

December 30, 2015 - January 5, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Welcome

Dear 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 2016 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 chantilly@connectionto newspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— Editor Steven Mauren

The Chantilly Children's Connection

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GREENBRIAR WEST ELEMENTARY



Reshmi Balakrishnan, 10, grade 5



Sathwika Prasad, 7, grade 2



Thanksgiving

Drawing by Ananya Naidu, 8, grade 3

My Life as a Cupcake

Ashaswin Macherla,

9, grade 4 —

wonder land

Skiing in winter

I was born on a tray, that is cold and gray.

Then I got tossed in the heat, which I figured wasn't neat.

When I started to bubble, I knew I was in trouble.

When I got all burned, they opened the door, I wished they had cold water ready to pour.

I got set free only for an hour to cool, they prepped to adorn me with a silver tool.

When they frosted me with a keen knife, I thought this was the end of my life.

With my wrapper peeled off designed in cubes, I went through the dark, hollow food tubes. - Yeonjae Eom, 11, Grade G

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

♦ CHANTILLY CONNECTION ♦ CHILDREN'S CONNECTION ♦ 2015 - 2016

CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL



Z. Davis — Photography, The Street Scene



Jenni Freret — Portfolio 2, After



T. Phan — Waking Up New



Tara Hackett www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Mason Heberle — Word of the Week Adventure, After



Meagan Ibarra — Transformation 1, After

Breakfast

From the yellow sun rising in the morning, Rays filling the warm room. The ringing of the alarm clock, Trying to wake you before noon. Fluffy slippers from your mom, Sliding onto your feet, Down to the cozy kitchen, Where there is breakfast to eat. - JESSICA LEE, 16, GRADE 10

Blue

The quiet waves of the ocean, The stillness of the sky, The lonely building in the middle People constantly pass by. The bent book pages on the table, The slow, sad rain that falls, The old, peeling paint, In the dimly lit halls. - JESSICA LEE, 16, GRADE 10

Cell Phone

Oh Cell Phone, You are like a toy That gives me so much joy I can do anything, anywhere with your presence always near me But you can be a pain sometimes when you call for attention While I try to mention I need to focus! But still You constantly make me tap On your addicting little app. -TONY PARK, GRADE 9

Chess

They say it's spirit against matter Good versus evil But to me it's something different More than a game from medieval

Life is like chess Me on one side, my obstacle on the other It's an endless battle, I have to say When one is over; here comes another!

On my frontier, I have my Pawns, my soldiers of determination Supporting them from the back are my Rooks, My walls of dedication

Next to my walls

Stands strong, my dauntless Knights, like statues The foundations of this courage are my Bishops, The faith and hope everyone looks up to

Then in the center are the primaries King and Queen side by side Order and freedom shoulder to shoulder The winner of this battle, these decide

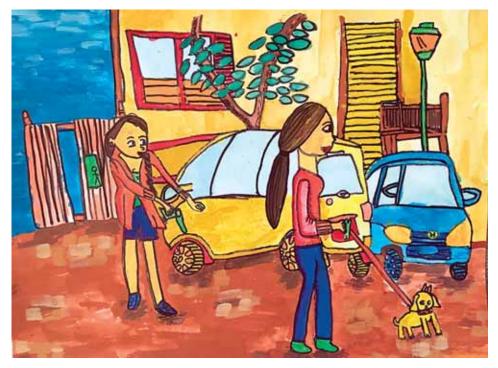
By the call of checkmate I finally end this contention Resetting the board Breaking away from the tension

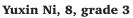
I pat myself on the back Wishing this victory will let me be I look up, but only to see A bigger obstacle coming towards me! - ANNIE SON, 15, GRADE 10

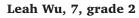
Seasons

Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, Snowflakes in the Winter, Buds in the Spring, Flowers in the Summer, And leaves in the Fall, All adorn the entire year, From the green to white Earth, The heat and the cold, All come from the blessing of Seasons. – JONATHAN BAE, 14

Oak Hill Elementary

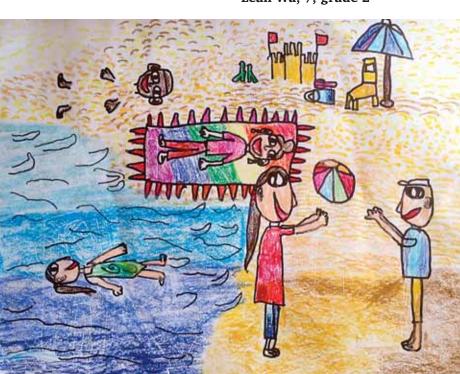








Cecilia Qi, 9, grade 4



Chelsea Qi, 7, grade 2



Emma He, 8, grade 2



Isabella Chu, 8, grade 3 — Bathing puppy Luna with her twin sister Sammi

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Samantha Chu, 8, grade 3 — Christmas market at Oak Hill

LEES CORNER ELEMENTARY

Sophia Wang, 6, kindergarten

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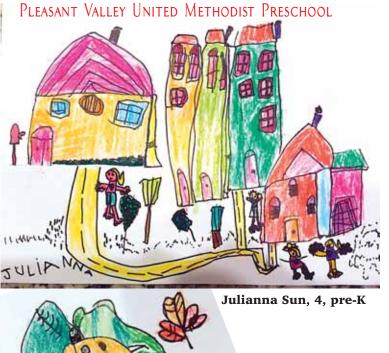


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Chantilly Connection & Children's Connection & 2015 - 2016 & 5



Julianna sun, 4, pre-K

Montessori of Chantilly







Alanna Tarakemeh, 5

Chloe Shibley, 5



Megha Chitrakar, 5



Charlize Chien, 5



Kaya Deepak, 5



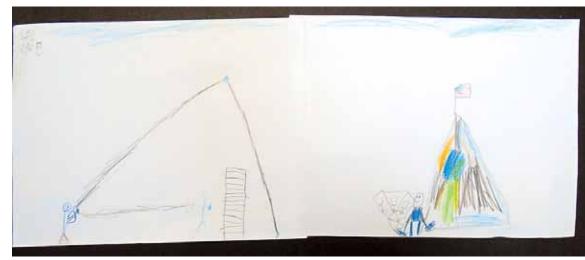
Mikayla Dykes, 5

Shivan Chhabra, 5



6 S Chantilly Connection S Children's Connection S 2015 - 2016

Montessori of Chantilly



Leo Delgrosso, 5

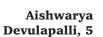


Atharv Nandamuri, 6



Sonia Rouser, 5





shriya shriya and it is fun.





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COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY



Fall

Fall is known as "autumn," when the fall equinox occurs. Falling temperatures will leave you quivering, even in your warmest clothes. Flocking to warmth, are birds who can't bare the cold. Fall foliage in vibrant colors beckons tourists from all over. Falling leaves are everywhere, to jump on and to rake! Feel the spooky and creepy sensation of Halloween. BOO! Families come together to celebrate Thanksgiving, with thanks, kindness and food! For goodness sake, don't forget to bake some pumpkin cake! — SACHIN HOSMANE, 11, GRADE 6

Sachin Hosmane, 11, grade 6

You Are

You are selfless and you are kind You are the warriors that give for your family and the people of this country

You are the protectors of this country You are strong and brave nothing can take away your courage

You are the loyal people who stay true to their country You are a veteran

You are Vibrant You are Endearing You are Truthful You are an Endeavor You are Righteous You are Amazing You are Nobel You are a veteran.

— Eleanor Sager, grade 5

No Tests for Students

Question: What is one thing that you would change about school?

If I were to change a thing about the school, I would change a policy to say no tests for the students. I mean why TESTS! We children need a break. Most of the time, we get small amount of sleep and spend most of our time studying. We need a chance to have family time and to get some sleep! I think most of the students in Colin Powell would agree with me. Some parents get stressed out because their children are staying up 'til mid-night or longer studying. Our teachers shouldn't have any right to stress the students by giving tests. How happy do you think we would be? We would be so happy that we would be jumping for joy if we don't take tests ever.

— Victoria Kim, 11, grade G

Worst Day Ever

I woke up. I overslept! I walk to the bathroom as slow as a snail. I was sluggish walking on the chilly ground. I decide to make some cereal. The sound of milk pouring and cereal bouncing around. I taste the delightful cereal. The sound of milk pouring and the cereal bouncing around. I taste the delightful cereal, but then spill all the cereal.

The freezing cold milk makes me shiver. I walk over to the kitchen to get paper towels. I trip and I feel the piercing pain on my body. I just give up and go sleep.

— Telugen Sansargereltekh, II, grade G

My Opinion About Video Games

I think that all video games are fun and exciting! Video games are the most exciting to do for entertainment of any kind. I love video games because I get to do things that you could not do in real life, like driving a car into a shark tank or fly a helicopter into a building. I can do a lot of different things in video games. That is why I like to play video games.

> – Jake Hyungkyu Choi, 11, grade G





Carolyn Chen, 9 grade 4



Tyler Wu, 10



Batman by Padmesh Elango, 9, grade 3

My Opinion On Sports!

Sports are a wonderful activity for everybody because they let you get exercise while still having fun. If you're not having fun, what's the point? While having fun is important, exercise is just as important. Many kids these days aren't as physically fit as they used to be because they are playing on their devices instead of playing sports. It's also great because it builds teamwork and teamwork shows kids not everything can be done alone, you have to incorporate everyone's ideas. Instead of playing a videogame, go and play a sport!

— Maddie Fowler, 11, grade G

What Makes A Good Friend?

When you make a new friend, it's always exciting. But what makes the separation from a good friend and a bad friend?

First, you need to see what they do. If they are part of a naughty group you might want to leave them alone. Next, the actions. If they do stuff you don't want to, that's also a problem. Although you might think that every friend is nice, sometimes they aren't. That doesn't mean you can't, though! If you want to find a friend, find someone who is nice and caring. It's not hard!

— Zachary Chae, II, grade G

What is the Greatest Gift I Have Ever Received?

The best gift I ever received was love. I have received many toys like video games, toys, and books but love is my favorite gift of all. Love is just as good as any toy in the world. You can give love and make a person's day. I receive love every day from my family, teachers, and friends. The smallest thing you do can make a person's day. Their happiness brings happiness to me. Without love, the world would be a different place. Love is the greatest gift I can give and receive.

- Drew Kim, 11, grade 6 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY

You Are...

You are our protection, our shield, our undefeated defense, Our fighters, our warriors, our faithful, strong friends. Your courage, your strength, your unbreakable trust, protecting our country, doing what you must.

You are the adventurous, the willing, the riskers, the bold, The people with experience and hardship untold. the agile, the streetwise, the witty, the kind, people like you are difficult to find.

You are the invisible, the clever, the ambitious, the sly, your skill on the battlefield is one of a kind, The swift, the soaring, the skillful, the strong. Your brilliance and wonder will last ever long.

You are the selfless, the hopeful, the friendly, the humble, You speak loud your opinion, you don't want to mumble. The thoughtful, the caring, the compassionate, the bonded, You all are together, and never unwanted.

You are the smart, the practical, the creative, the civil, you make a big impact with just a flick or a swivel. the planners, the wondrous, the curious, the bright, your trust and great kindness is a wondrous sight.

You are the fighters, the dreamers, the hopeful, the grievers, The protectors, the unity, the bonded, the believers. Your family, your friends, you protect them from harm, you see a problem and you take it by storm. — GRACE DE LA CRUZ, GRADE 5



E.C.Lawrence Park by Alexander Yu, 7, grade 2



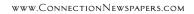
Subzero by Padmesh Elango, 9, grade 3



Superman by Padmesh Elango, 9, grade 3



Ultron by Padmesh Elango, 9, grade 3





Superhero by Padmesh Elango, 9, grade 3



Three Little Pigs by Alexander Yu, 7, grade 2

The Best Day of My Life!

On June 6, 2015, my dad was dropping me off at school and he told me he might not pick me up. He told me my friend's mom would. I went to school. When the school was over, I hoped my dad would pick me up but it was the opposite. I asked my friend's mom why did you pick me up? She said my mom has got a baby! Me and my friend were so excited. We went to my friend's home. We played board games and we ate pizza to celebrate. Then they dropped me at the hospital to see the baby and my mom and dad. My bro did not have a name. He was really cute. My mom asked me if I want to go my aunt's house or my house. I went to our house. I was tardy to school the next day.

– Raghav Kasi, 7, grade 2

Untitled

I would give my parents a handmade gift from my brother and I. I would give them this because there is nothing more special than something made from your heart and given to a loved one. I would also give them a picture of our family together smiling and laughing. The last thing I would give them is a book I wrote with my friends.

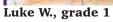
– Quynh Chi Nguyen, 12, grade 6



Scorpion by Padmesh Elango, 9, grade 3 CHANTILLY CONNECTION & CHILDREN'S CONNECTION & 2015 - 2016 & 9

UNION MILL ELEMENTARY



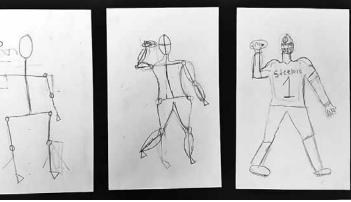






Abbie S., grade 6





Amelia B., grade 4



Andrew Z., kindergarten

....



Jayla H., grade 1

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Ashley P., grade 3

Jackie C., grade 5



Lauren P., grade 5

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ROCKY RUN MIDDLE





Eva Ford







Madeleine Hiu

Sooji Han

Sojung Pak



Seungmin Lee



Stephanie Liu

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ROCKY RUN MIDDLE

School Days

Monday, it's hard Tuesday, it's worse Wednesday, it's terrible Thursday, the worst Friday, finally here! Saturday, let's play! Sunday, relax! And then.. Monday? No way!!! - Kevin Son, grade 7

The Tooth Fairy

The little boy couldn't sleep that night, Squeezing his brown teddy bear tight.

Every so often he woke up and peeked,

If the tooth fairy had mysteriously sneaked,

And placed some money under his head.

What if she placed it on another kid's bed?

The little boy started feeling weary, Closing his eyes forgetting the fairy. Suddenly, his head felt an elevation He was greatly confused and couldn't

find an explanation. He lifted his head and raised his pillow.

His drowsy eyes suddenly grew as large as coins,

Because in front of him was... an armadillo! Screaming out loud, he fell off his

bed, What would he do, he thought in

dread. Maybe he could ask the fairy for an

exchange, he thought. And right away he started creating his plot.

The next day he wrote a letter to the fairy.

Dear fairy, he wrote, I think that yesterday

You should have been more wary. Money should have been left Underneath my pillow.

But instead,

You gave me an armadillo! I'm not so sure if this is normal or not,

But please exchange it for money And for my hard work, please give me

a lot! — Kevin Son, grade 7

Windy Night

Dark skies with bright stars Cold with the moonlight shining on

us My friends and I are gathered around a campfire

Making s'mores and playing late night games

The wind blowing on our warm bodies

Giving us chills. It's time for bed when the moon fully appears

Staying in the dark got rid of my fears Walking through the front door, Getting ready for bed without a snore - DAVID BAE, 12, GRADE 7

Dictionary

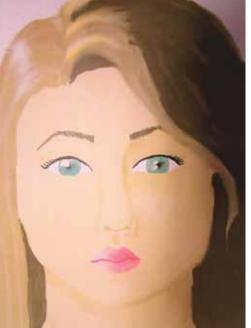
Home to words that gleam Nouns and verbs all over They keep on flowing like a stream Adverbs that modify actions Pronouns and Interjections Conjunctions and Prepositions Related words are synonyms Opposite words are antonyms Too many words you can't count Are all in a Dictionary - DAVID BAE, 12, GRADE 7



Juliann Cha



Jasmine Yoon



Isabella Davis — Portrait

Thoai Vy Tran





Stella Lee

Madelyn Bullock

To Ace The Paper

There is too much to hold in, And my mind is about to blow, I know my lightbulb should glow, But all I see is clouds, A mindless girl without a thought A fog, a sky of gray

All the things I learned, Clogged up in one group, Washed away like flowing water, Completely out of view

When it comes towards me, My heart thumps so fast, An earthquake shakes the ground, The tornado takes my lightbulb, It just leaves a blank space, In my chain of thoughts

I close my eyes, Take a deep breath, And open them again

I grab my lightbulb, Mind, And thought, Coming back to my thoughts, To ace the test in front of me – Rachel Chae, grade 7

Isabella Davis



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BULL RUN ELEMENTARY



Aaron Fu, grade 6



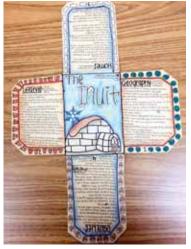
Gavin Abernathy, 8, grade 2



Isabella Paz, 6, Kindergarten



Nicholas Nguyen, 7, grade 2



Manal Imtiaz, 11, grade 6 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



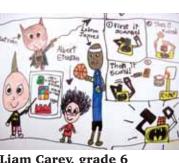
Aisha Baccouche, grade 3



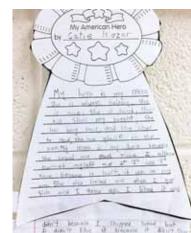
Hassib Karmand, 7, grade 2



Isabelle Lee and Gloria Ren, grade 6



Liam Carey, grade 6



Catie Kozar, 8, grade 2



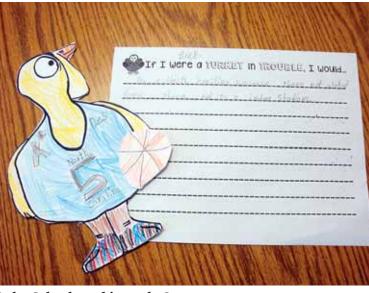
Helen Choe, grade 5



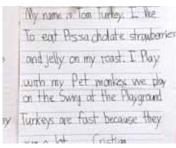
Jessica Verbeland, Parker Gonzaga and Justin Park, grade 6



Keona Park, grade 6



Luke Scharkowski, grade 3



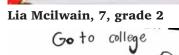
Christian Silva-Morales, 7, grade 2



Rachel Choo, grade 6



Lola Suentes Crock, grade 6 My name is lend Eggyturkey. I like to eat cheese piz za, cocounts, Vanilla icecram and K it kat bars. I . play with Arya and My skate board, Arya has a skatebard in the road. Turkey's are Snorthecause. they do science.



1 10





Nicole Bailey, grade 5



Shanzeh Vasquez Rubini, grade 1



Joyce Lee, grade 5



Spencer Knutti, grade 5



Jaiden Nguyen-Tran, grade 5



Nicholas Solomon, 6, Kindergarten





BULL RUN ELEMENTARY

Sports: Are some worth the risk?

This is a debate that has gone for years. Are some sports worth the big paycheck? In the 150+ years baseball has been played, only one man has died from being hit by a pitched ball Ray Chapman died when there were no helmets and several illegal pitches were being used, including the spitball, the pitch that killed Chapman Now brain disease and paralysis are common side effects to a long career in football. In nt a study by Boston University, 87 of 91 former NFL players have brain disease you risk it?

Sam Marco, grade 6

What makes a good friend? By: Hiya Barai

"A true friend walks in when the rest of the world walks out" -Unknown

Friendship is hard to explain It can be human nature. A true friend doesn't care what you're like. They don't care if you're rich, or smart, or poor. A true friend should care about you. A true friend is with you even when the going gets tough. A true friend celebrates your succes even if it means their defeat. A true friend stands by you and is honest with you no matter what. That is a true Friend

Hiya Barai, grade 6

Perfect Present

I would give a gift to Angelena. She is my best, best friend. I would take her to Burger King because I like going out of the house.

– Owen Yesukaitis, G I would give a gift to Michelle. She is a great friend. I would give her an American Girl doll because she really wants one and it costs a lot of money. - Sonya Kara Murza, G

I would give a gift to Noah M. He is



me.

CENTREVILLE

with me and eats lunch with me. I would bike riding with him. give her a picture of us together because she always sits with me and plays with

— VALLERY I would give a gift to my sister. She is kind to me. I would give her an American Girl doll gymnastics outfit because my sister likes gymnastics.

– Yasmeen I would give a gift to Noah M. He is nice to me. I would give him a new bike because he plays with me and I could go



Noah Katzen, 8, grade 2



Cyrus Lotz, 7, grade 2

is a perfect gift.

— Kinley I would give a gift a Brady. He is a good friend to me. I would give him a football because he likes football.

— Kaden Parker, 7 I would give a gift to Sonya. She lives next door. I would give her a "Zoomer Kitty" because she is my friend.

- Michelle I would give a gift to Kinley. She is my friend. I would give her a dog because she would like it.

— Scott I would give a gift to Sonya. She is one of my very best friends. I would give

her a stuffed cat because she loves cats. - Grace Heinrichs, G I would give a gift to Jacque. She is my sister. I would give her a teddy bear from Build-A-Bear Workshop.

– Joey Miles, G I would give a gift to May. She is very nice to me. I would give her a toy baby because she likes babies.

– Miley

I would give a gift to Kaden. He is my friend. I would give him tickets to see a Cowboys game because he likes them. – Brady

I would give a gift to Joshua. I play with him and he likes me. I would give him a gift of playtime with him. He always wants to play with me. — Noah M.

How to Make The Grinch Grin

First, invite the Grinch to the movies. Next, go home and eat hot dogs. Then, we could play tag. Last, I would let him help me decorate the Christmas tree. - Grace Tyner. 6

First I would take him to my house. Next, I would have a sleepover. Then, we would watch a movie and have popcorn. Last, I would go to sleep.

— Joshua Kalin, 7 I think I could make the Grinch grin by going to a restaurant with him to eat cheese pizza. Next, we will go get ice cream. Last, we will go home.

 KADEN PARKER, 7 First, get a camera that can print pictures. Next, take a great picture of yourself. Then, decorate the top, bottom, and sides of a frame. Last, mail it to the Grinch!

— Sonya Kara Murza, G

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my best friend ever. I would give him a

Lego book because he said he wants

I would give a gift to Brady. He is my

I would give a gift to Sonya. She is my

friend and she is nice. I would take her

to a tea party because it special and nice.

Traditional

I would give a gift to May. She plays

BFF so much. I would give him a friend

because people like that.

– Joshua Kalin, 7

– Angelena Cox, G

— May Nguyen, G

one.

The Anglican Church of the Ascension

COMMUNITIES

– Connor I would give a gift to my brother. He loves me. I would give him a card because he likes to read.

– Grace Tyner, 6 I would give a gift to my brother, Owen. I love him so much. I would give him a hug because he loves me and I love him.

– Aiden Bond, G I would give a gift to my dad. I love him. I would give him a card because it