# Alount Vernon Gazette

# Children's Gazette 2013

Annabelle, Belle View Elementary School



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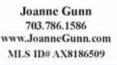


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## CHILDREN'S GAZETTE 2013

#### Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Mount Vernon 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. Because of the response, we will continue to publish more artwork and writings throughout January.

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 2014 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



Tree Tray, ceramics project, by Joyce, Bryant Alternative High School.



Dimitri Lemus, West Potomac High School — Charcoal Drawing, "In One Ear Out The Mind" www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Elizabeth, Grade 6, Mount Vernon Woods Elementary — Landscape Painting Mount Vernon Gazette & Children's Gazette & 2013 - 2014 & 3

## Mount Vernon Woods Elementary



Gaby, Grade 2 — Community Collage



It is important to volunteer because

— Andrea Pouncy

you can help people.

people have to feed them.



Neilsia Marquez, Grade 3



#### Volunteering

Responses to a class-wide prompt Simone Gardner's first grade students received after the students helped to make more than 350 sandwiches that were distributed to various shelters within the school's community.

Volunteering is helping because if you don't help nobody will like you. — Isreal Abbam

Volunteerism is important because you help homeless people. — Samuel Egan

Volunteering is important because other people have no food and they are dying. They need food to live and things to drink.

— Lynette Ajei

It is important to volunteer because you can help your family. – Kelvin Monge



Nasrullah, Grade 1 — Family Portrait

Independent Learners

Effective Communicators Community Minded - Balanced

DAY SCHOO

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It is important to volunteer because you can help people. It is nice to help people. Stephanie Delgado

Volunteering is important because some people are hungry so that is why volunteering is important.

I like to volunteer because we help people so we can make them happy. — Adriana Cortez-Diaz

Volunteering is hard because when you volunteer you have to make a change.

Volunteering is making food for people. Volunteering is helping people to live.

— Chris Tetteh

for Grades K-8

for Grades 5-8

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Kayla Nelson, Grade 3





Michael, Grade 1 — Family Portrait



Matthew, Grade 1 -**Animal Collage** 



Nathan, Grade 2 — Self **Portrait** 



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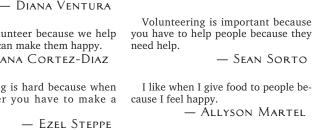
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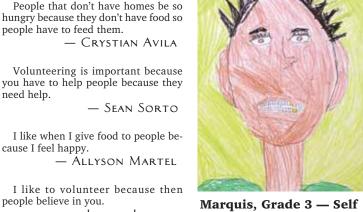
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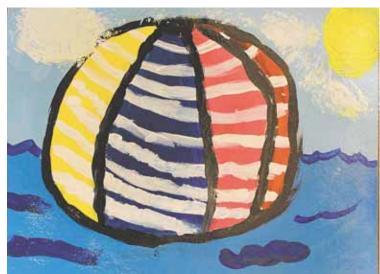
I like to volunteer because then people believe in you. JUSTIN JIMINEZ **Portrait** 

You have to volunteer because some people don't have money. – Haris Muhammad





## Belle View Elementary





Eliana Zelaya Hernandez,

Grade 4

Hailey Baldwin, Grade 6



Melanie Leon, Grade 4

Mac Mills, Grade 6



Ryan Harrell, Grade 3



**Gelsy Marenco, Grade 3** www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



**Rudy Lopez Perez, Grade 3** 



Angel Castro Villegas, Grade 4

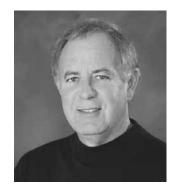
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Mt. Vernon is Rex's hometown. He moved here in 1960 when his father, an Air Force pilot, was stationed at the Pentagon. Rex also became a pilot, graduating from the Air Force Academy and flying for 20 years with the Air Force and Eastern Airlines.

Rex returned to his roots in Mt. Vernon where he and his wife, Doris, raised their four children, and where Rex embarked on a second career in Real Estate.

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## Hollin Meadows



Maddie Weinhagen, Grade 5 — Self-introduction

Hollin Meadows students have been studying Chinese with teacher Yuwei Chen: "At this time last year they couldn't understand what I was saying, but now they know Chinese words on colors, fruits, numbers, family members, days, weeks, school supplies, etc. They also can express their likes and dislikes. The attached is writing sample from 4th and 5th graders. Their handwriting is very nice even though they just started to learn writing Chinese characters this school year."



Stephanie Castro, Grade 4 — I Like

#### STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY



Tiger by Gunner Dutzman, Grade 3 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Matthew Luhman, Grade 5 — Self-introduction

	Marietoni
自我介绍	
1尔文子!	CAREEN .
我叫玛丽颜	
我九岁.	HAN MALL
抚喜欢 紫	€.
我喜又欠	草莓
我有哥哥	北有辦
我有处且文	且托设
<b>有</b> 友末 女末.	

Marietoni Thomas, Grade 4 — Self-introduction



Blake Berry, 6, Kindergarten

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#### TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY WELCOMES JEANNE WARNER

We proudly welcome Jeanne Warner, who has chosen to represent our services in our Old Town, Alexandria office. Jeanne has been a top producing real estate professional for over twenty-five years and specializes in properties in Northern Virginia and is also licensed in Washington, DC. Please contact Jeanne at 703 980 9106 or jwarner@ttrsir.com.





ARLINGTON \$3,995,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AR8207559 Offering dramatic views of DC and the Potomac, this 30th floor Waterview Residences penthouse provides elegant spaces suited for both entertaining and private relaxation. ROB CARNEY +1 703 927 4290



ALEXANDRIA \$3,700,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151 George Washington spent his last 4th of July in 1798 in this residence when it was once a tavern. The half-acre lot features a 2-car garage, swimming pool, and carriage house. ROY MELLONI +1 703 863 0077 ROXANE NUNES +1 703 470 9903



ALEXANDRIA \$2,900,000 | ttrsir.com/id/21064841 Exemplifying the heritage of beautiful Virginia architecture, yet embracing today's design elements, this home offers 5 bedrooms, pool and cabana on 1.3 acres, and is only minutes from Old Town. KAREN BARKER +1 703 928 8384 WETHERLY BARKER +1 703 965 9613



ARLINGTON \$2,825,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AR8191145 This Colonial in Lyon Village has 6 BRs, 5,5 BAs, approx. 6,400 sf, gourmet kitchen, full-house entertainment system, outdoor kitchen, walk to metro, shops and restaurants. JOHN ERIC +1 703 798 0097



ALEXANDRIA \$1,998,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX8202960 This stunning end-unit townhome in Old Town waterfront community offers 3 BRs, library, chef's kitchen, and a family room that leads to a brick patio. 2-car garage. VICTORIA KILCULLEN +1 703 915 8845



ALEXANDRIA \$1,495,000 This historic renovated home offers a blend of modern and traditional design, 3 BRs, 3 BAs, top-of-the-line kitchen, spacious LL, dramatic master suite, and off-street parking. HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183 MAXWELL RABIN +1 202 669 7406





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## West Potomac High School



Emma Schmidt — Color Pencil and Graphite Drawing, "Two-Faced"



Hiwan Adhanom, Grade 12 — Digital Art, "Looked Over"

Submissions by Art Instructor Amy Stoll.





Corrinne James — Graphite Drawing, "Butterfly Study"



Annelieske Sanders — Digital Photography, "Color Therapy"



Sarah Jessup — Acrylic Painting, Untitled



Melanie Bomberg — Digital Photography, Untitled



Emma Schmidt — Charcoal Drawing, "Elephants"

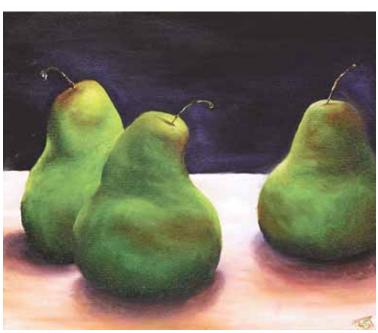
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Eve Hauptle — Analog Photography, Untitled



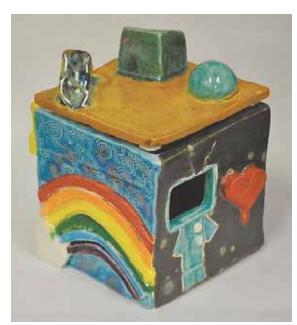
Zia Palmer — Digital Photography, Untitled



Kristi Thomas — Oil Painting, "Study of Oils"

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## BRYANT ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL



Elements of Art Cube, ceramics project, by Yanyra.



Clay Globe, ceramics project, by Nibiyu.



Mosaic Mirror by Natasha.



Tree Pitcher and Lid, ceramics project, by Rabidul.



Flower Tea Set, ceramics project, by Mahamuda.



**Car Tea Pot & Radiator Cups with Piston Stir-sticks, ceramics project, by Omar.** www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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## WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY









Rilyn McAllister



**Charlie Palumbo** 

Marin Britt



Joseph Bucca



**Annie Lebow** www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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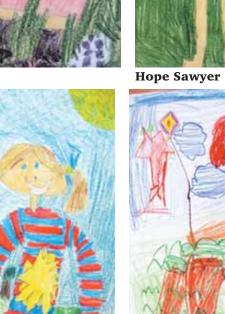


Vivian Mergen



Marley McBee 12 🏼 Mount Vernon Gazette 🔹 Children's Gazette 📚 2013 - 2014





Cecelia Mergen



Maya Turner











Ava Hilliard









Eden Flora



Allie Cooke

Maria Albuquerque



Evelyn Tomblin



Adam Woods Mount Vernon Gazette 🛠 Children's Gazette 🛠 2013 - 2014 🛠 13

## Burgundy Farm Country Day School



Landon Carter, Kindergarten Polar Bears



Virginia Voorhees, Kindergarten Polar Bears



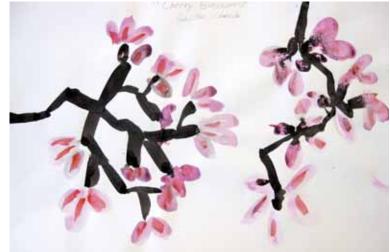
Alessandra Gonzalez-Acevedo, Kindergarten Polar Bears — Chalk drawings of rainbow



Siena Wilson, Grade 3



Kira Russell, Grade 6, used chalk pastel to draw this cat eye.



Santay Chrouk, Grade 4



Chloe Sable, Grade 6, used chalk pastel to draw this owl



Hans Wirkkala Burkholder, Grade 6, used chalk pastel to draw this Batpug.



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## GROVETON ELEMENTARY

The Gazette received a generous number of submissions for the annual Children's edition and will continue to publish them throughout January.

#### Must Chop Wood

You know sometimes something gets on your nerves so much you just want to scream. Well that happens to me. Not over something babyish like 'my shoes are dirty' or 'stop touching me.' It may be silly to you, but to me, I just can't stand it. You know those wooden, ahhh, sticks, oooh, you use for ice cream at school. Well when I even imagine it rubbing against my teeth I just want to scream.

— Yasır Khan, Grade G

#### Minecraft

Minecraft, a beautiful game about (as the name suggests) mining and crafting items to support your survival in the wilderness. There are 3 worlds to travel through (2 of the worlds are filled with evil): your home world, The Overworld: the evil opposite, The Nether; and the dark and gloomy world, home of the Enderdragon and enderman alike, The End (yes, that's what it's called)!

Now, about the Overworld; it's your classic Utopia (with the exception of skeletons, zombies, enderman, creepers, silverfish, all trying to kill you), but on the bright side, there's sheep to shear, pigs to eat, Ender Pearls to collect, and much more!

My most current adventure has been rather challenging. It all began when I decided in the tutorial to find a certain cabin in the woods. But on my way, I made a mistake I will always regret.

On the stroll, I saw the biggest village I've ever seen located in the middle of the desert. It was a mistake because I stayed WAAAYYY too long, so on the way back, I was ambushed by the one and only creeper! I was going home to my grand castle made from silverfish stone (which seriously makes no sense), ever since then, I've been trying to get my items back.

- KWABENA MCGANEY-OSEI, GROVETON E.S. GRADE G

#### **Decorating our Tree** at Reagan National

We finally were allowed to get out of Ms. Mariano's sea blue car. JL had been talking about topics that I don't even recall to Ms. Mariano. I waved to the other students as they got out of their cars as well.

Stepping in to the Reagan National Airport, I could see large lime tiles on the walls. I was bursting with excitement. Soon enough, all of us saw three to four small pine trees. They each had a large, gold ribbon on the top in replacement of a star and a paper star in the center with a school's name.

I placed the small cardboard box containing the handmade ornaments and grabbed colorful, paper garland, wrapping it near the bottom of our tree. The large box soon was empty and I grabbed a silver ornament and placed it on the tree. It took a while to actually finish the tree to perfection, but it was done beautifully

Who's taking the pictures first?! I thought as the teachers started snapping photos. "Ho, ho, ho!" a jolly voice exclaimed. We all turned to see a man with a red and white outfit and a long white beard. That made me think of last year, when JL told me about PJ and Santa having a dance-off. I wondered who won last year.

Chelsea grabbed PJ's arm. "You should like do a dance competition with www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Santa, like last year!" Chelsea told him. "Er, I need backup dancers," PJ stated. I glanced over at the other school's tree and could see the Santa having pictures taken of him and some other students.

"PJ challenges you to a dance contest!" Chelsea told Santa once he arrived.

"Were you here last year?" Santa asked PJ. He remembered?!! I thought, surprised. After a few minutes of negotiating, the two started doing Gangnam Style, like last year. Laughs were heard at every corner and random people started staring. "Aw, it's over," I said a few minutes

later.



"Last year was longer," JL said. As we walked towards a dining spot, we passed by a Dunkin Donuts stand. "Donuts," I said to myself, sniffing the smell

of glazed donuts as I kept walking forward. It was a long walk towards the destination, I thought it would take an hour to get there. Luckily it only took half an hour, I think ... maybe ... maybe not.

As I munched on my lunch, I thought about the cookies I found on a similar table to the one I was at. People started coming with a tray of different types of cookies such as oatmeal, sugar, and chocolate chip. We mainly chose chocolate chip. Chelsea came with another batch of chocolate chip cookies.

While I ate my cookies, I stared at the four cookies on Danny's paper plate. After a few minutes of plotting my plan to steal those cookies, a few different

people came over to give us candy canes and pins.

Soon, it was time to go. It was dangerously quiet on our way back to Groveton. I walked towards recess and grinned.

— KAIA LE, GRADE G

#### Swimming

When I dive into water it feels like a windy chill going through my body, a vibration, I start moving my arms, and my spirit comes out. I get almost to the top, I feel life coming back to my body, and reality comes, I belong to the water.

– Jasmine McGee, Grade



## **GROVETON ELEMENTARY**

Submitted by Nikki Oditt, art specialist



Madeline Donner, Grade 5



Clara Hernandez, Grade 5



Kaia Le, Grade 6



Lisa Oiki, Grade 3 Daelin Swanson, Grade 2 16 🔹 Mount Vernon Gazette 🔹 Children's Gazette 🔹 2013 - 2014

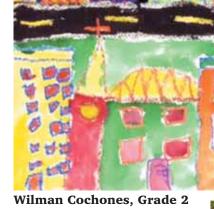


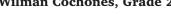


Umar Aziz, Grade 5



Jose Justiniano Cazzol, Grade 5

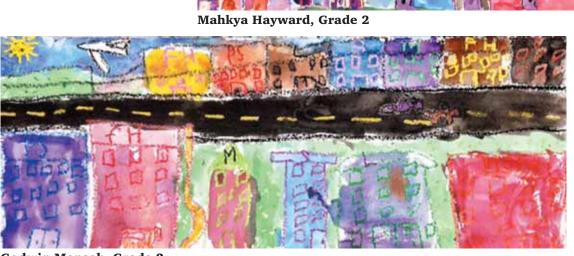






Stephanie Mendoza, Grade





Godwin Mensah, Grade 2



Benayas Debela, Grade 4



Josue Lorenzo, Grade 4



Petra Griner, Grade 3

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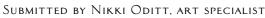
## **GROVETON ELEMENTARY**



Justin Edwards, Kindergarten



Sheyda Hossaini, Kindergarten





Elizabeth Serwaa, Kindergarten



Samuel Oteng, Grade 6

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## BROWNE ACADEMY



Ryan McGlynn, 14, Grade 8, Mrs. Lam



Jillian Swain, 11, Grade 6, Mrs. Lam



Jasmine Rice, 9, Grade 4, Mrs. Lam



Mykaila Walters, 13, Grade 8, Mrs. Lam



Sadie Lagerquist, 5, Kindergarten, Ms. Bildner



Chessie Pandolfe, 13, Grade 8, Mrs. Lam



Erika Walton, 13, Grade 8, Mrs. Lam



Reese Gayle, 14, Grade 8, Mrs. Lam



## HOLLIN MEADOWS



#### Stone Soup

I am making a stone soup in my house. First, I add on it a stone in the pot. I pour in the water and turn on the heat. Next, I add a carrot in the pot and it bubbled and bubbled. It smelled good that time. Now I think it needs some onions. Then, I add three onions and the pot bubbled and bubbled and it smelled good that time. But now it will taste better with salt and pepper. Then I add some salt and pepper and the pot bubbled and bubbled. MMM... now it needs some mushrooms. Then, I add some mushrooms and it bubbled and bubbled. It smelled good. I think it still needs some broccoli. Last, I add broccoli and the pot started to bubble and bubble and smelled good that time. It is ready to eat. I yelled, "Boo!" to my family and they woke up. I said, "It's time to eat stone soup." Last, we had a feast.

— Emeli Lopez, G, Grade I



First, this is my best friend. We met when I was in Kindergarten on the carpet. Her name is Lydia. Next, I always play with her because she is my best friend. I like playing tag with my friend. Now I am happy because this week I am going to my best friend's house and I know I will watch a movie. Last, I go home and we

say goodbye. At home I eat dinner. My dinner is pizza with pasta.



WOODLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY



Vera Gyamfi, Grade 3

#### BROWNE ACADEMY

#### Mom and Me at Mikki's Party

We are at the rock climbing place. I can't wait to go climbing on the rock wall! I want to make it to the top so badly

It is my turn. The instructor hooks the big clip to me then I put my two hands on the rocks, then my two feet on the rocks and I climb and climb. My heart is



**Neighborhood Center -United Community Ministries** 

pounding. I can hear people cheering me on. "Go Victoria go! You can do it!" they

— Judeleah Reyes, G, Grade I

scream. I knew I can. I keep on climbing and climbing to the top and ring the bell. I

am so proud that I made it to the top. "Hold on to the rope as you come down, and use your feet to push off the

wall," says the Instructor. I hold onto the rope tightly as he lowers me down. I use my feet to push of off the wall as I come down. I am a little scared.

I touched the ground. I run over and give my mom a hug, and say, "Thank you for bringing me to the party."

Victoria Ebron, 9, Grade 3, Ms. Lee

Fort DuPont

In D.C there is this little ice rink called the Fort DuPont Ice. I usually go there on Saturday and Sunday to practice or play hockey. As soon as you walk up the long flight of steep stairs and open up the metal doors, you get a cold gust of icy air that stands up every hair on your body. Then you hear the coaches yelling, the refs blowing their whistles, and parents cheering for their kids. If you keep walking, you see all the moms sitting in the heated lobby in their winter coats and mittens. Further on you see and smell the tiny locker rooms filled with large hockey bags and hockey sticks and jackets. Then if you continue

walking down the white-walled, lockerlined hallway, you end up by the Zamboni area. If you look up you can see the little party room with murals of ice skating on the walls. Even though it may not be the nicest rink in the world, I still like it and I love playing hockey there

MATTHEW LETTIERI, 11, Grade G, Mrs. Gerber

#### Thanksgiving

Here comes the Charlie Brown balloon, floating in the air above the crowd of New York. The crowd is roaring with passion, with grandeur, and with emo-

I wonder what the parade looks like for the people in skyscrapers looking down on Charlie Brown? I wonder what the parade looks like for the people looking up at Charlie Brown?

Are the people in skyscrapers happy, are they scared, are they confused, are they sad?

Next Snoopy, the giant dog, floats by. He is white with black spots.

My uncle shouts out, "The food is ready!" I rush over to the table and sit down carelessly.

My uncle grabs 9 paper plates and sets them out on the table.

He asks everybody to go wash their hands before we eat. Before we can eat. we huddle up like a herd of animals and say a family prayer.

My dad asks, "MJ, can you tell us

what you are thankful for?" Now, I become nervous. I say, "I am thankful for a good family, for food, and for health." We all say Amen.

I feel really well to be a part of the family prayer.

– Marvin Forbes, 8, Grade 3, Mr. Lowder

#### Me, Dad, and the End of The Righty Tighty Lefty Loosy.

"5..4..3..2..1," the announcer says in a deep voice, "lift off!" The rocket shoots a flame that is red and orange. I named it the Righty Tighty Lefty Loosy. It looks like a cruise missile that is not armed. My heart starts beating. The sun is so bright that I have to squint to see the rocket

Earlier, Dad and I drove for one hour to reach the Plains of Virginia, where we would launch our newly made model rocket called the Righty Tighty Lefty Loosy.

shoot, deploy!" I yell at the rocket. That's when it decides to catastrophically fail. Suddenly, the nose cone points straight down. The engine pops out. The shoot doesn't deploy. It is a long, steady, boom! "No!" I scream to myself.

We sprint over to the rocket. "Oh my gosh!" I pant, "That run took us twenty minutes! I am tired out of my mind!"

Then, we see the destruction. My mouth drops open. The nose cone is buried six inches deep in the ground. The side has a huge dent. "This rocket is definitely not in flying shape," my dad says. "Definitely not," I agree. "This rocket will never see the sun again," I say.

(By the way we took the stickers off and re-painted it to have a neon green rocket with a black spiral.)

— Тімотну Lis, 9, Grade 3, Mr. Lowder

#### Deep Creek Lake

My favorite place in the world is Deep Creek Lake, Md. I feel the cold breeze against my skin. Sometimes I get goose bumps. I smell the scent of fresh lake water. It is clean. I hear motorboats and people swimming. The motorboats are loud. I see forests on the banks of the lake. I taste the mist from splashing water. Sometimes my father and I go fishing in the lake. We go fishing early in the morning before the sun is done rising. After we catch enough fish, we go home and clean the fish. The cold wet scales fly all about and get on everything. When they are clean, we heat up a frying pan and fry the fish. The fresh, warm, flaky fish fillets taste delicious. I love my lake house.

- Anthony Dmytrijuk, 12, GRADE G, MRS. GERBER

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ma lime thy

Ty Renner, Grade 4





ART AT THE CENTER

Submissions by Kathryn Coneway, Lori Kelly,



Katie Cunningham, 10 — mixed



Zoe Brokamp, 9 — Zoo



Maggie Campione, 6 — flowers

#### Aquinas Montessori



Sasha Angielski, 7, Mrs. **Messinger's Lower Elementary** 

"I am thankful for my family and friends, for my books, and for animals, and Christmas too. I am also thankful for plants that give us fresh air, and a house to live in. That is what I am thankful for.



Sophie Geller, 7, Ms. Walker's **Lower Elementary Class** 



Bernice Bendsen — The Garden

"The Garden is a moving growing piece of art. Feel free to move, remove or add to it. It is what it is and nothing more." B.B.



**Ruth Keller, 4** — House



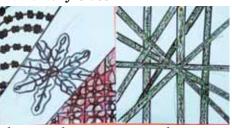
Edward Stone, 5 — Colonial Flag



Vivien Dobrescu, 7, Ms. Walker's **Lower Elementary Class** 



Nate Sinn, 7, Ms. Walker's Lower **Elementary Class** 



Alyssa Nolan, 10, Upper Elementary Class

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## 2013 FCFT President's Award

for Outstanding Advocacy for the Employees of FCPS

Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District) Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield District) Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill District) Patty Reed (Providence District) Sandy Evans (Mason District) Dan Storck (Mount Vernon District) Tammy Derenak Kaufax (Lee District) Ryan McElveen (At-Large) Janie Strauss (Dranesville District) Pat Herrity (Supervisor: Springfield District) Kaye Kory (Delegate: 38th District)

> Other Award Winners: Phyllis Pajardo (FCPS) Louise Epstein (FEC) Michael Hairston (FEA) Erica Hendry (media)

The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers would like to thank all of the 2013 award winners listed above for their consistent advocacy, proactive communications, and support of our workforce over the past year. We publicly acknowledge their efforts to make a difference in the lives of FCPS employees. Thank you for caring about us; it matters and is appreciated.



