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**CONNECTION**  
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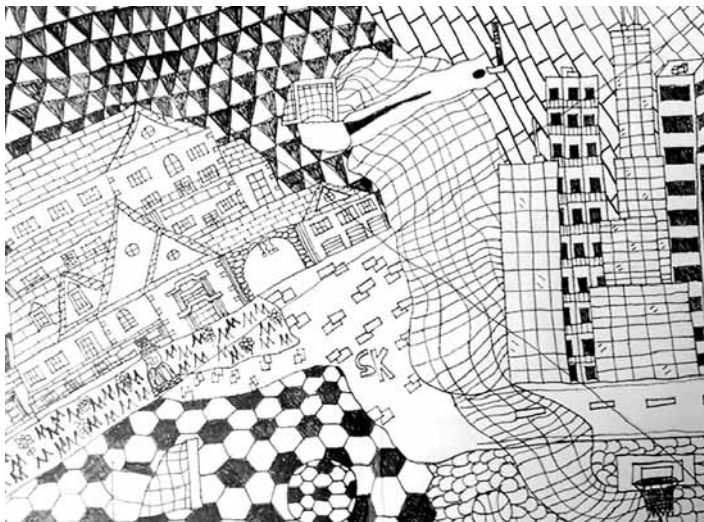
**Children's Connection 2014**

Mina Mohammed,  
grade 1 at Greenbriar  
East Elementary

JANUARY 1-7, 2015

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY



**Samuel Kim**



**Kendrix Singleton, grade 1**



**Gabrielle Tejada, grade 3**



**Vivian Le, grade 3**



**Raghav Bhati, grade 3**



**Sandhya Adhikari, grade 5**



**Natalia Merette**



**Kala Thapa**



**Malik Jones**



**Daphne Chong**

## Welcome

**D**ear Readers: This week, the Chantilly 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. 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 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 schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to [chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com), but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN

# 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  
G, FAIRFAX



**Aleena Alvi, 11, grade 6, Chantilly**

## 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 G

## 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 G, 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



**Zainab Sohail, 11, grade 6, Fairfax**

of strife

— KUNSH SINGH, 11, GRADE  
G, 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 G

## 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 G, 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 improvising 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  
G, 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 G, 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 BIPPERT, 12, GRADE  
G, FAIRFAX

## Dolphins

Swimming majestically under the sunlight,  
The water swishing and splashing

SEE GREENBRIAR, PAGE 4

# GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

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 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 destined 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 dancing 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 delight.

Have you ever wondered, what is up there,  
Up and out of sight?

— SAI GREESHMA GAYAM, 12, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

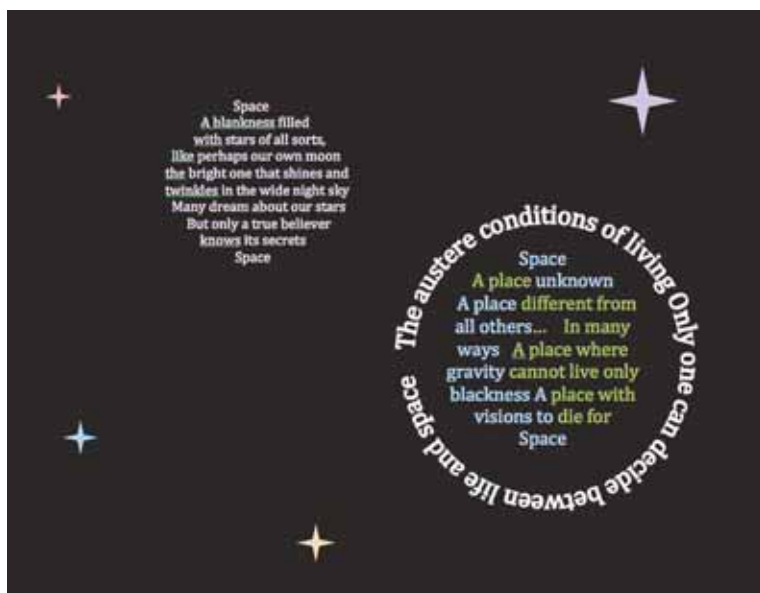
## The Snow Cab

Jake sits in the back of the taxi wondering 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



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



**Ayush Rautwar, 11, grade 6, Fairfax**

## 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  
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



**Anna Nguyen, grade 5, Chantilly**



**Sathwika Prasad, 6, grade 1, Fairfax**

— 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, romantic birthday. We all know that it's not true. My parents scheduled a flight to Korea, 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, obviously. 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 physical contact. You can't succeed without working well with others and communicating. 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 simplest of things you have to work hard, like taking an open shot. You must always 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. That's 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 different 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 explained by Newton's Law of Gravitation, such as Gravitational Time Dilation, Gravitational Lensing, and other events that before had been considered anomalies.

— 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.

SEE GREENBRIAR, PAGE 5

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# GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

— 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 companion. 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

OAK HILL ELEMENTARY



"Mom and New Baby Brother," by Yuxin Li, 7, grade 2



Madelyn Bullock, 11, grade 6, Chantilly

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 virulent 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 example, 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

SEE GREENBRIAR, PAGE 12



"Beach Fun," by Nicole Liu, grade 2



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# GREENBRIAR EAST ELEMENTARY



Erin Nolasco, grade 5, Global Architecture Applique



Yulia Ivanova, grade 5



Aileen Wu, grade 2



Demian Lopez-Sanchez, grade 3



Nicolette Batori, grade 3,  
Chalk Self Portrait



Avery Li, grade 2, Neighbor-  
hood Friend Drawing



Mason Gasper, grade 2



Minn Jun, grade 1,  
Favorite Season Tree Painting



Megan Molloy, grade 6, Leaf Painting

# 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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# BULL RUN ELEMENTARY



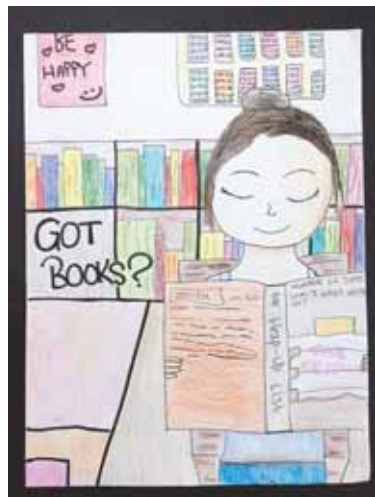
Leslie Choi, 8, grade 3



Samikksha Kumar, grade 3



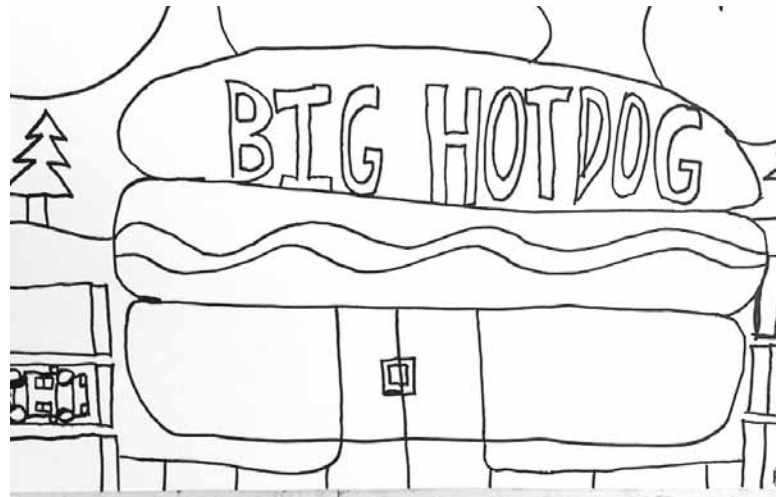
Catie Gunn, grade 6



Sally Park, grade 6



Kaia Parker, grade 4



Brandon Byrd, grade 2



Emily Frazer, grade 3



Analise Lee, kindergarten



Sae Jun Jung, grade 3



Juliana Luna Quintero, grade 6



Kaylen Won, 5, kindergarten



Nizar Hassan, 6, kindergarten

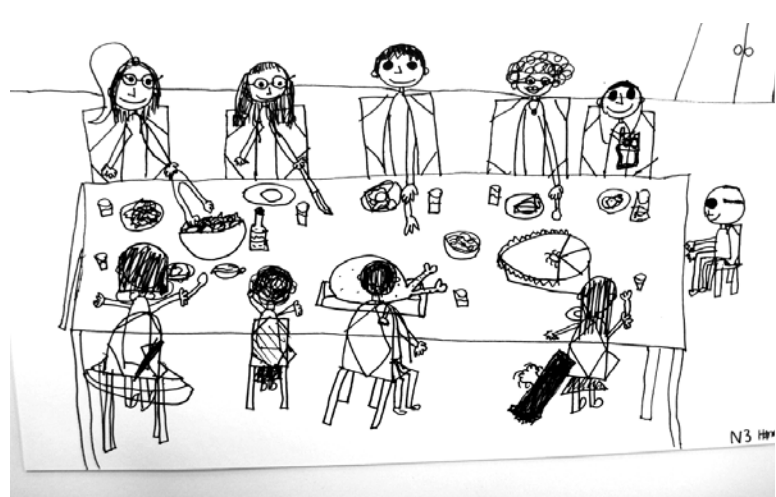


Tanishi Dasgupta, grade 4

Eileen Silis, 11, grade 5



Braden Resquin, grade 5



Hannah Yang, grade 3



Ronald Ribera, grade 3



Caeley Souksavath, grade 6



Ashley Avalos, 5, kindergarten



Avneet Saini, grade 5



Brandon Ngo, 7, grade 2



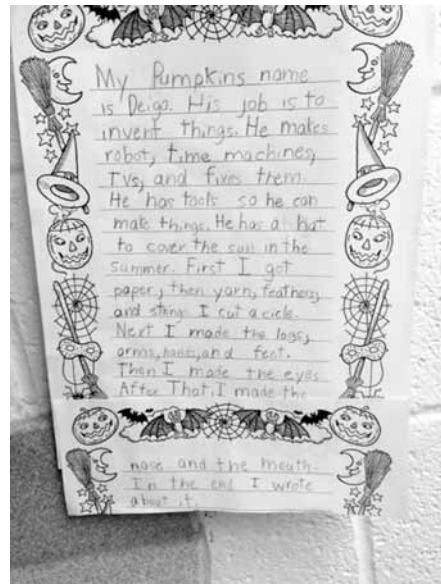
Aleshanee Collado, grade 3



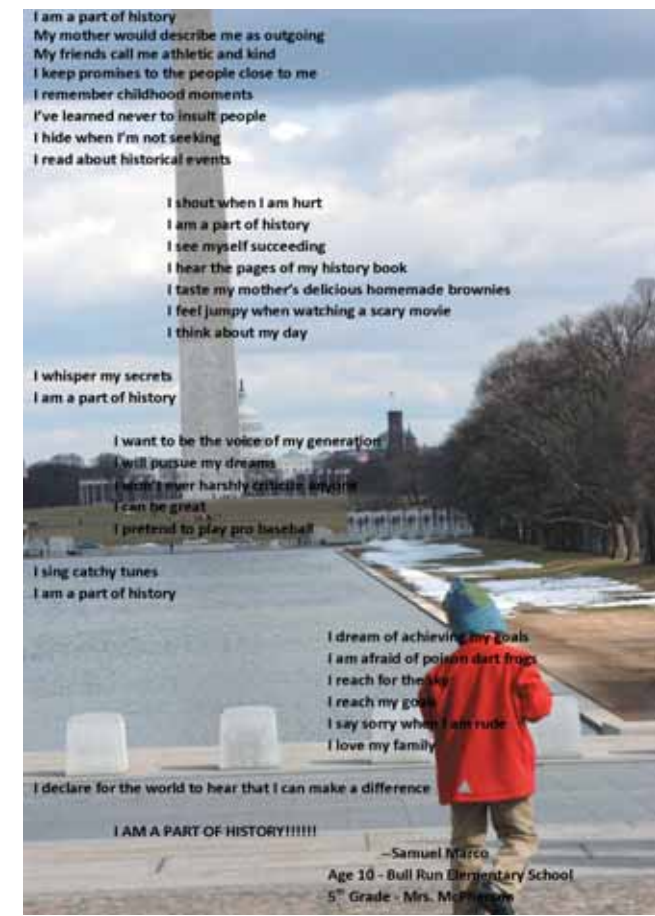
Scott Jeffry, 5, kindergarten



Kyle Hogan, grade 5



Piero Evangelista Cordova, 7, grade 2



Samuel Marco, 11, grade 5



Chelsea Nguyen, grade 6



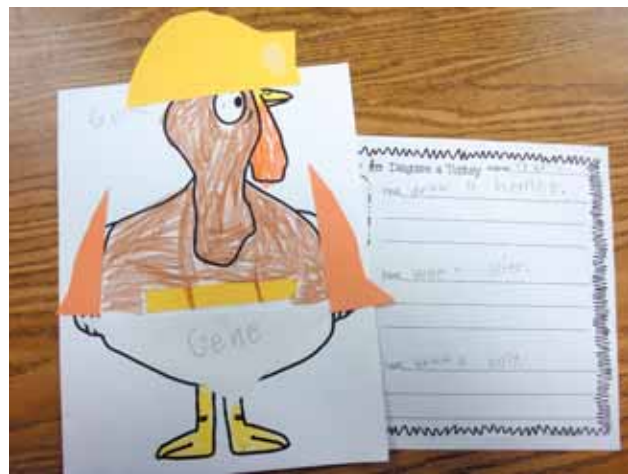
Sonya Kara-Murza, 5, kindergarten



Steven Ixchin, grade 1

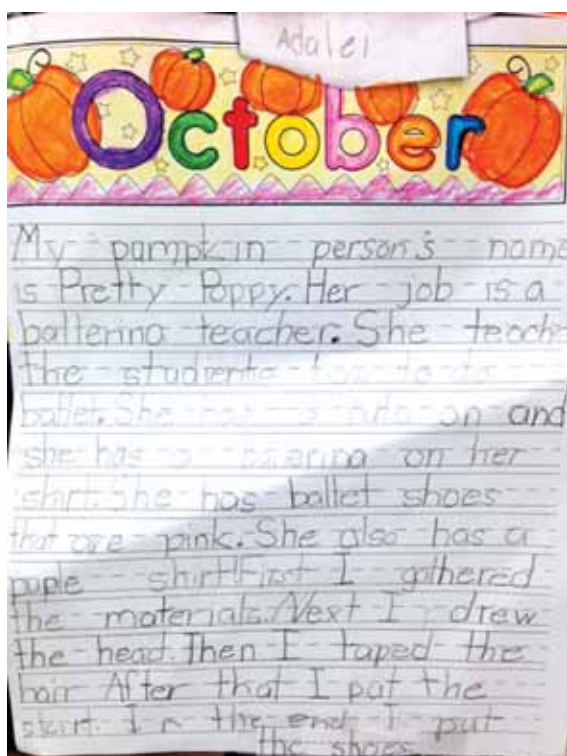


Priya Anandakumar, 7, grade 2



Gene Kim, grade 1

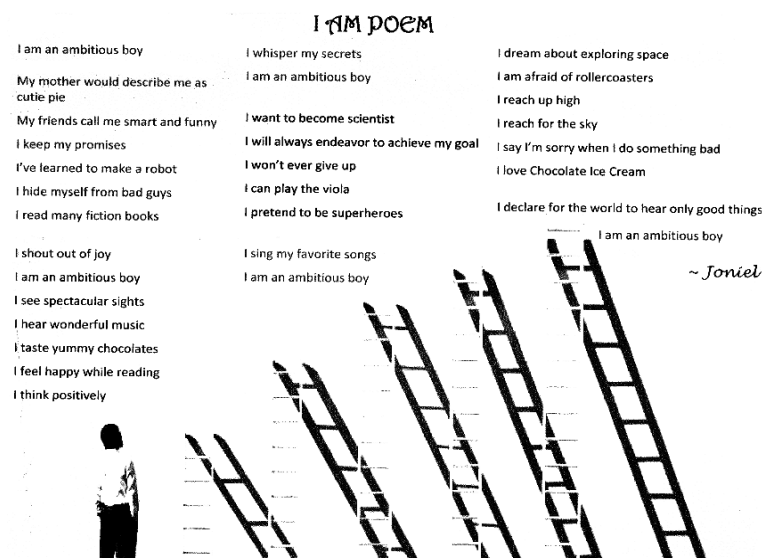
# BULL RUN ELEMENTARY



Adalei Deskins, 7, grade 2



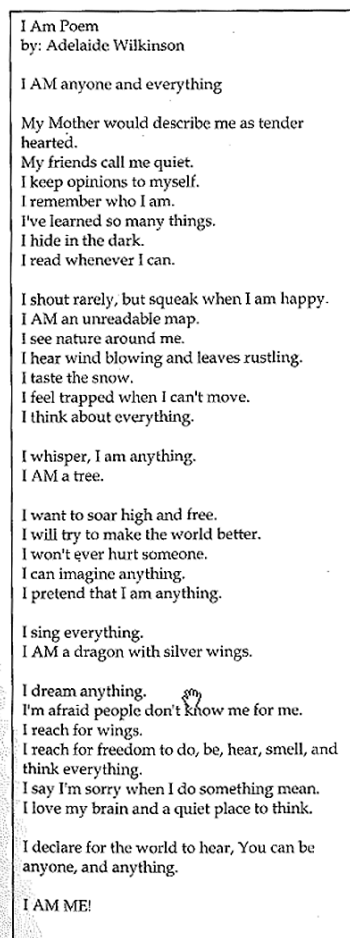
Jun Yoon, 7, grade 2



Joniel Jerome, grade 5



Helen Choe, grade 4



Adelaide

Adelaide Wilkinson, 11, grade 5



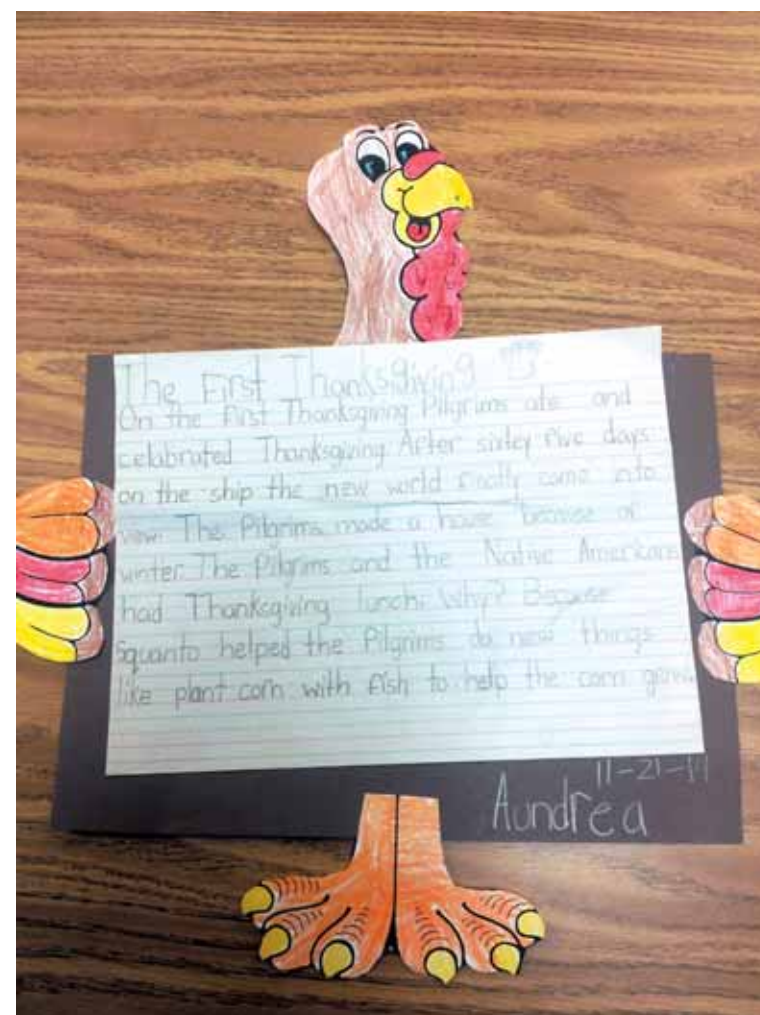
"I am a part of history," Sam Marco



Kathryn Corsby,  
5, kindergarten



Kendall Salisbury, grade 1



Andrea Rivas, 8, grade 2

# MONTESSORI OF CHANTILLY



Melanie Ryan, 5



Kaylin Levy, 5



Hasini Jasthi, 5



Arya Reddy, 5



Neil Saboo, 5



Neal Sood, 5



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1/21/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools  
1/28/2015 ..... Neighborhood Outlook  
1/28/2015 ..... Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment;  
Valentine's Preview

### FEBRUARY

2/4/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts I  
2/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing – National Children's Dental  
Health Month  
2/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle  
2/11/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts II  
Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16  
2/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools  
2/25/2015 ..... Pet Connection Pullout

### MARCH

3/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing  
3/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout  
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- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

# GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

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  
— 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 home-  
work, 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



**Madelyn Bullock, 11, grade 6, Chantilly**

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 al-  
ways 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  
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

became a smile. Every smile slowly be-  
comes 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 persons 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 en-  
gineering 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. Con-  
trasting 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 nau-  
tical 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 be-  
ing 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 se-  
crets, and own up to it if she tells  
someone. She will trust you to keep her  
secrets. She will try to make you an im-  
portant 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 graduat-  
ing 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 el-  
ementary 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 ad-  
vice 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,  
SEE GREENBRIAR, PAGE 14

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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

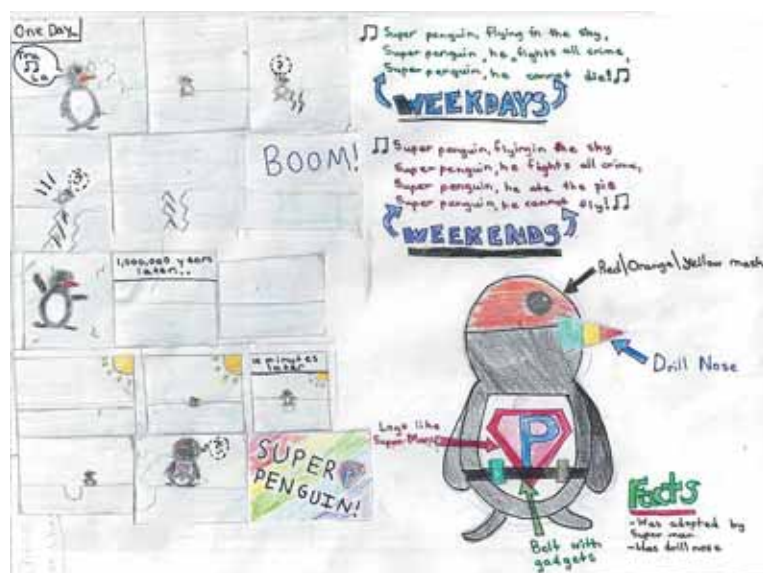
Shimmers like a diamond  
A sequin of hope  
If you don't believe me  
Look through your telescope  
— ASTHA SHAH, 11, GRADE 6,  
CENTREVILLE

## 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  
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 mak-  
ing 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 glisten-  
ing square of glass. The glow created a  
thin smirk across a youthful face, but  
when the moonlight shone, that smirk



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

## WORDS & PICTURES



Molly Weaver, 17, grade 11,  
Oak Hill, Bishop O'Connell  
High School



Molly Weaver, 17, grade 11, Oak Hill, Meade Art Studio



Priya Padayachee, 9, Chantilly



Mira Padayachee, 9,  
Chantilly

### ROCKY RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### Last Day of School

The clock tells it's two minutes away  
We wait impatiently on the school's last day  
We all fidget, getting ready to run  
When the bell finally rings, the hallways swell

While the teachers wave farewell  
Everyone is yelling  
Celebrating the last day of school  
— TONY PARK, 13, GRADE 8

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# GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 12

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 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 Robotical 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!



**Aasa Dommalapati, 10, grade 5, Centreville**

— 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

## What Makes a Good Friend?

Everyone has a different definition of a good friend. My definition of a good friend consists of a lot of qualities. One is that they’re always there for you no matter what. When you are feeling somber or down they give you a shoulder to lean on. When I got out of surgery they kept me happy. You always feel better around them. They keep you upbeat, happy and joyful. You can share your deepest secrets with them. With them, you can be yourself. To me, that’s what makes a good friend. What’s your definition of a good friend?

— AMANDA CHONG, 12, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

## A Late Afternoon at Ron’s Shoe Shop

When she came in, I was at the counter waiting for customers. It was 4:16 p.m., a time when people wake up from their afternoon nap. I was ready to doze off when the bell on the door rang. There was a woman, about as young as my daughter who lived in Ohio with her husband. I got up and said my line “Welcome to Ron’s Shoe Store, may I be of any assistance?” “No, but thank you” she replied. She bought some shoes. I took the money. I said my closing line “Thank you and have a nice day!”

— COLETTE D’COSTA, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

## An Outsider

The howls of a wolf pack sound boldly, as if to cut the frosty air. I bound down the frozen paths of the twisted woods, panting hard. My breaths are visible to the eye, short and fast. As I dash by the thousands of oaks, my cold bare feet are embedded into the crisp, white snow. The furs on my skin keep me warm in the winter tundra, but don’t protect me from the elements. The sun sets upon the horizon as the harsh winds blow. Darkness falls on the icy forest, a light shines; the moon. So, I howl.

— SYDNEY FISH, 12, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

## A Good Friend

A good friend isn’t somebody that you have conversations with or they are just nice to you. They are more than that. A good friend is somebody that you can trust. They are someone who will stand up for you. Someone who will help you get back up on your feet even in the hardest times. A good friend doesn’t just leave you lying on the ground helplessly. They always are there to help you

back up, that’s what makes them a good friend.

— KATHERINE FONG, 12, GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

## Headache

I banged my head on a wooden door,  
It made a hollow sound along the floor.  
The pain shot through my hair,  
It was too much to bear.

I wish that the pain would go away,  
Forever out of my way.  
I hope this is all a dream,  
I wanted to yell and scream.

I slept with the horrible pain,  
When I woke up, it felt like passing rain.  
It still hurt but way better,  
I sent the news in the letter.

The headache almost cracked my skull,  
Although now it feels dull.  
The headache hurt a lot,  
I wish it did not.  
I hope it never ever comes again.

— JEANNIE EOM, 10, GRADE 5

## Schools Of the Future

Changing something about schools is a big and hard decision, I would change technology. From my opinion, the future is technology. People should teach through tablets and robots other than whiteboards. I also believe that people learn better through videos as it uses audio and video. I also think they should add the usage of khanacademy, which teaches all the subjects, to a student’s daily schedule. Students, from my opinion are easier to teach than adults. Kids learn easily. These are the main things that I would like to change about schools throughout the country.

— DHARUV DHAWAN, 11, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

## What I Want to be When I Grow up

When I grow up, I want to be a baseball player for the Orioles. Why?

First, I like the Orioles more than any other baseball team, so getting picked by the Orioles would be completely perfect.

Second, I love playing baseball. Baseball has been my favorite sport to play since second grade. And finally, since I started playing baseball in second grade, I am good at it, so I have a better chance to make it to the major leagues then someone who started later than I did. That is why I want to play baseball when I grow up.

— VICTOR HAN, 12, GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

## Life: Bud, Rose, Thorn

Bud  
My bud  
The beginning  
A new chance  
Hope, life, the start  
It opens

It takes a peek into the world  
Its petals unfold  
One by one  
Slowly, slowly, slowly

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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The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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# GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 14

It is transforming  
At last, it is done  
Rose  
You are here  
Your bright colored petals  
Your perfect shape  
Your prickly thorns  
Someone comes  
And picks you off  
Your life has ended  
Slowly, slowly, slowly  
You are withering away  
Finally  
Gone  
Leaving our world  
And all we have left of you  
Is your thorn  
Sharp  
Shinny  
Sleek  
And that is all  
Goodbye  
My bud  
My rose  
My thorn  
My love  
— JANICE GUO, 11, GRADE 6,  
FAIRFAX

## The Best Gift of All

If I could give my parents any gift that

does not cost money it would definitely not be a product from a store. Basically, it would definitely not be artificial. It would have to be a something that people can give anytime and whenever they want. It would be something like happiness or joy or something else, but out of all those choices of great gifts I would have to have imagination as my choice. In my opinion, nothing is better than this. If you have an imagination, you can think about amazing things and get your life-time goals achieved.

— BEN FRENCH, 11, GRADE 6,  
FAIRFAX

## When I Grow Up

When I grow up I want to be a professional PGA golf player. I want to be a golf player because it is my favorite sport and I've played it since I was five. To become a PGA golf player, I will need to practice a lot and not get mad at myself whenever I play badly. I will also need to get onto the high school golf team to be able to get good coaching and advice.

Also I will need to get on to a good college golf team. That's how I want to become a PGA player.

— KAUSHAL KAMBHAM, 12,  
GRADE 6, CENTREVILLE

## The Legacy of Cows

In the noisy ranches of a modern land ... there are animals, especially cows. Why do I like cows? Hidden, are cows called "Moocows". They serve the elderly "Legendcows", who control the Castle of Moo. 11 trustworthy Legendcows are summoned to "The Carpet", sitting criss-cross applesauce ... to beckon the almighty are STEAK!

Then some EpiCows, descendants of The Moo, lord of all cows, carry the steak to a sacrificial bonfire called The Rising Sun ... to sacrifice the steak for The Moo. He then accepts the offering, and chooses one EpiCow to be with The Moo.

How do I know this? I am ... an EpiCow ... Moo.

— BRANDON KANG, 11,  
GRADE 6, FAIRFAX

## Why I want to be An Astronomer

Have you ever wanted to know the origins of the universe? Have you ever looked up at the sky on a dark night, and wondered what secrets it beholds?

That's exactly why I want to be an astronomer. I find it fascinating and

challenging to learn about the stars, planets, and the secrets of the universe. It's fun and exciting to learn about outer-space. Who knows, I might be able to decipher some strange worldwide phenomenon with this knowledge! That is why I want to be an astronomer.

— NITIN KANCHINADAM, 10,  
GRADE 5, FAIRFAX

## Cheese and Cake

Hi there! My name is Cake and my best friend is Cheese. So you're probably wondering how in the world we became friends, I mean I completely understand. How can a dessert be friends with a snack? Our ancestors, Oh Cheesy and Saint Cako had a disagreement over who would be on the birthday table, (cake won, obviously). One day disaster hit and Oh Cheesy was blown out of his fortress and Saint Cako was rolled on to the table where Oh Cheesy was. Then they mixed and Cheesecake was formed. Aaah, memories that aren't mine!

— KRITIKA  
JOTHISHANKANKAR, 11,  
GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

## Morning

Sunlight filtering through the clouds

Light igniting in the dimness of dawn  
Shrill notes breaking the silence  
Fluttering of wings as morning birds  
Take to flight, sailing through blue skies

First breath of life after night  
Dying embers of darkness  
Shrivel up in the warmth of morning  
Every leaf and flower shines  
With dew drops and sunlight  
New beginnings and fresh starts  
Come with morning and the light of day

Everything gloriously still  
As the world awakens from quiet slumber  
And life trembles awake  
To watch the skies brighten  
With shining eyes  
— RIYA JONES, 10, GRADE 6,  
FAIRFAX

## Words to Live By

Don't talk for the sake of talking.  
Spend your words on something worth saying.

Don't walk for the sake of walking.  
Travel the paths that will take you where you want to go.

Don't sing for the sake of singing. Belt out your song because the world will be more beautiful for it.

Don't fly for the sake of flying. Soar because there are still yet undiscovered skies. Don't sleep for the sake of sleeping. Sleep because everything will be better when you wake up.

Don't think for the sake of thinking. Think because it is the only road to knowledge.

Don't dream for the sake of dreaming. Dream so you remember what hope is.

Don't love for the sake of loving. Do it because there are not enough people who can.

Don't live for the sake of living. Live because you only have one life, and everyone is waiting to see what you do with it.

— RIYA JONES, 10, GRADE 6,  
FAIRFAX

## Hopes for 7th Grade

There will be many changes from elementary school to middle school, it will be a tough switch to get used to. Even though, I will try to think on the bright side. I'll be looking forward to switching classes for every class. That'll be tiring but exciting. Seeing my friends from old schools, and family friends graduating from grade 6 and that are already in middle school. I will be looking forward to Algebra 1, if I pass the Iowa math exam. The last thing I'm somewhat looking forward is lots of homework. Middle school will be a fun experience.

— AARON LIN, 11, GRADE 6,  
CHANTILLY

## The Flowers of Ice

The flowers, flowers of Ice  
The queens of snow and winter  
Tut! Tut! So silent, no creature can hear  
The fragile little flurries, so frolic, are here

Like crystals, crystals of beauty  
Everything, revolving around the ice queens  
Tut! Tut! So small, yet so much inside  
Their show of power, to freeze, then hide

The flowers, flowers of ice  
The queens of snow and winter  
Tut! Tut! So silent, no creature can hear  
The fragile little flurries, so frolic, are here

— MAYUKHA KINDI, 11,  
GRADE 6, CHANTILLY

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