Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2019

Christmas Night, by Anxin Ye, 15, Vienna, Grade 10, James Madison High School, Art teacher: Brandy Carter
Children's

Super Bicycle, by Emma Huang, 8, of Vienna, Grade: 3, Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax, Teacher: Yanshun Sui
Dear Readers:

This week, the Vienna/Oakton 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 vienna@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

Welcome

By Cynthia Yuxin Huang, 13, Oakton, Grade 8, Luther Jackson Middle School, Teacher: Ms. Yanshun Sui

Camping, by Jenny Wang, 11, Grade 7, Cooper Middle

By Maylee Batucan, 8, Grade 3, Yan’s Art Studio, Vienna

By Nola Gramatikov, Grade 6, Spring Hill Elementary

By Brendan Li, Grade 6, Spring Hill Elementary
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
lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2019-2020

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Spring Hill Elementary
Artwork submitted by Dorothy Moore, Art Specialist, Spring Hill Elementary School

By Ayla Zhang, Grade 6

By Zhosia Henrymon Gibbs, Grade 6

By Olivia Grace, Grade 1

By Brendan Li, Grade 6

By Cannon Zdimal, Grade 3

By Ethan Chen, Grade 2

By Ronin Thornsbury, Grade 3

By Melina Markakos, Grade 3

By Ronin Thornsbury, Grade 3

By Ayla Zhang, Grade 6

By Zhosia Henrymon Gibbs, Grade 6

By Olivia Grace, Grade 1

By Brendan Li, Grade 6

By Cannon Zdimal, Grade 3

Artful Siblings
Artwork by Jenny Wang, 11, Grade 7, Cooper Middle School, and Jason Wang, 9, Grade 4, at Forestville Elementary School in Great Falls.

Sunset, by Jenny

Farms, by Jason Wang, Grade 4, in Forestville Elementary School in Great Falls

Thanksgiving, by Jenny

Treehouse, by Jason

Sunset, by Jenny

Night, by Jenny

Sunset, by Jenny

Night, by Jenny

Sunset, by Jenny

Night, by Jenny

Sunset, by Jenny

Night, by Jenny

Sunset, by Jenny

Night, by Jenny

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Night, by Jenny

Sunset, by Jenny

Night, by Jenny
Children’s & Teens’ Connection

Spring Hill Art Gallery

Artwork submitted by Carolyn Gore-Ashe and Dorothy Moon, Art Specialists, Spring Hill Elementary School

By Zosia Henryson Gibbs, Grade 6

By Olivia Gerace, Grade 1

By Brendan Li, Grade 6

By Ethan Chen, Grade 2

By Nola Gramatikov, Grade 6

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter
Madison Regulski, Shrevewood Elementary, Grade 4.

Shrevewood Art Gallery
Artwork submitted by Jessica Chinn, Art Teacher, Shrevewood Elementary

Aadhirai Thirumal, Shrevewood Elementary, Grade 1.

Lisa Romanova, Shrevewood Elementary, Grade 1.

Luca Pipia, Shrevewood Elementary, Grade 2.

Alisiya Kunt, Shrevewood Elementary, Grade 2.

Francisco Ocampo Valenzuela, Shrevewood Elementary, Grade 4.

Nathaniel Webster, Shrevewood Elementary, Grade 6.
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 the genetic mutation/biomarker would cause an immediate change. We’re not exactly waiting for God here. And neither is the oncologist. If that biomarker is a specific, let’s say, splicer (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 research and development on old/ish/conventional methods, I am about to move to the head of the class. Maybe even become the teacher’s 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/reaction, but my oncologist prefers not to get too far ahead of where we are. It’s not that they are necessarily overcautious, but the results are too far ahead of where we are at present. One new symptom and/or unexpected result from a CT scan or a brain MRI and once again, I am back to the head of the class. Maybe even become the oncologist’s prize cow. (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.

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 (in quotes because the oncologist said: “I hope you live longer than that.”) Eleven years ago when I was diagnosed, the oncologists said that future scenarios are rarely discussed. Sure, we’ve occasionally mapped out, generally speaking, a course of action/reaction, but my oncologist prefers not to get too far ahead of where we are. It’s not that they are necessarily overcautious, but the results are too far ahead of where we are at present. One new symptom and/or unexpected result from a CT scan or a brain MRI and once again, I am back to the head of the class. Maybe even become the oncologist’s prize cow. (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.

To say I’m excited would not exactly describe my state of mind. Hopeful, of course. Anxious, 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 or a new combination of medicines seemed timely to him. Ergo, my needs biopsy today at the oncologist’s playbook. Now, they’re on page one. After years of research and development on old/ish/conventional methods, I am about to move to the head of the class. Maybe even become the teacher’s 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.

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

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.

By Maylee Batucan, 8, Grade 3, Yan’s Art Studio, Vienna

By Jakobe Batucan, 5, Kindergarten, Yan’s Art Studio, Vienna

By Maylee Batucan, 8, Grade 3, Yan’s Art Studio, Vienna

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

By Maylee Batucan, 8, Grade 3, Yan’s Art Studio, Vienna

By Jakobe Batucan, 5, Kindergarten, Yan’s Art Studio, Vienna