Children's & Teens' Gazette 2018

By Katie Lydon, Grade 11, Quander Road School
It's beyond selling homes.

When McEearney Associates was formed in 1980, John McEearney knew that he wanted to create a firm that went above and beyond just selling and buying homes for clients... He wanted to give back to the communities that helped grow the firm to more than 360 Associates today. Every Associate that joins our firm stands behind a brand that invests in the communities that we live and work in. They are responsible for our enviable reputation. They are McEearney Associates.

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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 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 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.

Welcome

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

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
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 cornhusk 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

A Cinquain Poem

Dunkin’ Slide, Glide Take a ride It’s so easy in 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

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

“Painting on Glass,” Romanian Orthodox Christian.

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

Wishing you and yours a Happy Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Prosperity.

Rex and Doris Reiley, Liz Reiley, Kelly Palmer, and Jay Hutton

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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated
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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because I still need to get off the naughty list

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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

New Year’s Eve
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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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Offers expire 1/1/19

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CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS
ON YOUR IMPRESSIVE WORK!

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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CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS
ON YOUR IMPRESSIVE WORK!

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703.535.8151 • fontainecaffe.com
Quander Road School
Submitted by art teacher Anne Lewis.

By Brendan Dietz, Grade 12

By Johnathan Salgado, Grade 12

By Bennett Smith, Grade 10

By Noah Phuong, Grade 12

By Katie Lydon, Grade 11
Hollin Meadows Elementary

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 ideas, collaborate with peers, communicate their solution, work on being goal oriented with a due date and timeline, and still learn core content.

Serinity 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

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Balanced Individual

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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

— Ilaria Locatelli, 8, Alexandria
Grade 3, Ms. Laha

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.

— 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, winter, 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...
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Mount Vernon Gazette


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

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Grade: Kindergarten

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Name: Caleb Coates
Grade: Kindergarten

Browne Academy

Cupcakes by Emme Guy, 4, Junior Kindergarten, Alexandria

Matisse Goldfish by Carter March, 6, Grade 1, Alexandria

Cubist Self-Portrait by Alex North, 12, Grade 7, Alexandria

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

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Grade: Kindergarten

Name: Rosie Beggs, Grade: Kindergarten

Name: Tessa Chandler
Grade: Kindergarten

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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 revolutionary. Leonardo da Vinci really had an impact on our lives.

“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 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 respectable 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 Verecchio for several years.

Leonardo left the guild later in life and being a master for Verecchio. 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.

— LIA KERR, Grade 6

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— LAUREN GORDON, Grade 6

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— LIA KERR, Grade 6
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 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 fear and conversation on the dominating fact that I was diagnosed with an incurable form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer. I must remain positive about the negative diagno-

sis 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 absolute-

ly nothing, so far as we know, anyway. And I don’t mean laying on a chaise lounge somewhere soaking in the local culture as try not to sunburn in the middle summer I mean... well, I presume you know what I mean.

But here I am, alive and reasonably well, not beating, 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 reason is seeing 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 if similarly diagnosed cancer patients have not, certainly gives one this pause. But the pause passes quickly and is taken over by positivi-
ty... as in I must remain positive about the negative and not allow any semblance of “wseeing” about me or meaning and grasping 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-hone in its mouth. It is my jobs, if I 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, “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 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 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 the 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-
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.

Kennie Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
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Mount Vernon Gazette  Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2018-2019  19
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