

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

Photo by Luke Teasley of Clifton, 11, sixth grade, Mrs.
Gilbert's class at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke.

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Children's Connection 2012

DECEMBER 27, 2012 - JANUARY 2, 2013

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Caroline Susco of Clifton, Halloween Horse in Marker, 10, fifth grade, St. Timothy School, Mrs. Jacqueline Sponaugle's class.



Kaitlyn Reno of Clifton, Self Portrait in Pencil, 13, eighth grade, St. Timothy School, Mrs. Jacqueline Sponaugle's class.



Isabella Lama of Clifton, Flowers in Oil Pastel, 10, fifth grade, St. Timothy School, Mrs. Jacqueline Sponaugle's class.



Andrew Goldstein, 3-D Found Art Robot, 13, eighth grade, St. Timothy School, Mrs. Jacqueline Sponaugle's class.



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012



By Erika Le, 12, seventh grade, Key Middle School.



Vivian Stewart of Burke, 9, fourth grade, Laurel Ridge Elementary School.

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton 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.

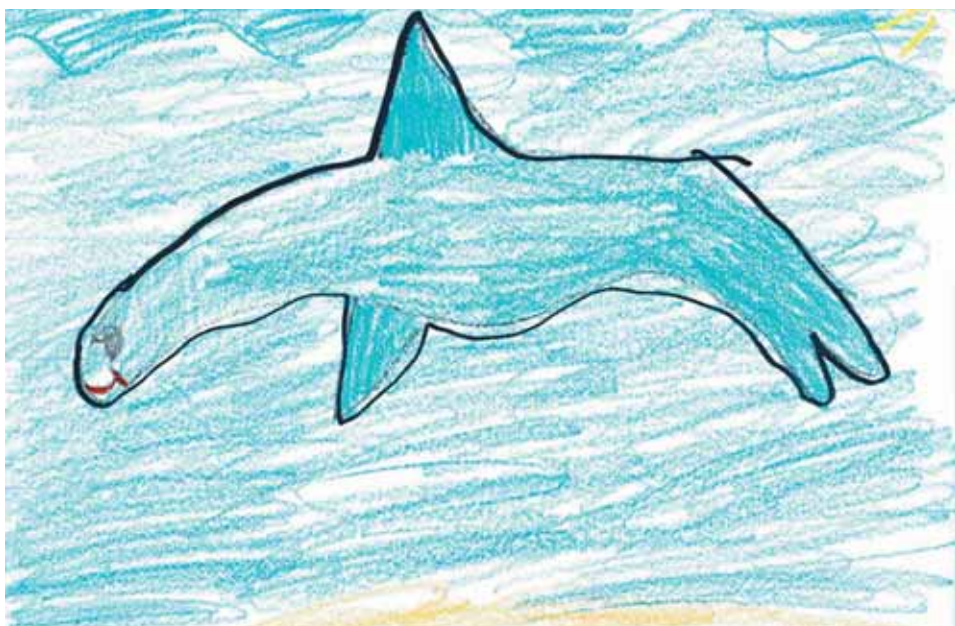
The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly schools pages.

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



Photo by Luke Teasley of Clifton, 11, sixth grade, Mrs. Gilbert's class at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke.



By Anna Kate Halligan of Burke, 7, second grade, Mrs. Hayes' class at Fairview Elementary School in Fairfax Station.



By Chamber Lucas, seventh grade, South County Middle School.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

Twain Middle School



Trapped in a Storm, by Aisyah Setiawan, drawing.



Stalking Cylinder, by Elizabeth Phuong, drawing.



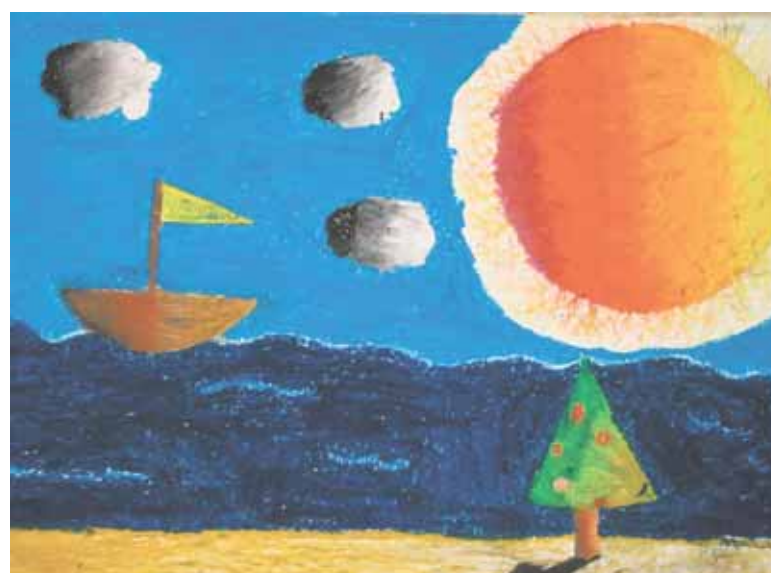
Alaskan Northern Lights, by Maribel Nogales, drawing.



Another Trip to the Moon, by Mackenzie Nolan, drawing.



Color Bubblemania, by Mae Shearer, drawing.



Two Seasons, by Melak Alenu, drawing.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

POETRY CORNER

You Have No Idea

BY KATHY TRAN OF FAIRFAX,
EIGHTH GRADE, 13

You have no idea
What your "harmless" jokes
Do to me
How each playful,
Thoughtless poke
Tears my heart up
And cracks my soul
Little by
Little
There's a hole
Deep inside of me
That you'll never know
All thanks
To your mindless
Jagged
Cruel
Words
And you have no idea
How it tears me up inside
And how I want to drop
everything
And run
But hey,
I can't completely blame you,
Can I?
After all,
You have no idea

Gone

BY KATHY TRAN OF FAIRFAX,
EIGHTH GRADE, 13

Gone are golden leaves and
crisp air
And instead
Something new has come

Twinkling like little stars
They're frozen diamonds in the air
Swirling down
And lighting up the world
With snowball fights
And Frosty the Snowman
Gone are pumpkins and turkey
And instead
Warm hot chocolate
With a candy cane
Fill up stomachs
Hurt from laughing
Over time spent with friends
Gone are Halloween and
Thanksgiving
And instead
Christmas carols and lights
With a wreath or two
Light up
A home and family
Gone is autumn
And instead
Warm memories
Good times
And a new chapter
Starts

CONTINUED, PAGE 9

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

ARTWORK FROM ACCOTINK LEARNING CENTER

Art Teacher Jordana Eisen submitted some of her students' work.



Bernard Grayson of Washington, D.C., 18, 12th grade.



Will Ashton of Alexandria, 16, 11th grade.



Nadia Bergeson of Vienna, 15, 10th grade.



Betsey Gallier of Burke, 16, 11th grade.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

ARTWORK FROM ACCOTINK LEARNING CENTER

Art Teacher Jordana Eisen submitted some of her students' work.



Brandy Pelka of Fort Belvoir, 16, 10th grade.



James McKnight of Fairfax, 19, 12th grade.



Danielle Bailey of Washington, D.C, 16, 11th grade.

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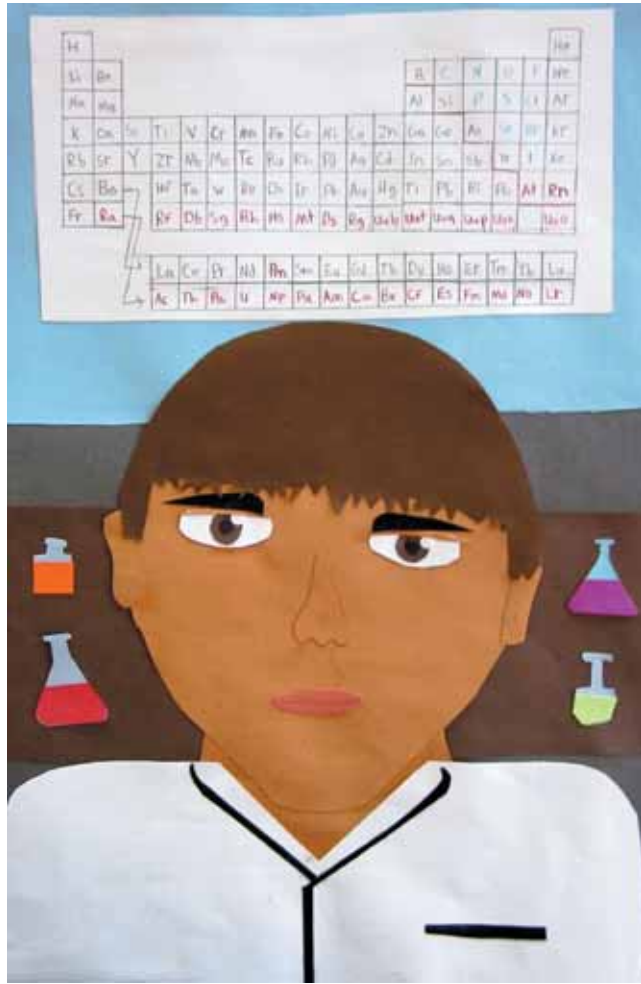
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

South County Middle School

Janice C. McCormack's art students construct their dreams with colored paper.



Thomas Lane, seventh grade.



Dora Sesay, eighth grade.



Seemkah Ogunfiditimi, seventh grade.



JoAnn Grimes, seventh grade.



Sawyer Stockard, seventh grade.



Nick Cho, seventh grade.

POETRY CORNER

Count Your Blessings

BY JANA CONSIDINE OF BURKE,
SEVENTH GRADE. 13

Even now, we are lucky,
we are lucky to have food—
Or fresh water
Lucky to have the sun in the sky
or be living on this Earth
Or have a home
There are many things we have
that others don't have
Many things we could cry about
That we are lucky to not be a part of
“We could have been killed if we had gone there.”
“If we had stayed we would have died!”
You cry for deaths of those close to you
But every minute there is another reason to cry

Another person is dying—there is a murder happening right as you read this. There are people being abused, and those with no will to live each day
There are many people living content—with no knowledge of technology with much less than we have now
Some are living with knowledge of us in tyrannical Nations
who don't get all that we have, and every day is hard
Yet even if we have everything
we still have no problems in crying and begging for more
We are foolish and selfish and greedy because we already have so much
Remember this next time your family didn't get you what you wanted for Christmas, or your birthday.

At least your family celebrates your birthday
So count your blessings
even if you don't get what you want, remember what you have
There are many who would give anything to switch places with you
Count your blessings

At least your family celebrates your birthday
So count your blessings
even if you don't get what you want, remember what you have
There are many who would give anything to switch places with you
Count your blessings

At least your family celebrates your birthday
So count your blessings
even if you don't get what you want, remember what you have
There are many who would give anything to switch places with you
Count your blessings

Blushing

BY AUDREY MYERS OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE. 13

Sweeping across your cheeks,
Your nose, your face
Rosy red
Eyes wide
Palms sweating,
When you can't say a mutter
Your mouth is clenched tight,
Your stomach is doing flips
You want to run and hide,
All you do is squeeze your eyes shut
Cheeks are heating up,
Laughter fills your ears

Winter Traditions

BY AUDREY MYERS OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE. 13

Wrapping a scarf around my neck,
Racing to the car with my sisters
Turning on the radio,
Hearing winter tunes
Humming along
Holding mugs of hot chocolate
Shopping at the mall,
Seeing winter coats,
Boots and gloves sitting on shelves.
Christmas morning

Poems From Robinson Middle School

Waking up early,
Old robe thrown on
I scatter on the carpet, my sisters side by side
My mom, dad, brother sitting on the couch,
Watching, smiles on their faces
Ripping open presents
Gasps, eyes widen
Snapping pictures
Late night, hot fire
Sweet Pannetone
Lights blink
Snow falls

Vienna

BY AUDREY MYERS OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE. 13

The song is a sweet melody,
It sticks in my head
Playing softly in my room,
Blasting in the kitchen
I sway to the music
When I cook,
When I clean
I hum to the music,
Doing homework,
Texting friends
I mouth the words to the music,
In the car,
At school
I've memorized all the lyrics
I play it on Christmas,
I play it at parties
I play it at birthdays,
I play it at Thanksgiving
The song follows me
It makes my heart warm,
It brings tears to my eyes
It's my song

The Diving Board

BY JACK LETZKUS OF BURKE, SEV-
ENTH GRADE. 13

I look at the water, as the red hot sun shone
I look at the water, shivering down to the bone
I just don't know if I should dare to try
It's about time I'd probably start to cry.

I mean, the board I'm on, is just so high
If I do a belly flop, I will definitely die
I step back to the beginning of the panel
As I look at the pool, the people and my suit made of flannel

And then I start to run, up to the edge.
And I jump in the air like I'd jump over a ledge

My heart rapidly races as I am in mid-air
As the wind blows through my short brown hair.

At this point I don't care
The chances I don't die are very scarce
And right as I'm about to get sick...
BAM!!
I hit the water like a brick.

Adventure of Stories

BY RACHEL MCGIRL OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE. 12

From the moment I open that cover,
It's a race.
Past the copyright page, past the table of contents,

Just waiting for the adventure to begin.
That first page, that first sentence,
What could this story be about?
The words draw me to the page,
Sucking me in.
I think to myself,
What could happen on the next page?
Wild horses couldn't drag me away,
Not even the giant from Chapter 3.
Nothing else matters in the world,
Except for the book in my arms.

Winter Night

BY RACHEL MCGIRL OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE. 12

I watch the moon's reflection on the snow,
Shimmering like water.
The snow falls from the clouds,
Weightless, like feathers.
Drifting down, placing itself softly
Upon countless snowmen and snow forts,
Shrouding the once clear sidewalks,
The once clear driveways and sidewalks.
Encasing the earth in a majestic white blanket,
Waiting for all to awake and see,
The beauty within.

One February Night

BY ANDREA SOLOMON OF BURKE,
EIGHTH GRADE. 13

One February night
I'll never forget
The sight of your blue eyes smiling into mine
One February night
I'll never forget
How happy I was sitting there with you
One February night
I'll never forget
You strumming your guitar
As you did my heart strings
And that one February night
I'll never forget
How I fell in love.

Cloud Nine

BY ANDREA SOLOMON OF BURKE,
EIGHTH GRADE. 13

I got kicked off cloud nine
You better believe I'm doing just fine.
You wanted to watch me fall on my head,
To see me lie down dead
Well I won't say I'm sorry you missed the show
I landed on my feet just so you know.
I got kicked off cloud nine
You better believe I'm doing just fine
And I don't miss you at all
I'm no longer your sweet little doll.

Life or Death

BY EMILY BOLAND OF BURKE, SEV-
ENTH GRADE. 12

My mind is reeling, my heart is beating,
I know that my time is quickly fleeting.
There are no excuses that I can make,
This moment is truly make or break.
The pressure is pushing in all around me,
It's engulfing me, swallowing me, has completely surrounded me.
My thoughts are swirling through my head,
I can't believe this might be the end.
I take a deep breath and plow right

through,
I race, I pull, do all I can do.
Bat alas my best is not good enough,
I've finished last and I don't have the stuff.
I feel my future float away,
Scholarships, Olympics all gone today.
But I take a step back and take a deep breath,
One bad swim is not life or death.

Them

BY EMILY BOLAND OF BURKE, SEV-
ENTH GRADE. 12

Everyone knows those type of people,
The people you pass in the hallway and act like you don't exist,
The people that act like they're soooo much better than you.
They're kind of intimidating, everyone's scared of them.

They seem polite sometimes,
But if you are one of the few who is brave enough to look them in the eye,
You see the disgust reverberating through their minds

As if you are worthless,
As if you have as much value as a wilting flower growing through the cracks in the concrete,

And they are the mighty bee, taking your nectar, pollen, fruit of labor,
But what they don't know is that they are really helping you,

Because as they walk away with nothing more than another enemy, they leave you stronger,
Because you only take in that which makes you stronger.

Tomorrow

BY EMILY BOLAND OF BURKE, SEV-
ENTH GRADE. 12

Please take me to tomorrow,
I'd love to see the land,
Where hopes and dreams not only come true but walk hand in hand.

Oh how I long to see tomorrow,
This cheery hopeful place,
That countless songs have taught me of the glory it has encased.

But tomorrow is unattainable,
No matter what Annie says,
A day away is never here, just dangling above our heads.

So yes, there is always tomorrow,
And yes, it's a day away,
But why don't you take that faith you put in tomorrow and put it into today?

You

BY KATHY TRAN OF FAIRFAX, EIGHTH
GRADE. 13

You gave me a slap in the face to wake me up
when reality became too much

You comforted me in my darkest hour
and helped me face my demons
You stood by me
when the world was against me

You entered my life in a whirlwind,
pulling me into your light
You changed me for good
You saved my life

And I just wanted to take this chance to say
Thank You

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

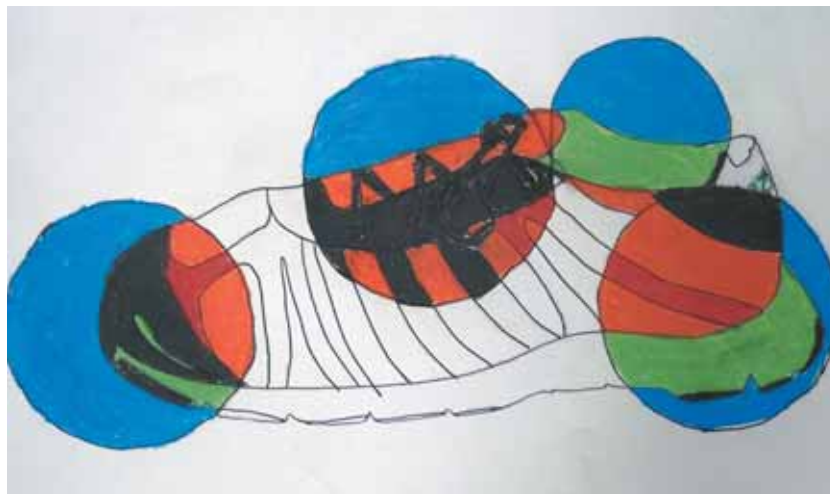
I Know Who You Are

DOROTHY ADU-AMANKWAH OF SPRINGFIELD, 15, NINTH GRADE, MRS. CORRANSON'S CLASS, WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

I know who you are
You are the reason for that little girl's tears
You are the reason for that mother's worries
She wonders, she thinks
How is she going to tell her daughter that she has a month to live?
The hospitals are slowly being filled with your victims
You are the reason that when the rain pitta patters
Their tears flow with it
You are the reason that they count down the days of their life
Slowly, afraid of each day
You are the reason that that 15-year-old boy is wondering why
Why is life so cruel?
And you are the reason why I am sitting here, tears in my eyes
Pain toying with my heart
Wondering how?
How can you prey on thousands of victims?
With your crooked and abnormal cells
You take away their normal life
And shave away their hopes and dream
You prey on everyone, everywhere
Whether old or young,
Weak or strong,
Black or white,
I know who you are
You are deadly, you are cancer
But you don't understand that
Even if you are strong
Life can't be gone
Not just like that.

Fairview Elementary School

Cody Kaminski of Clifton, contour drawing, fifth grade.



Eduardo Rodas Medina of Burke, colored pencil drawing, fourth grade.



Megan Guiffre of Fairfax Station, sixth grade, oil pastel.



Megha Setia of Fairfax Station, landscape painting, second grade.



Allison Lloyd of Burke, oil pastel, fourth grade.

West Springfield High School

Dr. Jennifer Beach, Ph.D. and English Department chairperson, submitted art from West Springfield High School students.

Photo Essay: My Dog Pepper

My labradoodle loves to put her cold nose on my exposed hand or foot first thing in the morning as if to say "Get up! Your dog requires your attention! Get up!" She puts her butt high in the air with her front paws stretched way out in front and wags her tail when inviting you to play. Pepper loves to chase all things that scurry into HER backyard . . . squirrels, birds, chipmunks and the occasional cat or fox. She LOVES to play in leaf piles and flops down in them with glee . . . occasionally hiding a very important stick. She turns into a ball of fluff, lying on her back, bent like a pretzel, when she thinks you rubbing her belly is a great idea. You can almost hear her say, "Rub my belly. You know you want to." And I do.

School

TREVOR GROTE OF FAIRFAX STATION, FIFTH GRADE

Students in the classrooms,
Students in the halls.
Artwork and posters
Stapled to the walls.
Teachers trying to help
The students learn new things.
Students out at recess
Playing on the swings.
School is where a child
Can hope to gain new knowledge,
So they can hopefully go
To high school, maybe college.

Dixie

MAKENNA NUNEZ OF BURKE, FOURTH GRADE

I loved the way your ears pointed out.
I loved the way they wiggled.
I loved the way your eyes used to look up at me.
I loved the way you protected me.
I loved the way you barked at strangers just to keep me safe.
I loved the way you caught a Frisbee.
I loved the way your name was written on a piece of paper.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

POEMS FOR WINTER

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

TAEGAN PRATT OF FAIRFAX STATION, FIFTH GRADE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. Snowflakes flutter delicately onto a silver blanket of snow. Bells jingle softly as carolers sing cheerfully. Kindness and love fills the air and gingerbread men run about. Don't cry, scream, kick, punch, bite or pout, Santa Claus comes tonight!

Winter

BY MRS. GORHAM'S SECOND GRADE CLASS, LAUREL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Snow is falling
Build a snowman
Snow is falling
Snowball fight
Snow is falling
Ride my sled
Snow is falling
Back inside
Snow is falling
Drink hot chocolate
Snow is falling
Safe and warm
Snow is falling

One February Night

BY ANDREA SOLOMON OF BURKE, EIGHTH GRADE, 13

One February night
I'll never forget
The sight of your blue eyes smiling into mine
One February night
I'll never forget
How happy I was sitting there with you
One February night
I'll never forget
You strumming your guitar
As you did my heart strings
And that one February night
I'll never forget
How I fell in love.

Winter Acrostic Poem

BRADY RIGGS OF FAIRFAX STATION, FOURTH GRADE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Christmas winds blow and flow
Harps playing pretty music
Rabbits hopping in the snow
Icicles on roof tops glow
Snow is all over the ground
Toppings in your hot cocoa
Marshy ground with that slushy sound
Amazing cookies, delicious, yum
Snow, snow! All around.

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Christmas Haiku

SAMI MARINO OF FAIRFAX STATION, FIFTH GRADE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Christmas almost here,
Getting ready, trim the tree.
I can hardly wait.

Winter is so cold.
I can't wait for it to snow.
I can build snow forts.

Christmas time is here.
Presents, joy, and family,
Winter break, hooray!!

Snowflake

EDDY MANNING OF BURKE, FOURTH GRADE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A snowflake is falling softly from the sky down to the ground. It lands on the ground with its brothers and sisters. It gives the ground a nice white blanket. When the sun comes out, it will slowly melt the blanket.

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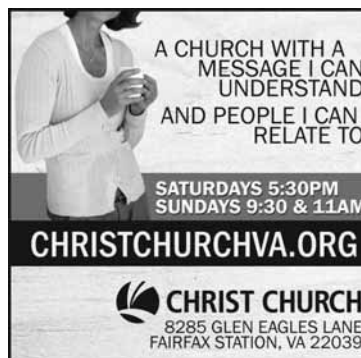
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

Springfield Estates Elementary

Ms. Wolford and Ms. Kendall, art teachers at Springfield Estates Elementary, submitted some of their students' work.



Myself and a Friend, by Aaron Amin of Springfield, 7.



Myself as Family Helper, Amna Imran of Springfield, 6.



Pop Art Dessert, by Travis Slade of Springfield, 12.



Myself and a Friend, by Aaron Amin of Springfield, 7.



Pop Art Dessert, by Nazanin Azimi of Springfield, 12.



Pop Art Dessert, by Yusuf Ahamed of Springfield, 12.

Garfield Elementary School

Art Teacher Ellie Cornecelli submitted some of her students' artwork.



Faiyaz Zamin, 9, second grade, Ms. Collins' class.



Jaslyn Sosa-Orellana, 7, first grade, Ms. Stenlund's class.



Catherine Ferro-Manzanarez, 9, fourth grade, Ms. Ott's class.

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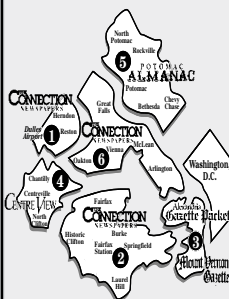
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Alley, suite 110, Fairfax, VA
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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL (ABC) for a wine
and beer, on and off premises,
mixed beverage on premise
license to sell or manufacture
alcoholic beverages. J.
Michael Babin, Member
manager Neighborhood
Restaurant Group XVI.

NOTE: Objections to the issu-
ance of this license must be
submitted to ABC no later than
30 days from the publishing
date of the first of two required
newspaper legal notices. Ob-
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at www.abc.virginia.gov or call
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Plan to address cleanup of Liquid Phase Hydrocarbon at the
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contact:

Kleinfelder
1340 Charwood Road, Suite I
Hanover, Maryland 21076
(410) 850-0404

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern
Regional Office of the DEQ on December 21, 2012. If you
would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action
Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Kurt
Kochan at (703) 583-3825 after the date of the Corrective Ac-
tion Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will
consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective
Action Plan until January 21, 2013 and may decide to hold a
public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written
comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed be-
low. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference
the tracking number for this case;
PC# 94-1362.

Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

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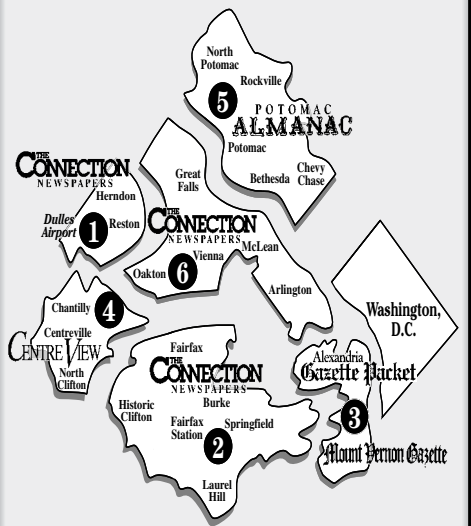
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(1) OFFERS INCLUDE VA TAX, FREIGHT, \$399 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36-MONTH LEASE WITH 12K PER YEAR. (2) TOTAL DOWN PAYMENT PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$399 PROCESSING FEE DUE AT SIGNING. (3) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS. OFFERS FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. EXCLUDES \$399 DEALER DOC FEE. (4) BASED ON BLACK BOOK TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. (5) COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET. SEE PARTICIPATING DEALER FOR COMPLETE PLAN DETAILS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ALASKA. (6) TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICE COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH A PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER AND TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL QUALIFY. REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD THE AMOUNTS DUE AT LEASE SIGNING OR DELIVERY WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER LEASE OR FINANCE TRANSACTION. (7) REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD DUE AT SIGNING OR DELIVERY, WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION, OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER FINANCE OR LEASE TRANSACTION. NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE TOYOTA COLLEGE GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. (8) ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY STATUS IN THE U.S. MILITARY. (9) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 36 MONTHS ON PRIUS PLUG-IN FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS. (1) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (1) FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (1) 1.9% APR FINANCING ON ALL CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED VEHICLES FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THROUGH TFS. \$399 DEALER DOC FEE. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 01/02/13.

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