Ellie Minor Grade 9
St. Stephen's and
St. Agnes School

Children's & Teens' Gazette Packet 2019
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About This

Dear Readers:

This week, the Alexandria Gazette Packet turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked children and teens from the area to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's & Teens' Issue. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a 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 2020 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year’s Children’s & Teens’ 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.

This student 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 weekly news pages.

Our next print edition will come out on Jan. 8, 2020. Happy New Year!

Reach us at editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Alexandria Gazette
Editor and Publisher

TWENTY-FOUR DAYS

Twenty-four days, twenty-four days!
Counting the days are making a maze!

Christmas is coming, this I know,
but maybe this year it will come and then go?

Days and nights, skies and snow,
Christmas will come, but eventually go.

Time is ticking,
clocks are clicking,
time is racing by.
And then finally! Christmas is nigh.

It seems like I had some patience,
but maybe I let it go.
Perhaps I’ll remember it and then I’ll never know.

Christmas will come some other time,
but for now I feel like the world is mine.

Poem: 24 Days (Advent)
By Mason Choi,
Alexandria. Age 9
Children's & Teens' Gazette

Josiah Thomas, grade 7  Kate Griffis, grade 8  Amanda Houseman, grade 8
Cara Harris, grade 6  Gael Aisparo, grade 8  Evelyn Keene, grade 8  Gaetamina Vehoeven grade 6
Kaela Berkey, grade 7  Eva Creighton 3, grade 8

Artwork from George Washington Middle School, Art Teacher Janice Rollins

Addie Davenport, grade 7  Alexa Ventura, grade 8
Rory Patterson, grade 8
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Children’s & Teens’ Gazette

Sadia Hussain, 2nd Grade, Age 7

Caroline Lehman, 4th Grade, Age 10

Ryan Kremer, 1st Grade, Age 6

Ellie Harris, 2nd Grade, Age 8

Evelyn Bryan, 2nd Grade, Age 7

Zethan Hazel, 4th Grade, Age 10

Alexandria Country Day School

Seneca Baytosh, 7th Grade, Age 12

See Alexandria Country Day School, Page 7

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Alexandria Country Day School

Alexander Kocsis, 4th grade, Age 9

Vivian Kocsis, 6th Grade, Age 12

Sabrina Dunton, 5th grade, Age 11

DJ Heiber, 7th grade, Age 12

Children's & Teens' Gazette

Alexandria Country Day School

Alexander Kocsis, 4th grade, Age 9

Vivian Kocsis, 6th Grade, Age 12

Sabrina Dunton, 5th grade, Age 11

DJ Heiber, 7th grade, Age 12

Children's & Teens' Gazette

Alexandria Country Day School

Alexander Kocsis, 4th grade, Age 9

Vivian Kocsis, 6th Grade, Age 12

Sabrina Dunton, 5th grade, Age 11

DJ Heiber, 7th grade, Age 12

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Children's & Teens' Gazette

John Adams Elementary School Art

Teacher, Lauren Dykhuis

Douglas MacArthur Elementary

Art Teacher, Julie Donaldson

Adeliene Wolfe
2nd grade

Sadie Szamosfalvi
4th grade

Caroline Fitzpatrick
2nd grade

Anita Salguero
5th grade

Desmond Godfrey
2nd Grade

Abeeha Sheikh
3rd Grade

Hazen Bonilla-Ibarra
3rd Grade

Alice Halloran
4th grade

Lily Smith
1st grade

Langley Ann Dalton
3rd grade
John Adams Elementary School Art

Teacher Nici Finnegan

Mohammed Sharrat, 4th grade

Samuel Boaame, Kindergarten

Jayden Holmes, 4th grade

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Day of the Dead
Sugar Skull Painting
T.C. Williams High School
Minnie Howard Campus

Acrylic paintings from the Day of the Dead Sugar Skull Painting unit. The students are 9th graders in Art I from T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard.
Anna Diotta, Visual Arts Teacher
Children’s & Teens’ Gazette

Jefferson Houston School

The teachers of the students are: Ms. Nancy Flores (grades K-5) & Ms. Hannah Brownell (grades 6-8)

Abraham Juarez-Osorio, 3rd Grade, teacher Nancy Flores, Jefferson Houston School

Ashley Juarez-Osorio, 7th Grade, Teacher Hannah Brownell, Jefferson Houston School

Eliana Maldonado Aguilar, 1st Grade, teacher Nancy Flores, Jefferson Houston School

Francis C. Hammond Middle School

Brandon Quiroga – 7th Grade, Age 12

Melkite (Molly) Dawit 8th Grade, Age 12

Marijona Mamarjabova Grade 8th, Age 13

Jennifer Ojeda, 6th Grade, Age 12

Zineb Founti, 8th Grade, Age 13

Michelle Sanchez-8th Grade Age 13

Angerlyn Arteaga Canales, 7th Grade, age 13
Children’s & Teens’ Gazette

Ella Rae Beckner Grade 3
Charlie Douglas Grade 3

Pendleton Fraley Grade 2
Ellie Minor Grade 9
Nat Johnson Grade 11

St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School
Brady Hendy Grade 2

Zach Gunn Grade 11
Sophie Atkisson Grade 9

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Children's & Teens' Gazette

From Page 14

Concetta DiSalvo, CBES 3rd Grade
Abby Shewchuk, 5th Grade

Charles Barrett
Elementary
School
Art Teacher
Ellen Pattisall

Claudia Reading

Special Connections Calendar 2020
Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

JANUARY
1/8/2020..........................Wellbeing
1/15/2020..........................HomeLifeStyle
1/22/2020..........................A+ Camps & Schools
1/29/2020..........................Senior Living

FEBRUARY
2/5/2020..........................Wellbeing
- National Children’s Dental Health Month
2/5/2020..........................Valentine’s Dining & Gifts
2/12/2020..........................HomeLifeStyle
2/19/2020..........................A+ Camps & Schools
2/26/2020..........................Senior Living /
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Children's & Teens' Gazette

Matthew Maury Elementary
Luisa Tio, Art Teacher

James K. Polk Elementary School

Ava Norman, 6, 1st Grade
Conor Dixon, 11, 5th Grade
Sofia Pamiry, 11, 5th Grade

Emma Lynch, 9, 3rd Grade
Estella Henton, 10, 4th Grade
Joshua Hailye, 11, 5th Grade
Diana Yates, 6, Kindergarten

Christian Smith, Grade 4
Dayana Benitez, 4th Grade
Genesis Acabal Merida, Kindergarten

Umair Baig, 5th grade
Marcos Laboy, 5th Grade
Nicklaus Routhouska, 5th Grade
5th grade — Sugar skulls inspired by the tradition artwork for Dia de los Muertos

Mohammed Raja age 11
Zahra Nikzad age 11
Valeria Guerrero Guerrero age 11

4th grade — Mirror Tessellation Playing cards inspired by M.C. Escher

Rosemary Gamel age 10
Jazmin Barksdale age 10
Kye Dementia age 10

3rd grade — X-ray hands inspired by the tradition artwork for Dia de los Muertos and Quadrilateral Cityscapes

Melany Blanco Rios age 9
Liam Painter age 9
Mattiullah Amin age 9
Hayden Podolsky age 9
Lyon De Castro age 9
Angel Flores Arias age 9

Kindergarten — Flying Self Portrait Quilts inspired by Faith Ringgold

Amir Abdul Ali age 6
Gisselle Lamar age 6
Sahid Bundu age 6
Now We Wait

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The doctor told me that I’ll probably receive results from today’s biopsy in five to seven days. The pathologist will send the results to my oncologist, who will mail them to me. Now whether that new information will cause a change in my treatment, I certainly don’t know. However, I would imagine that knowing the genetic mutation biomarker would cause an immediate change. We’re not exactly waiting for the Godot here. And neither is the process rocket science. It’s medicine. It’s research. It’s years of clinical trials. All of which has led to the FDA’s approval of more drugs for the treatment of lung cancer in the last three years than in the previous three decades, according to LUNGevity. Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths annually with up to 200,000 new cases diagnosed every year.

“Targeted Therapy” is what I’m talking about. And it is a bit of a mark on you. A specific medicine is more effective when given to a patient with a specific biomarker of the tumor; they’re not always the same. Eleven years ago when I was first diagnosed, mutations were not yet a part of the oncologist’s playbook. Now, they’re on page one. At least I thought they were. A few years ago receiving treatment based on on-such unconventional methods, I am about to move to. I’m talking to the head of the class. Maybe even because the teachers’ pet (I’m already my oncologist’s prize cow.) This is not experimental stuff, this is state of the art, so to speak. And soon, if I’m lucky, I will join the ranks.

At this juncture, I know very little specifically about what might happen next. I have learned during my years of treatment and meetings with my oncologist that future scenarios are rarely discussed. Sure, we’ve occasionally mapped out, generally speaking, a course of action, but my oncologist prefers not to get too far ahead of where we are at present. One new symptom and unreported result from a CT scan or a brain MRI and once again, it will be “Katie, bar the door.” Accordingly, I have become a patient character. That’s not double talk, that’s years of experience. I’d like to think it’s part of the reason I’m still alive. Another reason I’m still alive is the Team Lourie philosophy: hoping Kenny can stay alive until research catches up – or even passes you by which then enables you to take advantage of the next big thing. New drug. Over the last 11 years, I’ve been the beneficiary of research that has provided drugs which allowed me to live years beyond my original “13 month to two year” prognosis, because that’s what my oncologist said. Now I hope to be the beneficiary once again of the latest and greatest treatment: “Targeted Therapy.” If so, another 11 years would suit me just fine.

To say I’m excited would not exactly describe my state of mind. Hopeful, for sure, because I think my oncologist, per our last meeting, was anticipating my future a bit and switching from my present opdivo immunotherapy to something brand new (a new combination of medicines) seemed timely to him. Ego, my needle biopsy today at the Interventional Radiologist. I guess you could say I’m pleased as punch. "Bought, to quote Hubert Horatio Humphrey Jr., the 38th Vice President of the United States, that I had this procedure. It opens up / creates new treatment possibilities which for a nearly 11-year cancer survivor is likely way more important than I realize. After all, my oncologist did change my non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis as "terminal.” A disease for which my oncologist also said that he “could treat, but that he couldn’t cure.” Well, I don’t suppose he can cure me now with whatever targeted therapy matches my tumor’s biomarker so I’m counting on these new drugs being able to treat me some more. I could live with that.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for the Potomac Alliance & The Connection Newspapers.
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