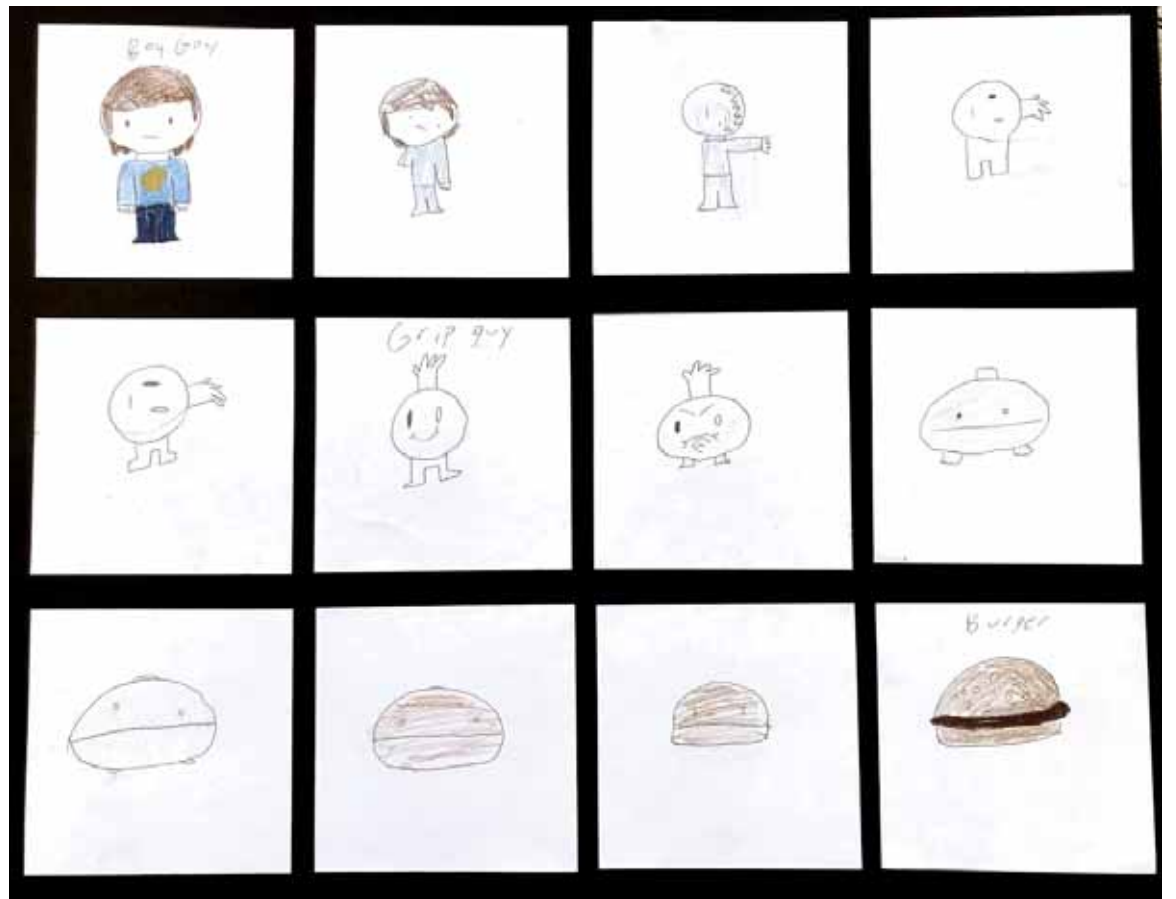
By Brendan Dietz, Grade 12



By Johnathan Salgado,  
Grade 12



By Noah  
Phuong,  
Grade 12



By Bennett Smith, Grade 10



By Noah Phuong,  
Grade 12



KATIE LYDON 2019

By Katie Lydon, Grade 11

# HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY



Lucas Gabriel, Connor O'Neill, Rodrick Byrd and Gavin Gilley

## Project Based Learning

The class completed a PBL (Project Based Learning) in which their mission was to create an interactive ancient Egyptian museum where guests can fully experience what ancient Egypt was like. Their driving question was: How can you, as an ancient Egypt museum curator, convince people to visit your museum.

Their final product: Students used all the information that they researched and worked on in both art class (10 hours) and in their classroom, that convinces potential customers to visit their museum. They had to research the geography of ancient Egypt; decide on a logo (in hieroglyphics) for their museum; choose a museum tour guide by researching the gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt and deciding on one of those guides; create a restaurant menu consisting of foods that the ancient Egyptians ate; research the inventions such as paper (papyrus), 365-day calendar and much more.

The outcome is students gain life-long problem solving skills, develop a growth mindset, experience a real world occupation, critically and creatively develop a new idea, collaborate with peers, communicate their solution, work on being goal oriented with a due date and timeline, and still learn core content.



Serenity Bokini (Cleopatra)

Parents were invited, along with many staff members and other third grade classes, to view student's commercials.

— DEBI SITA, 3RD GRADE AAP TEACHER


HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Sofie Werthmann, Emi Martin and Lennon Schiffer

Serenity Bokini, Carys Schiffer, Laaibah Majid and Jordan Dillard-Scott





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# ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Photos of student artwork submitted by Suzanne Odom.



Triangle Tree by Ford, 3



Triangle Tree by Grady, 2



Nativity watercolor by Layah, 5



Christmas Quilt by Sean, 4

# ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



By Reeves Versaggi, Grade 7



By Astrid Ellehuus, Grade 5



By Brooke Dunton, Grade 7



By Lauren Oehler, Grade 8



By Steven Peguero, Grade 7



By Andrew Talay, Grade 4



By Marshall Rhodes, Grade 1

# BROWNE ACADEMY

## Christmas

Snow coming down,  
The sky,  
People singing,  
Tree and houses all decorated.  
Christmas is here, a beautiful holiday.  
People eating treats,  
And skating, sledding.  
Everybody meeting each other.  
What a great holiday!  
The best thing is when  
You find presents under your tree.  
A sign of Christmas is when it gets cold.  
On December 25th

All of this beautiful stuff happens  
At night all full with lights  
Coming dark early.  
— ILARIA LOCATELLI, 8, ALEXANDRIA  
GRADE 3, MS. LAHA

## Winter

Winter.  
Winter, winter, falling snow.  
I go wherever you go.  
Winter, winter, take me but where.  
Oh! Oh! I know!  
Take me where the wind blows.

Carols, carols in the air.  
— JACKIE JONES, 8, ALEXANDRIA  
GRADE 3, MS. LAHA

## The Seasons

Winter, winter, falling snow.  
Spring, spring, flowers grow.  
Summer, summer, hot and humid.  
Autumn, autumn, cool and windy.  
Winter, summer, fall and spring,  
Altogether they make the seasons.  
— PIPER GUY, 8, ALEXANDRIA  
GRADE 3, MS. LAHA

## Final Descriptive Paragraph

I visited the magical Universal Studios, Orlando, Florida in the summer of 2017. One thing that made it magical was the Harry Potter virtual reality ride. It's magical because you have to wear special 3D glasses to see the characters come to life. The glasses made me feel like I was in the movie. I felt like I was actually traveling with Harry Potter, and there were moments when I would fly with

SEE BROWNE ACADEMY, PAGE 18  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# GALLERY



Acrylic painting by Sophia Webster, 13, Grade 7 at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Dedicated in loving Memory of cousin, Alex McCrone, 11.



Snowman by Benjamin Webster, Grade 3, Fort Hunt Elementary.



Reindeer by Michael Webster, Grade 5, Stratford Landing Elementary.



Manger by Olivia Webster, Grade 1, Fort Hunt Elementary.



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# BURGUNDY FARM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



Name: Elsa Murchison  
Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Pippa Ashton  
Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Sam Hole  
Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Ash Uttam  
Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Tabitha Richey-Allen  
Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Rosie Beggs, Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Tessa Chandler  
Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Eva Albarelli  
Grade: Kindergarten



Name: Caleb Coates  
Grade: Kindergarten

# BROWNE ACADEMY



Cupcakes by Emme Guy, 4,  
Junior Kindergarten, Alex-  
andria



Matisse Goldfish by Carter  
March, 6, Grade 1, Alexan-  
dria



Cubist Self-Portrait by Alex  
North, 12, Grade 7, Alexan-  
dria



Cubist Self-Portrait by  
Brennan Wise, 13, Grade 7,  
Alexandria



Cubist Self-Portrait by  
Isabella Bloom, 12, Grade  
7, Alexandria



Winter sunset by Grace Laha, 9, Grade 4, Alexandria



Ceramic Mask by Caryn  
Gardner, 14, Grade 8,  
Arlington



Ceramic Mask by Olivia  
Short, 14, Grade 8, Fort  
Washington, Md.



Ceramic Mask by Dante  
Calandra, 14, Grade 8,  
Alexandria



# STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY

## Leonardo da Vinci – The Truth

Leonardo da Vinci, intellectual inventor or artistic mastermind? It's time to explore the truth! I believe Leonardo da Vinci is a scientist. You may think he is an artist, but really deep down he is an inventor, and inventors are scientists. Leonardo da Vinci was born in Vinci, Italy on April 15, 1452. Leonardo's father was of royalty as for his mother, she was a commoner. As a kid, Leonardo was an outcast. Because he had no friends, Leonardo spent hours either drawing or sketching inventions in his journals. Science influenced all of his artistic sketching and paintings. Science is required in art to draw lines, mix colors and so much more!

Later on in Leonardo's life, he started really getting interested in the human body. He wondered peculiar things that most people didn't think about. He wondered about how things worked and why. He wondered why the human body can do such amazing things.

Leonardo got more and more interested in the human body, so much so that he had the courage to risk his reputation and dig up dead bodies. He spent a lot of time studying cadavers. Because of his fascination with biological science he dissected frogs and other dead organisms too. Leonardo may have made some risky choices but he needed to satisfy his curiosity.

Leonardo loved to invent. He invented lots of things we use today. Leonardo da Vinci created the first helicopter to actually fly! He also made the hydraulic press, which is used in a roller coaster to shoot you up the first hill. Leonardo invented other things we use in our everyday lives such as the bike, the screw, an anemometer and even humanoid automatons (robots).

Leonardo da Vinci became a famous person because of his successful inventions in science. He and his inventions were and are revolutionary. Leonardo da Vinci really had an impact on our lives.



**Pen and Ink by Jude Pena, 12**

He still impacts our future in many ways. Without Leonardo da Vinci we may not have all of these amazing things in life that we have today. Leonardo da Vinci was a really superior SCIENTIST who had very big ideas that made revolutionary inventions.

— LAUREN GORDON, GRADE 6

## “Leonardo the Scientist”

We all know Leonardo da Vinci...or do we? Leonardo da Vinci did a lot of things. He painted the Mona Lisa and a lot of famous paintings but, Leonardo did not just paint. Leonardo was also an



**Pen and Ink by Ruth Bekele, 11**

inventor and a scientist. In my opinion, Leonardo was a scientist because scientists invent things. They draw and even paint. He is obviously a scientist because he did everything a scientist would do. He drew, he painted, and he invented! All of this is a part of the scientific process.

Leonardo da Vinci was born in Italy on April 15, 1452. His father, Sir Piero, was a fine business man while his mother was a poor peasant girl. His parents didn't show much affection for him. His father left Leonardo and his mother to join a more respectful family. Later on, his mother left as well, and gave Leonardo to his grandparents. They did not show much affection for him either. Leonardo's uncle was the only one that showed some affection towards him. They would often take walks in the hills covered with olive trees, and talk about life and enjoy each other's company.

Although estranged, Leonardo's father noticed his talent for art and sent him to be an apprentice for Verrocchio. Soon Verrocchio recognized Leonardo's talent for art and asked him to draw an angel on Verrocchio's painting. Leonardo drew an amazing angel with so much detail it is said that Verrocchio never picked-up a paint brush again. Verrocchio had an artist's guild that only his masters could join. Soon, Leonardo became a master himself and joined the guild. Leonardo stayed with the guild and even stayed being a Master for Verrocchio for several years.

Leonardo left the guild later in life and being a master for Verrocchio. He went on to paint some of his own paintings like the Last Supper, and the Mona Lisa. While Leonardo was painting things he was also

inventing things like the armored car (the tank as we call it today), the parachute, or even the first movie-type projector. Or he was investigating by doing things like dissecting a bird or a human, to see how a bird can fly or how a human walks. Leonardo soon fled Florence and headed to Milan. The duke of Milan liked to give big parties and had a passion for art but he was looking for someone to build him a weapon. Despite his gentleness, Leonardo took the job.

Leonardo made mortar cannons that shot huge cannonballs into the air. Leonardo had ideas he just couldn't contain. He was going to make a huge bronze horse statue—the biggest in the world. But when the French invaded Milan they used his clay horse sculpture for target practice before it was cast. On May 2, 1519 Leonardo died feeling accomplished and proud. Leonardo da Vinci helped shape the world.

— LIAM KERR, GRADE 6

## CARL SANDBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Dali's Horseman by Dean McDonnell, Grade 7 at Carl Sandburg Middle School.**

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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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## BROWNE ACADEMY

FROM PAGE 14

Harry Potter. While in the air my heart was pounding with fear and my hands were sweating. It was super exciting! Then we rode the Mummy ride. It was the scariest ride I had ever been on because it was dark and as fast as a racecar. The coaster shot up, and it surprised me when it went upside down! I did not even feel myself go upside down. It was so much fun though that I went on it twice! At the end of the day, I knew it had been an epic day. Universal Studios is the place to be. It was unbelievable!

— LOGAN BROOKS  
MR. SMITH, ENGLISH 6A

## Tree

The tree was full of glee.  
The ornaments hung,  
I took a knee in front to the tree full of glee.

— SAM BIGGINS, 8, ALEXANDRIA  
GRADE 3, MS. LAHA

## Introduction to Art

I ask them to draw something  
To reach inside their minds,  
grab something,  
and throw it onto the paper.

I say let your mind go free  
To let it run to wherever it pleases  
find what it's looking for,  
grab it by the hand,  
and bring it to reality.

I want them to find color,  
wandering in the darkness of their minds,  
and to bring it to the light of the canvas;  
to take what doesn't seem right  
and to welcome it into open arms.

But all they want to do  
is to worry about the little imperfections  
with what they've found.

They scrub away at its existence  
over and over,  
until all that's left  
are the faded marks of mistakes,  
and the disappointment  
from their failure to make it perfect.

— SOPHIE ATKISSON, 13  
GRADE 8, DANIELLE GERBER,  
ENGLISH TEACHER

## Bentley's Story

Hi!, my name is bentley, and I love food. I'm new to this world and I'm not sure what everything is. I think I see blue in the air with white blotches that my new family calls a sky, something green on the floor that my new family calls grass, a big yellow circle in the sky that my family calls the sun, water, and food. My family are my people. In my family someone is called Mom, another is called dad, the other two people are called Liv and Lilah. I protect my family from people I don't know, and they protect me from people who have lines in their hands that have smoke coming out of them that my owners call cigarettes, they also protect me from something my owners call fires.

I think I'm cute. On second thought, I don't think I'm cute. I know I'm cute! My paws, my face, my body, the places I sleep, and everything I do is cute! You can't blame me. I'm just so cute, like really cute. Cute as in cuter than a newborn animal or baby.

I like playing this game with my bright, bouncy thing that my owners call my red ball. When my owners go up, then I go up (by the way, it is really fun). When my owners go down I play with my red ball. I like sleeping with my owners. I like playing outside. I like everything except being at home with no one but my brother, Winston. And I hate rain. Boy, when I say I hate rain, I mean I really hate rain. Rain is like wet stuff coming from the sky when the sky is grey. My owners say that God is crying.

— OLIVIA ROSS, 10  
GRADE 5, MR. SMITH

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