Reading Takes You Everywhere!
By Ainsley Lee, 9, Grade 3,
Fairhill Elementary School,
Fairfax Teacher: Mrs. Hartman
Baby it's cold outside!

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Why Mistakes Are Important?

In life you will make mistakes, but don’t worry, everybody does. Those mistakes are much more important than you think they are because those mistakes help you learn. If you never make mistakes, like my friend once told me a secret and I told someone and now we aren’t as good friends as we used to be, and from that day on I have never done that again. That was important because it helped me learn, you don’t learn as well as if you make mistakes. Mistakes help you succeed in life, in school, work, university, and even when you’re working at home.

You should learn from your mistakes, because if you learn from them you don’t repeat your mistakes, and you know what’s right and what’s wrong. If you see someone that does something better than you, don’t worry about it. Everybody has their skills. For example, maybe you’re better at math, reading, or drawing, anything you’re good at. All that matters are you know everybody has something that they are good at - whatever it is. When you make a mistake don’t take that as a bad thing. Take that as a normal part of life and a part of learning.

Layal Mahmoud, 9, Grade 4, Fairhill Elementary

Snow Day

I watch beautiful snow fall from the sky
I watch each snowflake fly high, high, high
I watch a snowflake fall onto my nose
I look down at my body, snow covering my clothes
I hear my Mother call me in for supper, I guess my time is up
I bury myself under a pile of snow I just can’t get enough

I feel my nose begin to freeze under that big snow pile
I hear my mother offer me hot cocoa I can’t help but smile
I get up off of the cold snowy ground
I grab my hot cocoa and sit down to lounge
I lounge, lounge, lounge
—Gabriela Bashir-Elahi, Grade 4, Fairhill Elementary

Humility

What the word humility means is that you don’t think of yourself only but also think of others. Another explanation for the word humility is you put others’ needs before yours. Another way to show humility is not to brag. Another word for humility is humble. People often use humility at Christmas time because you give kindness. Here is one way to show humility: if you see someone that is homeless person give them something that they need like water and food. Think of your own way to be humble and do it. It will help the earth. HOORAY!

—Riti Deshpande, 8, Grade 3, Fairhill Elementary

I made it myself!

The sheer craftsmanship
Attention to detail
A complex blend
Parsley, thyme, oregano
A time consuming endeavor
My first plate of spaghetti

—Jimin Yio, 15, Fairfax High Freshman, Teacher: Felicia Hamilton

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Children’s & Teens’ Connection

By Grace Madigan, 9, Grade 4, North Springfield Elementary

Creative Photography

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

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

The Christmas Church, by Yuenshing Ye, 10, Grade 4, Flint Hill Elementary School, Vienna, Art teacher: Katie Gong.

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

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Close Your Eyes Collection of the Happiest Places to Be

Poetry from Mantua Elementary in Fairfax.

Bolivia
I on the basketball court.
It's a hot summer morning.
Kids and adults are playing sports and having fun all around me.
Sweat and food fill the air.
The touch of the basketball makes me want to play.
Happy, excited, everyone is having so much fun.

—Alejandro Sanchez, 10, Grade 5

Puerto Rico
Puerto Rico
It's the middle of the day when the sun is up.
Colorful rainbow-colored buildings everywhere.
Popsicles on the side of the street.
The popsicle stick was hard, and the popsicle drips down on my hand.
It makes me get a brain freeze.
I felt like I was at the beach sitting in the sand and relaxing.

—Bo Nong, 10

A Mountain Sunset
I'm at the top of a tree covered mountain.
It's sunset.
Brightly colored flowers.
I spot a wandering moose.
Soft floral scent of bluebells and oak trees.
The taste of lavender in the air.
I hear chirping birds as the leaves rustle beneath my feet.
I feel calm, serene, and peaceful.

—Avery Chang, 10

My Barn
I am in my barn.
The barn is warm and quiet.
I can see my animals.
The horses are sleeping in the stables.
The lambs are lying in the hay bales.
I can smell the hay, it is stacked neatly on the wall.
I can feel the soft, wonderful wool on my hands from the dozing sheep.
And it makes me smile.

—Alley MacDonald, 10, Grade 5

San Francisco
San Francisco is the best place by far.
the honks of many cars.
Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge, the gas and smoke.
the delicious seafood
As you can see.
San Francisco put me in a good mood!

—Amelia Frias

King of the World
My house.
With no lights on.
It's very late.
Though I'm still up.
Watching TV.
Sneaking food in.
I smell the beans.
That I'm eating.
I feel nice.
Like I'm the king.
Of the world.

—Bryan Montano, 10

At Home
I am at home.
I am playing computer games in late afternoon.
I see the glowing screen.
I smell an avocado sandwich on the table.
I feel the springy click of my mouse as I tap on it.
I have a feeling of anger because I keep on getting tagged.
But I still like to play the game anyways.

—Arav Tyagi, 10, Grade 5

Home is Nice
Under my covers with my cat at my feet.
In the middle of the day.
My cat is turning, trying to find a comfortable position.
The panda scenery painted on the walls and a pillow make me feel happy.
The heater is on.
Mom's cooking lunch.
My sister's baking.
Hummm...my fluffy blanket and my warm cat.
The alarm goes off for my sister's baking.
My mom is calling my sister.
I feel comfortable and happy and calm.

—Caroline Ehlers, 10
“Targeted Therapy” is what I’m talking about. And it’s a simple, almost poetic notion. A specific medicine is more effective when given to a patient with a specific biomarker (type of tumor; they’re not all 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. After years of comparative 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 LungCancer. 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 more than the discovery of a genetic mutation/biomarker; it’s about knowing that new information will cause a change in my treatment. I certainly don’t want to know. However, I would say that I would have much more confidence in knowing the genetic mutation/biomarker would cause an immediate change. We’re not exactly waiting for Godot here. And neither is the promise of research. It’s the year’s clinical trials. All of which has led to the FDA’s approval of more drugs for the treatment of lung cancer.

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