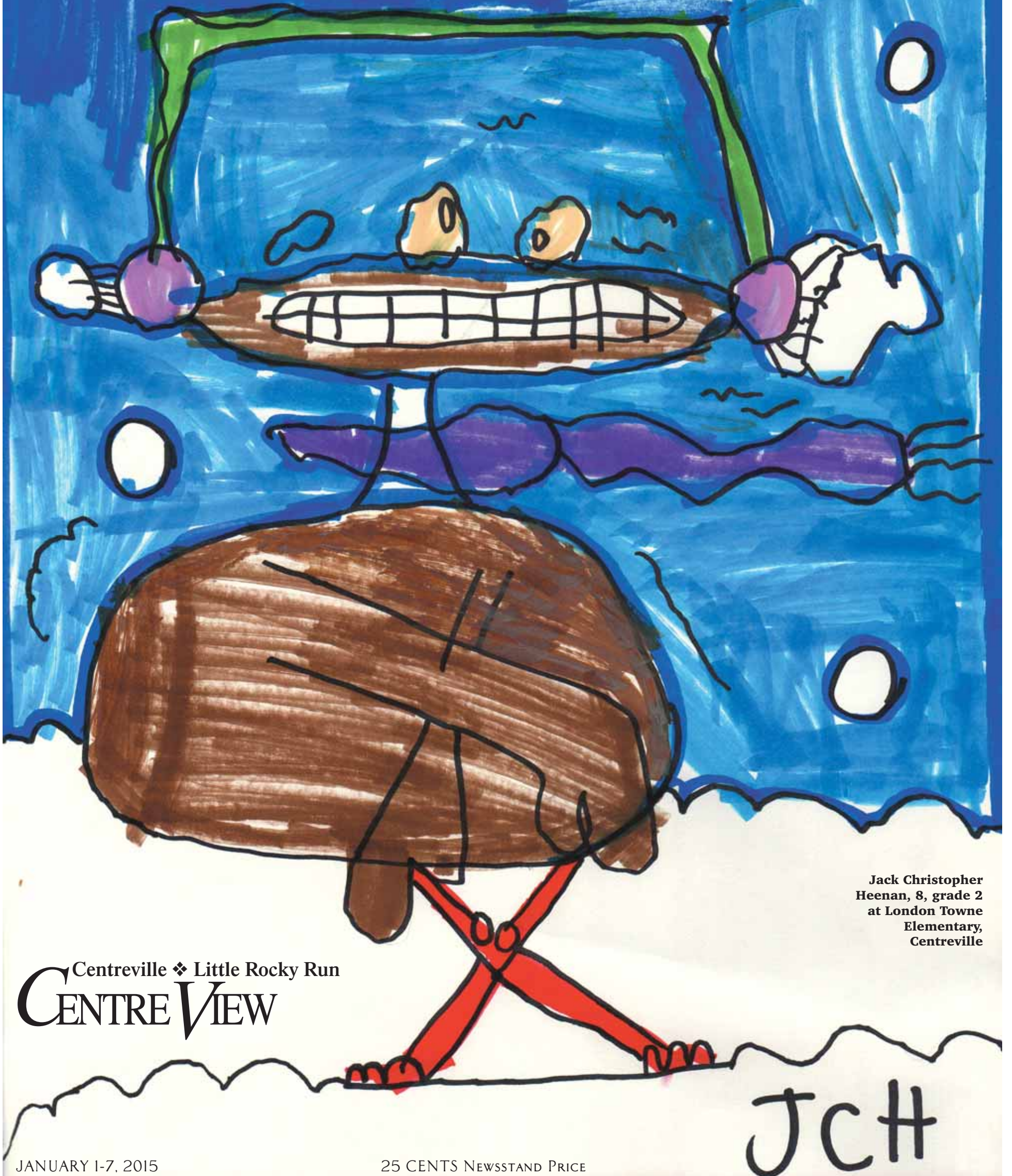


Children's Centre View 2014



Jack Christopher
Heenan, 8, grade 2
at London Towne
Elementary,
Centreville

Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run
CENTRE VIEW

JANUARY 1-7, 2015

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

JCH

CHILDREN'S CENTRE VIEW

Welcome

Dear Readers: This week, the Centre View 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 2015 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Centre View. 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 Centre View 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 centreview@connection-newspapers.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

As You Make Your End-of-Year Charitable Donations...

Please consider children in need of medical and dental care right here in Fairfax County.

Each year, the Medical Care for Children Partnership (MCCP) Foundation provides care to thousands of children in low-income working families right in our own community. These children do not qualify for government programs or private insurance, and without MCCP, they would have nowhere to go.

To learn more and to donate, please go to www.mccpfoundation.org or call 703-286-0881.

Thank you for joining your neighbors in supporting this cause so that all our local children can go to school in good health!



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FOUNDATION

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Special Thanks to The Connection Newspapers

BULL RUN ELEMENTARY

"Because"

I love you, Because!
You are perfect for every sentence I need
And give proof to the judge for every deed.
You are neither freakishly long nor Adorably short.
You are an excuse to a problem or
A bull against every mysterious case,
By showing a piece of evidence that starts with you.
You are the only one who brings up the reasons and keeps
The mouths of those who are guilty shut.
You fight against every obstacle
Which will be the last enemies you'll ever see.
You were the one who gave Einstein
The word to use when he explained another formula.
You are ancient but young at all times.
You never wear out
Since you are the key to opening this intelligent world.
Without you, nobody could know how to show
How much they know.
Strong as an ox you persuade those iron hearted
But at the same time, you are kind as a lamb
By accepting other's reasoning.
You keep your magnificent secrets to yourself
And tell small advices to others.
Your beginning letter, B glides across the room
With the other letters chasing after you.
You are saved for last for every sentence
Since you don't want the readers to be puzzled in the end.
You never give up for
No one can replace neither your pure blood of being a conjunction nor can it
Change your inner self not to be true.
Thank you, Because
For making all my sentences come alive.

— CLARA PARK, 11, GRADE 6

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY

What Makes a Good Friend?

Friends are really important to have. When you don't know what to do, a friend can cheer you up. Friends stand up for you when you're getting bullied. When I need help, my friend helps me. They always have fun with you. Friends are really fun!

— LAYAN ABU JBARA,
GRADE 3

LONDON TOWNE ELEMENTARY



Teshauna Harvey, grade 6



Cristian Ortiz, grade 6



Daniel Ruiz, grade 6



Kimberly Cortes, grade 6



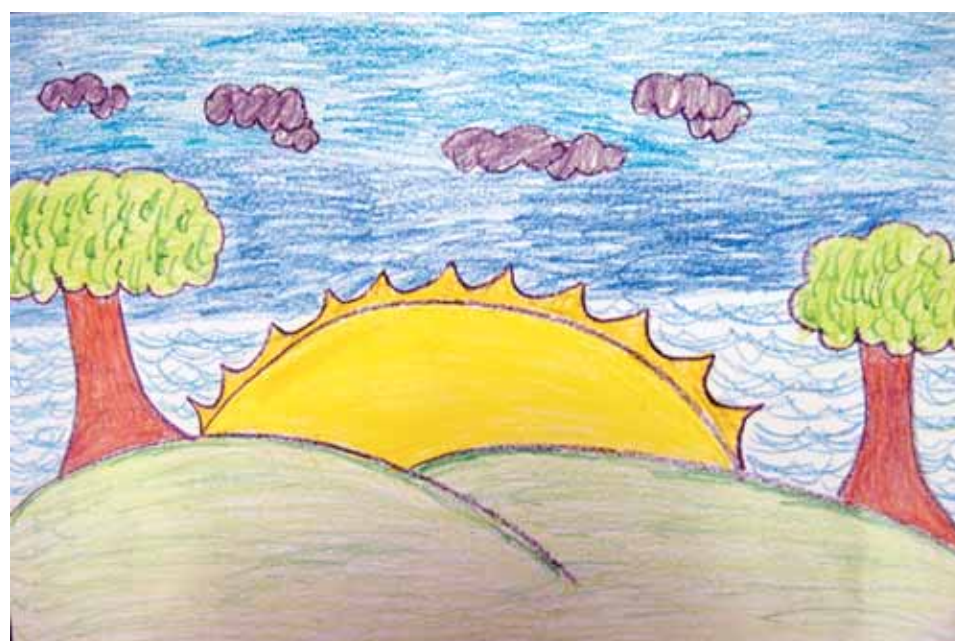
Ayonnah Tinsley, grade 6



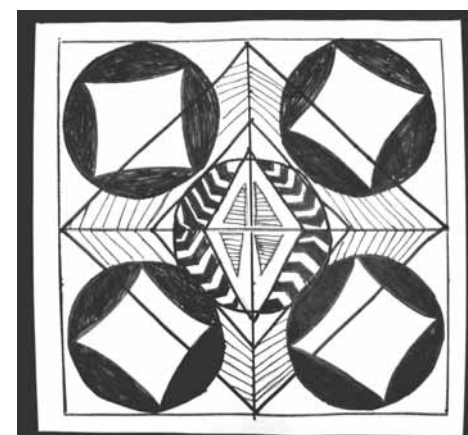
Kelly Daly, grade 6



Raylyn Delmundo, grade 5



Victor Mariche, grade 4



Jayla Smith, grade 5



Liyana Mohammed, grade 4



Daniel Gutierrez, grade 4



Annie Schaad, grade 4

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY



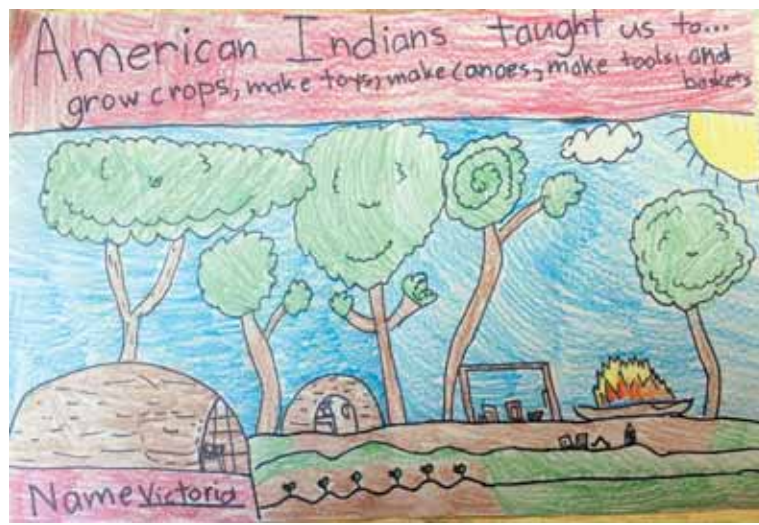
Brian Kim, grade 2



Rebecca Reed, grade 1



Sara Altarazi and Naomi Tekola, grade 5



Victoria Cunningham, grade 2



Ryan Bechtol, grade 4



Matias Alfieri, kindergarten



Anna Claire Ousley, kindergarten



Alvin Trang, grade 2



Oliver Huh, grade 1



Jake Glisson and Lex Smith, grade 5

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY WRITINGS

What Do I Want To Be When I Grow Up?

I want to be a water animals' vet and a rescuer to water animals. I should be one because I'm good with animals and I know a lot about animals and animals like me. I'm nice and sweet to animals. I love animals. That's why I want to be a vet to water animals and a rescuer to water animals.

— ZACH SULLIVAN, GRADE 3

What I Want To Be When I Grow Up

I want to be an artist when I grow up. My favorite tools from art are oil pastels and paint because it's fun and easy. If I'm an artist, the thing I really want to do is paint or do oil pastels. I want to draw people in landscapes. I love art because it inspires me and it makes me happy and it is so fun. I want to be an artist and do what I dreamed.

— CELESTE SESMAS
IZGUIRRE, GRADE 3

What I Am Most Looking Forward To

I am most looking forward to being a sports player this year. If you want to be better at sports, believe in yourself. Look forward in you. Forget about the people that don't like you. You need to be tough; really tough if you want to play soccer. Do it. Don't think about what other people think. Just do it like Jackie Robinson; even if he was black. It doesn't matter how you look, just do your best.

— MAX ESTEVEZ-ARCHILLA,
GRADE 3

When I Grow Up

When I grow up I want to be an astronomer. I want to be an astronomer because I like space. I also want to discover other worlds. I want to learn more about space. I really like space!

— LOGAN LISS, GRADE 3

When I Grow Up

When I grow up I want to be a video game maker because I like to play video games. They types of video games are adventure games, puzzle games, and mystery games. I want to make great games and hopefully people will like them.

— ESTEBAN L. CHIRINO,
GRADE 3

What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

I want to be a teacher because you get to learn from other kids. They second reason is because I really love learning! You get to look at everyone's paper and grade it. You also get to make new friends. You can also help people! You can learn more about people, also! I want to be a teacher because it is really fun.

— AINSLEY LAMP, GRADE 3

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WORDS & PICTURES

COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY



"Little Gardener," by Alexander Yu, 6, grade 1

CENTREVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL

The Detriment Of Disenchantment

Politics has never been interesting. Indeed, it is often a nauseating, apathy-provoking topic which rarely intrigues any student. However, the future of young people rests in the hands of leaders who make decisions today, and these decisions assuredly determine our future. Politicians relish the fact that young people usually aren't politically inclined, and exploit this for political expediency. In light of our immense national debt, skyrocketing tuitions, and significantly diminishing economic opportunities, it is due time for students to be engaged in current affairs, lest we succumb in our future to avoidable contemporary mistakes.

— MICHAEL MARROW
2014-2015 PRESIDENT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL

STONE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Julia Kim

"Family,"
by Alexander
Yu, 6, grade 1

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY

What Is Your Favorite Animal?

My favorite animal is a zebra. Each zebra has their own voice. Zebras have different print on each one. Zebras graze on Africa's grass. An adult zebra sleeps standing for the first sight at danger. Zebras are prey, not predator. Zebras eat plants, not animals like predators. Zebras are really cool animals.

— SAMANTHA LACY, GRADE 3



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UNION MILL ELEMENTARY



Divya S., grade 5



Aiden H., grade 4



Natalia M., grade 5,



Peter D., grade 5



Emma L., kindergarten



James A., grade 1



Lily C., grade 1



Aurora H., grade 2



Kritika B., grade 3

GREENBRIAR EAST ELEMENTARY



Demian Lopez-Sanchez,
grade 3



Erin Nolasco, grade 5, Global Architecture Applique



Yulia Ivanova, grade 5



Aileen Wu, grade 2



Nicolette Batori, grade 3,
Chalk Self Portrait



Avery Li, grade 2, Neighbor-
hood Friend Drawing



Minn Jun, grade 1,
Favorite Season
Tree Painting



Mason Gasper, grade 2



Megan Molloy, grade 6, Leaf Painting

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A line drawing of a hotdog stand. The stand has a large sign on top that says "BIG HOTDOG" in a stylized, outlined font. Below the sign is a large, rounded hotdog bun with a wavy line representing the hotdog inside. The stand has a base with three sections, and a small square window or door is visible in the middle section. To the left of the stand is a small evergreen tree, and to the right is a small building or structure. The background is plain white.

A portrait of a young woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing a blue patterned top. The name "Emily T.S." is written in the top right corner.

A child's drawing on a piece of paper. It depicts a person standing on the back of a large, brown, four-legged animal that resembles a mammoth or a dinosaur. The animal has a long, curved tail. They are standing on a green, grassy field. In the background, there is a blue sky with a yellow sun in the upper right corner. The drawing is done with markers or crayons. Below the drawing, there is some faint, handwritten text in a child's script, which is mostly illegible but appears to include words like 'I like' and 'my'.

A child's drawing of a red pumpkin with a green stem and leaves, sitting on a green field. The pumpkin is drawn with thick, expressive brushstrokes in shades of red and orange, with a green stem and leaves extending from the top. It is set against a background of green grass and a white sky.

Tanishi Dasgupta,
grade 4

Eileen
11, g



I Am Poem

I Am A Flash Drive.

My Mother Would Describe Me As Funny And Friendly.

My Friends Call Me Funny And Cool.

I Keep Information Safe. I Remember A Lot Of What I Learn.

I've Learned A Lot Of Things. I Hide When I Am Alone And Scared.

I Read A Lot Of Books. I Show I Am Smart!.

I Am A Flash Drive. I Show My Friends.

I Hear Laughter. I Love Lemonade.

I Feel Amazing. I Think About Future Technology.

I Whisper "You Can Do This!". I Am A Flash Drive.

I Want To Learn New Things. I Will Make A Difference.

I Won't Ever Give Into Peer Pressure. I Can Change The World.

I Can Pretend To Fly. I Sing In Music Class.

My Pumpkins name
is Deigo. His job is to
invent things. He makes
roboty time machines,
frys, and fums them.
He has tools so he can
make things. He has a hat
to cover the sun in the
summer. First I got
paper, then yarn, feathers,
and string. I cut a circle.
Next I made the legs,
arms, and head. feet.
Then I made the eyes.
After That I made the

more and the mouth.
In the end I got
a new it.

Kyle

I am a part of history
 My mother would describe me as outgoing
 My friends call me athletic and kind
 I keep promises to the people close to me
 I remember childhood moments
 I've learned never to insult people
 I hide when I'm not seeking
 I read about historical events

I shout when I am hurt
 I am a part of history
 I see myself succeeding
 I hear the pages of my history book
 I taste my mother's delicious homemade brownies
 I feel jump when watching a scary movie
 I think about my day

I whisper my secrets
 I am a part of history

I want to be the voice of my generation
 I will pursue my dreams
 I won't ever harshly criticize anyone
 I can be great
 I pretend to play pro baseball

I sing catchy tunes
 I am a part of history

I dream of achieving my goals
 I am afraid of poison dart frogs
 I reach for the stars
 I reach my goals
 I say sorry when I am rude
 I love my family

I declare for the world to hear that I can make a difference

I AM A PART OF HISTORY!!!!!!


—Samuel Marco
 Age 10 - Bull Run Elementary School
 5th Grade - Mrs. McPherson

Samuel Marco, 11, grade 5

Chelsea Nguyen, grade 6

Sung

Thanksgiving Feast



I sat out to a table
we had a good time
at pumpkin. we
at a table of pumpkins.

Steven

How to draw a Numbler

First _____

Next _____

Then _____

Last _____

On a snow day I like to...

I like to play in the snow

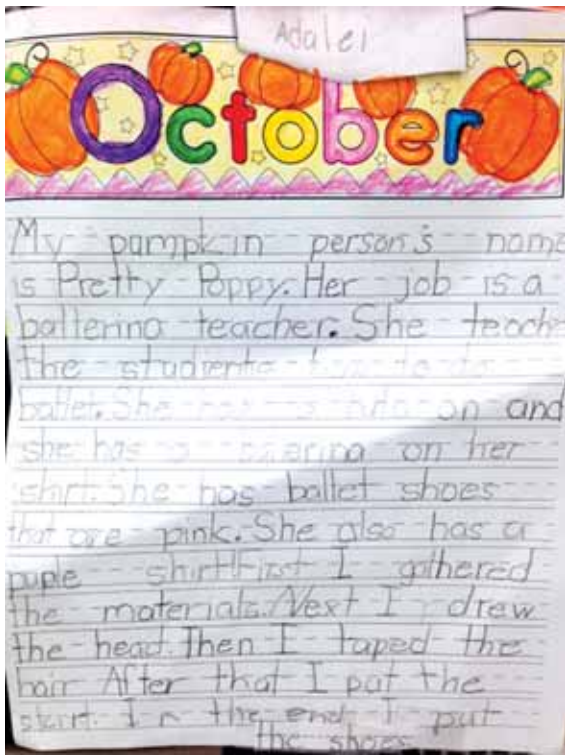
I like to build a snowman

I like to have a snow day

Prin. Anandakrishna

CENTRE VIEW ♦ CHILDREN'S CENTRE VIEW ♦ 2014 - 2015 ♦ 9

BULL RUN ELEMENTARY



Adalei Deskins, 7, grade 2



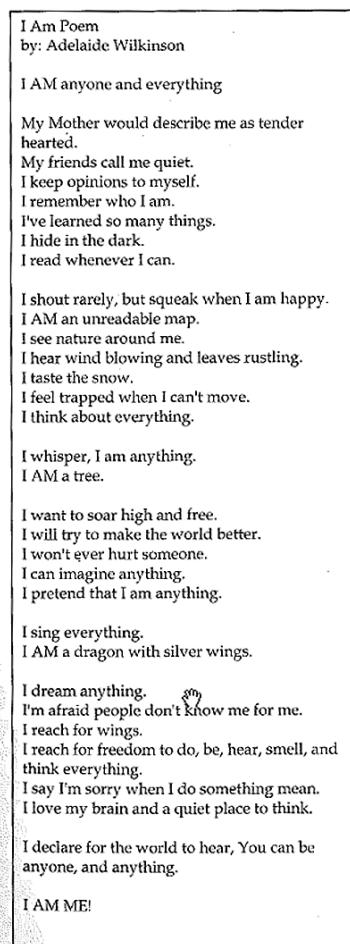
Jun Yoon, 7, grade 2



Joniel Jerome, grade 5



Helen Choe, grade 4

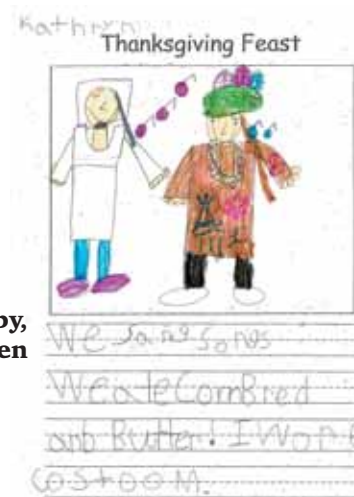


Adelaide

Adelaide Wilkinson, 11, grade 5



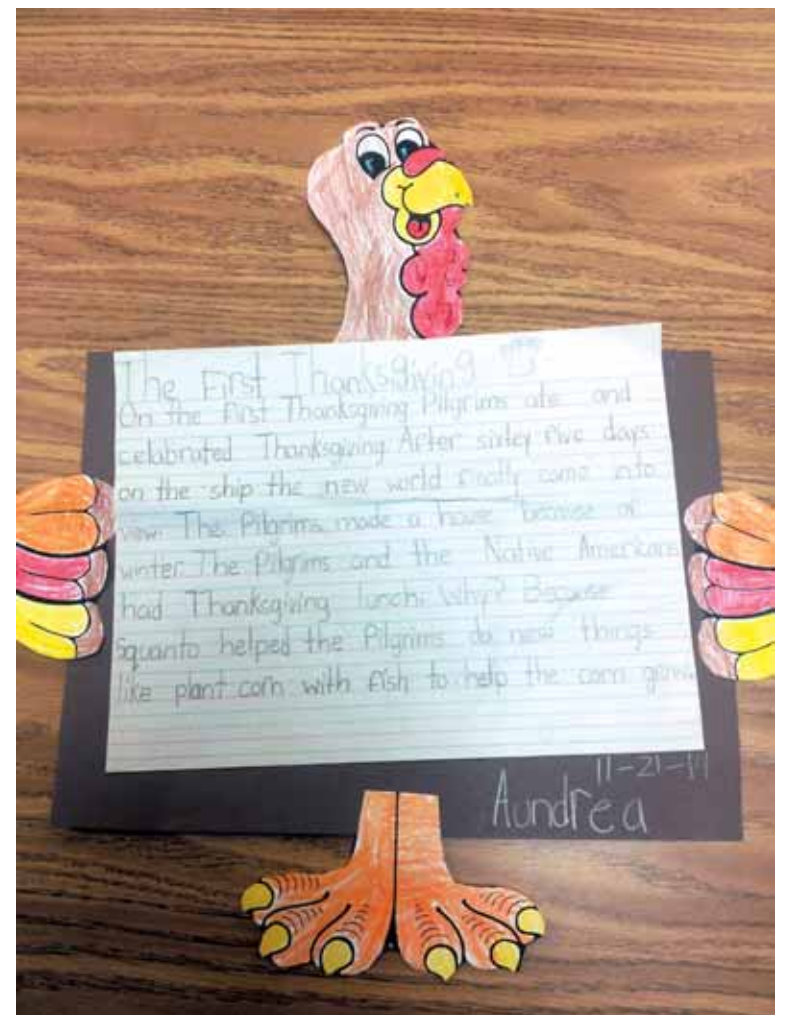
"I am a part of history," Sam Marco



Kathryn Corsby,
5, kindergarten



Kendall Salisbury, grade 1



Andrea Rivas, 8, grade 2

GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY



**Sanjana Subbanna, 10,
grade 5, Chantilly**

What are friends for ?

A good friend understands you, takes care of you, worries about you, and plays with you. You can tell a secret to a good friend and they can tell their secrets to you. They respect your feelings and emotions. You should be able to trust them and they should be able to trust you. A good friend is always there for you when you really need them. Friends are people one in a million that stay with you forever!

— SANJANA SUBBANNA, 10,
GRADE 5, CHANTILLY

The Inevitable Cut

Hello there, I'm a tomato,
My home is in the grocery store,
Where more of my friends are taken away
And soon replaced with more.

In Italian food and pasta,
We are the big star,
I wait when people pick us out,
For them to take me far.

As I read in the tomato book,
Humans judge us by our looks,
I'm learning from my family,
That not all food is created equally.

Today a lady took me home,
The bag prevented me to roam,
I'm very thankful for my good life,
Wait, what are you doing with that knife?

— ZAINAB SOHAIL, 11, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

Skittles

yummy, yummy, skittle
even though it's little.

It comes in many colors,
but it's not worth ten dollars.
You can eat it at a party
and it makes you a smarty.
Because it's so hype,
it makes you stay up all night.
Small and round,
It takes you around town.
Red and purple are my favorite colors
They melt In your mouth and the fla-
vor seeps out.
MMMM!

— MICHAEL YOO, 11, GRADE

6

The Darkness of Night

I slept through the darkness,
scared and worried,
Am I safe?, what about you?
Where were my parents so late at night?,
are they even home?
I know the answer to all these ques-
tions,
but I'm still scared in the darkness of night.

With the shadows lurking around,
I try to sleep, but I just can't.
They try to enter under my blanket,
and I try to fight them off,
but as they just keep pulling and pull-
ing,
I'm still scared in the darkness of night.

— SRI KONAGALLA, 11, GRADE
6, CHANTILLY

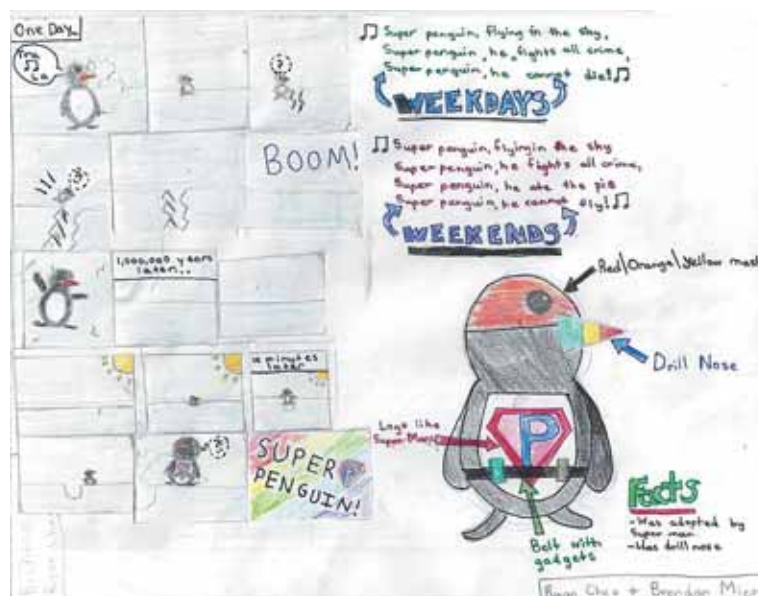
Chelsea Football Club

Chelsea is an exceptional soccer team
Their shots are like laser beams
Their passes are brilliant
And they can be very resilient

They have a superb group
With players like Hazard and Costa
who are definitely not poop
They haven't lost a game this season
But they tied Sunderland, for some reason

They're winning the Premier League
And it seems like they've never heard of fatigue
For them the Champion's League is a breeze
They bring the other teams down to their knees

This team is amazing
Opponents find themselves dazing
It's just too hard
To stop my praising



**“Super Penguin” by Ryan Chee and Brendan Miers, 10,
grade 5, Centreville**

— JORDY SANTANA, 11,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Lightning

The glistering street
The dark colored trees
And that when I had been in my little dome
When there were flares on the road
The clear drops dripped
A bit slower than when the lightning tipped

And I wasn't ready!
For this dark plight
From there it had flashed
So intense that it turned pink
That had changed everything
On this stormy day
To a stormy night
I was scared and worried
For what was about to happen
I just wasn't ready
For such a dark thing
like flames
of strife

— KUNSH SINGH, 11, GRADE
6, CENTREVILLE

Best Gift Ever Received

The best gift I have ever received is my family. They are amazing, funny, and very nice. My parents play with me and my brothers do too. My family is like a team. A team is bonded together, always having each other's back. My family always has my back and we couldn't be closer. Family is a wonderful thing and my family directly

resembles that. I feel very blessed to have such a caring, wonderful, supportive family. I love them, and I couldn't ask for a better family.

— C.J. CARTER, 11, GRADE 6

Technology- A Distraction

Technology is advancing but it is becoming more of a distraction. Cheating and health hazards are generated by many kids. Kids can be looking up answers for important tests. They could also be texting friends and asking for or giving answers. Playing games are also a problem. Teenagers love to play games on devices or chat with their friends. When they completed their homework, it's easy to play games instead of exercising.

Overall, technology is a distraction today. We should use it for things that are essential. Teenagers have to resist the urge to use technology once in a while.

— TIFFANY CHENG, 11,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

My Opinion on Moving Toys

As we all know, all kids want talking and moving toys. The question now is, “Will they get bored of them or will it hurt their imagination?” I believe that this will hurt imagination. Toys that talk and or move influence the kid to follow a specific plot. This leads to the kid not using his/hers imagination and impro-

ving skills therefore leaving them with little to none original ideas. Non-moving and talking toys influence imagination and help improvising skills. Even though the talking toy maybe impressive that doesn't mean they're the best.

— DANIEL KRAFT, 11 GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

Hanging Onto Myself

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

Immediately, her mind whirled with possibilities.

Animator, retail owner, professional chef One thought tapped on the door to her mess of ideas, and it was something she had contemplated for many years. She watched old people lose who they were when they were young. They weren't themselves, even if they are who they are. Adults lost who they had wanted to be in their own doubt told others to. And she responded.

She smiled, a radiant smile which possessed no words but said all of them at once.

“Myself.”
— CIARA METZINGER, 11,
GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

Time

Time is a very weird concept,
It's a month within a year,
a week within a month,
a day within a week,
and so on forever
and ever,
and ever,
and never stops.
It flows like molasses,
when you want it to rush,
and speeds up way too much,
when you want it to slow to a stop.

— BRIAN BIPPET, 12, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

Dolphins

Swimming majestically under the sunlight,
The water swishing and splashing from behind,
The same thing follows just hours after beneath moonlight,
They always do this, Oh My!
Shiny bright, alluring blue skin,
That glimmers and sparkles under light,
Its eyes dazzling in the hue of tin,
They swim in groups packed so tight,
Adults and calves consist of that,
Sounds of clicks and talking fill the

SEE GREENBRIAR, PAGE 12

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GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 11

air,
They do so much for each other and
care,
Jumping and flipping up to the sky,
They soar above into the air and fly,
Doing whatever and what they're des-
tined in purpose.

— DHRITI POSA, 11, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

The Wonders Beyond

Have you ever wondered, what is up
there,
Up and out of sight?
The little stars that twinkle,
So strong, and so bright.
The Northern Lights that shine and
shimmer,
And make a heavenly light.
The comets that fly so free,
Shimmering, and shining, and danc-
ing with glee.

The planets,our solar system,
Revolves around the sun.
The sun, a star, it gives us light.
The earth, our home, it gives us de-
light.
Have you ever wondered, what is up
there,
Up and out of sight?
— SAI GREESHMA GAYAM, 12,
GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

The Snow Cab

Jake sits in the back of the taxi won-
dering where the snowstorm is coming
from. Outside, it is a sunny day in New
York, but the inside of the yellow cab
already has a few inches of cold, wet
snow and the conditions seemed to
worsen. Jake had heard of strange
things happening in cabs before. But this
is even more bizarre than the stories he
has heard of. Maybe the penguin driver
had something to do with it.

— ANOOP
NALLANAGULAGARI, 11,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

The Best Thing Ever That Happened:

“This is it”, I thought to myself as I
was entering the final lap in the Indy
500.
I had been trying to make money ever
since my dad lost it. It all started on a
normal day, until my dad started
screaming in pain. We took him to the
hospital, and apparently he had a heart
attack.

Suddenly, my engine blows, and 5
seconds later I'm in a hospital bed. I
then realize there's a crinkling noise
coming from the pillow. I open it up and
find a stash of 100 dollar bills. I had
found Dad's money.

— SHOURI NALLANAGULA,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Her Smile

The slightest sign
Of a grin
Turns up the corners of her mouth
White, polished teeth
Glittering
It's contagious
Literally
No one can feel sorrow
Her eyes are shining
More than ever



**Keertana Yalamanchili, 10,
grade 5, Fairfax**

It makes us all dream
Her dimples clearly showing
Like the morning sun
Her sparkling blonde hair
Glimmering
It makes our day
Taking out its crinkles and crumples
Like making a bed
Until we forget
About our importunate troubles
But she slowly succumbs
To an inexorable ailment
Though she will soon be gone-
Her smile will still live on

— SUBHIKSHA BALAJI, 11,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Peace Be Here

Has the world ever stopped helping
you
Do you ever think about death
Has your dwelling ever turned around
Has your life's ends almost met
Believe it or not, it's happened
Anywhere
Everywhere
I tell you
Where has our peace gone
Has it disappeared
Forever
Or will it reappear
If our world could be tranquil
Our lives would be calm
We would never worry
About bombs
War and peace
could be a combination
In our world
It is devastation
Has your life turned inside out
Did you live in constant fear
Well, if we work together
Peace will be here

— SUBHIKSHA BALAJI, 11,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Memorable Birthdays

The thing about birthdays, is that it's
not how it's not how it's advertised. I'm
sure we've all seen the cheesy movie
where a character has a sappy, roman-
tic birthday. We all know that it's not
true.

My parents scheduled a flight to Ko-
rea , and the day we take off into the air:
my 4th birthday. I was too young to
know. When we arrived, I was jet-
lagged and tired.

I remember going to bed and waking
up to my laughing cousins. I was given
the best birthday, time with my family.
And that's what counts.

— ALISON LIM, 11, GRADE 6,
CHANTILLY

One Hundred Bawks?

Waddle dashed back to the hollow
where the turkeys were staying, a green
strip clutched in his beak.

“Hey! Look what I've got!”

“Looks like one o' those human trade
things. They trade it for stuff,” Gramps
responded. “Looks like a hundred
bawks.”

“Hundred?”

“A lot. 'Bawks' is what greedy humans
call the strips.”

“Who's that ugly human on the
front?”

“Ben Franklin. He wanted us turkeys
to be some kind o' mascot. Failure, ob-
viously. Those humans try cookin' us.
Dunno why he's on there. Anyway, he
ate turkeys.”

Waddle stood in silence. Then, he
tore the strip to pieces.

— VAGUL MAHADEVAN, 12,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Ms. Personius's Pine

To the tree farm they did go
For a big tree with good show
She did not expect a tree twelve feet
No other trees' height could beat
So they came to cut it down
Oh what a tree they had found!
Took it down, took it home
Trudging through some rainy foam
Then it an hour's time
Four flights of stairs they had to climb
Finally they got it in
A room with a high ceiling
Strung it with light
Made it bright

It was the biggest pine you'd ever see
Ms. Personius's Christmas tree

— ESHA KHATOR, 11, GRADE
6, CENTREVILLE

Soccer

Soccer is my favorite sport. I love it
because it requires teamwork and phys-
ical contact. You can't succeed without
working well with others and communi-
cating. The best part of soccer is having
to work hard towards something, in this
sport you can't accomplish anything
without giving it your all. Even the sim-
plest of things you have to work hard,
like taking an open shot. You must al-
ways have an aggressive mindset, and
do what is required to win, like using
your body to knock a player over, or
stop the game winning shot. Thats what
makes soccer so exhilarating.

— PRANAY DHAWAN, 12,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity

One frequently asked question is,
“What is the Theory of Relativity?” Well,
it is actually made up of two theories:
Special and General relativity. Special
Relativity states that objects have differ-
ent speeds from different perspectives
and that the speed of light is constant in
a vacuum. General Relativity is about
gravity, saying that it is a result of space-
time warping.

It predicts things that couldn't be ex-
plained by Newton's Law of Gravitation,
such as Gravitational Time Dilation,
Gravitational Lensing, and other events
that before had been considered anoma-
lies.

— SRIHAN GANGA, 12, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

What Makes a Good Friend

Is a good friend a person that makes
you laugh and do fun stuff? Sometimes!
A good friend is a person who helps you
with your daily life. If someone tries to
bully you, your friend stands up for you.
It's someone who doesn't lie to you
about where he is or what he is doing.
He doesn't try to convince you to do bad
stuff.

Last but not least, they are always
there for you if you get hurt because
they care about you. This is what makes
a good friend.

— ANTHONY TYLES,AGE 11,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

An Ode to Swimming

We should all conclude
The best sport of all
It's really quite simple
That swimming outshines them all

It's not just swimming for sport
That's not it's all about
Splashes, dunks, and cannonballs
There's really nothing to doubt

We do more kicks than in soccer
Much more dives than divers
Lots of flips like gymnasts
No kidding, we're not liars

If you don't agree with me
That's fine, it's alright
I'm just stating my opinion
Persuading you with all my might

That swimming is the best
You really can't deny it
If you say no
Change your mind to yes
— THOMAS SOH, 12, GRADE
6, CENTREVILLE

How to be a Good Parent

The key to being a good parent is to
have your child agree with you. You
should be both a role model and a com-
panion.

Be protective, but give your kid some
space. Give them what they want once
in a while but don't spoil them. You
should know your child's strengths and
weaknesses, and bring out the best of
them.

But most of all, you should let them
know you care. If you guide your child
with love, you should be a great parent.

— SHIVANI PULI, 12, SIXTH
GRADE, CHANTILLY

My Hero

On a really chilly day,
My mittens are my buddies
They keep my hands warm
Safe from a snowstorm

They even stop frostbite
And kick them out of sight
My mittens are my hero
And I thank them very much

Yeah....the size
I admit that, yes I do
But they help me very much
So you better not criticize.

— RACHEL CHAE, 11, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

The Inscrutable Dragon

A young king lived in deadly times.
His kingdom was invaded by a viru-
lent dragon.

The king abscond his castle, wearing
a lengthy drape to disguise himself.

Off to search the kingdom, he found
no evidence of the beast in the village.

It was beginning to get dark, he
dashed into the murky forest.

After suitable time he found the
dragon's lair.The dragon made it's home
around large rocks near a standard side
lake.The king reached for his arrows, it
flew straight at the animal but only
bounced off his hide. Fearing to arouse
the beast he left.

— HOSAENA TILAHUN, 11,
GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

Korean Ramen VS. Japanese Ramen

Korean ramen is superior to Japanese
ramen in every way possible. For ex-
ample, Japanese ramen only has four
types; Miso, Shoyu, Shio, and Tonkotsu,
while Korean's has many! There is Shin,
Buldak, Nongshim, Neoguri, Samyang,
and much more. Also, while Japanese
ramen is very limited in taste, Korean
ramen is exquisitely spicy. Even if you
don't like spicy foods, there's also a mild
type of ramen, or you can simply add
more water while you're cooking it!
There's also super spicy ramen to you
challengers. To sum it up, Korean ramen
is heavenly compared to Japanese
ramen.

— DANIEL JANG, 12, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

The Forgotten

Remember me,
Make me known to the earth
Keep me in your heart,
Give me some worth,

Remember me,
Share my name with pride,
make me known to everyone,
make me be seen worldwide

Remember me
Remember them,
they need credit too,
the ones who fought to free our lives
the ones that followed through

Though we may be blurred and faded
history will not forget
the people who believe to be
the ones with no regret

We save the world in different ways
Together we stand proud and tall
Don't forget to think back
and remember us all

— LILLIAN HANEY, 11, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX

Minions

minions, minions, million alive,
up there, down there,running around,
up there, down there, everywhere.
never too serious
always happy and funny
I think of them as adorable, fat little
cuties,

and I really think they are.
minions, minions, million alive,
up there, down there, running
around,
up there, down there, every-
where

SEE GREENBRIAR, PAGE 14

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CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL

That Heart Content amid the Fading Moonlight

Of deep winter, when the snow had just began to cover the streets of the city,
forgotten as the white clouds of a late sunrise, it fell gently from the sky.

Clutching tightly upon the filled coin pouch of my pocket, I walked among the tenements.

Beneath that residence which was of yours, I heard the soft melody of your pi-pa.

Hidden through the coldness of the lonesome air, the wind brought lovingly that tune which was yours all the way to the sad refuse of my heart.

If only I had been satisfied of my longing for what I could not understand.

Eventually, such music trailed off into the quiet distance, and I found myself standing alone.

With my spare hand, I pulled down on the leather cap resting atop of my head.

Over my forehead it sank, and I continued to wander on.

Companionless, I trailed along the roads' edges, a lost villager in search of his home.

The snow grew denser between my legs as the barking of stray hounds echoed throughout the night.

In the distance, a young boy stood by the side of a street corner, calling out into the frigid air.

Cheeks rosy from the cold, he wore but a thin jacket, his knuckles were torn by the wind.

Unceasingly, he called out into the lost stillness of the night, a street vendor selling sweet potatoes.

Face stained with tears from the cold, his breath escaped like fog into the air.

My heart sympathized for him, a poor child with so little knowledge.

Who, willing to buy sweet potatoes, would approach him in such a moment of the night?

Still, the young boy's calling did not trail off into the quiet distance, and how beautiful it was to my ears.

With great faith he called, with a lasting hope in his heart, and I joined him amid the fading moonlight.

The snow continued to fall as the boy refused my cloak; my company was enough for his contentment.

With love sincere he handed me a sweet potato, and it was sweet to my heart indeed.

Embracing his brief suffering of the night, I too called out into the darkness,

for that heart too, content amid the fading moonlight, was whole beyond the winter.

— ALEXANDER WANG, 14, GRADE 9

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- Maria Montessori



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GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 12

— SRI KONAGALLA, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

Fantastic Friend

A friend isn't a friend if they don't have a good sense of humor. They have to respect you and all of your other friends willingly. Amazing friends have to love laughing. If you lose your homework, she should be there for you. When you've had a bad day, you can go to them and be encouraged by their kind words. All your awesome friends should stick by your side.

— MADELYN BULLOCK, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

Sunrise

Beep! Beep! I shove my face into my pillow. *Beep! Beep!* I look at my alarm clock; 4:30. Right. I'm supposed to watch the sunrise with my mom. I walk to my closet and put on a tank top. It's supposed to be cold, but I don't mind.

Creeping down the stairs, I put my boots on. Opening the door, a slight breeze ruffles my hair gently. I race up the hill, but no one is here yet. Slowly, I lay down on the grass and close my eyes. Waiting.

— MADELYN BULLOCK, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

Freedom

Freedom is when you choose, who you want to be. Not what others want, but who you truly are.

Freedom is not a lonely bird, but a bird who has broken away from his group. To explore the world his way.

Freedom is not the right to choose, but the ability to make the choice alone, without influence, except from within.

Freedom is choosing who to listen to. and choosing for yourself, what is right, and what is wrong.

— CINDY WU, 11, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

A Special Family Bond

What does a parent really want? Money and wealth, or something better; love from their children. Love is better than all. What gifts do parents really want? Our love. Do parents go for fun? Working all day thinking of us, waiting to come home for tons of love. "Mommy, you're here!" or "Daddy, you're here, back from work!" We always anxiously wait to see you come home. You come home and spend time with us, play games until bed. Soon we'll go to college but our bond will stay the same. XOXO mommy and daddy. We will eternally be together.

— RIA RAVAL, 11, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

The Best Thing...

The best thing that ever happened to me is when I scored the winning goal in my first travel soccer tournament. I ran up and when the ball was crossed in, I took a powerful stab at it and scored. Everyone was cheering for me because



Celebrating Halloween with his younger brother by Yashaswin Macherla, 8, grade 3, Fairfax

that was the goal that led our team to the semifinals. That season, I scored five more goals, two of which were game winners.

— ROHAN PRABHU, 11, GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Christmas

The sounds of ringing bells
People rushing home from work
and the twinkling lights on the streets
These are Santa's Big Days

The Children running about
Checking the Christmas Tree
and grabbing candy canes
For a little treat

At night they go to sleep
Not a mouse is stirring
Then the sounds of reindeer
Then a mighty ho-ho-hoing

Next morning the children awake
jumbling with excitement
They run to the Christmas Tree
and peek under it

And they'll find some gifts
and play with them for hours ahead
But The minute Christmas is over
everyone's waiting
for Santa's Next Arrival

— ALAN SAJI, 12, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

A Star

What do you think a star represents?
Nothing, you may say
Think about it a little deeply
For I will prove you wrong today

It is an individual
That shines in its own way
It holds itself up high
And in the sky it stays

It has a bright attitude,
That makes everyone smile
It makes you feel like your day
Has really been worthwhile

Shimmers like a diamond
A sequin of hope
If you don't believe me
Look through your telescope

— ASTHA SHAH, 11, GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

The Best Gift I Have Ever Gotten.

The best gift I've ever received was my iPod. It is the best gift I've gotten



Zainab Sohail, 11, grade 6, Fairfax

because I got lots of use out of it. I use it for many things including school, and fun. I still enjoy using it to this very day. It has endured many hardships over the years I've had it. They've stopped making the cases so now I have to be more careful with the cage. It might be out of date but it is still useful. It is the best gift I've ever got from someone.

— COOPER ROGER AGE 11, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

A Smile

The sunrays fall through the glistening square of glass. The glow created a thin smirk across a youthful face, but when the moonlight shone, that smirk became a smile. Every smile slowly becomes a laugh. It twinkles, and glows, and flies up to your fresh, white, pure teeth, which create a shadow, behind your full lips. Putting the beauty of those together, in which creates a smile. Each soul is unique, yet every heart owns a graceful, and lush smile, a broad one indeed! Spreading its way across the world, warming a person's heart with joy!

A Smile...

— ANANYA RAJESH, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

What I Would Like to be When I Grow Up

When I grow up I would like to be a chemical engineer and engineer a fuel source that doesn't pollute. If I get that done fast enough I will keep working to find a more efficient or renewable source that doesn't pollute either. I will also need to either get a degree in engineering to design an engine that can use it, or work with someone who can. If the fuel I develop can be used in power plants, it would have a huge impact on world pollution and it may also reduce the mining done for fossil fuels, as it would be renewable.

— AIDEN ROGER, 11, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

Made out of Chocolate

If I lived in a house made out of chocolate I would first remind myself not to eat the whole house. I could eat the shelves and the curtains.

Next, I will make my chocolate house weather proof. So, I will make a super

strong and big umbrella.

Then, I would add a football field and a basketball court which would be made out of chocolate.

Finally, after everything is finished I would invite all of my friends over. We will play on my football and basketball courts. I will make sure they won't eat the chocolate. Or will I?

— RUCHIR KASINENI, 11, GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Orca

The Orca Whale is one of the world's most powerful marine predators. These carnivores feast on mammals such as fish, sea lions, and other whales. They travel in large pods of forty, making them even more deadly to prey. Contrasting its name, the Orca Whale belongs to the oceanic dolphin family. Their life span ranges from 50 to 80 years, while weighing about six tons and growing up to 23 ft. to 32 ft. long. Killer Whales are intelligent, well organized mammals with brains weighing about 15 lbs. They are endangered due to nautical threats, pollution, and scarcity of food.

— PRANAV KANAPURAM, 11, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

What Makes a Good Friend

A friend will always stand up for you or get help from an adult if you are being bullied. Even if she doesn't help directly, she won't turn her back. She will never force you to choose one friend over another. She will never invade your privacy by looking in your diary or spread rumors. She will keep your secrets, and own up to it if she tells someone. She will trust you to keep her secrets. She will try to make you an important part of her life in as many ways as possible.

— HANNAH DIEHL, 11, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

A Good Parent

A child's best companion, is calm, pleasant, bold, but caring. That is what a good parent is.

They are charming, delightful, and relaxed.

In the youngster's eyes, they are the most daring and brave of all.

But what is amazing and special, is when you have done something wrong,

you will be in their arms, forgiven, being loved and admired, forever and ever.

— LUCY ALEJANDRO, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

My Upcoming Year

There are so many things I'm looking forward to in the upcoming year of 2015. The main one would be graduating Greenbriar West Elementary School. It will be a very exciting moment for me, and all the other sixth graders as well. Graduating is a flashback of the last seven years and my journey through elementary school. All the great times with my friends and teachers might end, but there will be a new beginning in middle school.

— SIMRAN ARORA, 11, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

The Perfect Parent

Attention all parents! If you want to be the perfect parent, here is some advice from a kid. You should try to do your best to keep your child very happy at all times. Some ways to make your child happy are: let kids do whatever they want to, buy them lots of toys and video games, let them eat as much junk food as they want, give them unlimited screen time, and do their homework. If you follow this great advice, your child will be very happy. And if your child is happy, you will be happy too!

— ALEX SINGH, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

The Ball

The ball blinked in the moonlight. I glared at it. "You're not making me late for school again." No response. It continued to look fluffy and soft. I crossed my arms and turned away. The room was still silent. It stood there innocently. "Come, on, don't even try!" I snorted a laugh. "I'm going to bed." My footsteps thudded down the hall. Suddenly, I ran back and snatched the ball up. "I can probably get up tomorrow." And that's when I swear the ball cast an evil grin.

— ALEENA ALVI, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

Rules

One thing I would change about school is the rules. One of the new rules would be that each class has to get a half an hour free reading time every week. Reading helps children's mind relax and just take a break. Reading can also increase someone's creativity. The author's good ideas can inspire the reader. Students can also develop good writing skills and learn to use better vocabulary. Reading would help children no matter what grade they're in become a better writer. With the new reading rule, kids become smarter and their future is brighter.

— HAILENA BIAN, 10, 5TH GRADE, FAIRFAX

Birthday Blast!

It was March 22, 2014 when I collapsed on my bed with a sore shoulder. I fell asleep in a minute and you will never guess what happened. I woke with chocolates being thrown on my face. Five minutes later I figured out what was happening. It was midnight and my friends were in my house throwing lindor chocolates on me. Today was

SEE GREENBRIAR, PAGE 16

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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 cretanine 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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of a thing
well done, is
to have done it.
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GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 14

March 23 and it was my birthday! My friends came for a sleepover!

— ARYAMAN BHUTE, 10,
GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

Swim Team

I've gone through a lot of great things in my life, but the best thing in my life is not a thing. When I joined my swim team, the Potomac Marlins, I was really anxious. I thought I'd made the wrong decision. I thought that no one would want to be my friend. You could imagine my surprise when a girl talked to me the next day. Eventually, we became friends and I met more people. Over time, I became really close with some people. Maybe joining the Potomac Marlins wasn't a bad idea after all!

— TRISHA BALAKRISHNAN, 11,
GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

My Dream Job

We all have dream jobs. It maybe becoming an astronaut or a basketball player. Though not for me. My job would be one with a little fun but mostly work. It would have to incorporate designing flying products. Since I was four, I have dreamed about space travel. That

is why I want to be an Aerospace Robotal Engineer. In this job I would work on improving current versions of aircraft design and conceptualize futuristic flying machines.

Not only will my inventions send people to Mars and beyond, they will make life on Earth better!

— TEJA BUDDHAVARAPU, 11,
GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

Swimming

My favorite hobby is swimming. Injuries are not really common in swimming, unlike other sports such as football or soccer. If drowning would be considered an injury, it would be rare to happen to an experienced swimmer. Swimming is one of those awesome sports for almost anybody, old or young to participate in. This is a good reason to like swimming because that means that it is a great way to stay fit and in shape. Staying fit is good for a healthy and nutritious life. Concluding, swimming is one of my favorite hobbies.

— LUCY BLAZQUEZ, 11,
GRADE 6

A good friend

There are many qualities you must

have to be a good friend. A preeminent quality that I seek, is for my friend to be there for me in my time of need. Such as when someone is hurt, either physically or emotionally, a good friend would go up to that person to make sure that they are not injured in any way. I know I have a lot of good friends because I can tell them any of my profound secrets. I'm never afraid about what they might say. If you have all these qualities you're definitely a good friend.

— NEHA CHANDAR, 11,
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

Floor

Floor,
Does it hurt to step on you?
Does it hurt to sit on you?
Are you strong enough to hold a ton?
When do you think your work is done?

I still have many questions
Do you mind if I do a cartwheel on you?

Do you mind if I stomp on you?
Do you mind if I trip on you?

You're lucky my mom is here for you
She wipes you
She cleans you
She lets the smelly sock smells run

away

You should be thankful,
You, Shiny

— RACHEL CHAE, 11, GRADE
6, CENTREVILLE

Hot Cocoa

After a chilly night indeed,
Hot cocoa is in need.
So gather around
And try this

Mmm... smell that aroma

That nobody can ignore

Sniff, Sniff

Sip, Sip

Something I adore

Of course, I want more

— RACHEL CHAE, 11, GRADE
6, CENTREVILLE

World Police?

Though many people believe the United States is wasting time and resources to be the "World Police", I think it is absolutely necessary. Without the presence of the motto "defending freedom", the world would be very different.

For an instance, if the United States never bothered to fight the USSR in the

Cold War, most of Europe would be communist. To add on to that, what if Uncle Sam wasn't a democratic state? The world would probably be under unjust rule. In my opinion, someone has to do it, and the United States is doing a great job.

— JASON CHEN, 11, GRADE 6,
FAIRFAX

Christmas is in the Air

Red flames crackling in the fireplace,
White snow dancing on the streets.
Listen to the singing in every place,
Warm feelings you will feel here.

Clear ice glistening on the narrow sidewalks,
Children sledding on frozen hills.
Big snow piles in front of them,
Christmas is coming near.

Pine trees standing proudly in living rooms,
Presents sitting around them.
Watch as Poinsettia blooms,
Frost glittering on its petals.

Cold wind chilling, snowman building,
Put the top hat on its head.
Families gathering in every home,
Christmas is in the air...

— LUCY CHEN, 12, GRADE 6,
CHANTILLY

Loving Family

Did you ever ponder on what makes a good family? A good family is balanced with love and expectations. A good family takes care of you when you are sick and helps you when you are facing a hard time.

The parents should be kind, but sometimes strict so then you could learn to be disciplined and successful at school. My parents let my brothers and I have time to play, but also time to learn and study. When your parents have high expectations and care for you, then you end up trying harder. That's what makes a good family.

— ANDREW CHOI, 12, GRADE
6, FAIRFAX,

Tiger day

If I were any animal for a day, I would be a tiger. Now, tigers are phenomenal in various ways, one of which is their elusive hunting strategy. Also, we have lots in common.

Tigers are extremely intelligent, and are the "Kings of the Jungle," a term commonly used for lions. However, the tiger would win in a fight between the two apexes. It would use the element of surprise and lunge on the lion, snapping its neck, and utterly destroying it. Another fun fact is that tigers carry their prey up to eat! Tigers, in my opinion, are perfect.

— NICK CLEMENT, 12,
GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

Looking Forward to Math

I am looking forward to math the most. I know math is easy already and it is fun to learn. I also love the complex numbers and the easy problems. Also, everything is the same and nothing goes wrong or becomes different. This is why I look forward to math the most.

— JUSTIN CHOI, 10, GRADE
5, FAIRFAX

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