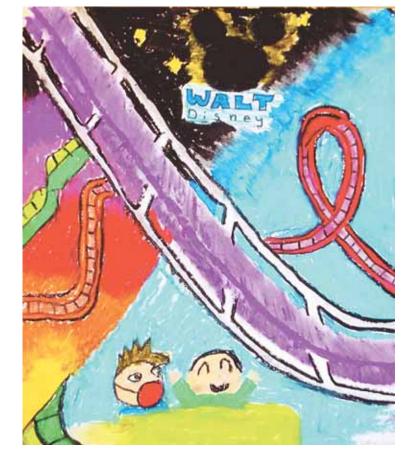
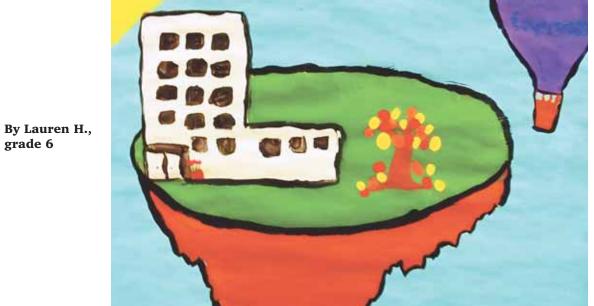


By Mrs. Ko's class, grade 2

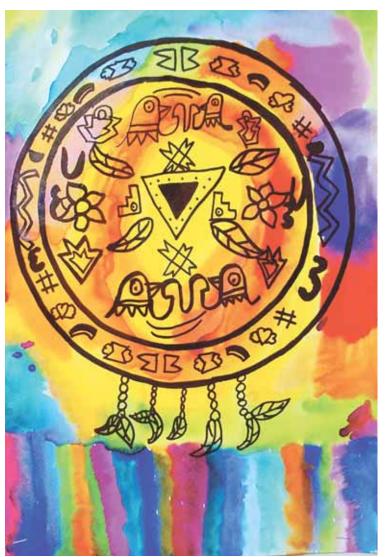
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

By Tom W., grade 5

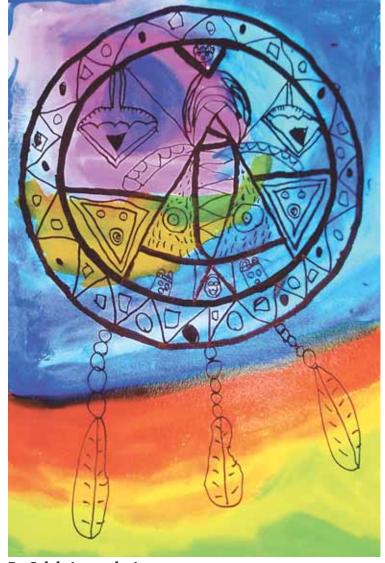




CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Haley T., grade 4



By Caleb A., grade 4



By Alex S., kindergarten, Cherry Run Elementary



By Ryan Arnold of Burke

Welcome

ear Readers:
This week, the Burke 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 email, which should be sent to south@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9414 with any questions.

EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC



By Devyn S., Anna K., Caleigh M. and Sydney E., grade 6, Cherry Run Elementary



By Zani Xu, of Fairfax, grade 3, Nysmith School



By Eileen Weisiger, grade 4, Wakefield Forest Elementary School

I Am From

I am from the smell of chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs,

From the artsy odor of paint, splattered on the craft table

I am from the sweet, manly fragrance of Dad's cologne for date night with Mom

And the woodsy, welcoming smell of my home

I am from the big green house on RyanLynn Drive,

And the old shaky swing set in the enormous backyard.

I am from splashing through the creek in the woods behind the neighborhood,

And standing on the log, telling stories at our "Super-Secret Sitting Spot"

I am from racing across the beach with my 15 cousins as the waves crash into our legs

From games of Sharks and Minnows as we swim in the summer rain

I am from decorating the little tree with candy..... just for the kids

And skipping through the house chanting about trees and hyper pigs

I am from the memory box, labeled with my name, hidden on Shailey's closet shelf,

And the dozens of photos in the scrapbooks in "Mere- Mere's Kitchen"

I am from "Never do your homework in the kitchen!" and

"Leave your brother alone!"

I am from hiking up mountains to the top of the water falls

And eating gooey brownies, sitting on a fallen tree, legs dangling over the gurgling river

I am from rolling around on the carpet in the rumble room, braided with a thousand different colors,

From Great- Grandpa's fancy rocking chair. The one that has gleaming wood and golden threads,

The one I'm not supposed to touch I am from spending Wednesday afternoons at church,

Singing and playing and praising the

From eating sloppy barbeque sandwiches in the room with the tall cross,

Suspended in the air by invisible cords I am from Italy and Ireland

From hot gnocchi's drenched in tomato sauce on Thanksgiving,

And tender corned beef, on each St. Patrick's Day

I am from tree climbing and fort building,

And playing soccer in the grass that sparkles with dew, at the early morning games

I am from siblings and parents and cousins and family

I am from the things I love And the memories that swirl in my heart

— Taegan Pratt,

— TAEGAN PRATT,
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

Where are you from?

Teacher Adrienne Forte's creative writing class at Robinson Secondary School wrote poems about family: where they came from, their roots, what makes them and completes them. These poems will warm up your heart.

I am from the forests and grass fields of Clifton,

I am from the vast extended family that comes with the Eyob name,

A bloodline that stretches from the Eritrean nobility to Amharan Generals,

Born to a doctor and a businessman

I am from the enticing scents of a hardy Ethiopian breakfast,

From the powerful smell of fresh pasta for lunch,

I am from the gooey gold and wonderful fragrance of lasagna for dinner

I am from the electronic mice and the slick black keyboards,

I am from the computer games of the 21st century,

Steam games, DotA2, League of Legends galore!

Surfing the internet, not the cold blue ocean waves

I am from a brave grandfather, who walked 564.3 miles for a small glimmer of hope,

Uncertain of his destiny, he worked and worked and worked,

A peasant farmer to a general and I couldn't be any prouder

I am from a brave grandmother, who thwarted off sexism and racism,

A young black African banker working in America,

Oh what a stir she caused,

I am from her determination; I am from her thick skin

I am from the hard work of my blood-line,

I am from the ideas of the 21st century, I am from the games of the internet, I am from both everything and nothing

— YAPHET EYOB, GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

I am from a red shuttered house and pink vibrant bushes

From the colorful, rusty playground and refreshing lemonade stands

I'm from the house with grass growing as tall as a tree

The neighborhood kids playing till it gets dark

From the early morning church services
To matching Jamaican dresses with my

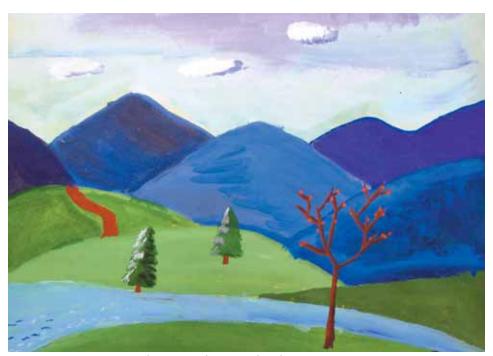
I am from the loud weird cousins and funny grandparents

From the home where music is always playing

I am from "wakey, wakeys" in the morning

And "night nights," just as the sun goes down

I am from the Disney sippy cups And scents of fresh warm chicken From the long bike rides in the spring And hot chocolate in the winter



By Eunsoo Gang, grade 4, Mosby Woods Elementary

The fashion shows every Friday
To the family stories every Sunday
I am from the "yellos"
To the "shut your clappers"
From the strawberry syrup

From the strawberry syrup And the Barbie doll skits I am from my Webkins collection A Winnie the Pooh themed room From Mrs. Dianna's daycare

I am from the exotic paintings on the wall

The wooden piano downstairs
I am from the dad who never is without a camera

Snapping pictures of anything insight I am from, "love your neighbor as yourself"

From the mom who is always smiling
The sister who loves books
To apple juice

To apple juice
And bologna sandwiches
Underneath my bed
And in the cabinet above the sink
Are piles on piles of past days
Spilling out pictures from "the olden

times"

Each one with a specific memory

— ZAHRA EDWARDS.

grade 8, Robinson Secondary School

I am from the pine trees that sway day and night

From a short, curly haired, Peruvian lady

To the tall El Salvadorian man I am from the fresh, bright green grass, with heavy dew

From the window with barking all day long

I am from the balcony where BBQ has been a tradition

From the houses in Trujillo and Lima, Peru.

To the little white house in Burke I am from the rusty, old purple bicycle

in the garage

From the Beyoncé playing in my brother's room to the pitter patter of three legs.

From the squawking of a green bird To the Cardinal singing its song.

I am from the boiling pot on the stove to the cake baking in the oven.

I am from the "Go clean your room!" I am from "Angyounghaseyo" to "Como estas?" to "I love you"

I am from branches that can't be broken,

An important family tree.

— Annie Jimenez,

grade 7, Robinson Secondary School

I come from pine trees and firewood, From the West Coast to the East. I come from the California orange tree in my grandmother's yard,

To the beautiful wildflowers of Tennessee.

"Never throw the first punch, but always throw the last",

And "Stand up for yourself and others"-says my mother every day,

She survived breast cancer; pink ribbons surround her,

As do purple flames of independence. From my father, I am an artist. Creativity runs through my veins, From pencils to paints,

From music to words. I come from "YOLO!"

And "Never be afraid!" To always have courage,

To always be brave.

I grew up with "You Are My Sunshine", And "My Darling Clementine",

Then on to "Hey There Delilah", All music, that's what I come from, Music, Art, and Love.

— Abby Deaton, grade 7, Robinson Secondary School

Burke

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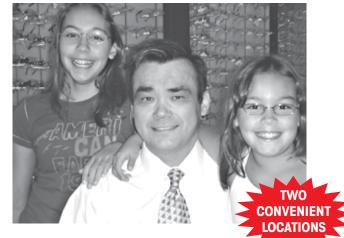
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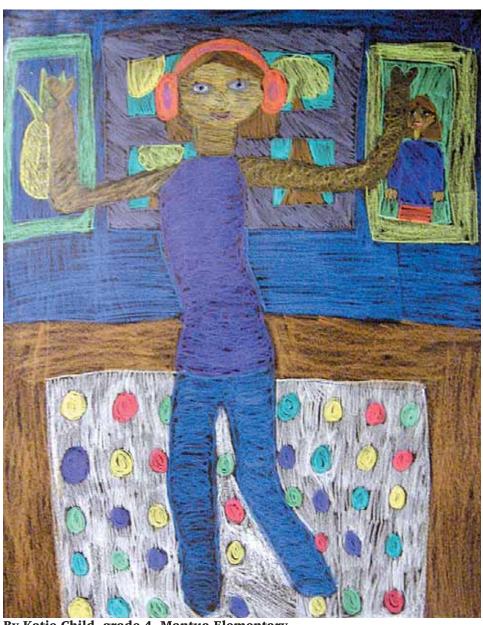
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By Katie Child, grade 4, Mantua Elementary.

Define 'Snow'

By Megan Sullivan

Grade 8, Robinson Secondary School

They say Precipitation In the form of Ice crystals I say Pure magic

I say

Igloos

Fresh white blankets Waiting for snow angels Footprints

Snowmen To dot the blank canvas I say A child's savior

School bells ring early School bells chime late School bells fall silent Cheers erupt everywhere I say

Barricades and fortresses Stockpiles of ammunition A wet, cold, laughing face Revenge In the form of

In the form of Snowballs I say

Bright purple toboggans Madly tugging yellow strings Shouting- Wait! How do you steer?

Unexpected icy ramps A glorious airborne second Crashing back to earth Screams of victory Trudging back up the hill

They say
Precipitation
In the form of
Ice crystals
I say

They need

New dictionary writers.



By Sarayu Soma, grade 6

EAGLE VIEW ART GALLERY



By Daniella Contreras, grade 6



By Justin Yi, grade 1

By Catherine Gordon, grade 4



Giving 'Thanks'

Mrs. Zavaleta's fourth graders at Cherry Run Elementary write about things that make them think "Thanks!" or times when they were "Giving."

I give hugs to everyone. I hug my friends Jason and Jack. I hug my teacher Mrs. Manikas. I hug Ms. Adams the Assistant Principal. People like my hugs so much that they give me a hug back. I give hugs.

MICHAEL GRUNDY

In August my friend Leah had a birthday. Her mom gave me some tokens. There was another friend of mine called Jade. Every game she lost so I gave a prize that I won at the prize box. She was so happy and I was happy too.

Angelia DeJesus

Whenever I'm with my cousin Allie, my aunt leans over to me and whispers in my ear, "you're a great cousin."

- SHELBY GILLILAND

Mr. Squeaks is my guinea pig. I feed him, squeakersize him (exercise him). I am also responsible for cleaning his cage. That's a big and messy job. He runs around when I'm trying to clean it. My dad says, "thank you for cleaning his cage."

- Brady McDonald

My cat loves when I always wash her flowery purple and white fuzzy blanket before she goes to sleep. She likes it because when she sleeps, her blanket is warm and she does not have to breathe in her own fur. I know she likes it cause when she lays down, she meows then rubs her head on my leg.

- Josey Whitaker

I am thankful for my family because I know when I am scared, they are there with me. When they are not, I just imagine they are there with me.

Luke Peter

When I go to Mr. Herz' and ride and groom his horses, I always have fun while he watches me. He is always kind and he never says no. He has 20 horses and I get to play with every single one! It makes me really happy. The best part is when I get to braid their manes.

- Julia Hughes

I used to live in an all downstairs house in Florida. When I heard that we were moving to a newer house, I was excited. So many possibilities. So many features. I was so thankful at that time. When I got to the new house, it was just how I expected. We finally had two floors and even a pool. I thanked my parents so much and said, "good things are about to happen."

- MATTHEW NEWTON







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WAKEFIELD FOREST ART GALLERY



By Aditi Venkataraman, grade 1



Truth About Alarm Clocks

The snooze button we all smash with to ignore.

All of us despise alarm clocks,

Why do they sound like goose flocks

Being the first to greet us in the morn-

Promise to Ourselves

The rain drops fall and the flowers

The temperature goes up without a

While the leaves flutter to the ground, And the snow piles up a mound?

Are we ready to act while...

To enjoy and cherish nature. Are we ready to act while...

And our hearts forget the past?

And old ones start to fade?

While new memories are made,

To remember memories of our life.

The Seasons change?

Why do alarm clocks even exist? There is only one useful function:

It's just not fair,

ing air?

doubt?

Yes, we are,

Yes, we are,

The Times go by? The years rush fast,



By Jessica Hong

By Jessica Hong

Grade 9/Fairfax High School

Grade 9/Fairfax High School

Then, we can go back to our sweet

For it is alarm clocks we have chosen

All alarm clocks do is annoy.

Are we ready to act while...

Yes, we are.

shelves.

Yes, we are,

The World suffers?

Saving the environment,

Cleaning up after ourselves,

The Opportunities are available? Even when decisions are hard to make,

And one ponders all night, awake.

Trying to select the option of competi-

But hesitating because friends are on the same mission?

To step up and seize the opportunity.

Are we ready to act while...

Remembering that we are coexistent.

Energetically recycling everything on

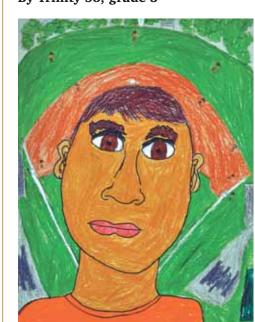
To save and conserve the world we love.

Waking up has become a chore, No one will wake up with joy,

imagination.



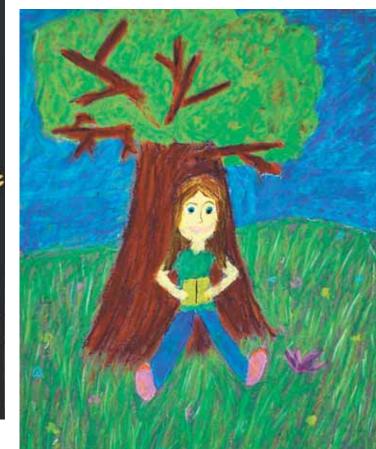
By Trinity So, grade 3







By Dillon Brody, grade 5



By Ava Dunn, grade 4



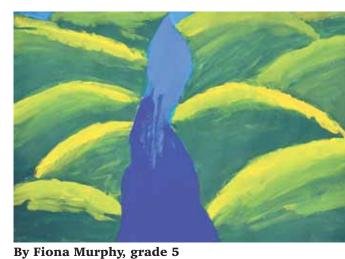


By Elizabeth Jo, grade 6

LAUREL RIDGE ART GALLERY



By Benny Glassman, grade 6



By Megan Smith, grade 6



By Tommy Rustia, grade 6

8 Surke Connection Children's Connection 2014 - 2015

Mosby Woods Elementary



By Kiana Johnson, grade 6

REFLECTIONS

A Good Friend

What makes you a good friend: a helper, a listener, a person who has things in common with you, and someone to share with. A friend will be there for you when you have a bad day. He or she will cheer you up. If something was wrong, a friend would listen. If you're going to the clinic, a friend would take you to the clinic and back. If a person hurt your friend's feelings you would take your friend to play games that means you are a true friend. All of the above makes you a good friend.

— Anthony Amaya, grade 4

Winter

A snowflake hits the ground, without a single sound

Another floats through the air, without a single care

Yet another flies from the skies and lands on the ground

I roll around, on the fluffy white ground One drifts in midair, then neither here nor there

I'm aware that winter is in the air.

— Paul Duggar, grade 4



By Jenna Do, grade 5



By Namkhang Dao, grade 6

When I Grow Up...

Mosby Woods Elementary School's third graders write about what they want to be when they grow up.

When I grow up I want to be a surgeon. My first reason why I want to be a surgeon is I want to learn more about surgery. Secondly is I want to get cool gear and a cool mask. My third reason is that I want to save so many peoples lives. My fourth reason is that I want to study hard to become a great surgeon. Lastly is I want to help people and make them feel better. I can't wait to grow up and become a great surgeon.

— Juliana Mendoza

When I grow up, I want to be a third grade teacher like Mrs. Hockenbury because I want to pass down what I have learned to other children. I also want to be a third grade teacher because it is nice to have children around and children bring joy. As a teacher, I would give them as much time as they need to work and I would be really nice to them. I would make learning fun!

— Hamsini Rangarajan

Since my first Robotics class in second grade, I have wanted to be a scientist. It is always so cool to discover things and invent new gadgets. And I thought that having a lab would be so awesome! Working with gears, axles and programming is one of my most favorite things to do. I'm into all of it! I have kits that help me learn the use of gears and programming. Many times when there is a problem, I think of inventing something new that can solve the problem.

— Anika Saraf

When I grow up I have a number of things I want to do. I would like to go to Virginia Tech and become an engineer. During the summer I want to be a zookeeper and take care of the giraffes. When I'm like 30 I will quit engineering and become a submariner. I want a huge submarine and I want to see lots of seahorses. Finally when I'm old I will be a Breyer's ice cream taste tester.

— Serene Salhab



By Aidan Harbison, grade 6



By Minn Jun, grade 1, Greenbriar East Elementary



By Erin Nolasco, grade 5. Greenbriar East Elementary



By Megan Molloy, grade 6, Greenbriar East El

My Favorite Toy

My favorite toy is a bear. I got him for Christmas from my dad. My dog sometimes bites my bear. My bear is humongous. My bear is white. I love my bear when I was 4 years old. My teddy bear because my dad and bear does not have teeth. mom gave me it. My bear's name is Beary. My big sisters have a bear too. I sleep with him every night.

My bear wears a shirt. I made his shirt. My bear never wears another shirt. My bear's favorite food is pretzels. I got my

> BECKY STUART, grade 2, Hunt Valley Elementary



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By Kevin, kindergarten, Providence Elementary



By Kinsley H., grade 2, Providence Elementary



By Ibrahim E., grade 6, Providence Elementary

Trash

Trash
Getting tossed out
Into an empty bin
Like a black hole
There is no turning back
Like an outcast
Shunned by many
There is no greeting
It suffers
Alone
Rain
A touch of blessing
For all the flowers
A source of life
From the gracious sky

By Hansae Kwon

Grade II, Woodson High School

The pouring ceases
Droplets on the leaves
In one warm,
Breezy morning
Calendar
Oh how I wish
You were never there
To count the days
To remind me
Of all the test days
I look at you
With hope
Wishing this year would end
A little sooner

How Frosty Saved Iceville

Christmas Eve:

It was a beautiful sight as dusk fell over the village of Iceville. All the snowpeople were up and about, unaware that the sun was watching them closely. As they all went to sleep, the snowchildren wondering what Santa got them, the sun slowly drifted ever so closer to the village. The rustling he made was so conspicuous that it had awoken all the little snowchildren. Now the whole village had awoken, and was wondering, "who could that be?" As they got out of their snowbeds and went out their doors, the carrots on their faces nearly fell off. Everyone was so very frightened, they all went back inside. But one very brave snowchild had not gone inside. He heard shouts of "come in!" and "take cover kid!" but he did not back down. "Go in kid" growled the sun. "Get

"Never!" yelled the snowchild as he tried to climb his house. His plan was pathetic, to try to jump onto the sun from his roof to freeze him. But it might just

work. As he jumped off his roof, he yelled "Geronimo!" and the sun just laughed. As he made contact with the sun though, he saw a small snowflake form on the sun, expanding to the word "Frosty", and that expanded into a sheet of ice covering the sun, as the sun retreated back to the sky.

Christmas:

The next day, there was a parade for the snowchild on the streets of Iceville. His new nickname was "Frosty", so they all yelled "Three cheers for Frosty!"

"Hip Hip Hooray!"

"Hip Hip Hooray!"

"Hip Hip Hooray!"

And the village of Iceville lived happily ever after.

THE END

— Sean Kastantin, grade 4, Oak View Elementary School



By Ejun Kim, Grade 8, Westminster School



By Ejun Kim, Grade 8, Westminster School

Reflections

Surprise

When Illie and Carlo went trick-or-treating a man popped out from a tree. Illie's teeth started to clatter. Carlo started to cry and wail. Illie's parents shouted at the man. Then everyone laughed because Grandpa had surprised them. It was grandpa who was behind the tree. "Rattle" went the kids' bags as they were laughing.

— EMILY MONAHAN, GRADE 3, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

What Makes a Good Friend

If you are new to a school the first thing you need is a good friend. I have had a best friend since second grade. It all started in PE. We were jogging and I asked him who his friends were. He said I was and another boy. I said okay and jogged off. We are still good friends.

KALEB BLAYLOCK,
 GRADE 3. CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

If you get hurt a good friend asks you if you're okay. If you ask to play he says yes. He lets you go first in a game and he is always nice.

— Noah Gideon, grade 3, Cherry Run Elementary

The Best Thing

The best thing that has happened to me is earning State Ambassador. I represent the state of Virginia. When I first knew I was chosen I was so happy. I got a sash and a crown. I'll treasure it forever.

— ARIEL RUSSELL, GRADE 3, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

How Would I Change School?

The one thing I would change about school is to make specials longer. We all would get better at PE, Music, FLES, and Art. We could get better jobs like gym teacher, art teacher, translator, and music teacher.

— CLAIRE COPES, GRADE 3, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

When I Grow Up

When I get older I want to be a catcher for the



By Amaya Campbell, Grade 2, Mantua Elementary.

Nationals. After Little League I plan to play for Lake Braddock High School. I hope to get to play for a college team, maybe get a scholarship to a really big name school. Then if I am a good enough college player, I want to try out for the P-Nats, the farm team for the Nationals. The nice thing about being a catcher is there are fewer people that want to be a catcher; most want to be pitchers. I hope my dream can come true!

— Tyler Kimble, grade 4. Cherry Run Elementary School

When I grow up I want to be a marine biologist. I want to be a marine biologist because I want to take care of turtles at the aquarium. Turtles are my favorite animal of all. I have been fascinated by turtles since I was a little boy. I really like the turtle in Finding Nemo. His name is Squirt. Being a marine biologist is an awesome job.

— Grayson Taylor, grade 4, Cherry Run Elementary

The Worst Thing That Ever Happened to Me

The worst thing that ever happened to me was when I broke my finger. I was at the gym with my friend, and my hand hit the ground. I couldn't feel anything, so my mom took me to the doctor. She said to rest my hand, but the next day my hand was still hurting, so I got a couple of x-rays and found out my finger was fractured! I was scared to get a cast, but I got to choose a RED, WHITE, and BLUE one. I couldn't do sports for two weeks or even go outside! It was awful.

— MICHAEL BEENE, GRADE 5, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

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21 Announcements

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Kumkang, Inc trading as Delicioso, 7863 Heritage Drive, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DE-PARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC)

BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sun Hee Lee, President.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later that 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements



Dr.Donald Anthony Fleger, 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 Nemec Fleger. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years Mary

K. Fleger and children, Kathleen Mary Tracy and her husband Patrick of Pittsburgh, PA, Dwayne Edward Fleger and his wife Marti of Reston, VA and Stephen Anthony Fleger and his wife Melanie of Herndon, VA. There are nine grandchildren, Patrick Tracy, Christopher Tracy, Timothy Tracy, Cassie Jackson, Kirstie Fleger, Kalla Fleger, Katherine Fleger, Andrew Fleger, Jordan Fleger, and four great-grandchildren, Madison Fleger, Lilliane Fleger, Andrew

Fleger, Jr., and Evelyn Fleger

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

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Dave, grade 3

Desire

BY EMILY S., grade 7

The aching desires of the few, include the necessities for me and you, but the vast majority want the new, they want the luxury and they lust, because they must,

they need the future in the past, they need products that must last, for as long as they want them to. What happened to this world, what must release the greed, make a creed,

and find the greatness in giving and not wanting,

loving not taunting,

and fulfill the deserved desires of peace, nourishment, and fair treatment for others, for the fathers, children, brothers, sisters, and mothers.



By Luke, grade 7



By Trudy, grade 8

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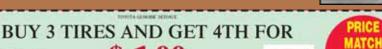


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