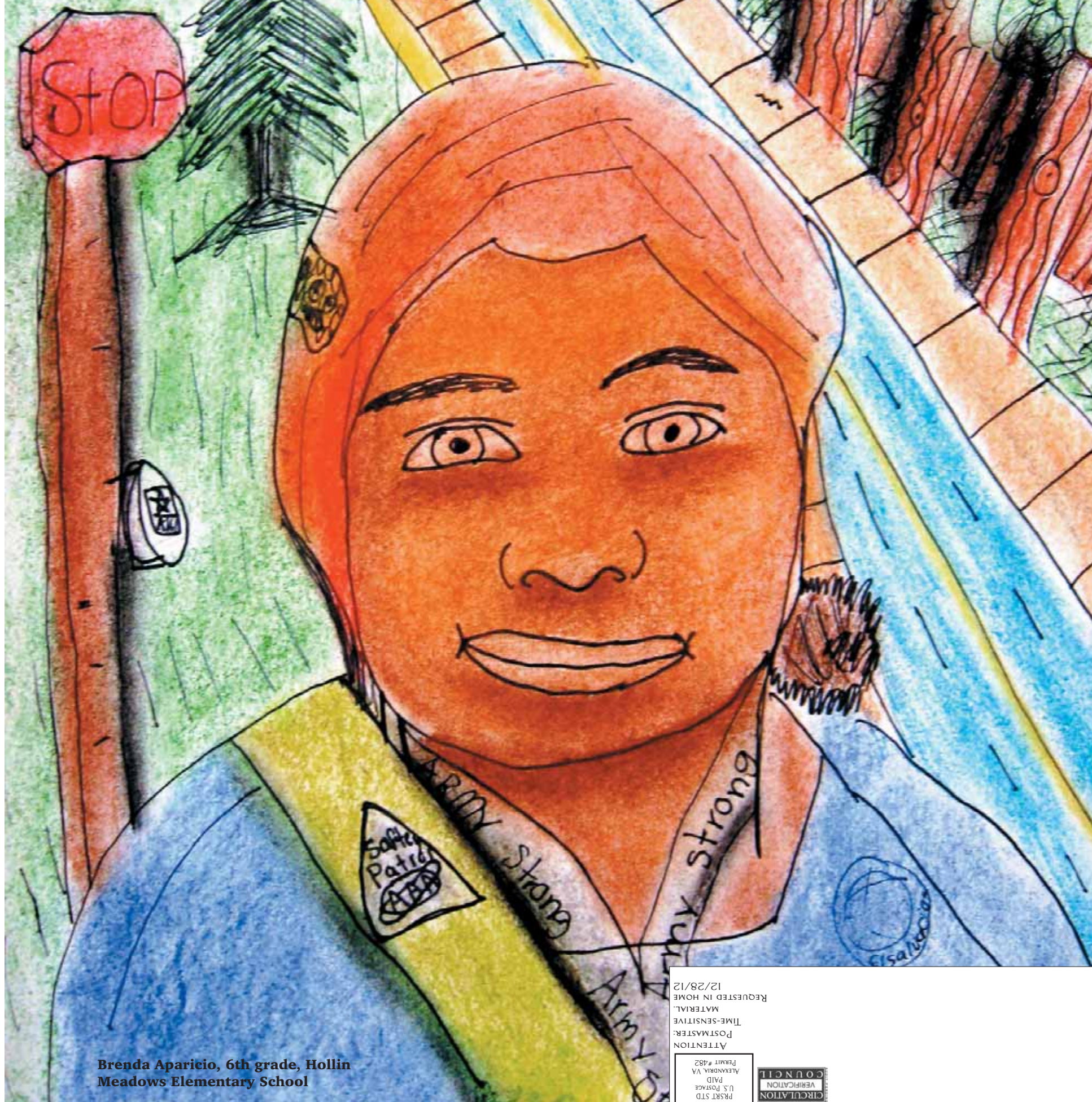


Mount Vernon Gazette

Children's Gazette 2012



Brenda Aparicio, 6th grade, Hollin
Meadows Elementary School

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Ann Duff
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www.annduff.com
MLS# FX7946091



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Spectacular Water Views

One-of-a-kind, 8,000-square-foot home on the Potomac in historic Mount Vernon with marina, boat launch, and slips - lowest cost in DC. The open floor plan features high ceilings, crown molding, hardwoods, gourmet kitchen, breakfast area, spacious lower level rec room, seven bedrooms, and six and a half baths. Owner is a licensed agent.

Cindi Mariano
703.314.8888
www.cindimariano.com
MLS# FX7713855

Old Town Alexandria \$1,295,000



Classic 19th Century Living

Dining room French doors de-accessed from the Roosevelt White House and steamboat history displayed in the entry foyer add to the presence and dignity of this handsome, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath, period home. Gracious sun-drenched rooms with tall ceilings, period woodwork, and polished wood floors are complemented by a deep landscaped garden.

Carol Cleary 703.625.6829
Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.CarolCleary.com
MLS# AX7924059

Old Town Alexandria \$625,000



1830 Plaque House

Located just two blocks from the Potomac, this charming frame residence is well preserved with random-width floors throughout and a wood-burning fireplace in the living room. Dental moulding, chair railing, and French doors complete the details. A pleasant brick patio with side entrance, eat-in kitchen, two bedrooms and one and a half baths.

Cecily Winchell
703.851.9292
www.CecilyWinchell.com
MLS# AX7954960



Alexandria \$399,000



Room to Move

Bright townhouse with new neutral paint throughout, lovingly maintained, updated, large bright kitchen, extra baths, great deck in back yard, garage, and tons of visitor parking. Fantastically located Cameron Knolls.

Chris Robinson
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www.RobinsonBriggs.com
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www.LizLuke.com
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Donna Cramer
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www.DonnaCramer.com
MLS# AX7975274



Alexandria \$337,000



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Sally Z. Harper
703.517.2849
www.sallyzharper.com
MLS# AX7949387



Alexandria \$310,000



Fabulous Property in Parkfairfax!

Gorgeous two-level condo located in Parkfairfax! Two bedrooms, one full bath, completely renovated kitchen that opens to the living and dining room. Stainless steel appliances, quartz counter top. Large master bedroom. Close to Shirlington, minutes to Reagan National Airport and Washington, DC.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com
MLS# AX7947879



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Arlington/Columbia Forest \$429,000



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CHILDREN'S GAZETTE 2012

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Gazette 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 Gazette. 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 Gazette 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 gazette@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN



Teagan Keith-Terry, 6th grade, Belle View Elementary School



**Reaction print
Terrible Bus Driver
Drew Bowers,
6th grade,
Waynewood
Elementary School**



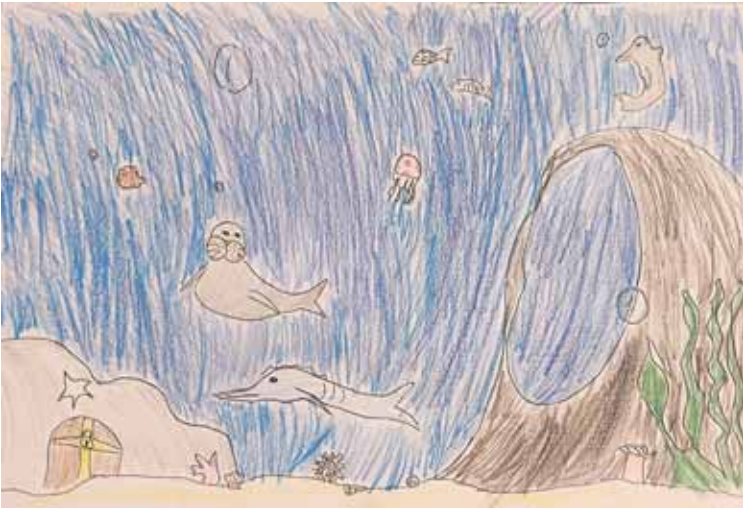
**Matthew Luhman,
4th grade,
Hollin Meadows
Elementary School**

**Aktan Turdukulov, 14,
8th grade,
Alexandria Country
Day School**



BELLE VIEW ELEMENTARY

SUBMISSIONS FROM ART TEACHER VIRGINIA WRIGHT.



Maya Parfitt, 2nd grade



Alessandra Cecchetto, 6th grade



Anika Degen, 2nd grade



Casey Long, 6th grade



Ingrid Belcher, 2nd grade



Baylor Hunt, 6th grade



Jamie Sofield, 6th grade

WORDS & PICTURES

Name Game

Dear old Miss Smith and her husband Ben
Had quite a few children — they counted ten.
But Miss Smith was not good with names at all.
She'd forget the name Susan, Sally, or Paul.
So she gave them all numbers from one to ten.
And it worked quite well, but then;
One day dear Miss Smith asked her young daughter,
"Please Number Six, go fetch me some water."
"This," said the girl, "is a blow to my pride,"
"Because I am Two," then she sat down and cried.
Miss Smith felt quite guilty for what she had done
For she loved all of her daughters and sons.
So she gave them all names like mine and yours
Whether she can remember them, I'm not quite sure.

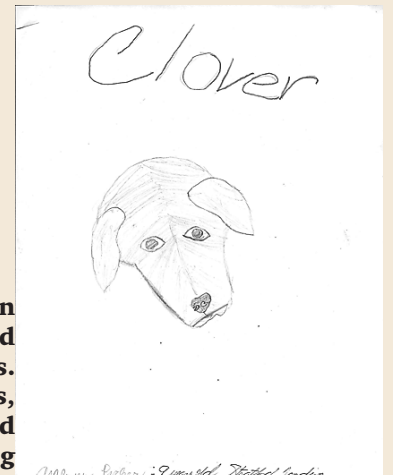
— ABIGAIL ELIZABETH MILLS, 12,
7TH GRADE, HOME SCHOOL



Gunnar Dutzman, 8, St. Louise Catholic School,
Art teacher, Marie Hain



Addison
Parker, 8,
2nd Grade,
Ms.
Golinowski,
St. Mary's
School



Ashlynn
Parker, 9, 3rd
Grade, Ms.
Ricks,
Stratford
Landing

Ashlynn Parker, 9 years old, Stratford Landing



Daniel Matheis, 7, 2nd
grade, St. Louis Catholic
School



Kyla Matheis, 4, Pre-K, Mount Vernon Presbyterian
Church Preschool

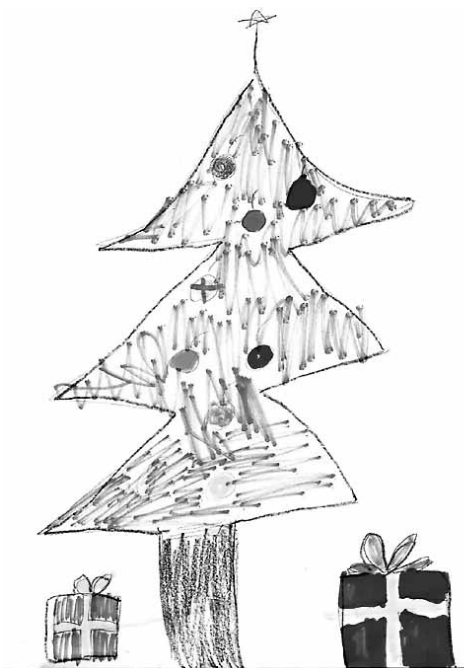


Bear Eye by Natalie Warr, 8th grade, Whitman Middle
School

WASHINGTON MILL ELEMENTARY



The Shenandoahs by Colin Eckardt, 9, 4th grade



Ellie Dunn, 7, 2nd grade



Ashley Elizabeth Houck, 9, 4th grade, Mrs. Mason, art teacher is Mr. Nawrot.



JP Eckardt, 6, 1st grade

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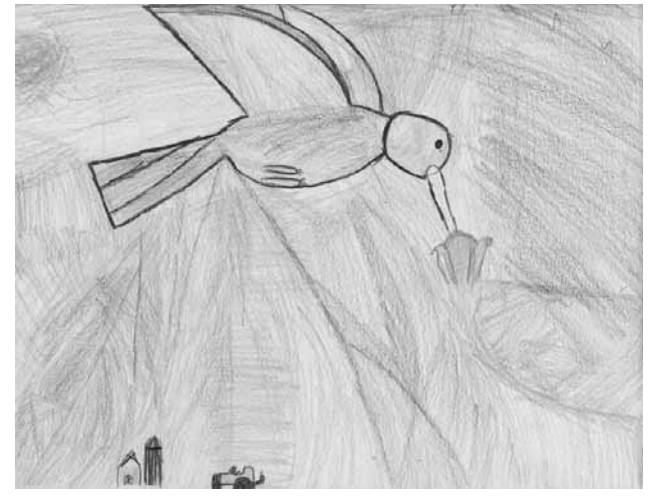
WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Ariana Anderson, 7, 1st Grade, Waynewood Elementary



Christopher Anderson, 10, 5th Grade, Waynewood Elementary.



Thomas Bruno, 10, 5th grade



**Community Helper
Abbey Beatty, 2nd grade**



**My Friend and I
Alexandra Mayo, 2nd grade**



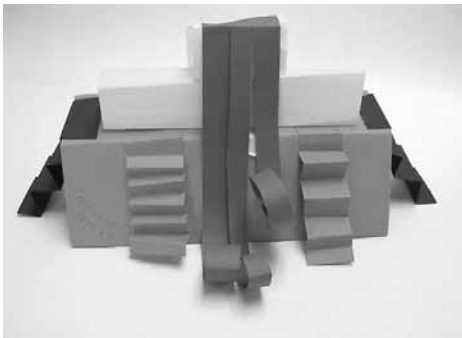
**Community Helper
Charlotte Heimbach, 2nd grade**



**Wise Owl
Dakota Todd, 2nd grade**



**Friends
Isabella Pidgeon, 2nd grade**



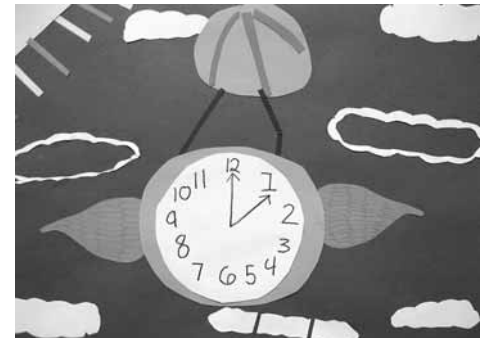
**My Playground
Charlotte Krell, 5th grade**



**Family Portrait
Chris Anderson, 5th grade**



**On Time
Connor Dunn, 4th grade**



**Time Flies
Daniella Lawson, 4th grade**



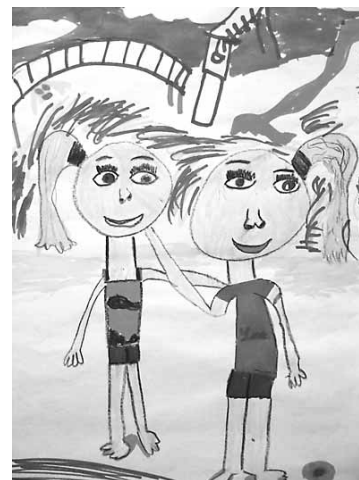
Ella Adams, 5th grade



**Tiger Sculpture
Jason Murray, 2nd grade**



**My Dog
Kayla Tanner, 2nd grade**

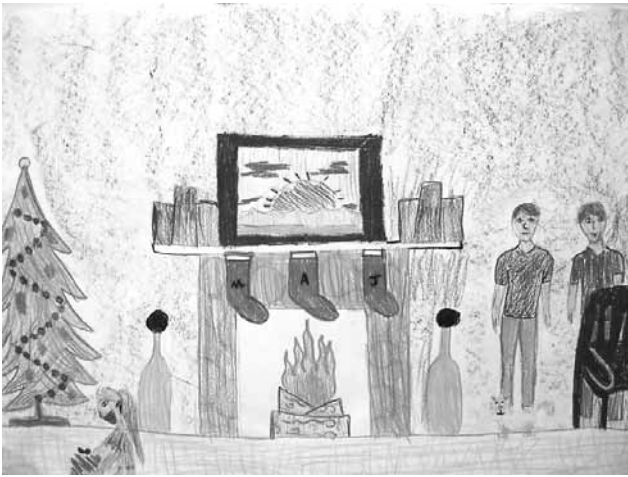


**We Are Friends
Leah Myers, 2nd grade**

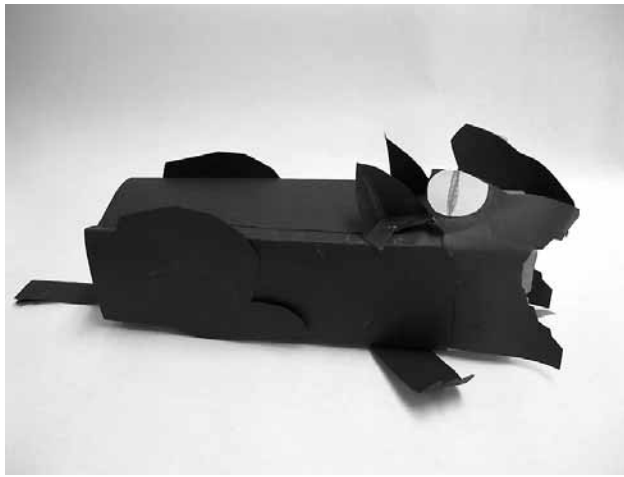


**My Penguin
Olivia Vieira, 2nd grade**

WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Family Portrait
Abby Hays, 5th grade



Mom's Panther
Dohan Filzer, 2nd grade



Emma Duncan, 2nd grade



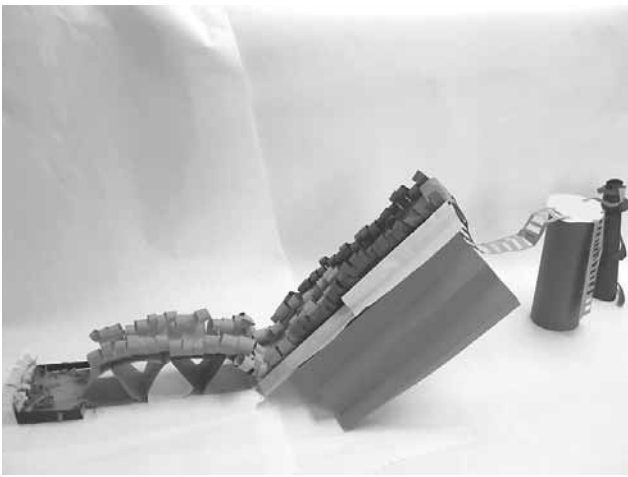
This is Fun
Fiona Durant, 5th grade



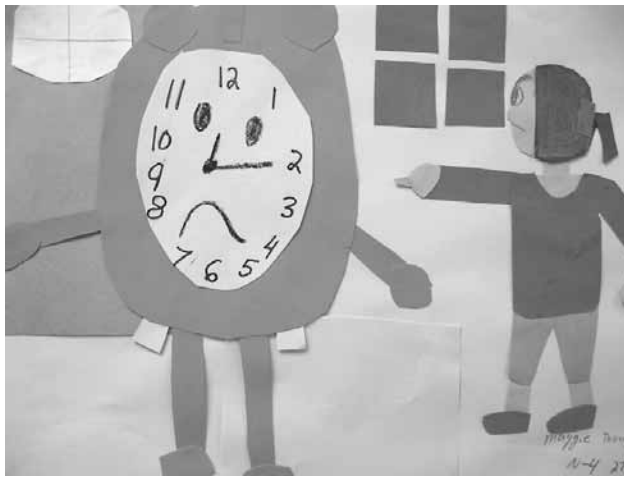
Times Tables
Hailey Sherrer



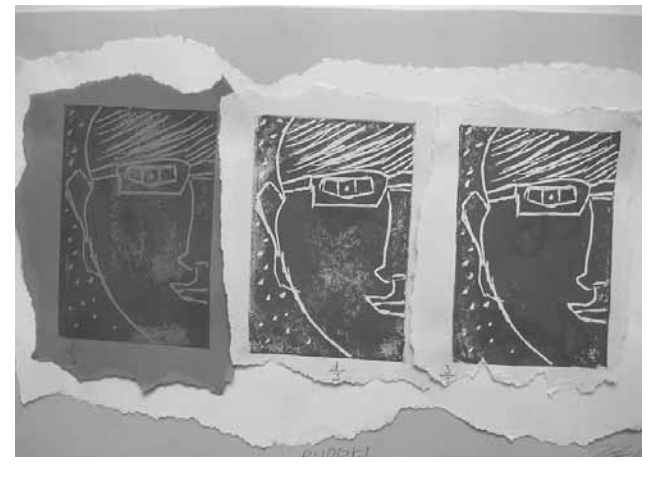
Ahead of Time
Jen Pacaro, 4th grade



What a Playground
Kelly Riley, Bea Heratsch, Vivian Purser and Ian McLellan



Time Out
Maggie Thompson, 4th grade



Reaction Print Bubble
Nick Hubbe, 6th grade

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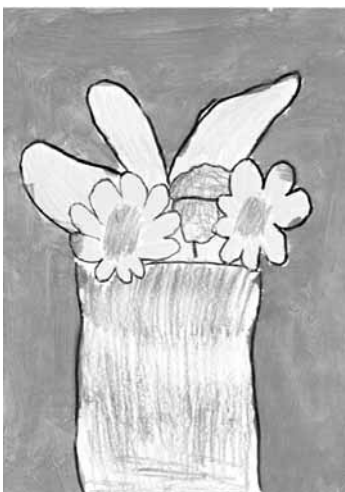
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AQUINAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL



Natalie Simpson, 7, Ms. Walker's Lower Elementary Class

Black Squirrel

A small black squirrel
Scurries on the ground looking
For nuts and berries.

— ANNIE BACON, 10

Haiku

Few leaves on the ground
Came from empty and bare trees
Cold November air

— AMÉDÉ KARINA-PLUN, 10

Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year.
It's filled with joy and cheer,
Love and hope are all around.
So, no need to sit around and mope
Jump up and be merry like all the other folk!

— ANA JONES, 9

Haiku

It's chilly outside
The sun gives a sweet twinkle
Soft chirps like a song

— JULIA SIMPSON, 10

Fall Animals

Everything is still
Two birds are looking for food
Squirrels are getting nuts

— KELLI CRIDER, 11

Haiku

It's cold and quiet
It feels empty, bare, and dead
Squirrels eat and move

— MAYA BRENNIG, 10

Christmas Time

Winter fun is here
It is almost Christmas Day
Santa is coming

— NICKY MCBROOM, 11

Thanksgiving Poem

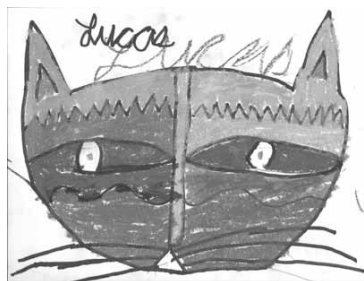
- untitled

I love Thanksgiving, it is fun.
I do not like it when dinner is done.
My mother told me the story of the Pilgrims and the Indians too,
I hope you love Thanksgiving as much as I do!

— KACIE CRIDER, 8, Ms. WALKER



Benjamin Sim, 7, Ms. Walker's Lower Elementary Class



Lucas Garvey, 8, Ms. Walker's Lower Elementary Class

Thanksgiving Acrostic poem

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— KACIE CRIDER, 8, Ms. WALKER

Christmas Dinner

Turkey, turkey in the forest
Running through the trees
If you get caught you'll be fried
Then get eaten
Then you'll be in belly!

— NATE SINN, 6, Ms. WALKER

Firefly

Flaming rocket in space heading towards us ...
"How big are you?" asked a little boy.
"Why not one inch high," said the firefly.

— RYAN LIEN, 8, Ms. WALKER

Pocahontas

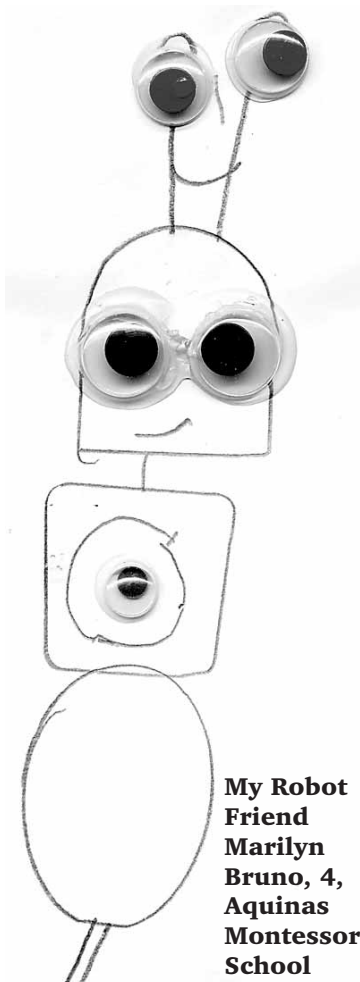
Pocahontas did not go to school. The Native Americans did not eat hot dogs or chicken nuggets. They ate corn and vegetables. And each morning Pocahontas jumped into the river for a bath. She even did this in the winter!

— ELIZABETH WESTHOVEN, 6, Ms. WALKER

Snowflakes

Snowflake, go flake,
Little, tiny water drop,
Snowflake, snowflake
Snowy, little snowflake.

— EMMA RICHARDS, 9, 3RD GRADE, MRS. MESSINGER



My Robot Friend Marilyn Bruno, 4, Aquinas Montessori School

CARL SANDBURG MIDDLE

The Voters

The United States of America,
The great democratic nation
Is a melting pot of religions, cultures and social classes
Though we are all different, the one thing we share is the equal right to vote.

The poor woman born into poverty,
From dusk to dawn she works.
She has barely enough money for food and rent.
She votes to higher wages and government money well spent.

The elder who has lived through many conflicts,
And is struggling to make ends meet.
He worries about his grandchildren's future.
He votes for an improved social security system.

The new 18 year old who is finding her way,
she's done.
She votes for lower tuition rates because her life has only just begun.

The immigrant who gave up his country and moved to the USA,
He wants to worship his religion freely.
He hopes people will treat him like an equal.
He votes for someone who wants to keep religious freedoms.

The middle class woman who lives a good life,
And doesn't want to pay more for the things she needs.
She wants the government to find way to balance the budget.
She votes for lower income taxes and affordable health care.

The great thing about democracy and having equal rights to vote
Is no matter if you're rich or poor,
Male or female, black or white,
Your vote carries as much power as everyone else's.

— ALEXANDRIA PUSKAR, CARL SANDBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Adelle Bottcher, 3rd grade



William Bottcher, 4th grade



Angel by Anna Lee, 1st grade



Katie Boyle, 4th grade



Courtney LaRochelle, 3rd grade



James Mirvish, 5th grade

STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY

WRITING

What Makes a Good Friend

A good friend never says mean things to you.
A good friend always shares her books with you.
A good friend never says you look bad.
A good friend always saves you a seat.
A good friend never ignores you.
A good friend makes you happy when you feel sad.
A good friend always chats with you.
A good friend never leaves you out.
A good friend always takes your side, even when you are wrong.
I always try to be a good friend.

— STEPHANIE LEVY, 7, 2ND GRADE

A Short Story

Long ago, in a town called Fish Island, lived a 10-year-old girl named Josie. Josie did not have a lot of money, but she had a lot of hope.

One day, she was walking home from school and she found a wallet. She took the wallet home and asked her Mom to help her return it to whoever lost it. Josie's mom opened the wallet and saw that it belonged to the woman who made her own clothes and lived all alone.

Josie and her mom looked for the woman's house and gave her the wallet back. The woman was so happy that she got her wallet back, so she gave Josie all of the money that was in the wallet as a thank you.

Josie took the money and gave the woman a hug. Then she and her mom went to the store and bought food and water and gave it all to the homeless people of Fish Island. That night, Josie had very good dreams because she knew that the homeless people were happily eating and drinking.

The End

— STEPHANIE LEVY, 7, 2ND GRADE



Christmas Time by Sophie Anderson, 10, 5th grade

Pointless

(Don't Read It, It's Pointless)

This is a pointless story. It has no meaning. What! You're still here? I can't believe you! It is pointless! Pointless! Pointless! Pointless! Got it? You're wasting your time! Go do something that is not pointless. You are making the wrong choice you are still here?!? Oh, My Gosh! How many times do I have to tell you? Pointless! Go do some homework. Apple! Ha! Got you! Pointless! Get out of here! Uggghh. Well if you're not going to leave, we should, um, well what ever. HGPh I can't be

SEE STRATFORD LANDING, PAGE 18

2 DAY SALE

January 7th & 8th
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Andrea, 23

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Flower vase, Ceramic and Raku firing, by Johana



Scene from Everyday Life, clay relief, by Dayana



Ceramic Tea Set by Nebiyu



Clay shoe from observation, ceramics project, by Frezer

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WOODLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY

The Poem

Red berries are red,
Blue berries are blue,
Roses are sweet
And you are, too.
— ESSIE AMAH, 3RD GRADE.
MS. CRAWFORD

If I Could Be Invisible

If I could be invisible I would do anything I want. I would do things people couldn't do. I would call myself Jimmy the Hero.

If somebody was mean to me I would go invisible and hunt them every night. I would save kids and team up with other heroes like Batman or Bob the Amazing. I would beat up evil villains. I would do amazing things. I could be stealthy and when the bad guys run away I would show myself to the civilian. I would tell them to keep it a secret and sometimes I wouldn't even tell them if I was in a hurry.


I would like being invisible because nobody would know you're there, so they would never know my secret unless I tell them. I could be the best. Evil villains would be scared because they won't know what or who beat them up. I could be the best person ever!

— FAISAL HASSAN, 9, 4TH GRADE.
MS. McDONALD



Fall Leaves watercolor by Chaplain Adusei, 8, 3rd grade, Miss Hammond, and art teacher Miss Shoup

SEE WOODLEY HILLS,
PAGE 17



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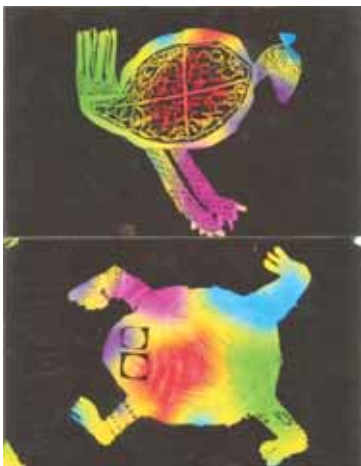
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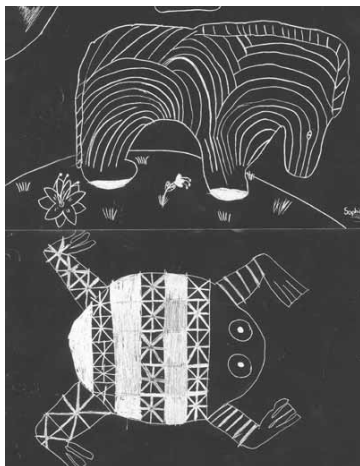
BROWNE ACADEMY



Bird: Emily Jacobson, 7, 2nd grade, Lauren Bildner
Frog: William Gunter, 7, 2nd grade, Lauren Bildner



Gator: Andrew Lazarski, 7, 2nd grade, Lauren Bildner
Deer: Harrison White, 8, 2nd grade, Lauren Bildner



Zebra: Sophie Atkisson, 7, 2nd grade, Lauren Bildner
Frog: Zoe North, 7, 2nd grade, Lauren Bildner



Boy Diving by Nick Arrighetti, 13, 7th grade, Jenn Lam



Tennis by Ryan McGlynn, 13, 7th grade, Jenn Lam



Diving by Kate Simpson, 13, 7th grade, Jenn Lam



Elyssar Grimmett, 10, 5th grade, Jenn Lam



Matthew Lettieri, 10, 5th grade, Jenn Lam



Anthony Dmytrijuk, 11, 5th grade, Jenn Lam



Quentin Southall, 11, 5th grade, Jenn Lam



Anna Larson, 6, 1st grade, Jenn Lam

WRITINGS FROM BROWNE ACADEMY

Hope Kindles the Fire

The American Dream varies for each American citizen. For one it could be traveling around the world. For another it could be having a big family and a white picket fence. For others, the dream is simply having freedom. My American Dream is that the government changes the immigration laws. Many kids are separated from their parents because their parents are deported back to their country, while the children stay in America because they were born in the USA. I also wish that people who are undocumented can go to college because many kids with strong potential are not given the opportunity. To change this I hope to be an immigration lawyer when I grow up. I was born in America, but my parents are immigrants. My parents are an example of the American Dream. They came here in hopes of establishing a better future for themselves, and their families. They achieved their dreams. I hope that one day I will be able to grasp mine.

— LESLIE UMANZOR, 13, 8TH GRADE, MS. GRINNAN

Signs of Fall!

The colorful leaves lie on the peaceful ground.

The trees are bursting with leaves, very, very colorful leaves indeed!

CRUNCH! go the leaves when I step on them.

The temperature is warm but has a chilly touch and wind to it. Brrrrrrrrr! The wind just bit at me.

I notice the last birds are migrating. I see a large hole in the ground, probably for hibernation.

I catch the whiff of decomposing plants and dead leaves for a second.

— ARJUN RAMAKRISHNAN, 8, 3RD GRADE, MR. LOWDER

Signs of Fall!!

Trees are changing their colors. Their brown, orange, yellow, and red leaves look like birds falling to the ground. CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! The leaves scream when I step on them. Squeak! Squeak! Squeak! The squirrels like Fall very much.

— OLIVIA BARSA, 8, 3RD GRADE, MR. LOWDER

Pen and Paper

All I need for my imagination to flee is pen and paper

It flows like horses running down a field

It flows like a river coming out of me And all I need for imagination to flee is pen and paper

— TAYLER MARTIN, 12, 7TH GRADE, MS. GRINNAN

When a Flower Blooms

When a flower blooms a child is born

When a flower blooms the sun comes out

When a flower blooms the moon comes out

When a flower blooms

ST. AIDAN'S DAY SCHOOL



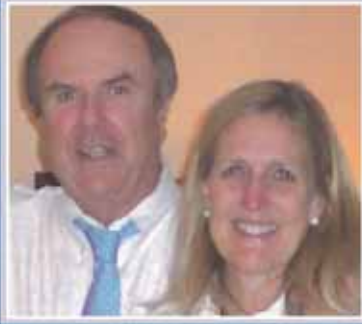
The Nativity by Nora Wild, Kindergarten



Scarecrow by Sophia Six, Kindergarten



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4700 Deer Run Ct*	SOLD!	9107 McNair Dr*	SOLD!	9516 Ferry Harbour Ct	SOLD!
8612 Fort Hunt Rd	SOLD!	8617 Yardley Dr	SOLD!	9403 Ferry Landing Ct	SOLD!
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2404 Huntington Park Dr	SOLD!	9115 McNair Dr	SOLD!	4720 Neptune Dr	SOLD!
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Conner Crowley, 1st grade

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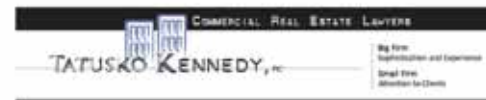
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WOODLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 11

My Snail Story

Once upon a time there were two snails and they were best friends, they were like brothers. Their names were Toby and P.J. One day they went to the park to play on the slide. That was their favorite thing to do in the park. When they got there something happened ... there was a mean, big boy named Jake. He was really mean. He would always sit on the slide when somebody was trying to go on it and stop them from going down. They asked Jake, "Can you please get up?" He said "No!"

Toby and P.J. were really upset. "We are going to tell on you!" they said. So then Toby and P.J. went to P.J.'s house to go tell on Jake.

"Mom! This boy named Jake won't let me and Toby down the slide. I asked him if Toby and I can please, please go down the slide. He said 'No way.' Please help us, we love the slide so, so much ever and the slide is the best thing in the park."

Mom told P.J. and Toby to go back and try to work it out with Jake. They decided to go ask him nicely if he would let them on the slide and tell him he could go play with his friends and have fun. They were nervous, because he was really mean. But they were brave enough to go talk to him. They both went and said one sentence at a time. He listened to them, and he said "I'm sorry I'm being a bully to you. I shouldn't have done that. I've learned my lesson that I shouldn't bully anybody."

So Toby and P.J. got to slide down the slide and Jake went to go play with other people.

— KAITLYN RAKES, 8, 3RD GRADE, MS. FIOCCHI

Cheesy The Pizza

One day there was a pizza named Cheesy. It was a plain pizza. Cheesy was sad because no one would eat him. They would always eat Pepper the pepperoni pizza. Pepper would always make fun of Cheesy because no one would pick Cheesy and they always picked Pepper.

Then one day a man came in. He said he was going to order a plain pizza. Cheesy was so happy! It was the first time someone would pick him! But then he stopped. He pictured how Pepper felt. Cheesy would always feel sad like Pepper did that moment. He was right.

Pepper felt sad and told Cheesy, "I am sorry that I was mean to you and that I would always would make fun of you." But it was too late. Cheesy was gone. Now Cheesy would never hear what Pepper had to say. From that day on Pepper could never forgive himself. He could never forget that day or the days he was mean to Cheesy.

— LESLI CORRALES-ARGUETA, 10, 4TH GRADE, MS. McDONALD

December

(An acrostic)
December has
Enchanting sugar
Cookies
Especially
Marvelous
Because you
Eat them
Right out of the oven.

— RAIMA NOEL THORNER PUNTSO, 9, 4TH GRADE, MS. CONNORS

It's So White!

The snowflakes are falling,
the sky is white,
the snow is a-calling,
'tis chilly at night,
don't start a-stalling,
but bundle up tight!

— RAIMA NOEL THORNER PUNTSO, 9, 4TH GRADE, MS. CONNORS

Chapter 1: The Puddle

"Jasmine, wait up!" called Jackie, "you know mom doesn't like it when you come home sopping wet." It was a rainy day and there were lots of puddles.

"Oh look how pretty this one is, it's reflecting the sky."

"Wait," puffed Jackie, she unzipped her backpack and pulled out two pairs of rain boots.

"Where did you get those?" Jasmine cried.

"I was saving them for a great puddle like this one," replied Jackie, "now do you want to wear them or not?"

"Yes," cried Jasmine.

"Good," said Jackie. Once they had put on the boots, they walked over to the puddle ... "On the count of three, one, two, three! Jump!"

"Ouch!" groaned Jasmine, "I think I fell on my DS." There was a soft groan a couple of feet away. "Jackie is that you?" Jasmine sat up. "You might want to see this."

"What? Where are we?" Jackie said in a panicked tone.

"I have no idea," replied Jasmine. They were surrounded by huge trees. "Uh, Jackie," said Jasmine, "do you recognize anything?"

Jackie, who was the animal and plant person in the family, replied, "These are too big be trees from

earth."

"You, you think we're stranded on an alien planet?" asked Jasmine.

"Don't be silly, there's no such thing as aliens!" said Jackie. "Why?"

"Then what is that?" whispered Jasmine.

"What's what?" Jackie asked, turning around. Standing there was something in-between a man and a beast with tusks and green skin.

"Ogre," Jasmine whispered, "stay still, they don't have very good eyesight, but can feel movement."

"How do you know that?" Jackie whispered back.

"I read it in a book, now don't move!"

"A book! You've got to be kidding!" Jackie muttered. The Ogre squinted in their direction.

"Screeeech!!"

The Ogre looked up. Suddenly it turned around and ran as if its life depended on it. "What the ...?" Jackie said. "Why did it just turn around and run like that?"

"Cause of that!" Jasmine pointed up. "It's, it's, a dragon!"

"What?" Jackie, too, looked up. Suddenly, two hands shot out of the bushes and pulled both kids into the bushes.

"Shhh," someone whispered. "Don't move or she'll see you." The two girls were silent. "Follow me," the voice said. When they stood up they saw a tall girl who looked in her teens. She wore jeans and a green shirt covered by a brown vest. She had brown hair pulled back in a ponytail, and almond eyes. She looked a lot like them, but taller. "What are you kids doing here?" she asked.

"We jumped into a puddle for fun and we ended up here."

"You fell through a portal," she said, as if it was no big deal. "I'm surprised," she said. "Most people die and never make it across a portal."

— RAIMA NOEL THORNER PUNTSO, 9, 4TH GRADE, MS. CONNORS

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STRATFORD LANDING



**Reflection by Dawn Fenton,
5th grade, Ms. Oswald**

FROM PAGE 9

lieve you! Wait, where are you going? What are you doing with that tomahawk? AAAAh! Oh wait, you missed! HaHa. Oday ouyay peaksay igpay atinlay? Nope, guess you don't. This mean WAR! Oh yeah, I'm back. Seriously you're still here? Pointless! Pointless! Pointless!!! I'm calling the FBI! Nope didn't work. Apple! Didn't work either. OK, let's play Hide and Seek. You hide, I seek. WHAT?!? You don't want to play? I AM ANGRY! POINTLESS! Go play Angry Pigs. What? It's called Angry Birds? Oh I've got cookies! They're in the kitchen. Yes! Peace and quite. Nooooooo! Joey is leaving. Didn't work. Pointless. Ha! Ha! This story is almost done. P.S. It is done. Don't close the Mphhhhhh!

— ANDREW KIEFFER, 10, 5TH GRADE

Gold Medal Moment

As I was walking into regionals I see a lot of faces in the crowd. Trish says "you better win Princess, it's been long enough."

"You understand you're making this worse." I say.

"Well coach might kick you off the team, you've never won gold," Trish says, with a concerned look.

Coach calls me over before I could say anything else. He says "Princess there is no pressure, but remember I have faith in you." He looks serious and sympathetic at the same time.

I say, "I'll make you proud coach," with a big smile on my face. Then coach says "I know you will."

When I was warming up on the sidelines, my name was called. I get on the floor I had a big smile on my face. I start with a sharp round off back handspring back handspring two and a half punch front. After that I am flying across the spring floors. I am flawless. By the time I knew it, my routine was done, perfect.

Trish starts crying and says, "You were spectacular."

I just smile. When my name is called for the gold medal, I almost fainted, I feel like I am dreaming.

I go up to the podium and the medal is placed over my neck. She says "Congratulations Princess." I cry for joy and pain too, but that was definitely a gold medal moment.

— PRINCESS EDEMOBI, MS. OSWALD



Santa Dog by Katharine Niles

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Obituary



Geraldine C. Hager of Alexandria, Virginia formerly of Ft. Myers Beach, FL and Highland Falls, NY, left us to join her husband, father, and mother early in the morning on December 13, 2012.

Gerry, or DeeDee as she was known to her family, was born May 27, 1925 in West Point, New York. DeeDee was the only child of Eleanor and Paul Taneyhill. She grew up and went to school in Highland Falls, NY. DeeDee was the high school prom dancing partner for the famous actor Charles Durning, and she never lost her dancing chops.

It was in Highland Falls that she met and married John Hager, the love of her life, in 1948. Her husband worked as a contractor in New York before they retired to Florida in the late 1960s. Although she and Johnny were unable to have children of their own, after she retired from her federal job with the Social Security Administration, DeeDee enjoyed being able to take care of the Yancey grandchildren.

In 2006 DeeDee Hager moved to Alexandria to live with her cousin Phyllis Yancey. In the neighborhood she was known for baking a mean apple pie, an incredible key lime pie, a wicked dump cake, and for writing prolific thank you notes. Around town she was everyone's favorite patron, spreading kindness and laughter to workers at her bank, doctors' offices, dry cleaners, and hair salon.

DeeDee was a devoted member of St. Rita's Catholic Church. She is survived and will be desperately missed by her cousins Phyllis Yancey, Pat Aller, Bill Engle, Fred Engle, Bill Yancey, Annette Allgood, Mary Jo Morgan, their spouses and children, and her Beverley Hills neighborhood.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Hager at 2pm on December 22, 2012 at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home. Mrs. Hager will be laid to rest in Southern Palms Memorial Gardens Cemetery, in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

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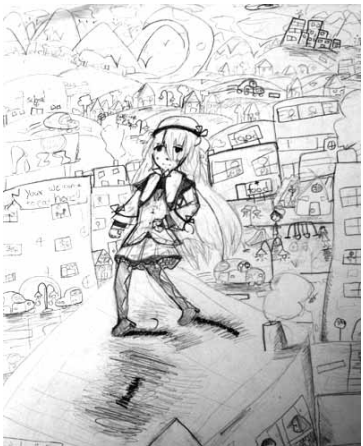
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Paola Medrano, 5th grade



Roger Flores, 2nd grade



Priscilla Kyobutungi, 6th grade



Ruby Dankmyer, 6th grade



Tale's Vicenty, 6th grade



Wesley Johnson, 3rd grade



Brecken McDermott, 10, 5th grade



Xhedrich Brandon, 6th grade



Melissa Quintanilla Rivera, 3rd grade



Max Marshall, 6th grade

I Wonder Who?

I stared into a mirror
And a bunny stared back
I stumbled back in surprise
And hopped into an old brown sack.

I pulled my ears over my eyes
I was filled with all sorts of whos, wheres and whys
I hopped over to the mirror once more
When suddenly someone knocked at the door

In came a girl with bright red hair
She had rosy cheeks and skin that was fair
I knew this girl very well
She came in with a string and a jingly bell

She picked me up and took me out
I still wonder what that thing was about
She put me down on the grassy ground
While I still wondered what I found

I wondered who made that amazing thing
Was that an inventor who was a wearing a ring?
All these questions made me think more
Even if I had ideas I wasn't quite sure

I hopped back into the house to see the thing more clear
I saw the bunny again when I got more near
As I got closer I discovered in shock that bunny was me!
I stared in wonder at the face I always wanted to see

I hopped outside and dragged the girl in
I pawed at myself in the strange clear thing
She laughed, "yes it's you." and she sat down and wriggled the string
She laughed again and untangled me and said, "silly little thing!"

I took a look at clear object and saw myself and smiled
I wondered who made this magical thing he must be wild!
I thought and thought then thought some more!
Even if I had ideas I still wasn't sure!!

I frowned no matter how hard I thought I wouldn't get it right!
I looked up at the ceiling and squinted at the light
I took another look at the strange clear thing, you don't know what it is, do you?
The creator of this thing has to be really smart, hmm ... I wonder who ...?
The End

— SHACHI DAHAL, 4TH GRADE,
MS. MELTON, HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY



Hayden Kirkley, 2nd grade



Aidan Petretich, 2nd grade

HOLLIN MEADOWS ELEMENTARY



Tamiya Berry, 3rd grade



Logan Marshall, 6th grade



Lesbeth Flores-Herrera, 3rd grade



Kiki McDonnell, 6th grade



Kayla Cranford, 2nd grade



Josh Pagett, 3rd grade



Jeweliette Harris, 6th grade



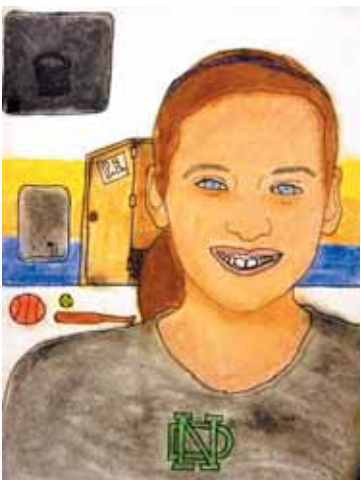
Halley Roy, 6th grade



Haley Alonzo, 3rd grade



Grace Bloom, 6th grade



Farrin McMaster, 6th grade



Erica Martin, 6th grade



Dylan Board, 3rd grade



Cynthia Contreras Velasco, 6th grade



Conor Cushman, 6th grade



Cesar Castro Flores, 3rd grade



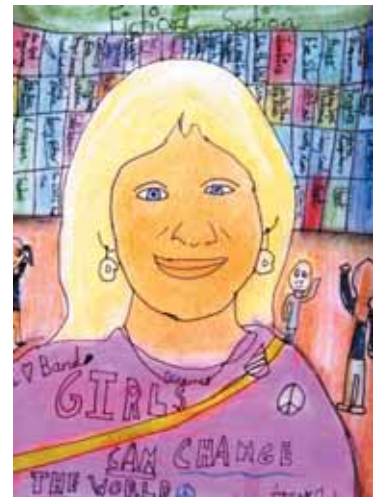
Bridget Kennedy, 6th grade



Bella Martinez, 3rd grade



Avery Ross, 3rd grade



Anna Christensen, 6th grade

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5th grade**



Dustin Gardner, 10, 4th grade



Will Brzezinski, 13, 7th grade



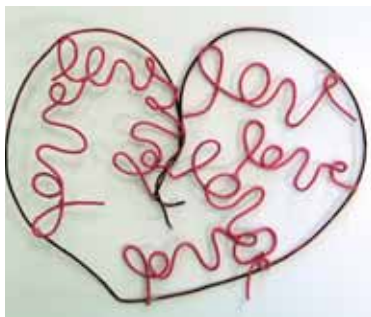
Olivia Purefoy, 7, 2nd grade



Charlie Sagely, 7, 2nd grade



Katie Mathews, 8, 3rd grade



**Abby Stephenson, 13,
8th grade**



Allie Ryder, 9, 4th grade



Keith Lee, 10, 5th grade

ARTWORK FROM
MS. TACKTILL'S CLASSES.

WRITINGS

I enjoy karate. My teacher is called Sensei. He teaches me how to spar, punch the punching bag and how to kick. He encourages me to keep on trying. Karate class is fun. I am learning how to stretch and fight. I look forward to learning new karate.

— DOUGLAS ALTREE, 7, 2ND GRADE, MS. SUTTON

I started horseback riding a few months ago at Shady Brook Stables. The day I learned to trot I was scared. When I got on my brown horse Lucky I felt better. I said to Lucky "Walk on" and I felt shaky. Then I said "Trot please." He started to trot. It was very bumpy. I stopped Lucky. I did it! I was so happy!

— MOIRA JAMBERDINO, 7, 2ND GRADE, MS. SUTTON

I went to Hershey Park on summer break. I stayed there for two days. I got to go on a lot of rides. I got to see some friends. I went to the Hershey Park factory. I got to make my own chocolate bar. I went on a rollercoaster. It went really high up then it went backwards all the way down. There was one ride that had two loopdy loops. It was called the sooperdooper looper. I went to the front yard of the hotel. I got to make s'mores. When I was at the park I went on one ride that was called the dropping tower. That was the last day I was there. The next day I had to leave. I had a great time at Hershey Park.

— OWEN KATZ, 7, 2ND GRADE, MS. PARKER

The U.S. Basketball Team Goes for the Gold

The United States Men's Basketball team, made up of all stars, has had a great history. In 2012 and in the past, success was built on cooperation and communication. Winning gold in Olympic basketball is not a one-man job. They used cooperation to move the ball around for an open shot or lane to the hole. Players cooperate when they throw the ball up in the air for an alley-oop. When Chris Paul passed to LeBron James, he could have taken the shot, but he knew LeBron would have a better shot. As we know, there are a lot of great stars in the Olympics, so it is fun to watch them play together on the same team. In the NBA these players compete with each other, but in the Olympics, they work together to become unbeatable. When he recalled his experience in the Dream Team in 1992, Magic Johnson said, "I take it down the court and look to my right, I see Larry Bird. I then look to my left and there is Michael Jordan. I don't know who to pass it to" (Magic Johnson in 1992).

Cooperation is important on defense, too. The U.S. players have to cover for their teammates if a man gets through them. This often requires communication. Communication is a huge part of team sports, especially basketball. Your teammates, when they are open, will communicate which gives the one control of the ball an indication where to look and pass. For the alley-oop a player communicates with a gesture. For example, Kobe Bryant nods his head indicating an alley-oop to Kevin Durant (Dream Team USA Basketball 2012 Highlights). The phrase "man on" is another thing you might hear; it tells the ball handler that there is a defender coming. Communication helps a team to all be on the same page. Cooperation and communication go together. To cooperate, players must communicate. These make it possible for a group of individual players to play as The Dream Team.

P.S. A team has to trust one another or they would all become ball hogs. The 2012 Olympic Dream Team had to trust one another to mark good players on the other team, which is a hard task. They had to trust the teammates to not shoot every time they got the ball or to not give the ball to the other team. The Olympic Dream Team cooperated, communicated, and trusted one another, which led to an easy win for the gold!

— MIKE MILLER, 11, 6TH GRADE, MS. ZALESKI

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