

Oak Hill ❖ Herndon  
**CONNECTION**

By Mahi Nair, grade 7, Rachel Carson Middle School.

# Children's Connection 2014

DECEMBER 31, 2014 - JANUARY 6, 2015

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



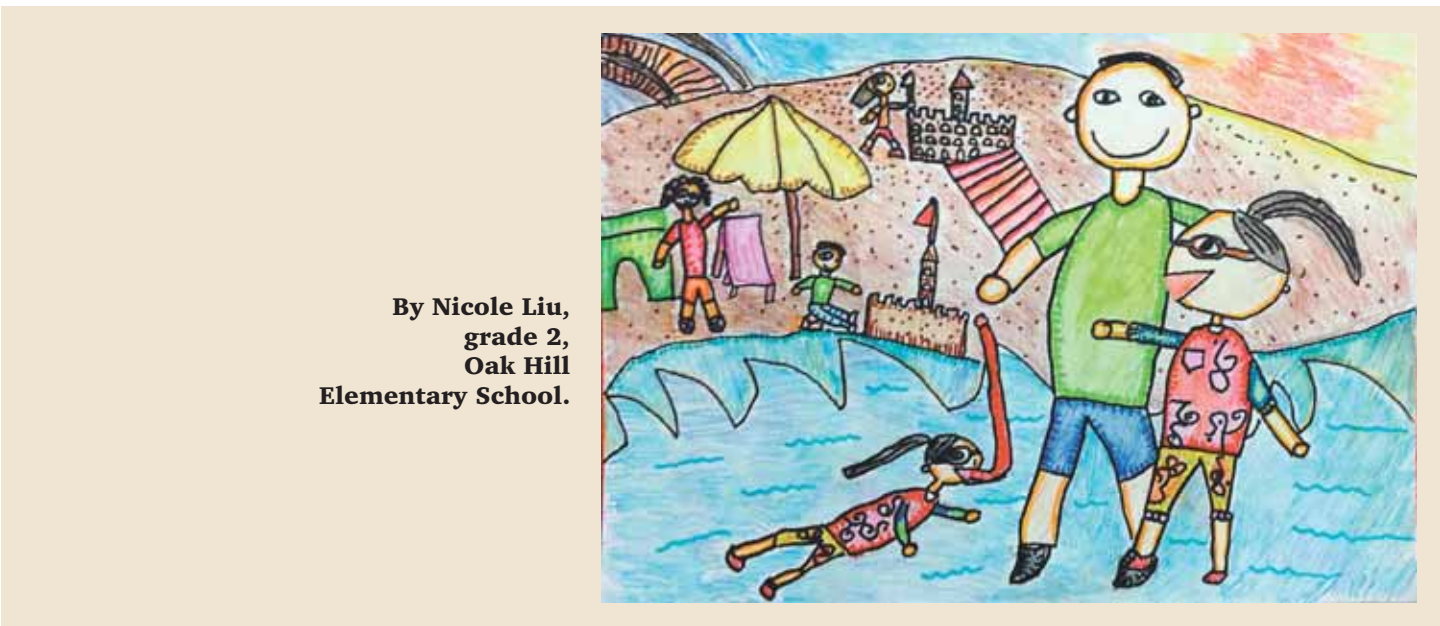
By Madeline, Floris Elementary School.



By Larissa, Floris Elementary School.



By Dipa, Floris Elementary School.



By Nicole Liu,  
grade 2,  
Oak Hill  
Elementary School.

## When I Grow Up...

Hello! Today I am going to talk about what I want to be when I grow up. I want to be an artist because I get inspired by art like the Leonardo da Vinci painting of Mona Lisa. Da Vinci tried to get Mona Lisa to smile. It was a lot of work, but he never gave up. Finally he got Mona Lisa to smile. Pablo Picasso's art is unique. He said lovely things like ... You can dream and it can come true. I like art!

— AANYA SONI,  
GRADE 2,

FLORIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

When I grow up, I want to be a rocket engineer. I love engineering and my mom is one. At home I love fixing and making things. I am making a radio circuit. When a toy breaks I try to fix it. I never give up. When I grow up, I am going to watch my rocket launch.

I am going to work hard like a mad scientist! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! My favorite fairy in Disney Land is Tinker Bell.

Tinker means builder. I hope I will be a good engineer!

— MEHA MISHRAI,  
GRADE 2,

FLORIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I want to be a singer when I grow up. I want to be a singer because I don't have stage fright.

Also I love to be in front of people and I like to have attention. I have been singing since I was two!! My favorite song is, Shake It Off. The artist of that song is Taylor Swift. I always ask my mom to turn on Hits 1 or Z100 because Shake It Off is always on there. I love to sing!!

— KAYLEIGH BURSCH,  
GRADE 2,

FLORIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

When I grow up I want to be a pet doctor. I am going to check animals and if the animals are hot or have a fever, I will send them straight to the animal hospital.

I will watch the animal if it gets surgery to make sure everything goes right. I will think of different ideas to make my animals feel better. Maybe if I give it rest and medicine it will get better.

Or maybe animal hot chocolate will make it feel good.

— AMULYA KARUR,  
GRADE 2,

FLORIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

HERNDON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC  
703-778-9414 OR HERNDON@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



By Annie Zhu, grade 8, Rachel Carson Middle School.



By Irina Simonenko, Langston Hughes Middle School.

## Welcome

**D**ear Readers: This week, the Oak Hill/Herndon 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 2015 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 school pages.

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



By Kayla Gault, grade 6, Dranesville Elementary.

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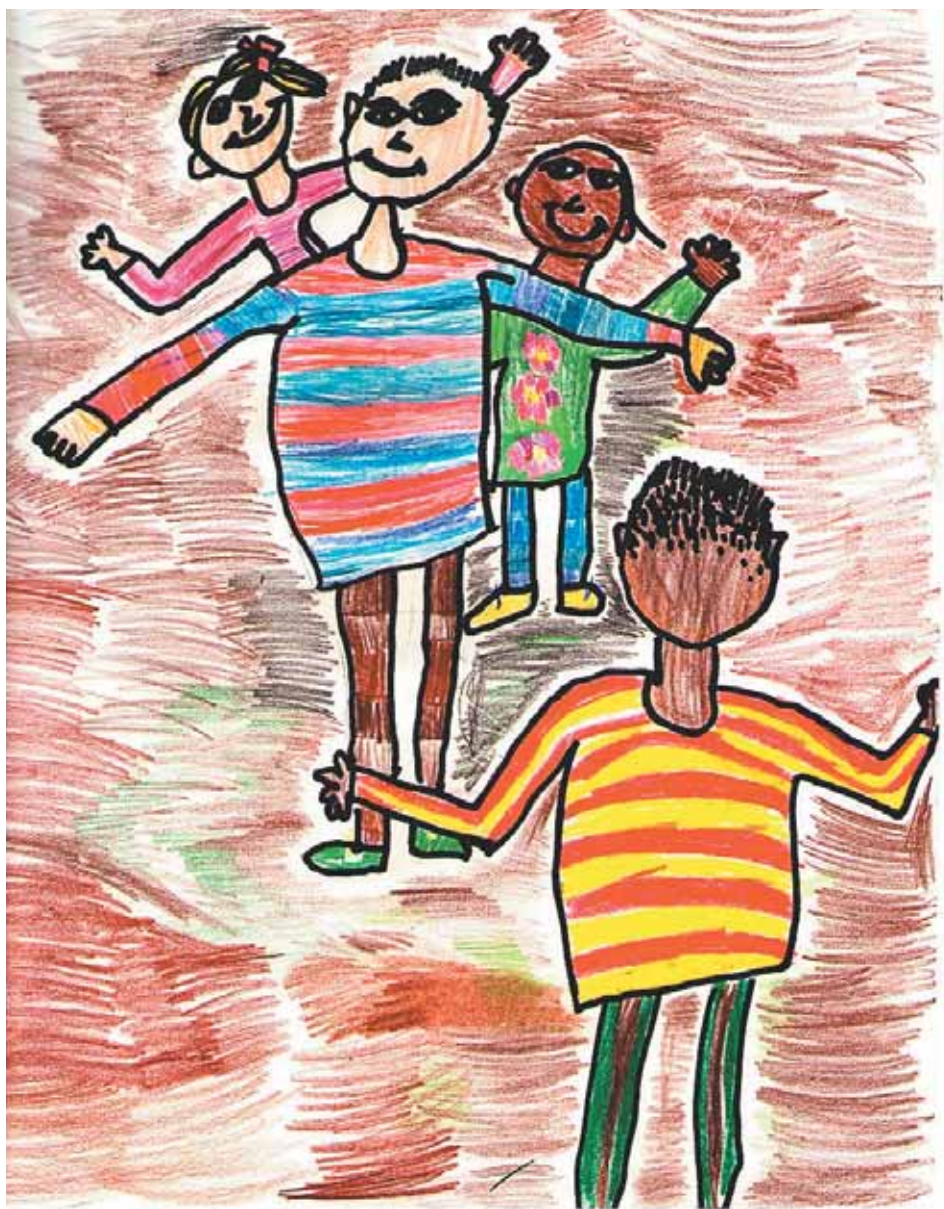


By Rachel Cooper, grade 8, Rachel Carson Middle School.

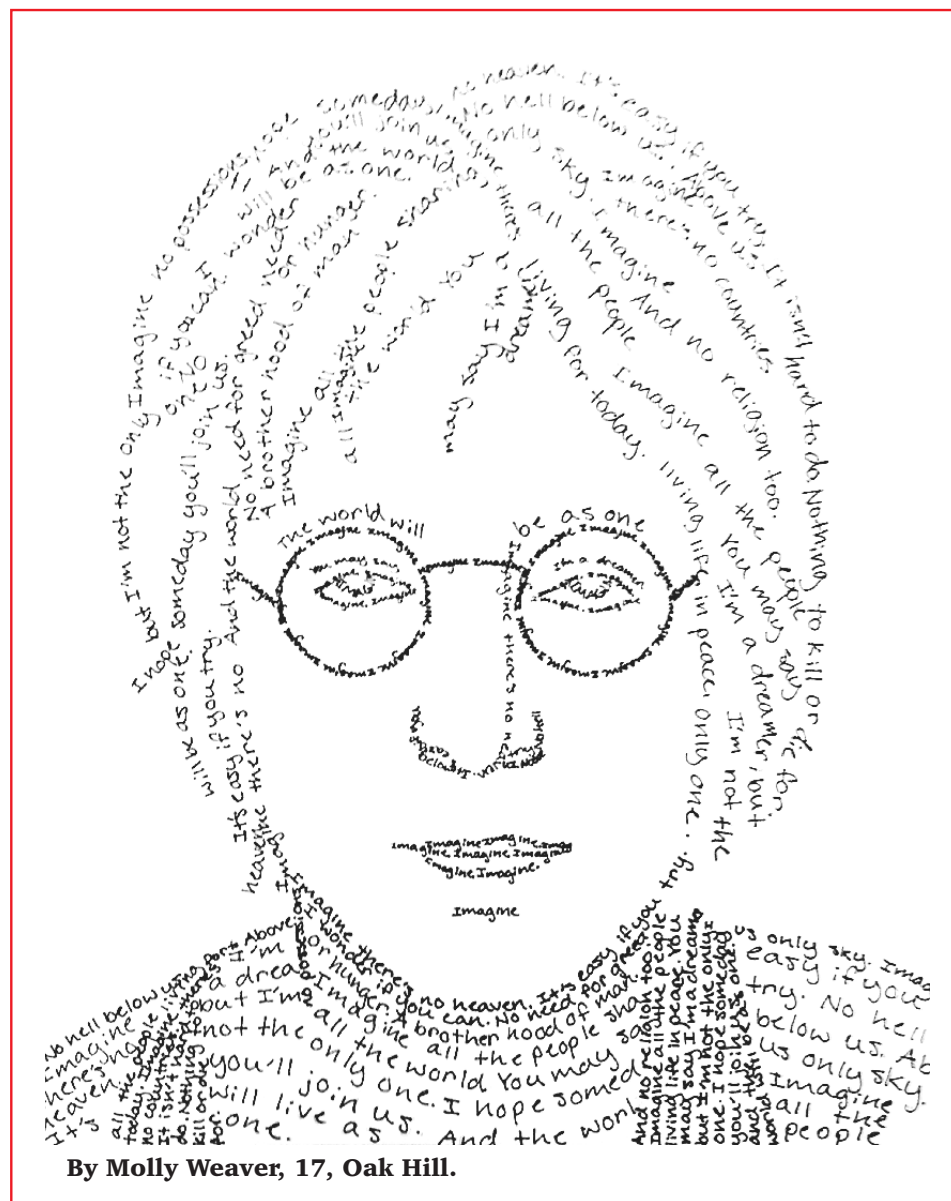
By Emilia, Floris Elementary School.



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Danny Lin, grade 1, Crossfield Elementary.



By Molly Weaver, 17, Oak Hill.



By Anjana Nair, grade 10, South Lakes High School



By Samantha Malzahn, grade 10, South Lakes High School.

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By Nicholas Lin Carson, grade 8, Rachel Carson Middle School.



By Jocelyn Li, grade 7, Rachel Carson Middle School.

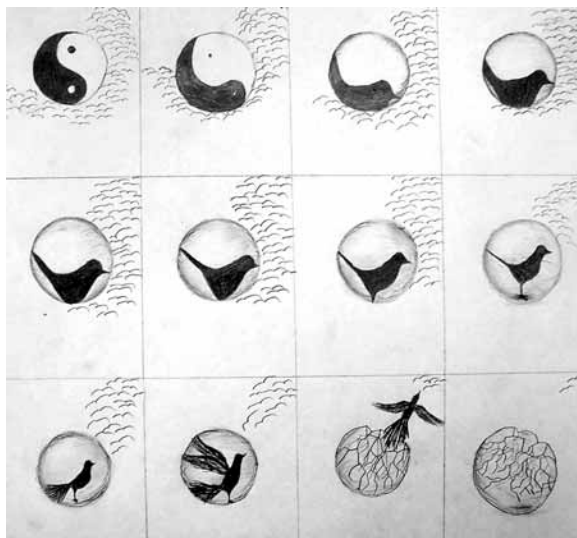


By Katelynn Wang, grade 3, Sunrise Valley Elementary School.



By Marieli Urbana, grade 7, Rachel Carson Middle School.

By Anna Pacia Carson, grade 7, Rachel Carson Middle School.



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By Lauren Hannafin, grade 5



By Alison Silas, grade 6



By Cyrus Rivers, grade 4



By Sally Chang, grade 6



By Alina Gaularia, grade 6



By Pranati Nadevalura, grade 2

## HUNTERS WOODS ART GALLERY



By Srinija Kovvali, grade 6



By Lisa Carlen, grade 6



By Dhruv Sarang, grade 4



By Karen Lainez-Diaz, grade 4



By Catherine Xu, grade 6



By Trudy, grade 8, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

# Gifts that Money Can't Buy

BY 5TH GRADERS AT DRANESVILLE ELEMENTARY

I would like to give my mom a present that doesn't cost any money. This would be fantastic because I'm just a kid and I don't have a lot of money to buy her something. I'm thinking even a little thing like cooking and cleaning for her would be helpful. I think I should help clean because there is very little time for my mom to relax. She deserves this gift because she does so much for me and I do so little for her. If I do this we will finally have time to relax together.

— CESAR RAMOS

A present I could give to my parents could be to clean the house. First of all, my parents are great. They've been there for me when I was sad or sick. So I want to give them something to remember this Christmas.

I know I'm going to help around the house more because they always need a hand to help clean. I'm going to cut out coupons for them to use. I'm also going to do the laundry and clean the tables.

These are the gifts I will give to my parents to show them I care.

— ANTHONY MALDONADO

If I could give a gift to my parents, it would be breakfast in bed. I would do this because it would make them happy and they also deserve it. They deserve it because they always work so hard. I would make them a card to go with the breakfast. This card would have something nice and something that comes from the heart. They also should have a chance to have a break from all the fighting that goes on around the house between my sister and me. This is why I want to give my parents a gift.

— ASHLEY KNOLL

A present I could give my parents that doesn't cost any money would be a break from cooking dinner and helping them clean. My parents deserve this help because they do a lot of hard work to give us what we want. I love my mom and dad a lot.

I would play soccer with my dad because he likes to play soccer. Then I would draw my mom a picture of a heart that says "I love

you." I love my mom and dad more than people can imagine!

— YAIR SOSA SERRANO

Presents I would give my parents that wouldn't cost any money would be something for my mom. I would give her a colorful homemade necklace. I would give it to her because she likes necklaces and she deserves it because she always takes care of me.

For my dad I would give him a book that I made. The book would be about how much I care about him and how much he helps me. My dad likes to read and he deserves it because he's always there to help me.

— NICK AVELAR

I would love to give my mom a gift. It would be to help her with my baby sister. I could entertain her by playing with her. I would give my mom this gift because she does so much for my family.

My mom cooks every day for us. So if I help her take care of my baby sister, she'll have more time to do things she likes to do. This is the gift I would give my mom.

SEE GIVING, PAGE 9

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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

# Giving the Gifts of Love

FROM PAGE 8

because I love her so much and I want to help her in any way I can.

— CRIS LAINEZ-LAINEZ

Dear Mom,

I want to make you a dinner so that you don't have to cook, like you always do. That is going to be my present to you. I will prepare your favorite beef dish with a salad and rice. It is going to be very special.

I am going to do this for you because you work a lot and you love me and I love you. You are the best mom that I could ever have and this is why you are so special to me.

— JOSUE ESCALANTE

## The Gift of Love

What would I give to my parents for free? Obviously, love. "Why?" you ask, since you ask, I will tell you. First, love is endless. You can never give enough love to anyone. Your parents especially. Also, your parents deserve the love. You may say that you give your parents all the love in the world. You don't. Your parents give you TEN TIMES the love. Furthermore, some kids don't even have parents. You are VERY lucky. There are kids ALL over the world who don't have parents. As you can see, I know love is the perfect gift.

— LAINEY BRADLEY,

DRANESVILLE ELEMENTARY

## The Gift of Shoveling

If I could give my parents anything that didn't cost anything it would be me shoveling snow in the winter! Every winter I am the one who is inside watching tv while my parents are outside shoveling snow the entire day. Most of the time their only break is for breakfast, lunch and, dinner. Every year when they shovel I only help a tiny bit.

This winter it's going to be me who's shoveling snow and with little help from my parents. They will be so happy for a rest!

— MATTHEW NEACH,

DRANESVILLE ELEMENTARY

## The Gift of Breakfast

What would I give my parents if you could give them anything that didn't cost any? I would give my parents a nice, simple, tasty and relaxing breakfast.



"Mom and baby brother," by Yuxin Ni, grade 2, Oak Hill Elementary School. "Yuxin had a baby brother this summer and she loves him so much. Therefore she made a drawing about mom and her baby brother," wrote Yuxin's mother.



"My mom" by Jeffrey Zheng, Crossfield Elementary.

I would give my parents a breakfast for three good reasons below. My first reason it's not too hard. Personally I like cooking as a hobby. Furthermore you don't have to be as creative as you might think. You can just look up a recipe. My last reason is it helps your parents as well it shows you

are learning several different skills. It could help you in activities like camping and staying in college.

These are some of my best reasons why. Hope this was useful for making a present!

— MAHA NALLABOLA,

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# Level Best



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If I wanted to rationalize the benefit of delaying my heretofore every-three-week chemotherapy infusion from three weeks to four and now on to five, possibly six – and that's dependent on improved results from a second/maybe even third retest upcoming (this retest a bit more involved than drawing blood) – I would say it's only fitting that I should have a break/brake; after all, it is the holiday season when all good things; yada, yada, yada. If only it were that simple.

But simple is the last thing that a cancer patient's life can be characterized as being; whether they have been "prognosed" as "terminal" as I was, or are at the beginning (diagnosis), middle (under treatment and surviving under circumstances too numerous and varied to list) or end of their cancer-affected life. And so for me to expect smooth sailing at any time during this process is totally and entirely unreasonable – and mostly, I haven't. I'm just lucky to be in a boat with a few provisions still left in it. Ergo, this column is not a complaint, just an update, as the previous few columns had sort of led you regular readers on a bit of a walk in my shoes, although one likely without the neuropathy nearly six years of non-stop chemotherapy can exact. Still, I am mostly upright, up and about and able to handle any and all activities, especially those relating to daily living. However, right now I worry that after two consecutive three-week-interval, pre-chemotherapy lab results specifically measuring my creatinine levels (which reflects kidney function), and a second retest as well, all indicated too high/abnormal (a first-time occurrence), thereby preventing my regularly scheduled Alimta infusions – twice – if I have indeed crossed the Rubicon, so to speak. Obviously, it serves no particular purpose for me to invoke history, especially history with which I have very little familiarity. However, if some of what I've read concerning this historical event is true – the event's significance notwithstanding, it has partially led to the creation-and-then-acceptance of a word's/phrase's figurative meaning – then I sure hope my die has not been cast.

But who knows, really? And even though this cancer stuff is all very personal – and my circumstances are unique to me as a cancer patient – I try not to take it personally, if that makes any sense? Somehow, I try to minimize the negative effect of any of it, mentally, that is. As concerns me and my treatments (starts, stops and fits), it has always been about what happens next. Until there's no more next, there's always what's next. Now I have a third round of lab work next week and a 24-hour creatinine clearance collection in the interim to measure my levels as accurately as possible to help determine what happens next. Hopefully, levels will reduce, and more of the same treatment which has resulted in my unexpectedly long life expectancy and most recent "shrinkage," can continue. But of course, there are no guarantees either. Oh, there is one: this process is excruciating.

Nevertheless, somehow the patient (or at least this patient) has to be patient and life has to be lived. Otherwise the cancer wins. And to quote Brian Dennehy, a/k/a Sheriff Cobb, from the movie "Silverado," completely out of context: "We can't be having any of that now, can we?"

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

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**21 Announcements**

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ndon, VA 20171. The above es-  
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and Beer On Premises, Mixed  
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ance of this license must be  
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30 days from the publishing  
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**21 Announcements**

Ocean Pines

**Dr. Donald Anthony Flegler, age 85,** passed into eternal rest at Atlantic General Hospital on Sunday, December 14, 2014. Born November 21, 1929, in Cleveland, Ohio, he was the son of the late Anthony A. and Mary Nemeec Flegler. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years Mary K. Flegler and children, Kathleen Mary Tracy and her husband Patrick of Pittsburgh, PA, Dwayne Edward Flegler and his wife Marti of Reston, VA and Stephen Anthony Flegler and his wife Melanie of Herndon, VA. There are nine grandchildren, Patrick Tracy, Christopher Tracy, Timothy Tracy, Cassie Jackson, Kirstie Flegler, Kalla Flegler, Katherine Flegler, Andrew Flegler, Jordan Flegler, and four great-grandchildren, Madison Flegler, Lilliane Flegler, Andrew Flegler, Jr., and Evelyn Flegler.

His family moved to Washington, DC in 1940 when his father was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. During that tenure, Don attended Capital Page School where he served two years as a Page in the US House. He attended University of VA and was a 1955 graduate of the Georgetown University School of Dentistry. He then served as a dentist in the US Army for two years as a Captain while stationed at Fort Meade, MD. Following his discharge, he moved his family to Virginia and opened a dental practice. After 30 years he retired to Ocean Pines in 1988. There he served as an active member of the Environmental Control Committee for approximately 20 years.

Donald was an affectionate husband and caring father who adored his grandchildren and great grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoyed boating, wood working, model building and watching the Washington Redskins. Above all, he will be remembered for his love of family, optimistic outlook and tenacious drive to never give up.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 11:00 AM at St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Friends may call on Wednesday, December 17, from 3:00 until 6:00 PM at the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. Prayers will be said beginning 4:00 PM by Rev. William Porter. A donation in his memory may be made to: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis TN, 38105. Letters of condolence may be sent via: www.burbagefuneralhome.com

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Published by  
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James Quinn-Irons, grade 5



By Lisa Kalinowski, grade 4

## What is a Friend?

A friend is someone who knows you. A friend is someone who likes you. A friend is someone that you love. A friend is somebody that tells secrets with you. A friend is some-

BY SARA ELLEN RUSSELL,  
KINDERGARTEN, TERRASET ELEMENTARY

body that just loves to play with you. A friend likes to wait in line with you. And, that person enjoys you.

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Clayton Dyer, grade 5, Dranesville Elementary.



By second graders at Dranesville Elementary.



By Maisha Hannan, grade 5, Dranesville Elementary.



By Cora Sadlack, grade 4, Dranesville Elementary.



By Sadie Sadlack, grade 1, Dranesville Elementary.



By Kaitlyn McGee, grade 1, Dranesville Elementary.



By Jayden Amaya Lucero, grade 3, Dranesville Elementary.



By Elizabeth Huffman, grade 3, Dranesville Elementary.