



Great Falls
CONNECTION

Children's Connection 2012

Winter House Hill, by Abigail Paredes, 10, Great Falls,
Lowes Island Elementary in Sterling

DECEMBER 26, 2012 - JANUARY 1, 2013

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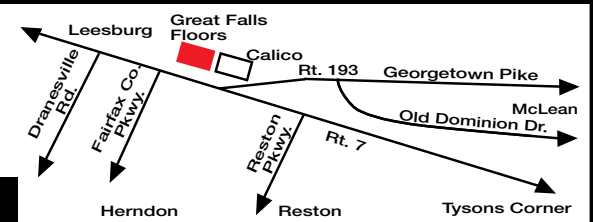
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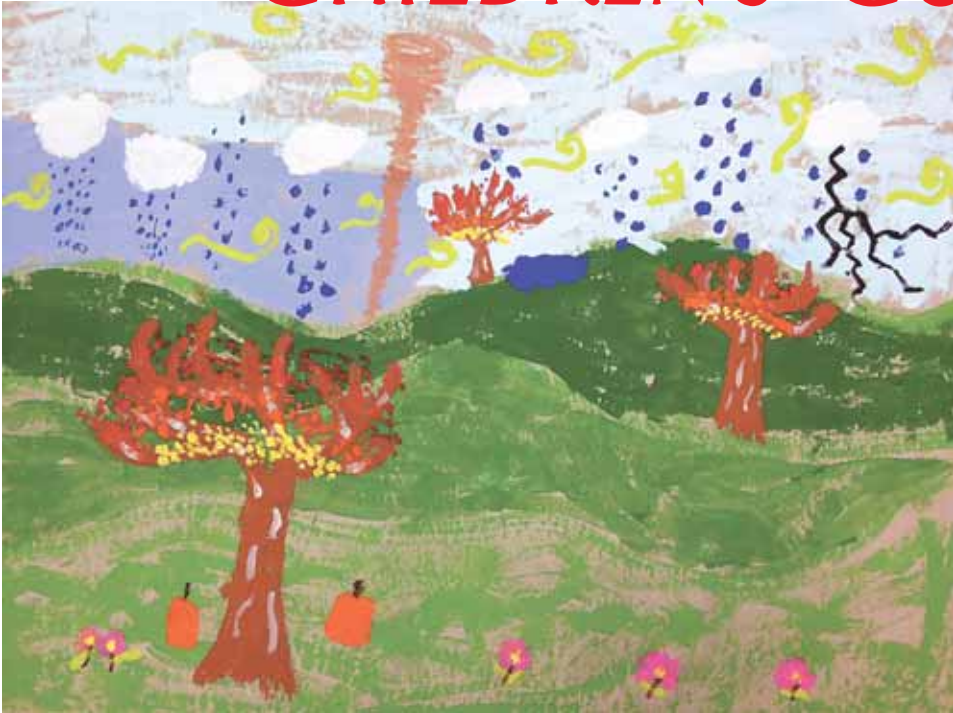
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012



Fall Landscape, tempera on paper, by Lainey Felsted, Great Falls Elementary, second grade.



My Siblings and Me, by Zoe Malekzadeh of Great Falls, 9, Colvin Run Elementary School, third grade.

Welcome

Dear Readers:

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

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's 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 2013 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's 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 schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to greatfalls@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 KURSPAHC



Magical Birth, by Victoria Cho of Great Falls, 12, Cooper Middle School, seventh grade.



My Two Cats, by Miina Anvelt of Great Falls, 7, Colvin Run Elementary, second grade.



Boat and Pier, by Abigail Paredes of Great Falls, 10, Lowes Island Elementary in Sterling.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY
 Anita Scheetz, art teacher at Great Falls Elementary, has submitted a selection of her students' artwork.



Self-Portrait, pencil and colored pencil, by Samiskha Kale, sixth grade.



Self, cut paper action figure, by Alexandra Krieger, fourth grade.



Self-Portrait, pencil and colored pencil, by Megan Dungan, sixth grade.



Fall Landscape, tempera on paper, by Matthew Musseman, second grade.



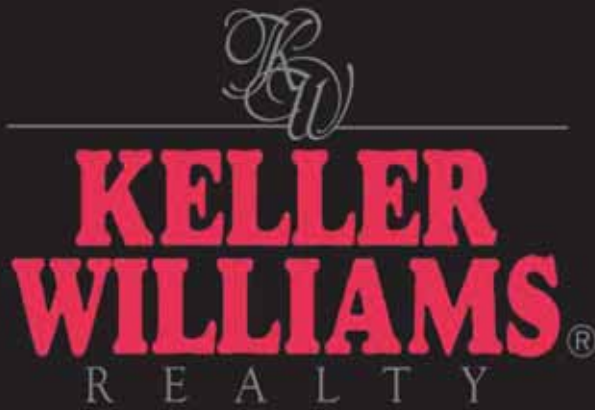
Family Portrait, tempera on paper, by Fiona Volanth, first grade.



Self-Portrait, pencil and colored pencil, by Kiana Khoshnoud, sixth grade.



Self-Portrait, pencil and colored pencil, by Katie Campbell, sixth grade.



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FX7706345 - \$699,000 - Great Falls
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012



My Family Outside, by Miina Anvelt of Great Falls, 7, second grader at Colvin Run Elementary.

Untitled

BY SWETHA RAMESH, 14, GREAT FALLS
NINTH GRADER AT LANGLEY HIGH

The cars honk, the lights flash,
the city rushes by.
But on the city's edge I stand
and close my eyes.
"She's crazy," they say,
but I don't say a word.
Just close my eyes
and stand apart from the herd.
Behind the curtain of my eyelids
the show begins to start.
Act I is the scene of peaceful serenity
where enjoyment is an art.
Act II arrives
and I hear the symphony of a thousand brilliant stars,
crystal clear
and untouched by the harsh bleach
of street lights and cars.
Savoring each moment, the show ambles on,
and in a while, the third act is gone.
And I begin to think
of worldly things again.
And then it begins to dawn
how the seemingly important matters
pale in comparison to the beauty of the world.
And my eyes are opened to the simple fact
that the world is your oyster,
and what you make of it is your pearl.

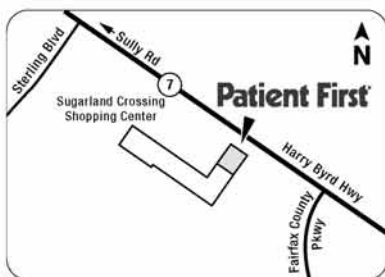
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Are you itching to breathe new life into an outdated or poorly-functioning kitchen?

The key to a successful kitchen remodeling requires a strong focus on design. While the standard layouts such as U-shaped, L-shaped, and Galley kitchen, continue to be very popular, today's kitchen often demands multiple work centers and innovative storage areas that allow for the space to meet the demands of the modern household. Once that perfect kitchen design is created by Abbey's expert designers, we will help you to select the cabinets, countertops, floors and even appliances that best fit the space.

Of course, while we strive to achieve that perfect kitchen, we also consider our clients' finances and aim to find the remodeling products that offer the best budget solution.



Kitchen Remodeling

BATHROOM REMODELING

Whether you're doing cosmetic changes or a complete remodel, we carefully plan your bathroom project. You'll save time and minimize unwanted surprises.

Two factors really determine the extent of the project: available space and budget. A complete remodel—instead of changing a few items at a time is really the most efficient way to remodel a bathroom. At Abbey we carefully estimate the costs of fixtures, cabinets, pipe & fittings, lumber and finish materials. Your designer and sales person in a matter of a couple of days can do all this.

BASEMENT REMODELING

Why Finish or Remodel Your Basement?

Think of it as sunken treasure! This very moment, you may be sitting directly above an untapped gold mine of square footage.

A remodel will turn an unfinished, unappreciated or outdated basement into the extra space you've been searching for and increase the value of your home at the same time.

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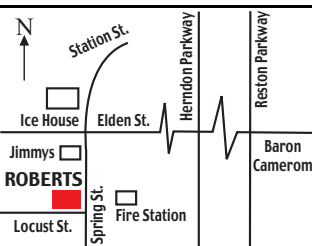
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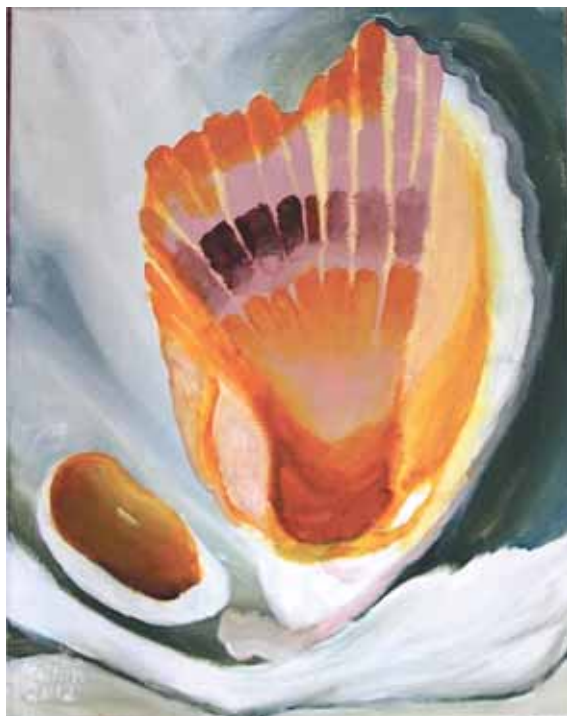
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Taking Art Classes in Great Falls

Kaitlin Fahlgren, 11, of Great Falls, takes art classes at Kathleen O'Brien Hedges art studio. She is pictured holding her painting; Fahlgren submitted some of her artwork painted over the past year while in studio. Fahlgren will be 12 on Dec. 31.



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012



By Vibha Sankavaram of Great Falls, 9, fourth grade, Forest Edge Elementary in Reston.

Flowers

BY VIBHA SANKAVARAM OF GREAT FALLS, 9,
FOREST EDGE ELEMENTARY RESTON/FOURTH GRADE

In a meadow there are flowers.
Some are blooming and ready to go,
some are ready to bow down their head and flow.
Patches and acres of rainbows wait



Cable Car, by Vibha Sankavaram of Great Falls, 9, fourth grade, Forest Edge Elementary in Reston.

for all the pictures to take,
dazzling colors that are manifest to see,
sucking some nectar
and the buzz of a buzzy bee.
At night they sleep with their other flower friends
with soil as their blanket and grass as their pillow.
For some the journey ends but others next morning
begins.
This is what happens in Millie's Meadow.



My Family, by Marta Anvelt of Great Falls, 5, kindergarten, Colvin Run Elementary School.

The Best/Worst Day

BY SACHIN MURALIDHAR/FIFTH GRADE
GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY

It was an almost perfect day. Everything was going my way. Except that our 7-month-old, mellow puppy was in the hospital. Clue was a perfect companion.

When I got home I greeted my family.

Mom: "How was school?"

Me: "Science Lab was awesome."

The phone rang, the screen read WASH ANIMAL RESCUE.

Mom: "Hello..."

Dr. Rosen: "We have to put Clue down."

I started crying because mom was crying. She only cries when someone dies. I took care of an animal that needed help. I felt so good, but had to cry—I lost my best friend.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

ONE-ARTIST SHOW



New Purple Flowers, by Abigail Paredes of Great Falls, 10, Lowes Island Elementary in Sterling.



Snowy Pond, by Abigail Paredes of Great Falls, 10, Lowes Island Elementary in Sterling.

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Photo by Patrick Tomassone MD

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GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ❖ CHILDREN'S CONNECTION ❖ 2012 - 2013 ❖ 11

COOPER MIDDLE

What makes a good friend?

A good friend will always stand by your side. They will never purposely do anything to hurt you or make you feel bad. You can know that you are a good friend if you think about the way you treat people. Have you ever embarrassed someone on purpose or talked meanly about them behind their back? Do you keep their secrets?

Another major trait of a good friend is loyalty. A good friend will also help you if you need it. They won't watch you fail, they will save you from failure, or fail with you. They don't just have those days where they just stop talking to you or just start making fun of you. They won't suddenly ignore you or shoot down all of your ideas. A good friend will stay by you, and not let you fall.

— HANNAH CURTIS,
MCLEAN, 12, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

Many things can make a good friend. I think that a friend is someone who you can trust and believe without consideration. A good friend is someone who won't let you down and isn't afraid to be themselves. They strive to stick with you and do the right thing. They keep your secrets and don't go behind your back. They try to always have your back and would stick up for you in an instant. But even so, they realize they aren't perfect and don't expect themselves or you to be either. They know how to accept a loss and comfort you without hesitation. They try to stay friends and try to not take friendships for granted. They realize that even if you or they don't live up to their expectations that it is okay. Any of these qualities make up a good friend, but we know that nobody has all of them because we are only human and we aren't perfect in every way. We all have flaws but we still try in other ways. This is what makes a good friend.

— TIM FAHLGREN,
GREAT FALLS, 13, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

A good friend is someone who helps you and keeps you captivated. They are uplifting and understanding when you need them to be. A good friend can keep you laughing when there's nothing to laugh about. A good friend is someone who understands you when nobody else does. They are honest and never talk behind your back. They care about you and how you're feeling. A good friend doesn't have to explain something twice. You can read each other without words. A good friend doesn't care whether or not you're embarrassing them. They look at it in your perspective. As Atticus Finch says, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." That's what a good friend does. Friends will always be there for each other, no matter the situation.

— ISABELLA CLAPP,
12, GREAT FALLS, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

A good friend is always there for you. All the time. A good friend will be there for you when you are happy and when something good happens, but a best friend is there when you're not always in the best mood or you're going through a tough time. They will hold your hand and be with you at any cost. I have a friend, and she always manages to make me smile. At the beginning of the long road of friendship, sometimes it is hard to live with that person, and they can get on your nerves occasionally, but once you become best friends, you learn that you cannot live without that person. And yes we fight, but that is not the important part. What really matters is that somehow, we always forgive each other. My friend has been with me and has shared all of the challenges in my life with me. When a close family member of mine passed away, she was there. I told her to leave me alone, but she just held my hand tighter. That is what makes a best friend.

— LAUREN CHRISTENSON,
GREAT FALLS, 12, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

SEE COOPER MIDDLE. PAGE 15

COOPER MIDDLE PHOTO GALLERY



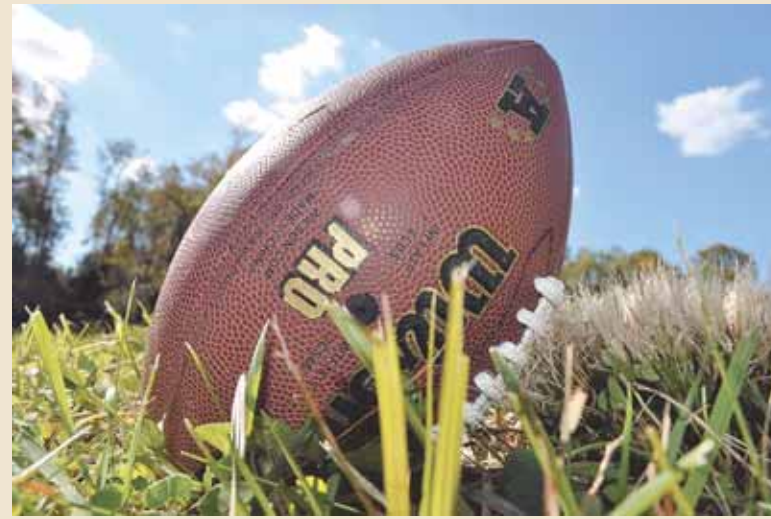
Dog, by Lauren Christenson of Great Falls, 12, seventh grade.



Rocky Path, by Isabella Clapp of Great Falls, 12, seventh grade.



Angle, by Blake Shabshab of McLean, 12, seventh grade.



Angles, by Patrick Welch of McLean, 13, seventh grade.



String of Lights, by Jackie Prestoy of McLean, 12, seventh grade.



Bloom, by Anna Sampson of Great Falls, 14, eighth grade.



Berries, by Ben Hunt of McLean, 13, seventh grade.



Bus Ride, by Hailey McGrath of Great Falls, 13, eighth grade.



Hidden Sun, by Eden Ferreira of McLean, 12, seventh grade.

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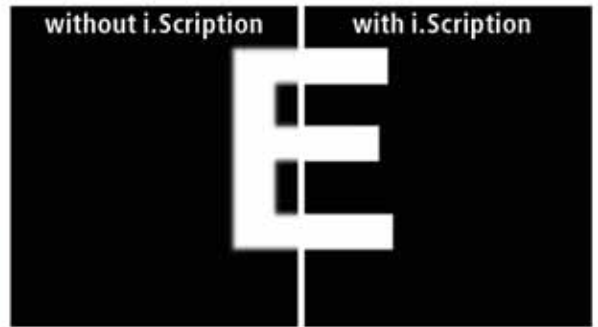
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LANGLEY HIGH



Lighthouse on Shore, by Abigail Paredes of Great Falls, 10, Lowes Island Elementary in Sterling.

COOPER MIDDLE

FROM PAGE 12

What is the best gift you've ever given?

Last year in sixth grade when I was at Great Falls Elementary we had an event where we made gifts for less fortunate children. We got to pick our groups, get a trike and we all got to put it together. My group whipped out a trike pretty quickly with no mistakes, happily smiling for the yearbook, though this did not really put me in the giving spirit. We finished the event by making more gifts such as scarves; in my opinion it was fun but empty.

It was after winter break and I was on the morning announcements. I turned the time over to one of my classmates and he showed the school a video of the kids receiving the trikes we made for them. Right after I saw that video I felt that we had made a big difference. Even though it was after the holidays I still felt in the giving mood. I noticed how happy the kids were and made me feel like we made a difference. Even though these kids were not our family we still brought joy to their lives.

— BENJAMIN JOHNSON,
GREAT FALLS, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

The Best Thing Ever

The best thing that ever happened to me was in the summer before eighth grade. Our swim team was having an incredible season, we were undefeated with one more meet left, and the team we were facing was undefeated too. It was not a good day for a meet; it was cold and rainy, the officials actually considered stopping the meet and doing it on a different day. Nobody was swimming their best times, and when the relays came around we needed to win more than half of them to win the meet. When my relay was up we needed to win two more. I was the last person in our relay; we had the lead, but not by very much when I was up, and the guy I was swimming against looked pretty fast. I swam as fast as I could and on my last stroke I reached as far as I could and I also looked at the lane next to me where he was swimming and saw I beat him. Then I saw the time boards and it was official, we won the race. Then when we finally won everyone went crazy because we were the champions!

—DUNCAN PROXMIER,
MCLEAN, 14, EIGHTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

A Hike From Winter to Spring

BY KATHERINE ROHLOFF, 16,
LANGLEY HIGH /TENTH GRADE

The wind whispered in my ear as the long swaying grasses gently tickled my fingertips
I gazed up at the grayish blue sky dotted with puffy clouds promising snow
The spicy scent of the mountain air deliciously engulfed me
I breathed it in, taking in the crisp piney taste
I continued walking in the meadow heading towards the dark line of the horizon overhead
The first flakes of snow floated down from the clouds into dusty layers
The crunching of my footsteps was all that could be heard
And the occasional red flash of feathers was my only company
I found a soft dirt path and followed it along the edge of the mountain—gradually descending along the twisting unknown

Until I heard the crisp sound of a waterfall flowing around the next bend in the trail
I approached it and felt a sudden urge to jump in
“Splash!”
The water shot up around me—raining down like glassy crystals
I dove beneath the surface and floated on my back just inches from the bottom
I gazed up at the rippling surface and saw the diffracted rays of sun shining down upon my face
I swam back up to the surface and grabbed a strong pointed rock
I got up, my clothes trickling icy water
I looked around and saw iridescent flowers
And a brilliantly blue sky
This could only mean one thing
The assurance of a beautiful spring

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012



Twin sisters, Avery [left] and Lexie Perez [right], 8, third graders at Great Falls Elementary, sent us a piece of artwork each.



Father's Day Collage, by Lexie Perez, 8, of Great Falls.



Sunset Painting by Avery Perez, 8, of Great Falls (given to grandma as a gift).

Letters to the President

Excerpts from letters written by Cooper Middle School students.

Dear Barack Obama,

. . . When I found out the man responsible for 9/11 had been found and killed because of you I was very happy/relieved. I feel safer now and think that your acts towards terrorism have been great and are exactly what you need to do. When I first watched the 9/11 I was heartbroken and scared but that went away when I thought about what you have done to bring closure to some families who lost loved ones. I hope you keep protecting our country the way you are and are doing anything possible to get rid of those terrorists who want to bring harm here.

—MEGAN KILDUFF,
SEVENTH GRADER, COOPER MIDDLE

Dear President Obama,

. . . Over the next four years you will be faced with many problems that will need to be resolved with challenging decisions, and one of the biggest problems is education. I believe that everyone should get an equal opportunity for education. No matter where they come from or where they live, everyone should be able to receive a quality education that will build a base for the future. I also think that everyone deserves the right to go to college no matter their heritage or ethnic background because all young adults in America should be able to have the choice to attend or not attend college. Also, I think that universities and colleges should not use race as a determining factor when choosing which students to accept into their school. In conclusion, I believe that America should be a country that allows each student to get an education to help them in the future. . . .

Congratulations on winning a second term as being president. I believe that you will be a great president and will handle these and many other issues very well. I wish you the best of luck over the next four years.

Sincerely,

—ISABEL BARNEY, 12,
MCLEAN, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

Dear Mr. President,

America, to me, is a home, a place to express myself and a place of freedom. I think that America stands for freedom. People have the rights to practice any religion, beliefs, etc. It is also a great place to come and start a new life. My vision for America's future is a place where people can, with some hard work, get a well-paying job, get along better with other countries and for anyone to be able to afford a good education. I hope that together we can make America a better place to live.

My biggest concern with America is the economy. It is getting harder and harder to find jobs and the amount of un-employed people is increasing. I think a way to help this is to have more products made in America instead of China. This would increase the number of jobs because we would need workers to replace the production we got from China. The economy is a big concern of mine, and I hope you will be able to do something to make it better . . .

—MATTHEW FEINSTEIN, 12,
MCLEAN, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

Dear Mr. President,

. . . One main thing that I as a minor am worried about is the job crisis. I feel like I won't be able to get a job and the job I do get might not be my first choice of job. All I ask you is to try to find ways and industries to make more jobs. I do realize that it is a major concern among most Americans and that I am just another one, but I hope you do find a way to do this. And I know how the saying goes, "You

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY



Fall Landscape, tempera on paper, by Teagan Russell, second grade, Great Falls Elementary.



Self-Portrait, pencil and colored pencil, by Benji Prickett, sixth grade, Great Falls Elementary.



Family Portrait, tempera on paper, by Bergen Nielson, first grade, Great Falls Elementary.



Self-Portrait, tempera on paper, by Ava Song, kindergarten, Great Falls Elementary.



Self-Portrait, pencil and colored pencil, by Eliza Young, third grade, Great Falls Elementary.



Symbols Representing Self, pastel, by Cassandra Jordan, fifth grade, Great Falls Elementary.



Self-Portrait, pencil and colored pencil, by Megan Dungan, sixth grade, Great Falls Elementary.



Full Figure Self-Portrait, crayon, by Andrew Walker, first grade, Great Falls Elementary.

Letters to the President

FROM PAGE 17

can't make everyone happy." But I feel that if there is one thing that America needs help with most, it is jobs. . . .

Yours sincerely,

—TIM FAHLGREN, 12, GREAT FALLS, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

Dear Mr. Barack Obama,

. . . America means so much to me because I was raised here since I was a child. During that time my parents have repeatedly told me how lucky my sister and I are. We didn't need to leave our homelands to start a new life in a new country, we didn't need to declare a war every time we wanted to change our leader and we never go a day without having food or water. To me America means a country where people have a say in change and you can get whatever you want if you try hard enough or don't give up. This country stands for equality, justice, rights and much more that I believe cannot be placed into words. . . .

Sincerely,

—ERICA YAP, 12, GREAT FALLS, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE

Dear Mr. Barack Hussein Obama,

. . . What is there to be hopeful for, a better life for my generation? When you took office in 2008 we had a growing national debt of over 10 trillion dollars, now the year is 2012, four years have passed and the national debt has passed over 16 trillion dollars. Your plan for the future is to cut spending in areas such as defense and increase taxes on the upper class or anybody making over \$250,000 a year. Analysts have found that even with these changes that there will still be a deficit; and with a deficit the national debt will continue to grow. . . .

Taxing the upper class may seem like a good idea, but this country wasn't founded on a tax the "rich" give to the "poor" slogan. This country was founded on the ideas of starting a new life in an open land where people were entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." This country was also founded on the idea that everyone is created equal. How is it fair to tax the upper class more than the middle and lower classes? The reason the upper class has money is because they work hard and get paid from a job. The lower and middle class should strive to do the same, but it is not the government's responsibility to pay for people that don't have money or a job. . . .

Sincerely,

—ALEX GOMEZ, 12, GREAT FALLS, SEVENTH GRADE, COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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What Am I Thinking?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What I think I feel. What I'm afraid to think I feel. Moreover, is what I feel symptomatic of what I'm afraid to feel? Is it the cancer doing what cancer so often does: create pain and suffering? Or is it simply an older age than I've ever been: middle age, manifesting itself with all the associated mental, physical and emotional adjustments that come along with living longer than you ever have? Unfortunately, the timing of all of it couldn't be more problematic in my determining whether any pain or discomfort I feel is symptomatic of a cancer on the move or characteristic of an age whose effects I'm only beginning to understand.

The underlying and complicating factor to my constant self-assessment is that I don't want to think any of the physical effects I feel are the cancer. I want to believe they're middle age. As a result of this continual denial, I neglect to admit that what I think I feel is potentially cancer-significant and presume instead that it's just another day in middle-age paradise (alive and reasonably well; not terminal) – it's befuddling, sort of. Am I being incredibly stupid, stubborn and irresponsible with respect to not acknowledging certain symptoms that might be e-mail-worthy to my oncologist or, have I found the key to living with cancer: not making too much of anything?

I feel this because I worry that once I open that door, I'm likely going through to the other side – and likely not coming back. As my father jokingly asserted about his car: "If I don't take it to the dealership, they can't find anything wrong with it." The related advisory concerning life and health that I've often heard is: once you're admitted to the hospital, you're not coming out – alive. It's a slippery slope between the fear and loathing (with attribution to Hunter S. Thompson) of being sick and lying in a hospital bed versus what the medical professionals don't know not being able to hurt me. (I know, I might as well be Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz" clicking my heels together three times: I don't have cancer. I don't have cancer. I don't have cancer.)

But the fact that I'm still alive and not just beating the life-expectancy odds I was given, but smashing them to smithereens, is a kind of reinforcer to "what I feel" and "what I'm afraid to think I feel." Having survived for as long as I have might just be blind luck or inherited DNA doing what I had no reason or expectation to believe it could: enable me to survive the stage IV non-small cell lung cancer with which I was originally diagnosed and live beyond the "13-month to two-year prognosis" that went along with it. Or, however, why ever I'm doing what I'm doing, or not doing what I'm not doing or not admitting what is likely symptomatic – or not; all this confusion, juxtaposing and double-negative rationalizing might somehow make a positive.

I realize this haphazard approach is hardly a strategy, but perhaps it is and has been so far, a means not to my end. And considering that I haven't reached that end as yet, maybe the means are justified? No one knows for sure, and that's what I'm counting on. It's too late to stop now; heck, why would I? See you next week.

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

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

Photo by Casey LaTeef, 9, fourth grade, Great Falls Elementary.



What is Diversity?

BY CASEY LA TEEF, 9, FOURTH GRADE,
GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY

I asked my Dad what is diversity? He said, "It means people from all races and cultures and places getting along together."

I asked my Mom what is diversity? She said, "Diversity is exciting. It means different kinds of people, different kinds of music, different kinds of sports, different kinds of art, different kinds of houses, dif-

ferent kinds of food, different kinds of everything."

I asked my brother Harris what is diversity? He said, "It is New York City."

I asked my sister Lauren what is diversity? She said "It is kind of complicated."

I asked my Grandfather what is diversity? He said, "Our world has lots of diversity but it all comes together in a melting pot."

I asked my Grandmother, what is diversity? She said, "It is appreciating differences."

I think diversity is a good thing.

The Moment of Invention

BY CASEY LA TEEF, 9, FOURTH GRADE,
GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY

When it is dark and you turn on the light, do you ever think of the magic of the moment Thomas Edison invented electricity?

When there is a thunderstorm and you are safe in your home, do you ever think of the magic of the moment Benjamin Franklin invented the lightning rod?

When you call your dad to pick you up, do you ever think of the magic of the moment Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone?

When you are hungry and you eat a peanut butter sandwich, do you ever think of the magic of the moment George Washington Carver invented peanut butter?

When you are playing basketball, do you ever think of the magic of the moment James Naismith invented basketball?

When you are watching television, do you ever think of the magic of the moment John Baird invented television?

The world is filled with magical moments! I wonder what is being invented this very moment that will make us wonder how we could have possibly lived without it?



Photo by Casey LaTeef, 9, fourth grade, Great Falls Elementary.

WRITING

Santa

BY FIONA CARCANI/SIXTH GRADE
HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY

My parents told me that Santa,
Would come and give me gifts,
But all my friends at school,
Said that Santa doesn't exist!
So on the night of Christmas,
I went downstairs to peek.
What I saw right then and there,
Left me in awe for one whole week,
"Ho, ho, ho!" shouted a merry man,
As I walked down the stairs,
His mouth was completely covered,
By an abundance of snow white hairs,
In his hand he held a gift,
Undoubtedly for me,
And at the sight of him,
I wanted to shout with glee,
"Ho, ho, ho!" he said again,
And then he disappeared,
And I still believe in Santa,
Though everyone thinks I'm weird,
So here's some advice,
For you who want to know what's true,
Don't listen to anyone else,
Only listen to you.

Sunrise

BY WENBO WU/SIXTH GRADE
HAYCOCK ES

The world is waking:
The night is gone.
Birds hopped out of
Nests with wanted
Light.
Despite the shivering
Cold of night,
They are ready to
Take the bright
Of
Sunrise.
Colors of
Red, orange, purple, yellow, and
blue
Of hue Flash
And blend,
With a dash.
Where's it all
Mistakes shall now mend;
The bend
Of Midnight.
The Earth turning to face
The Sun.
Morning, morning:
A new day approaches.
I'm ready!

A Letter to My Cafeteria Lunch Food

BY SAMANTHA YAP/SIXTH GRADE
HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY

Friday, Nov. 30, 2012
UR DSGUSTING School Cafeteria,
Ewww St., 12345 VA

Dear Disgusting Lumps of UFO
(unidentified food objects)
Cafeteria Food,
Why do I have to eat you? The teachers, the school board, and my parents claim you are "safe to eat" but we kids know the truth. The hot dogs bounce on the floor, the milk is expired, and someone swore they found plastic in the chicken. And don't get me started on the pizza! I think the people that make you use the same ingredient for everything: rubber. Plus, I'm convinced there is a secret conspiracy that reuses you. If you

don't want to change your taste, at least change your smell so that I don't have to wear nose clips to school every day. I beg you to not taste or smell so horrible!

A Disgusted Student,
Com P. Laint

Dreams

BY LAUREN COOK/SIXTH GRADE
HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY

I have dreams.
That one day the earth will not be polluted.
That not one tree will be missing from a forest.
That an angel might come to earth and be happy about what he sees.
That maybe, just maybe, if people thought, these dreams might come true.

Seasons

BY LORA ZHOU/SIXTH GRADE
HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY

A warm sun engulfs you
Lighting the air with fresh joy
Dew coats the green grass
Birds fill the air with lullaby
Sounds of laughing fill the air
Lemonade is being sold by the dozen
The hot sun beats down on the Earth
Beaches are filled with people
A cold breeze whips through the air
Leaves of many colors and sizes pile on the ground
Children are dressed in warm coats
Squirrels are scurrying around, waiting for winter
A white blanket of snow covers the Earth
Snowmen are seen for miles and miles
Mammals of all kinds are sleeping away
While children play in the snow

Winter

BY RITIKA SHRIVASTAV/SIXTH GRADE
HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY

Quiet...
The cold wind
On the
Cheek
Snow falling
The land is
White
Silence...
White trees
Freezing
In the
Cool breeze
Nature
Living
Its
Life
The Perfect Christmas
Green tree
Lights
Ornaments
Delightful singing
Family...
Presents in
Stockings
Wrapped with
Bows and paper
Under tree
All around
White snow
Covering the ground,
The world
All is white
People talking, laughing
Cookies
Mugs of chocolate
What is your Christmas like?

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

A Poem

By LEAH SMITH, 13, GREAT FALLS
KILMER MIDDLE/EIGHTH GRADE

Tick, Tick, Tick
Little brown monkeys
In little red vests,
Tiny brass cymbals
Clasped to their chests.

Wind them up,
Let them go,
Stomping steps
All in a row.

Exactly alike,
Marching in ease,
Tick, Tick, Tick,
Before they freeze.

Step in time,
Line after line,
Each thinking thoughts
While losing their minds.

Many lives, many loves,
Machines by the million,
Clockwork monkeys,
Clockwork men.

By Elsa Billingslea,
Great Falls, 9, third
grade, Colvin Run
Elementary School.



Boos Sisters at Riverbend Park



Sunset at Riverbend Park, by Gloria Boos, 8, third grade, Great Falls Elementary School.



Collage of Rose's shadow at Riverbend Park, by Rose Boos, 8, third grade, Great Falls Elementary School.

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My Egypt Poem

By MADDY BENTON, 8, THIRD GRADE
GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY

I was once in a tomb,
a quite scary room.
I came out as a mummy,
'cause they thought I was a
dummy.
Hieroglyphics in the halls,
linen on the walls,
I looked in my canopic jar,
and I knew I wouldn't get very
far.

Saw the pyramids
and lots of katydids.
I saw the Mediterranean Sea,
then a swarm of bees.
I knew I was in trouble
and that needed some rubble.
Then I saw a scarab named Lee.
I think he will beetle me
paper of papyrus
pharaoh named Osiris.

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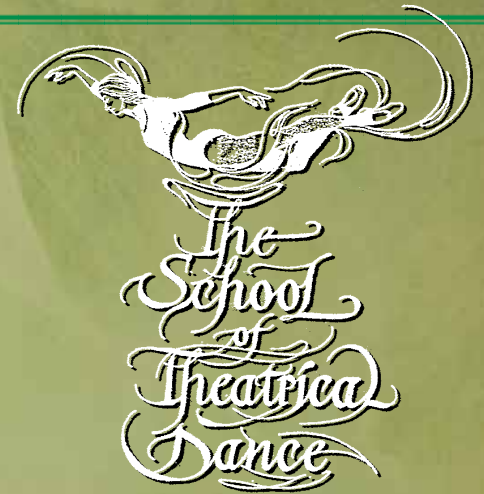
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Brooke Combs, Pamela Kanal, Annie Mahoney, Kelly Marron,
Clara Nickles, Eliza Pastore, Erica Steffy, Laura Warrington

STUDENT ACTORS

Alyssa Medici, Christa Medici, Pierson White

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Photography by
Tuan Pham

See our Web site: www.theatricaldance.com

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