Children's & Teens' Connection

Union Mill Elementary Art Gallery
Artwork submitted by Jamie Clinch, School Based Technology Specialist at Union Mill Elementary School.

Grade 1, Ellie C.
Grade 6, Georgia V.
Grade 6, Esther L.

Grade 5, Makena N.
Grade 5, Mason A.
Grade 5, Sophia Y.
Grade 5, Vivi B.

Grade 1, Lia C.
Grade 4, Caitlyn K.
Grade 4, Anna H.
Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Chantilly Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked children from area schools 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 2020 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 news pages. Our preferred method for material is email, which should be sent to kemal@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
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Bull Run Elementary
Artwork submitted by Kim Talian, Art Teacher

By David Dudzinski, Grade 5
By Emily Luu, Grade 6
By Gwen Eagle, Grade 6
By Medha Gudepu, Grade 5
By Aedan Buchanan, Grade 5
By Mason Middleton, Grade 4
By Olivia Putman, Grade 6
By Saavni Aggarwal, Grade 6
By Hengyi Wu, 12, Grade 7, Rocky Run Middle School in Chantilly, Teacher: Yanshun Sui.

Sophia Wang, 10, of Chantilly, Grade 4, Oak Hill Elementary, Herndon, School teacher: Mrs. Wagner, Art teacher: Mrs. Yan Sui

Washington Monument with Santa climbing, by: Max Priester, Age 7, Virginia Run Elementary (Mrs. Woodward’s class)

Family by a Christmas tree, by Jake Priester, Age 4, Centreville Preschool (Mrs. Chapman’s class)

“Joyful Noise,” by Liam Howard, 10, from Centreville, Grade 4, Fairhill Elementary in Fairfax. Teacher: Matt Jones

By Sean Pan, 6, Centreville, Poplar Tree Elementary, Grade 1, Teacher: Sarah Lee

By Hengyi Wu, 12, Grade 7, Rocky Run Middle School in Chantilly, Teacher: Yanshun Sui.
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Creative Photography

Photos by Aubrey Augustine, 17, Grade 11, Langley High School, Teacher: Kelly Mulligan.

Young girl looks off into the distance in a Christmas photoshoot.

A long shutter speed and flashlight is used to create this memorizing light picture.

By Cynthia Yuxin Huang, 13, Oakton, Grade 8, Luther Jackson Middle School, Teacher: Ms. Yanshun Sui
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 presumably will email 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 finding the genetic mutation/biomarker would cause an immediate change. We’re not exactly waiting for Godot here. And neither is the progress of science. It’s medicine. It’s research. It’s years of clinical trials. All of which has led to the FDAs 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’s a simple phrase as is good medicine. It’s medicine. It’s research. It’s years of comparative oncology. It’s 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.

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The Best Gift

The best gift is not an object or a place yet a feeling. The feeling of warmth of family and friends. The feeling of paying it forward or buying something to help someone. That little drop of kindness that makes yours and others day so much better. The exquisite delight of making someone smile is the best gift of all.

—Meissa Islam, 11, Grade 6

The Best Gift I Have Ever Been Given

The best gift I have ever been given wasn’t something big, like a play set or a bike. It wasn’t expensive either, like an iPad or a phone. It was something more meaningful than any of those gifts combined. It was a door to imagination, a window to creativity. It was a very highly recommended cure for boredom: A Book. This magical gift led me on so many adventures and to so many memories, even though it was just a combination of writing and pages, brought together by a hard cover. I am extremely grateful that I was able to receive the pages, writing, and cover. I wish that everyone will be able to receive such a gift, and be able to treasure it forever.

—Maxine Leonard, 11, Grade 6

What Makes a Good Parent

Being a good parent is a difficult task but very beneficial to your child or children. Ways to be a good parent are loving your child, making sure your child is making good choices, being protective of your child, and talking to your child when they need you. Parents are a role model to their child or children. That’s why parents also need to make good choices, kids should be able to look up to their parents. A good parent should know how to deal with their child or children in almost any situation. The most important thing a good parent should do is love their child or children.

—Amanda Li, 11, Grade 6