

Children's Connection 2014

By Bella Kratch, grade 5,
Wakefield Forest Elementary

JANUARY 1-7, 2015

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REFLECTIONS

2015

In the upcoming year, I will wait for baseball season, summer, and the SOLs. Since I love baseball, I will be looking forward to Little League as well as the Major League baseball season. Of course, I would love to watch Major League games. In summer, I will go to the beach, spend time in the pool, go to a baseball game or two, and play with friends. I know that the SOLs will be hard, so I should study, study, and take practice tests. In conclusion, I have a fun year ahead of me!

— PHILIP MARGULIES,
GRADE 3,
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY

The Best Gift

The best gift I've ever received is my family. They are the nicest people I've ever met! I love them so much. I say I love them every day! They are nice, loving, caring, kind, and good friends. They are worth more than money. They feed me. They take care of me. They tuck me in at night. In my religion we believe that our God gives us everything. Our families are gifts from our God. My family has five people in it. My mom, dad, sister, brother, and me. I love my family. I hope you love yours, too!

— ZOE ETHINGTON,
GRADE 3,
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY

My Favorite Toy

My favorite toy is a bear. I got him for Christmas from my dad. My dog sometimes bites my bear. My bear is humongous. My bear is white. I love my teddy bear because my dad and mom gave me it. My bear's name is Beary. My big sisters have a bear too. I sleep with him every night.

My bear wears a shirt. I made his shirt. My bear never wears another shirt. My bear's favorite food is pretzels. I got my bear when I was 4 years old. My bear does not have teeth.

— BECKY STUART,
GRADE 2,
HUNT VALLEY ELEMENTARY

By Tom W., grade 5



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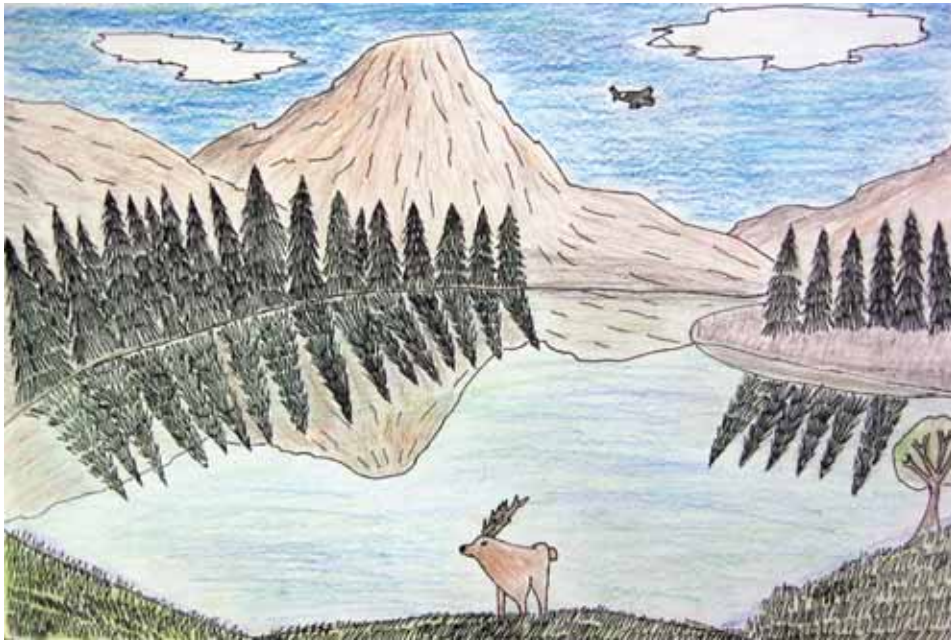
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

FAIRFAX CONNECTION EDITOR
KEMAL KURSPAHIC
703-778-9414 OR
SOUTH@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



By Namkhang Dao, grade 6, Mosby Woods Elementary



By Catherine Gordon, grade 4, Eagle View Elementary

Welcome

Dear Readers:
This week, the Fairfax Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue.

The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2015 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection.

Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly school pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to south@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9414 with any questions.

EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC



By Kevin,
kindergarten,
Providence
Elementary



By Allison Cheng, grade 1, Navy Elementary School



By Zani Xu,
grade 3

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

I Am From

I am from the smell of chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs,
From the artsy odor of paint, splattered on the craft table
I am from the sweet, manly fragrance of Dad's cologne for date night with Mom
And the woodsy, welcoming smell of my home
I am from the big green house on RyanLynn Drive,
And the old shaky swing set in the enormous backyard.
I am from splashing through the creek in the woods behind the neighborhood,
And standing on the log, telling stories at our "Super-Secret Sitting Spot"
I am from racing across the beach with my 15 cousins as the waves crash into our legs
From games of Sharks and Minnows as we swim in the summer rain
I am from decorating the little tree with candy..... just for the kids
And skipping through the house chanting about trees and hyper pigs
I am from the memory box, labeled with my name, hidden on Shailey's closet shelf,
And the dozens of photos in the scrap-books in "Mere- Mere's Kitchen"
I am from "Never do your homework in the kitchen!" and
"Leave your brother alone!"
I am from hiking up mountains to the top of the water falls
And eating gooey brownies, sitting on a fallen tree, legs dangling over the gurgling river
I am from rolling around on the carpet in the rumble room, braided with a thousand different colors,
From Great- Grandpa's fancy rocking chair. The one that has gleaming wood and golden threads,
The one I'm not supposed to touch
I am from spending Wednesday afternoons at church,
Singing and playing and praising the Lord
From eating sloppy barbeque sandwiches in the room with the tall cross,
Suspended in the air by invisible cords
I am from Italy and Ireland
From hot gnocchi's drenched in tomato sauce on Thanksgiving,
And tender corned beef, on each St. Patrick's Day
I am from tree climbing and fort building,
And playing soccer in the grass that sparkles with dew, at the early morning games
I am from siblings and parents and cousins and family
I am from the things I love
And the memories that swirl in my heart

— TAEGAN PRATT,
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

Where are you from?

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

I am from the forests and grass fields of Clifton,
I am from the vast extended family that comes with the Eyob name,
A bloodline that stretches from the Eritrean nobility to Amharan Generals,
Born to a doctor and a businessman
I am from the enticing scents of a hardy Ethiopian breakfast,
From the powerful smell of fresh pasta for lunch,
I am from the gooey gold and wonderful fragrance of lasagna for dinner
I am from the electronic mice and the slick black keyboards,
I am from the computer games of the 21st century,
Steam games, DotA2, League of Legends galore!
Surfing the internet, not the cold blue ocean waves
I am from a brave grandfather, who walked 564.3 miles for a small glimmer of hope,
Uncertain of his destiny, he worked and worked and worked,
A peasant farmer to a general and I couldn't be any prouder
I am from a brave grandmother, who thwarted off sexism and racism,
A young black African banker working in America,
Oh what a stir she caused,
I am from her determination; I am from her thick skin
I am from the hard work of my bloodline,
I am from the ideas of the 21st century,
I am from the games of the internet,
I am from both everything and nothing

— YAPHET EYOB,
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

I am from a red shuttered house and pink vibrant bushes
From the colorful, rusty playground and refreshing lemonade stands
I'm from the house with grass growing as tall as a tree
The neighborhood kids playing till it gets dark
From the early morning church services
To matching Jamaican dresses with my sister
I am from the loud weird cousins and funny grandparents
From the home where music is always playing
I am from "wakey, wakeys" in the morning
And "night nights," just as the sun goes down
I am from the Disney sippy cups
And scents of fresh warm chicken
From the long bike rides in the spring
And hot chocolate in the winter



By Eunsoo Gang, grade 4, Mosby Woods Elementary

The fashion shows every Friday
To the family stories every Sunday
I am from the "yellos"
To the "shut your clappers"
From the strawberry syrup
And the Barbie doll skits
I am from my Webkins collection
A Winnie the Pooh themed room
From Mrs. Dianna's daycare
I am from the exotic paintings on the wall
The wooden piano downstairs
I am from the dad who never is without a camera
Snapping pictures of anything insight
I am from, "love your neighbor as yourself"
From the mom who is always smiling
The sister who loves books
To apple juice
And bologna sandwiches
Underneath my bed
And in the cabinet above the sink
Are piles on piles of past days
Spilling out pictures from "the olden times"
Each one with a specific memory

— ZAHRA EDWARDS,
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

I am from the pine trees that sway day and night
From a short, curly haired, Peruvian lady
To the tall El Salvadorian man
I am from the fresh, bright green grass, with heavy dew
From the window with barking all day long
I am from the balcony where BBQ has been a tradition
From the houses in Trujillo and Lima, Peru.
To the little white house in Burke
I am from the rusty, old purple bicycle

in the garage
From the Beyoncé playing in my brother's room to the pitter patter of three legs.
From the squawking of a green bird
To the Cardinal singing its song.
I am from the boiling pot on the stove to the cake baking in the oven.
I am from the "Go clean your room!"
I am from "Angyounghaseyo" to "Como estas?" to "I love you"
I am from branches that can't be broken,
An important family tree.

— ANNIE JIMENEZ,
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

I come from pine trees and firewood,
From the West Coast to the East.
I come from the California orange tree in my grandmother's yard,
To the beautiful wildflowers of Tennessee.
"Never throw the first punch, but always throw the last",
And "Stand up for yourself and others"- says my mother every day,
She survived breast cancer; pink ribbons surround her,
As do purple flames of independence.
From my father, I am an artist.
Creativity runs through my veins,
From pencils to paints,
From music to words.
I come from "YOLO!"
And "Never be afraid!"
To always have courage,
To always be brave.
I grew up with "You Are My Sunshine",
And "My Darling Clementine",
Then on to "Hey There Delilah",
All music, that's what I come from,
Music, Art, and Love.

— ABBY DEATON,
GRADE 7, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

Fairfax CONNECTION

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Katie Child, grade 4, Mantua Elementary.

Define ‘Snow’

BY MEGAN SULLIVAN
GRADE 8, ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

They say
Precipitation
In the form of
Ice crystals
I say
Pure magic
I say
Fresh white blankets
Waiting for snow angels
Footprints
Igloos
Snowmen
To dot the blank canvas
I say
A child's savior
School bells ring early
School bells chime late
School bells fall silent
Cheers erupt everywhere

I say
Barricades and fortresses
Stockpiles of ammunition
A wet, cold, laughing face
Revenge
In the form of
Snowballs
I say
Bright purple toboggans
Madly tugging yellow strings
Shouting- Wait! How do you steer?
Unexpected icy ramps
A glorious airborne second
Crashing back to earth
Screams of victory
Trudging back up the hill
They say
Precipitation
In the form of
Ice crystals
I say
They need
New dictionary writers.



By Sarayu Soma, grade 6

EAGLE VIEW
ART GALLERY



By Daniella Contreras, grade 6



By Justin Yi, grade 1



By Catherine Gordon, grade 4

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

MANTUA ELEMENTARY

By Amaya Campbell,
grade 2



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By Jessica McCormick,
grade 5

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By Zane Xing,
grade 3



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

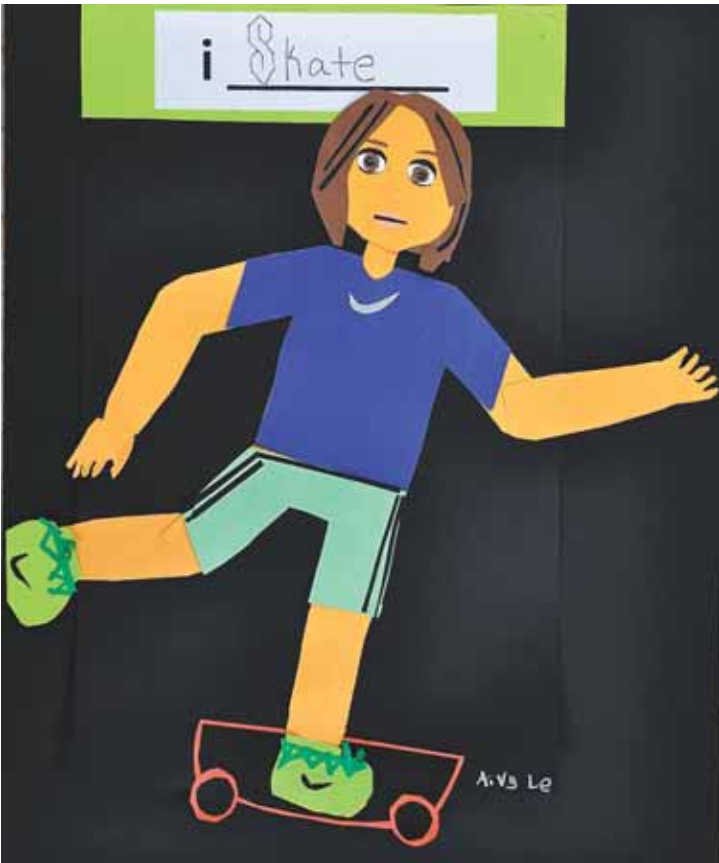
WAKEFIELD FOREST ART GALLERY



By Aditi Venkataraman, grade 1



By Aniya
Stewart-
Morrow,
grade 6,
Eagle View
Elementary



By Ai Vy Le, grade 6



By Ava Dunn, grade 4



By Trinity So, grade 3



By Celeste Lucado, grade 1



By Elizabeth Jo, grade 6



By Dillon Brody, grade 5

LAUREL RIDGE ART GALLERY



By Benny Glassman, grade 6



By Megan Smith, grade 6



By Fiona Murphy, grade 5



By Tommy Rustia, grade 6

Truth About Alarm Clocks

By JESSICA HONG
GRADE 9/FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL

All of us despise alarm clocks,
It's just not fair,
Why do they sound like goose flocks
Being the first to greet us in the morn-
ing air?
Why do alarm clocks even exist?
There is only one useful function:
The snooze button we all smash with
our fist,

Then, we can go back to our sweet
imagination.
All alarm clocks do is annoy.
Waking up has become a chore,
No one will wake up with joy,
For it is alarm clocks we have chosen
to ignore.

Promise to Ourselves

By JESSICA HONG
GRADE 9/FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL

Are we ready to act while...
The Seasons change?
The rain drops fall and the flowers
sprout,
The temperature goes up without a
doubt?
While the leaves flutter to the ground,
And the snow piles up a mound?
Yes, we are,
To enjoy and cherish nature.
Are we ready to act while...
The Times go by?
The years rush fast,
And our hearts forget the past?
While new memories are made,
And old ones start to fade?
Yes, we are,
To remember memories of our life.

Are we ready to act while...
The Opportunities are available?
Even when decisions are hard to make,
And one ponders all night, awake.
Trying to select the option of competi-
tion,
But hesitating because friends are on
the same mission?
Yes, we are.
To step up and seize the opportunity.
Are we ready to act while...
The World suffers?
Saving the environment,
Remembering that we are coexistent.
Cleaning up after ourselves,
Energetically recycling everything on
shelves.
Yes, we are,
To save and conserve the world we love.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY



By Kiana Johnson, grade 6

REFLECTIONS

A Good Friend

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

— ANTHONY AMAYA,
GRADE 4

Winter

A snowflake hits the ground, without a single sound
Another floats through the air, without a single care
Yet another flies from the skies and lands on the ground
I roll around, on the fluffy white ground
One drifts in midair, then neither here nor there
I'm aware that winter is in the air.

— PAUL DUGGAR,
GRADE 4



By Jenna Do, grade 5



By Namkhang Dao, grade 6

When I Grow Up...

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

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

— JULIANA MENDOZA

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

— ANIKA SARAF

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

— HAMSINI RANGARAJAN

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

— SERENE SALHAB



By Aidan Harbison, grade 6

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



My Favorite Toy

My favorite toy is a bear. I got him for Christmas from my dad. My dog sometimes bites my bear. My bear is humongous. My bear is white. I love my teddy bear because my dad and mom gave me it. My bear's name is Beary. My big sisters have a bear too. I sleep with him every night.

My bear wears a shirt. I made his shirt. My bear never wears another shirt. My bear's favorite food is pretzels. I got my bear when I was 4 years old. My bear does not have teeth.

— BECKY STUART,
GRADE 2,
HUNT VALLEY ELEMENTARY

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Kevin, kindergarten, Providence Elementary



By Kinsley H., grade 2, Providence Elementary



By Ibrahim E., grade 6, Providence Elementary

Trash

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

BY HANSAE KWON
GRADE 11, WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL

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

How Frosty Saved Iceville

Christmas Eve:

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

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

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

Christmas:

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

“Hip Hip Hooray!”

“Hip Hip Hooray!”

“Hip Hip Hooray!”

And the village of Iceville lived happily ever after.

THE END

— SEAN KASTANTIN,
GRADE 4, OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL



By Ejun Kim, Grade 8,
Westminster School



By Ejun Kim, Grade 8,
Westminster School

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

GREENBRIAR WEST
ART GALLERY

By Sathwika
Prasad,
grade 1



My Opinion on Moving Toys

BY DANIEL KRAFT,
GRADE 6, GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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.

What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up... Hanging Onto Myself

BY CIARA METZINGER,
GRADE 6, GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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



By Julia Lee, grade 6



By Yashaswin Macherla, grade 3

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."



By Aasa Dommalapati, grade 5

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- Ralph Waldo
Emerson

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-Werner Heisenberg

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Ocean Pines



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

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

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

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

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



By Dave, grade 3

Desire

BY EMILY S.,
GRADE 7

The aching desires of the few,
include the necessities for me and you,
but the vast majority want the new,
they want the luxury and they lust,
because they must,
they need the future in the past,
they need products that must last,
for as long as they want them to.

What happened to this world, what must
we do?

release the greed,
make a creed,
and find the greatness in giving and not
wanting,
loving not taunting,
and fulfill the deserved desires of peace,
nourishment, and fair treatment for others,
for the fathers, children, brothers, sisters,
and mothers.



By Luke, grade 7



By Trudy, grade 8

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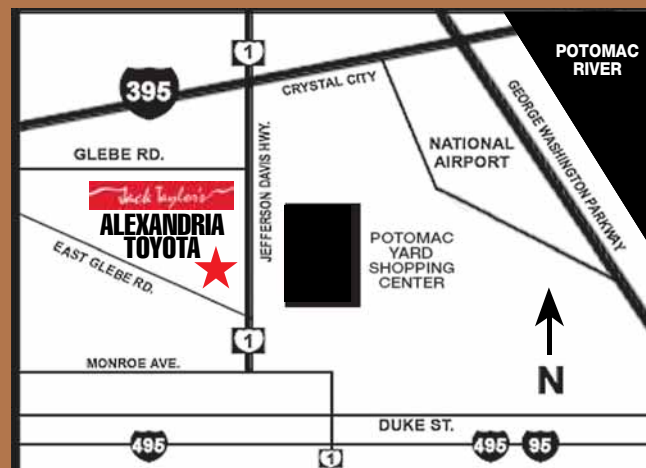
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