Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2019

By Aanvi Dinesh, 8, Herndon, Grade 3, McNair Elementary, Teacher: Yanshun Sui
This is Saul.

He does crossword puzzles in pen.
He enjoys a glass of sherry every evening promptly at 5:00.
He’s never seen without a bowtie from his collection.
And dementia doesn’t define him.
He’s still uniquely Saul because he lives
The Artis Way.

For more information, please call 877-351-8067 or visit www.TheArtisWay.com/HerndonConnection
Dear Readers:

This week, the Herndon/Oak Hill 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 herndon@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
Kimberly A. Perri, School Based Technology Specialist at McNair Elementary, submitted the artwork of fifth graders in her technology class who use WIXIE to create their life in a snow globe.
Art Gallery

House by the Forest,
by Annie Wang, 9,
Grade 4, Navy
Elementary,
Herndon, Teacher:
Ms. Simon

Ellie’s Drawings
By Ellie Liu, 6, Oak Hill Elementary, Grade 1

By Allee Byington, 8, of Herndon, Grade 3,
Fox Mill Elementary, Teacher: Yanshun Sui

Alison Korb, 7, Grade 2, Terraset ES.

Ethan’s Drawings
By Ethan Liu, 8, Oak Hill Elementary, Grade 3

By Chloë Pan, Herndon, Grade 1, Forestville Elementary, Teacher: Nicole Demoss

By Ethan Liu, 8, Oak Hill Elementary, Grade 3
My Parents

By Maxwell Smith
Grade 3, Aldrin ES

My mom and dad are cool and nice and loving.
They are funny.
They play with me.
They hug me.
They love me.
I love them.
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 suspect that finding the genetic mutation/biomarker would cause an immediate change. We’re not exactly waiting for Godot here. And neither is the process of new science. It’s medicine. It’s research. It’s years of clinical trials. All of which has led to the FDA’s approval of new drugs for the treatment of lung cancer in the last three years than in the previous three decades, according to LUNGevity. Lung cancer was my nemesis with just 200,000 new cases diagnosed every year.

“Targeted Therapy” is exactly what I’m talking about. And if it’s as effective as people say it is, then targeted medicine is more effective when given to a patient with a specific biomarker (type of tumor; they’re not all the same) as when giving them the same treatment regardless of biomarker. So, the pathologist who was hard at work at the time of my biopsy was looking at the results and obviously, that’s the most important information we can receive. If there’s a new mutation or a new biomarker, we’re on the right track, and we’re aiming towards a cure for my disease. The doctor said that my mutation, if true, could lead to a change in my treatment, and I certainly don’t want the oncologist to tell me that he can’t cure me now with whatever targeted therapy he uses.

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
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