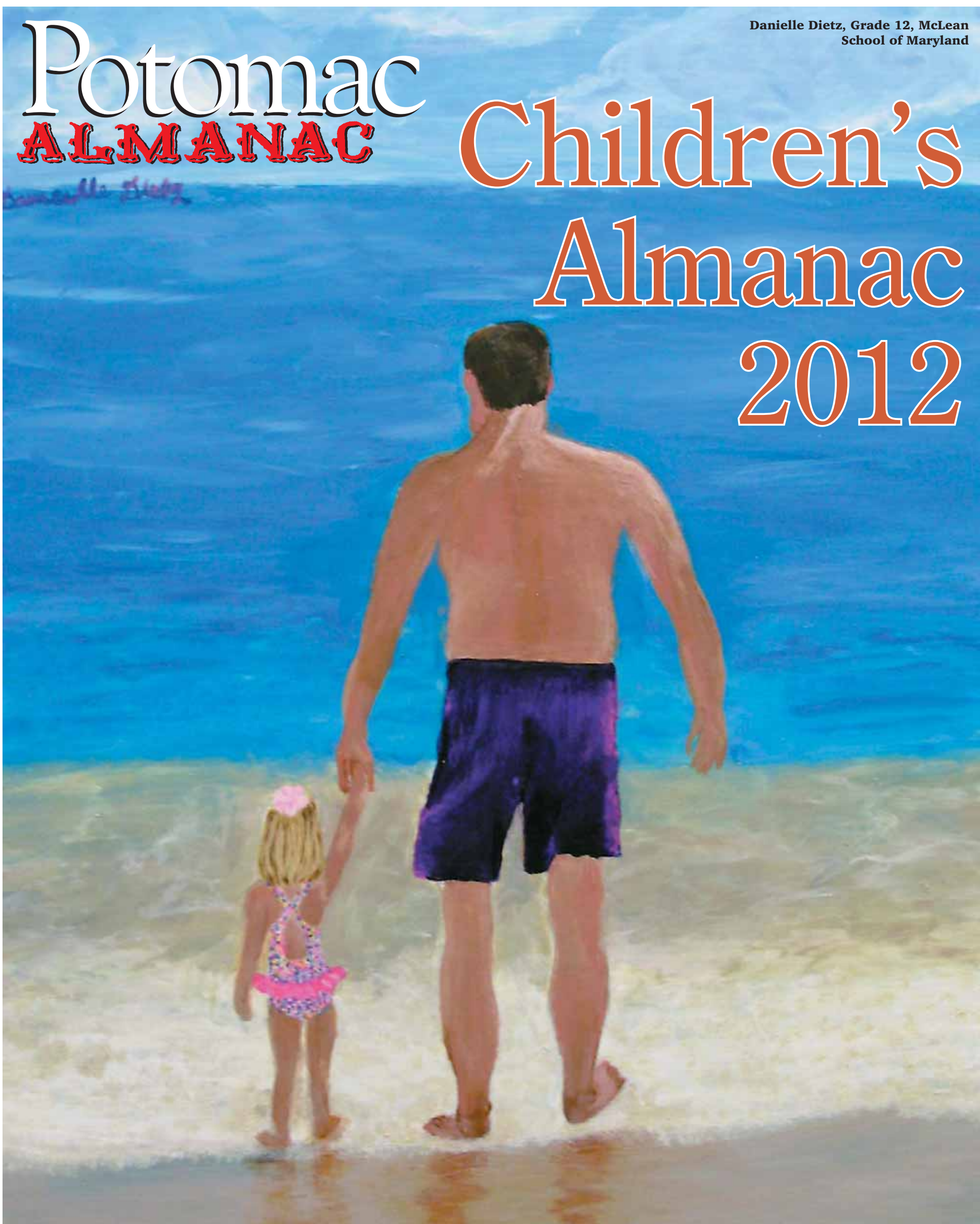


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Danielle Dietz, Grade 12, McLean
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Beach Dinner

Laughing so hard
At the table
Because Joey
Forgot
To cook the chicken
Only dipped in mayonnaise
Which he remembers
After the first
Smushy bite.

Outside dangling
Dangling
From the balcony railing
15 rainbow swimsuits
Hang to dry in
The salty ocean air.

Then Sadie says
The carrots
Aren't so bad
If you
Hold your nose
And shut your eyes
Everyone giggling
Into the sudsy
Mashed potatoes.

Looking back at
The bathing suits
Hanging limp from
Laughing so hard.

— GLORIA HERMAN

Thanksgiving

We're sitting at the table
on Thanksgiving night
saying our prayers
in Philadelphia

my little cousins are whining
elders are talking
everyone eating
having fun and
exhausted from playing outside
we all eat up
like we are hogs
trying new foods
all at our grandmother's
we play outside
with our bikes
and scooters
laughing and
racing
if we do not
have all of this fun
every year
we would miss it
very sorely.

— CHARLIE BUTCHKO

Thanksgiving Dinner

We are sitting at the table,
on the day of Thanksgiving,
with the turkey on the platter,
and the gravy on the side,
and we have two dogs,
one small, one big, to eat the scraps under the
table,
with the babies crawling around,
and the grandparents making faces and strange
noises,
and the babies smiling and laughing,
and the cranberry sauce,
now we are with the family,
big and small,
I hear the families talking,
joyous to all,
all so very thankful,
for the wonderful feast,
we can't wait 'til we dig our teeth in the turkey,
big and juicy,

SEE HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL, PAGE 5

MICHAEL ARAM
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Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Potomac Almanac 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 Almanac. 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 Almanac 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 almanac@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



**Madison Gramm,
grade 5, Bullis
School**



Print by Dayna, grade 8, Norwood School



**Jocelyn Norman,
grade 3, Bells
Mill Elementary
School**

**Alexa Powers,
6, grade 1,
The Woods
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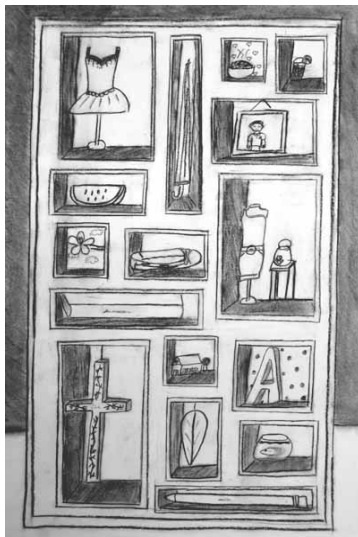
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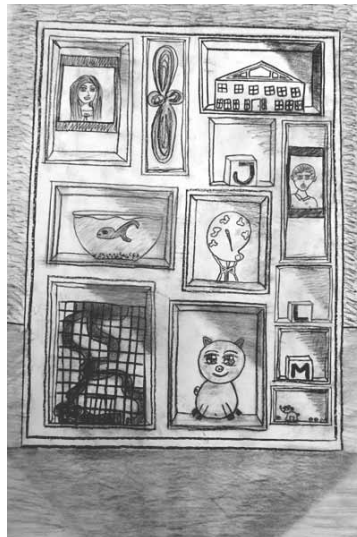


FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

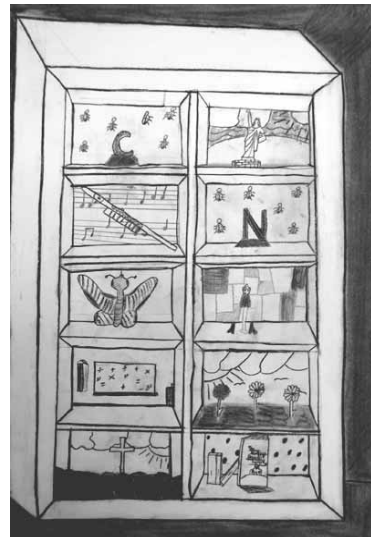
'Shelf Portraits'



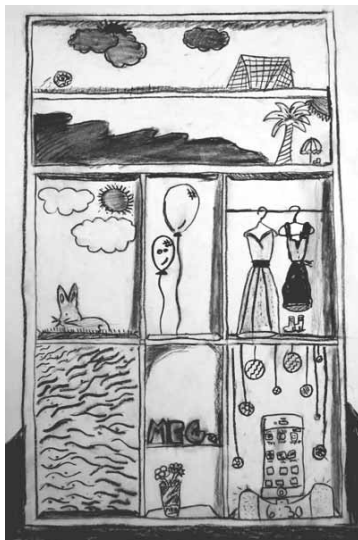
Anna Looney, 10, grade 5, Bethesda



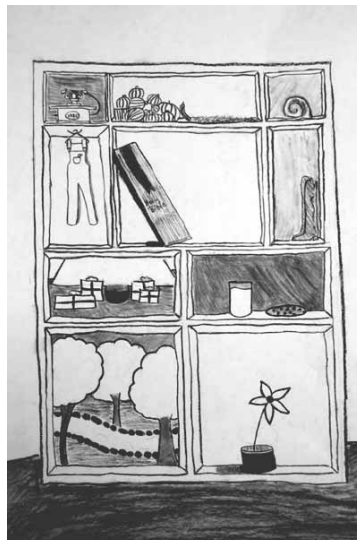
Julia Myers, 10, grade 5, Rockville



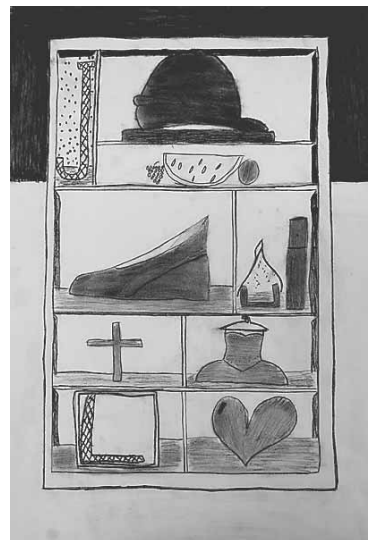
Charlotte Norris, 10, grade 5, Germantown



Marianthi Georgakopoulos, 13, grade 8, Potomac



Mia Blossom Baker, 11, grade 6, Ijamsville



Lou Johnston, 10, grade 5, Bethesda

'Mouse Paint'



Eva Lee, 5, Kindergarten, Rockville



Daniel Lee, 5, Kindergarten, Rockville

'Snow Globes'



"1 Corinthians 15:22" by Phoebe Hong, 8, grade 3, Potomac



"1 Corinthians 15:57" by Sara Cate Murray, 8, grade 3, Bethesda



"Isaiah 40:5" by Rachel Nokku, 8, grade 3, Rockville

HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 2

I smelled the yummy goodness,
of the roasted potatoes,
I can feel the dog's cold nose against
my knee,
and the warmth of the food in my
mouth,
I would miss everyone's wonderful
cooking,
(except for my Dad's — love him, but
he can't cook except for steak),
but I wouldn't care about this Thanks-
giving dinner,
and wouldn't look forward to Thanks-
giving,
unless I had it with cousins and fam-
ily.

— MICHAEL PRIMMER

Thanksgiving

We're sitting at the table,
All of us,
With trays of good food in front of us
When my brother says "But I want
more turkey!"
I say to myself "Ugh, give me a break."
Finally, Grandma announces, "Who
wants pie?"
That's the one part of Thanksgiving,
I'd surely never miss!

— TEDDY FREEMAN

Getting the Christmas tree

It's all ways fun
My dad getting lost in the woods
Almost every time
My little sis getting a cut
Crying and crying
Then there is me getting stuck in the

rut
Yes getting the tree is a wonderful
time

— KATHERINE KALIN

Dinner

We are sitting at the table, All four of
us;
with the curry's aroma filling our
noses and hearts
when mom asks "What did you do
today in school?"
addressing me and my sister,
I sigh as my sister tells a (very de-
tailed) description
of her day in school,
my father glances at me
as if to say
"Shh; your sister is talking"
I close my eyes
and think about "If my sister never
talked, dinner would be silence"
so I realize then
that we would miss my sister's chat-
ter during dinner.
I then remember when I was five,
I was a very talkative child;
I then realize that we would miss her
chatter,
if she never talked.

— SRILAHARI TAMMERA

Rainbow of Food

We are sitting at the table, laughing.
Mom and Dad are telling stories from
before.
The aroma of the turkey in the oven
fills the air.
There are cranberries, vegetables, and
wonderful desserts.
The table looks like a rainbow of
SEE HOOVER MIDDLE. PAGE 7

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Maira Rai-BMES



Stephanie Zoltick-BMES

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Melissa Finke-BMES



Naz Yavuz-BMES



Jenna Bergman-BMES



Eva Xiao-BMES



Dan Wei Zuo-BMES



Andrew Liu-BMES

HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 5

foods.
Dad brings out his famous turkey.
It is decorated with tomatoes and sea-
soning
that my brother and I helped arrange.
The mashed potatoes taste flavorful
and soft,
especially with gravy.
Without the food,
We wouldn't have a Rainbow or be
Happy on Thanksgiving!

— ANOUSHKA SHARMA

Holiday Dinner

We are sitting at the table,
all of us,
sighing with happiness
of too much food and laughter
and my mom says,
"When we were in Florida
and your sister
was just born
we had a house with a
pool and she would always swim in
it"....
So we listen and even
the splashes are part of it,
because If we didn't
know it we would miss
the fun she had.

— BEN PHAM

Thankful for family

It all starts
When we wake up in the morning
The Cowboys play their annual
Thanksgiving game
We have to wear
Our blue and white jerseys
And lunch
Is always from Boston Market

Turkey, chicken, stuffing
Mashed potatoes, and cranberries too
The table is a colorful display
Going around the table each
Saying our thanks
Then Dad my sister, and I enjoy some
chicken
While my Mom and brother enjoy
Classic turkey
Rooting for the Cowboys
Those Redskins have the lead
Over to my cousins' house
Where the whole family meets
All of the forty-something people
Chattering away
I've decided
Family is the best part of the day.

— DHILAN SHAH, II, POTOMAC

Thanksgiving Dinner

At my Grandma's house waiting for
dinner.
I start to smell that wonderful
smell of Turkey. Just that smell
and thought of the Turkey can
make me feel just like I was eating it.
Suddenly I hear, "Dinner's ready."
I immediately rush to the table and
finally my dream has come true.
I am now eating that wonderful Tur-
key.
Oh how I love the taste of juicy Tur-
key
with gravy on a Thanksgiving dinner
night.

— JULIA CHAMBERS

Thanksgiving Dinner

Bright lights come from the window
of otherwise dark homes
A rush of excitement rushes down my
spine
Even though we're completely lost
Trying to find the house where joy
will rise

We step in the cozy home
And greet new and old friends
I step in the kitchen
To find her standing over a pot

I laugh when I find out
That she can't boil water
We make dinner, a weird one though
And eat in front of the fireplace

I would forget anything
And remember everything
That happens today
Just because I'm thankful
Thanksgiving Dinner
We're sitting
Joyfully at the table
All of us
Together giving
Thanks....
Grinning at all the wonderful food
Dad says "thank you to all you have
given

Us and we want to say thanks
And to every day he gives
Us....
(Everyone clinging there
Glasses together)
Then we eat the delectable
Feast in joy
We would miss
That moment every
Year....
But until next year
Happy Thanksgiving

— AMY LEE

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"Morning Sun" Christopher Lindsay, 6, grade 1, Chinese Immersion, at Potomac Elementary School

The Hamster

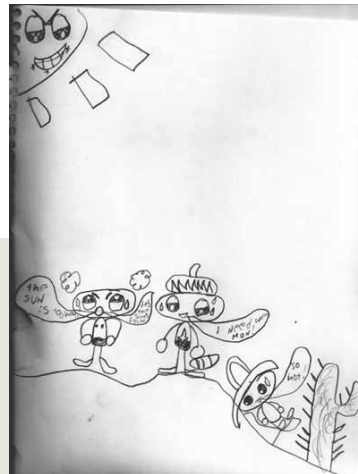
It travels on little feet.
It finds a cracker - mission complete!
It likes its wheel,
It goes to bed, and lays down its little head.

— ALEXANDER LINDSAY

Sunset

Fire overhead,
the color turns red.
A big red blanket in the sky
also rests there.

— ALEXANDER LINDSAY



"The Sun is So Hot," Alexander Lindsay, 9, grade 3, at Potomac Elementary School, with Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Entwistle



"Mom & Baby Horse," Kat Schneider, 7, Potomac Elementary School



"Penguin," Will Schneider, 5, Potomac Elementary School

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GENEVA DAY SCHOOL



3-D Multi-Media Collage, Angela Zhang, age 4, Open Classroom, Ms. Eads



Marble Paint Art, Blake Williams, 3, Open Classroom, Ms. Eads



Watercolor Booklet Art, Shivali Durbhakula, 3, Potomac 3s and Young 4s, Ms. Franzetti



Watercolor Stripes in Edged Paper, Nicholas Corona, 3, Ms. Franzetti



Tissue Paper Collage, Catalina Navas, 2, Rockville 2 year-olds, Ms. Franzetti



3-D Mult-Media Owl Art, Camryn Bogliano, 2, Potomac 2s and Young 3s, Mrs. Landres



Colored Chalk on Black Paper, Totatsu Yokogawa, 4, Rockville, Mrs. Pyle



Crushed Leaves and Paint Gingerbread Man, Elijah Liu, 4, Rockville, Mrs. Pyle



Medieval Self Portrait, Graham Haglund, 6, Bethesda Kindergarten Art History (Mrs. Korb), Mrs. Hepburn & Ms. Lieberman



Magic Marker Family Portrait, Adele Roca, 3, Potomac 3s and Young 4s, Ms. Franzetti

Colored Pencil Family Portrait, Seth Michaels, 5, Potomac Kindergarten Art History (Mrs. Korb), Mrs. Hepburn & Ms. Lieberman



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by Michael Matese

Moving Tips: The Month of Your Move!

So you've sold your house—congratulations! Now it's time to start thinking about moving. You need to be organized about being organized in order to ensure a smooth transition between homes. If you create a "work-flow" for your move date that starts at least a month before the big day, you minimize the amount of "curveballs" that could be thrown your way—and as we all know, life is full of those "curveballs" that challenge us! Here are some helpful tips to keep the stress to a minimum and help you to hit that curveball out of the ballpark! Happy moving!

2 Weeks Before Your Move

- Contact your bank and/or credit union to transfer or close accounts. Clear out safety deposit boxes. Pick up traveler's checks or cash for "on the road" expenses.
- Confirm travel arrangements for pets and family.
- Plan meals for the last week of the move to help empty the refrigerator and avoid using appliances that will already be packed.



1 Week Before Your Move

- Notify friends and family of your new address and phone number with a free Moving Notice.
- Finish packing and prepare an "essentials" box. Designate several moving boxes and items as "last load" items. Pack your suitcases and valuables separately.
- Fill any prescriptions or medications you will need for the next couple of weeks.

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Genevieve Thibodeau, 10, grade 5



Ellie Rubin, 9, grade 4



Sophia DeCain, 11, grade 5



John Mikita, 10, grade 5



Luke Dropolic, 9, grade 4



Megan Trivedi, 11, grade 6



Sidra Swift, 11, grade 6



Andrew Powers, 7, grade 2



Stefan Podpiera, 5, Kindergarten



Marissa D'Augustine, 5, Kindergarten



Jack Powers, 7, grade 2



Olivia Yang, 9, grade 4



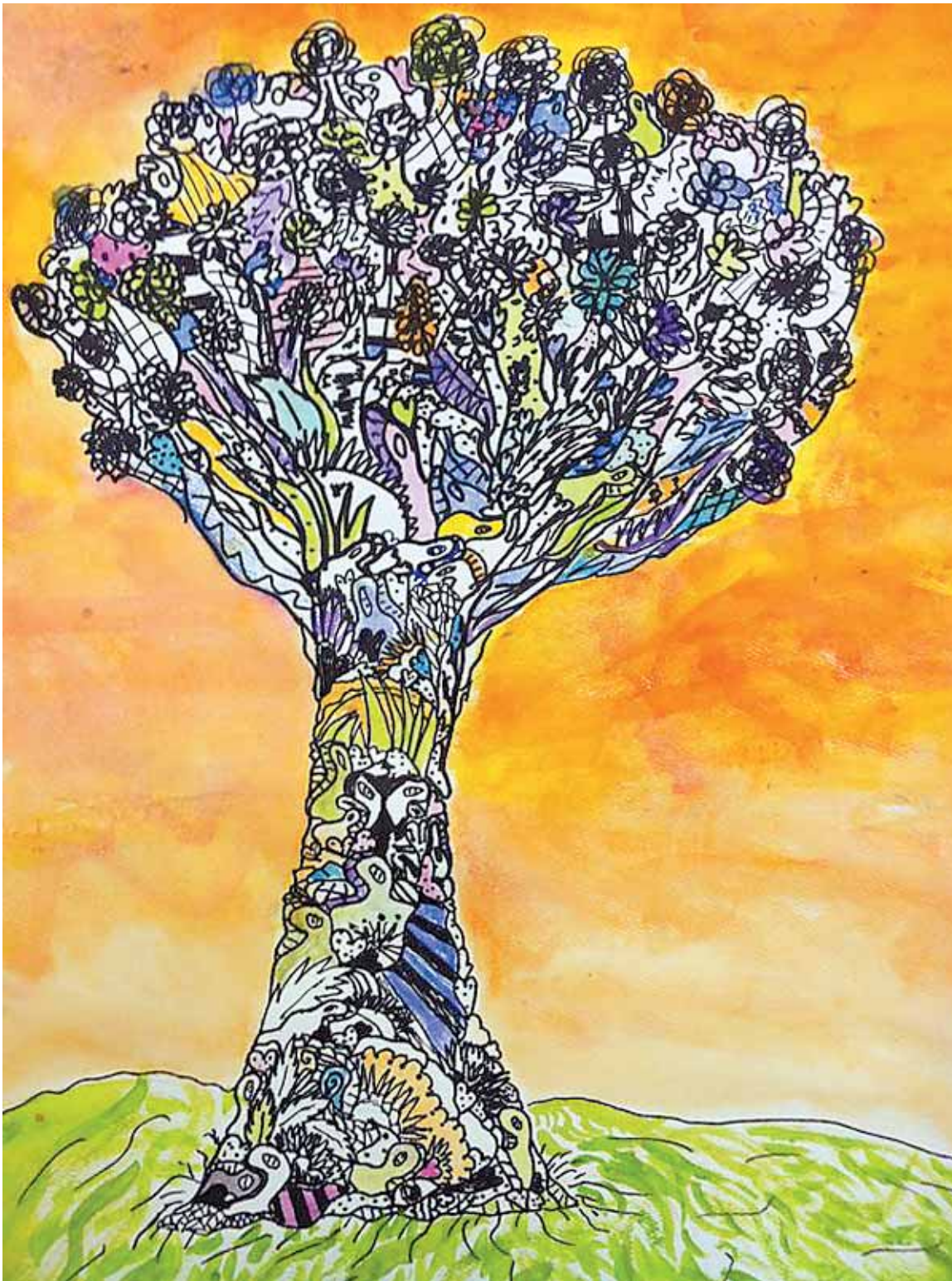
Natalie Pierce, 9, grade 4



Ryon Sarkarzadeh, 10, grade 5

BULLIS SCHOOL

Artwork from grades 4 and 5 at Bullis School.



Avery Ulanet, grade 5



Rachel Sita, grade 5



Marin Spilimbergo, grade 4



Coley Samuels, grade 4

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NORWOOD SCHOOL



Abstract composition by Anna, grade 6



Abstract painting by Celia, grade 4



Apple drawing by Mira, grade 3



Autumn collage by Oliver, Kindergarten



Geranium watercolor by Abbey, grade 4



Leaf drawing by Tabitha, grade 4



Landscape by Olivia, grade 8



Geranium watercolor by Evan, grade 4



Chair watercolor by Injoo, grade 3



Cityscape by Brad, grade 4



Drawing by Jessica, grade 5



Henry Moore inspired line drawing by Annie, grade 8



Henry Moore inspired line drawing by Audrey, grade 7



Picasso-inspired drawing by Simon, grade 8



Pumpkin watercolor by Kate, grade 1



Self-Portrait by Sam, grade 7



Self-Portrait by Connor, grade 7



Print by Ceci, grade 7



Print by Saam, grade 8



Turtle drawing by Cassidy, grade 1



Pumpkin watercolor by Gabi, grade 1



Print by Jake, grade 5



Print by Megan, grade 5

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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.

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