Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2018

By Elia Mazerolle, Grade 2, Orange Hunt Elementary
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Hayfield Secondary

Drawings by Tony (Anthony) Diaz, a senior at Hayfield Secondary, submitted by Math Teacher Danette Short.
Welcome

Dear Readers:
This week, the Springfield 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. 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 email, which should be sent to springhill@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

By Caitlin Cugley, Grade 4, Orange Hunt Elementary

By Jaylen Hansley, Grade 1, Newington Forest Elementary

By Dania Miller, Grade 6, Orange Hunt Elementary

By Raquel Chacon Pena, Grade 1, Annandale Terrace Elementary

My Thanksgiving by Josephine Bronson, Art Classes in Burke with Instructor Carol Zeitlin.

By Raquel Chacon Pena, Grade 1, Annandale Terrace Elementary
Orange Hunt Elementary

Submissions from Mrs. Kieffer and Mrs. Rozycki's students

By Molly Thorne, Grade 2

By Elia Mazerolle, Grade 2

By Athena Giannetti, Grade 3

By Sorami Nguyen, Grade 3

By Audrey Smith, Grade 1

By Alexandra MacDonald, Grade 6

By Andrea Dinh, Grade 3

By Ruby Laden, Grade 5

By Sophia Orozco, Grade 5
Children’s & Teens’

Poetry Corner

Short poems by Maya Tirado of Springfield.

A Tree

I love different colors
my hair changes each season.
It changes each time
when the sun is high
and wind is breezin’.

Earth

The earth is green, the earth is blue.
The land, sea and everything around you.
The tides, the waves come from the moon!
The grass, the green comes from the clouds.
The rain, the sun, everything on earth,
helps each other for you!

Thanksgiving

Delicious food
brings gratitude.
For family and friends
they bring love to the heart and
gratefulness to the mind.
Enjoy and relax
for your heart
to say HOORAY.

Clouds of Wonder

Clouds are mysteries
What do they do?
Where do they come from?
They help the environment
and I hope you do too!

Wind

The wind is magical
the wind is cool
the wind dances with the big blue sea,
it dances with the little happy you.

Storm

A storm is mean,
a storm is powerful.
A storm is as stable as a house,
as mean as a fire-breathing dragon
and a slithering snake, and
as powerful as a viper bite sting.

By Stanley Liang, Grade 1
Newington Forest Elementary

By (Andrea) Audrey Battaglia, Grade 1

By Elly Williams, Grade 1

By Khoi Ho, Grade 3

By Lillian Hezel, Grade 1

By Alison Cashman, Grade 3

Self-portraits, submitted by Denise Corcoran, Art Teacher.

By Erin Gardiner, Grade 3

By (Jai) Christopher Harris, Grade 3

By Emma Makedonska, Grade 2

By Lydia Samson, Grade 1

By Gavin Keith, Grade 1

By Alison Cashman, Grade 3

By Erin Gardiner, Grade 3

By (Jai) Christopher Harris, Grade 3

By Emma Makedonska, Grade 2

By Lydia Samson, Grade 1

By Gavin Keith, Grade 1
My Favorite Stuffed Toy

My favorite toy is my stuffed cat, Water. Before I got a cat, Water was my cat. We would go on adventures and I would dress her up. When I played family, she was the Nanny and best friend. Water was always with me when I was scared, and she still is. I sleep with her every night and bring her with me on every trip. Six years ago, I got Water at a friend’s birthday party. Water has a calico coat that is a bit flattened. I have received other stuffed animals, but Water is my favorite.

— Taya Wells, 11

My Best Thing

“Meg don’t you know that you’re the best thing that ever happened in a long time?” That is a quote by Calvin O’Keefe. And to me, my best thing was when I became friends with my friends. No, my friends’ names are not Meg.

I had moved from Colorado to Virginia and I had no friends. I had walked down to the bus stop and had shouted, well: “Is this the bus stop??” “That was when I became friend with my friend. And my other friend. And my friend’s older sister. Two years later, another. That was my essay on my best thing.

— Hannah Rosenberry, 11

If I could give my parent one gift

If I could give my parents one gift that didn’t cost money, I would give them my love. I would do that because they are the ones who give me everything I have. Plus, they brought me into the world. If I give them my love then I would do extra little things that help them out like emptying the dishwasher, cleaning the bathroom, doing laundry and, sweeping and cleaning the rest of the house. Sometimes it’s the little things that matter.

— Hannah Warschaw, 11

What I Want to Be When I Grow Up

What do I want to be when I grow up? I want to be three things. First, I want to be a pilot in the Air Force. Then I will retire and become an airline pilot. Then finally I retire and become a car designer for a lot of car companies.

— Gregory Worley, 12

What would you change about school

If I was ever asked, “What would you change about school?” I would scratch my chin as if they’re was a beard and say with a shrug, “I really don’t know.” But they would probably say, “But you have to choose!”

Then I would groan so loud that even people on the International Space Station would hear me.

“Fine, I wish there would be an actual Soccer field installed on the field.” After that, he would say, “That’s lame.” Then they would walk off.

And now that I just thought of that, I don’t want to be asked that.

— Rhys Fonville, 11

Submit your stories to www.connectionnewspapers.com
My multicolored pinkish-blue pet has duobows on each of her ears. She was happily eating multichipped cookies. She made a mistake and spilled the milk. So then she repoured the milk into the polypsotted cup. Then she semi-dipped her chocolate chip cookies and started to eat them nonstop. She was midway in her cookies and started to eat them semi-dipped her chocolate chip cookies and started to eat them nonstop. She was midway in her "eating the cookies the fastest" challenge when her friend came in and said those were her cookies! The prehistoric-looking dog marched back to his bed – which could be misjudged to be a throne – and started to drink water out of his semi-filled wine glass.

— GRACE HEBERER

My pet is a pre-human animal. He is a uni-headed, quad-eyed, octo-legged, tri-armed cat. He is writing a report on why the Cat Council should intercept midway a group of enemy submarines transporting unfriendlies undersea. He is thinking about the injustice and how it was impossible that the Council had overlooked his first report. When they read it they disagreed, dismissing it as nonsense. He is writing another report about anti-Cat beings, saying that they will use the atmosphere to send encoded messages to each other and also saying that they will use a mind-controlled singing superstar to defrost the sphere to send encoded messages to each other. They will use the atmosphere to send encoded messages to each other and also saying that they will use a mind-controlled singing superstar to defrost the sphere to send encoded messages to each other and also saying that they will use a mind-controlled singing superstar to defrost the sphere to send encoded messages to each other and also saying that they will use a mind-controlled singing superstar to defrost the sphere to send encoded messages to each other and also saying that they will use a mind-controlled singing superstar to defrost the sphere to send encoded messages to each other and also saying that they will use a mind-controlled singing superstar to defrost the sphere.

— CHRISTIAN YOON
Art Classes in Burke

Artwork submitted by Art Classes in Burke with Instructor Carol Zeitlin.

Color Pencil Drawing by Amanda Bohn

My Thanksgiving by Josephine Bronson

Drawing by Calvin Ashley

Animal Collage, Color Pencil Drawing by Audrey Reese

Drawing by Leah Brinkley
Children’s

Native
If the valleys and seas would answer our pleas
All would be withheld and withdrawn
The echoes in the hills of the bird’s sweet, short song
Guiding us all slowly along
My children
They laugh
They sing
They dance
Praying along with no second glance
If the civilized ones knew how peaceful we can be
They’d leave us alone and answer our plea

— Sarah Ewell, 12, West Springfield
Grade 7
at Washington Irving Middle School
English teacher
Emily Ross

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/visual ebb and flow of cancer highs and lows.

For the moment, what I don’t know: the effect on my “Adam’s Apple” tumor (as I will call it) of the aggressive, every-three-week-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. In stage IV, all our treatment options are viability options, and any treatment which became a “13 month to two year” prognosis.

2

For accounts, I shouldn’t be writing this column—or doing anything else for that matter—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 or try not to surf ome in the middle sun. I mean... well, I presume you know what I mean.

But here I am, alive and reasonably well, not boast ing, just saying. Because, as amazingly fortunate as I am to still be anywhere nearly 10 years post diagnosis, there’s part or 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 reaper is sewing these things.

Granted, his/her 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 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 horse in the 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.

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 way 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 even. And the levels and test results which occasionally have become oddities, merely moments in time and subject to change.

Kennedy Lucas is an Advertising Representative for The Patomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
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