

Rachel Maria Child, 18, Reston, TSRC Reston South Lakes High School, grade 12, created a collage of words that inspired her.

Reston CONNECTION

Children's Connection 2015



RESTON'S 3RD ANNUAL CAMP EXPO IS BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER!

Reston Camp Expo

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

Reston Community Center • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA

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- **Learn More**

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Boy Scouts of America, Cornerstones, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, Fairfax County Office for Children/SACC, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Public Schools, Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), Rec-PAC, RecQuest, Reston Association, Reston Community Center, Reston Regional Library, YMCA Fairfax County Reston, and more!

This event has been coordinated by Serving Reston Youth, a community initiative comprised of local non-profit organizations and Fairfax County government agencies.



www.restoncommunitycenter.com

2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston VA 20191
To request reasonable ADA accommodations,
call 703-476-4500, TTY 711.



CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Samantha Burgess, Lake Anne Elementary, grade 6



Safiya Gurina, 8, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Eu

Welcome

Dear Readers:
This week, the Reston 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 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 to north@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



Connor Park, South Lakes High, grade 12



Raskia Phadke, Terraset Elementary, grade 2



Arwa Abdi, Hughes Middle School, grade 7

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY ARTWORK



Abby Snowden, Armstrong Elementary, grade 6



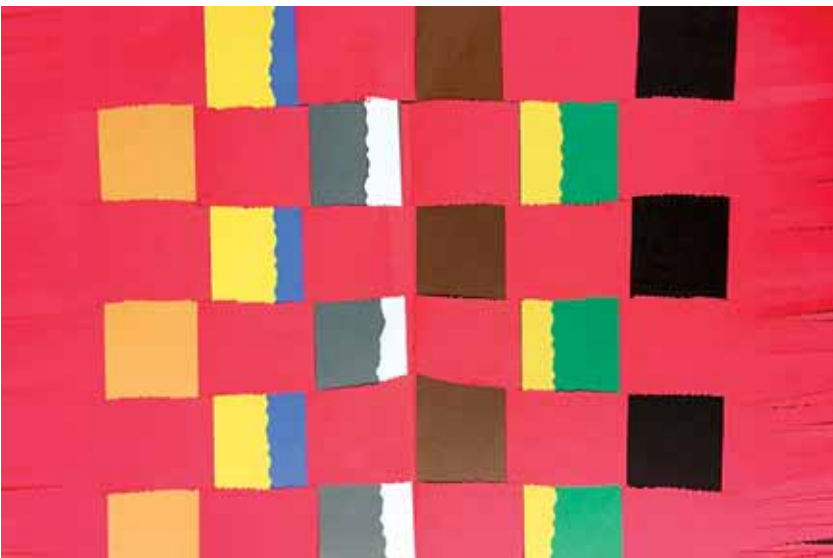
Will Hutton, Armstrong Elementary, grade 3



Margaret Semanchik, Armstrong Elementary, kindergarten



Ella Carlson, Armstrong Elementary, grade 2



Owen Morrison, Armstrong Elementary, grade 1

HUGHES MIDDLE ARTWORK



Arwa Abdi, Hughes Middle School, grade 7



Ajayla King, Hughes Middle School, grade 7



Kailin Converse, Hughes Middle School, grade 7



Amelia Schultz, Hughes Middle School, grade 8



Jasmine Amaya, Hughes Middle School, grade 8

"The Little Snowflake"

KATIE RAUST, ALDRIN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6, MR. O'DAY

Racing down the hill on my sled
Zigzagging over the powdery snow

Icy wind tugs on my scarf
I crashed into one sled and then into another

"Make a choice" whispers the snowflakes...

Warm hands help me up
Gazing at the faces of friends
Laughter fills my ears
I brush off the sparkling snow
"Make a choice" mumbles the snowflakes...

Grabbing my creaky sled
He groans as I pick him up
Turning my head to where the friendly faces once were
I see only footprints which are being painted by the powdery snow
"Make a choice" huffs the snowflakes...

Chants and chatter echo around me

Scrambling uphill the cold snow enters my boots

Smoke comes from my mouth, I push on harder

I hear a little whimper
"Make a choice" demands the snowflakes...

Glancing at the bottom a hill,
stands a little girl with a giant sled
Eyes are lost and dark

Her frail body shivering
I stare for a moment then trudge towards her

"Make a choice" cries the snowflakes...

A chilling stare comes from the girl
Tapping on the girl's shoulder she turns away
Shadows appear on the snowy hill

I turn to see teasing faces
"Make a choice" hisses the snowflakes...

Waving the faces away
Snickers and whispers are spread on the hill

Turning back to the girl a small tear appears

I place my hand on her shoulder

"Make a choice" shrieks the snowflakes...

Shadows slip back to the forest
She looks up at me

Whispering quietly as a snowflake drops

"I won't leave your side"
"Excellent choice," echoes the snowflakes...

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Lucy Nguyen,
South Lakes
High, grade 12



Melody
Caloyannides,
South Lakes
High, grade 12

Hamim Bashar,
South Lakes
High, grade 12



CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

"A Long Walk"

I get off my bus and start to race home.
My brother is catching up
and we are suddenly neck and neck.
The cold, snowy ground can make you trip
if you aren't not careful.
As soon as I seem to be beating my brother
I lose focus.
An old woman had been
carrying two bags of groceries.
I stopped to go back to the woman.
She had a red face
probably from the cold wind
burning her skin.
She looks tired and weary.

I put my backpack down
and go in the direction of the lady.
She walks slowly down the street
it looks like her home is all the way down the street.
There is no way she walks to the grocery store
and back all by herself.
I go ask if she needs help with those bags.

She nods her head
and I take one of the bags.

I ask her why she had been walking with those
bags
when the weather was so bad
and the grocery store was so far away.
she only shrugged
and I begin to think she may be too tired to talk.
The rest of the way to her house is quiet.
As we got to her house I put the bags down on her
porch

I began to walk away when I heard something
"Hey".
I quickly turn around and I see a little girl
in the doorway
she hugged the woman and turned to me
"Thank you," she said. "Thank you."

KYLE HENSON,
ALDRIN ELEMENTARY,
GRADE 6, MR. O'DAY



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A Musket Fire in Jamestown

Boom! As I'm walking toward the muskets I hear one fire! I get startled and become scared. When I get to the musket area, a lady comes and introduces us to a musket. After we hear all about it, she shows an example of how she fires the musket. Then she got ready to actually fire the musket. First she shouted orders to herself: Prime and Load! Handle Cartridge! Prime! About! Draw Ram-rods! Ram down the Cartridge! Return Rammers! Make Ready! Present! Fire! Booooo!!!! It fires! I jump – I wasn't suspecting it be this loud, but I clapped with the rest of the people. Boom!!!!

—WILL LONNETT, 9 RESTON, ALDRIN ELEMENTARY

The Day I Missed the Bus

“LEVANTATE!!! YA!!!” My mom shouted to me. That means, “WAKE UP NOW!!!”

“BALLA HAY BOY!!” I said.

And that means, “OK, I'M COMING!”

One day, I missed the bus because I was sleeping. My mom shouted to me to wake up. I jumped out of bed and got dressed. I ran down the stairs and I almost fell down! My aunt took me to school. I ate breakfast at school. When I missed the bus, I was a little scared. I feel better now.

—ALFREDO AREVALO MENDEZ, 10, HERNDON, ALDRIN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MS. NATALIE WARD

My Best Gift Ever

11 months in an orphanage in Fuling, China. Out of all of the other babies, I was chosen by Mom. I was taken home to the land of the free, America. I'm really lucky to be here.

—OLIVIA ROMBOLETTI, ALDRIN ELEMENTARY

Strings

Strings is my favorite part of school. I play the violin, which is the smallest. It is fun. If you are in strings, you will be in a concert. The only thing I don't like is we only get one hour. You should be in strings some other year!

—CARLOS VASQUEZ ACEVEDO, 9, RESTON, ALDRIN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MS. WARD

I like Strings because we learn to play instruments. I have a viola. I chose strings because I like the sounds of the viola. I just got started, but I am certain that strings will be fun. I already know all the parts of my instrument. I chose the viola because its pitch is not too low and not too high.

Strings is on Fridays, which is not very good because we only get to play our instruments for one hour when we stay in school 40 hours a week.

Our Strings teacher is Miss Schwoyer. She is very nice. I can't wait until the next Strings class! I am sure I am going to have the best year in the history of elementary schools!

—DIVYAM, 9, HERNDON, ALDRIN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MS. WARD

On Halloween

What would you do if you saw a skeleton walking in front of you? In my country, we don't celebrate Halloween. I was excited for my first Halloween.

I dressed up like a scary skeleton. I had a black bag for my candy. My orange pumpkin was on my house's steps. I went to Halloween with my friends and my cousins. After Halloween, I had a lot of sweet candies in my bag. When we went home, I ate 20 candies. Now I don't have any candy!

—FELIX ASATRYAN, 9, HERNDON, ALDRIN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MS. WARD

ALDRIN ELEMENTARY ARTS GALLERY



Casey Nemetz, 9, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Lee



Brady Trucksess, 7, Reston, grade 2, Aldrin Elementary, Ms. Eu



Shylah Swope, 8, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 3, Ms. Hughes



Shylah Swope, 8, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 3, "Reflections"



Jia Ying Ling, 11, Reston, grade 6, Aldrin Elementary, Ms. Patel



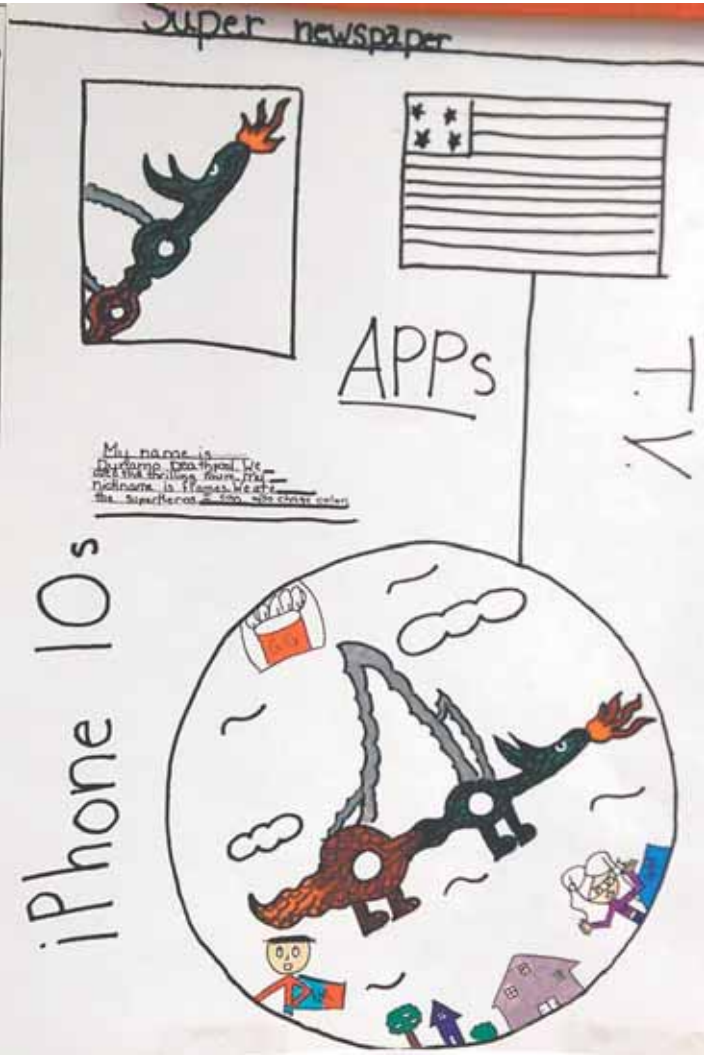
Laney Todd, 7, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Denton



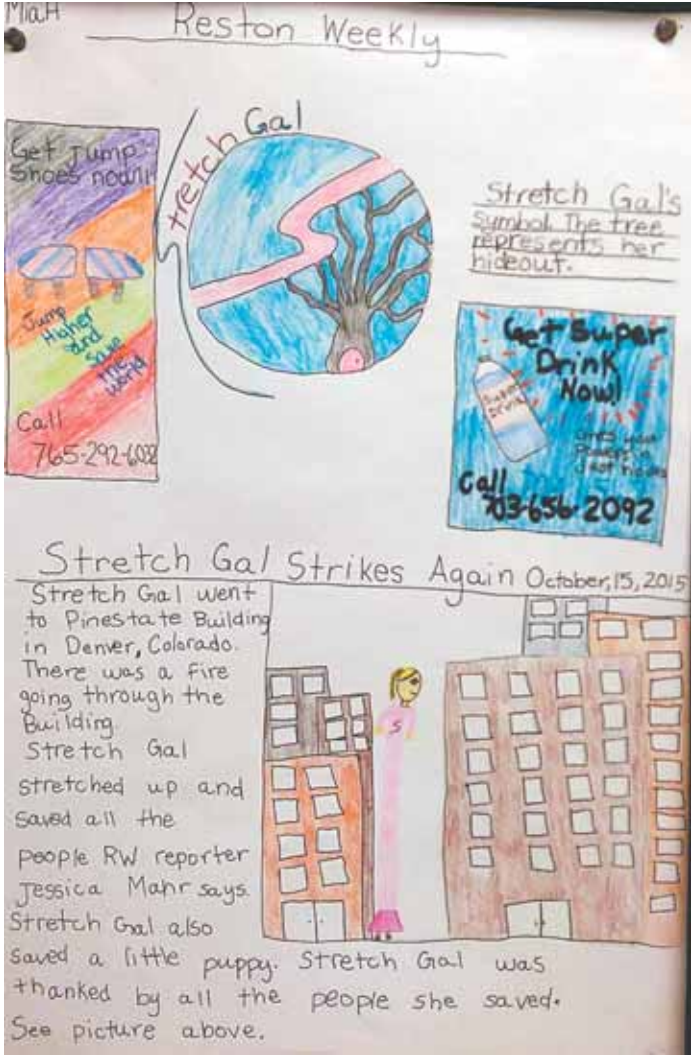
Noah Lambrinides, 7, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Denton



Sophie Weeks, 11, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Lee



Brookelyn Morrison, 11, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Onufer



Mia Honda, 11, Reston, Aldrin Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Onufer

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5TH-8TH GRADERS

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

HUNTERS WOODS ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY



Nour Kowalchuk, Hunters Woods Elementary, kindergarten



Karen Donohue, Hunters Woods Elementary, grade 3



Arielle Kim, Hunters Woods Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Norma Ruiz Morris



Hannah Ye, Hunters Woods Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Norma Ruiz Morris



Aimee Pimentel, Hunters Woods Elementary, grade 4, Ms. Norma Ruiz Morris



Michelle Kwak, Hunters Woods Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Norma Ruiz Morris



Claire Guerber, Hunters Woods Elementary, grade 2

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**TERRASET
ELEMENTARY
ARTWORK**
Mary Kalinowski,
Terraset Elementary,
grade 5

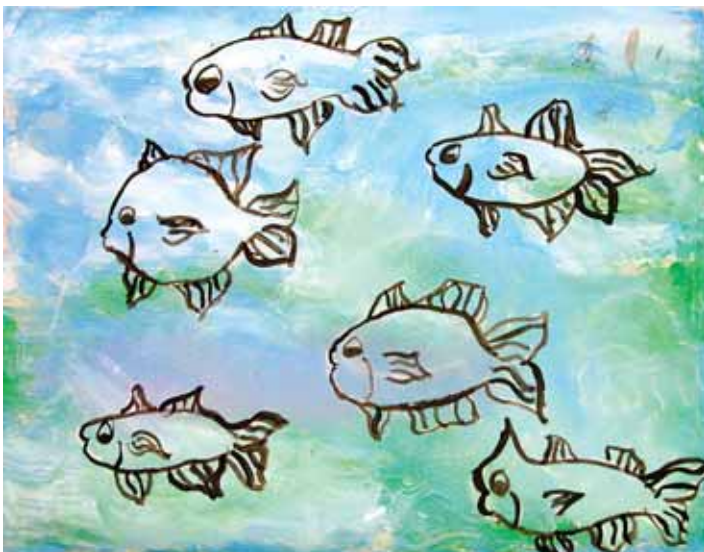


Yasmin Maradiaga-Guillen, Terraset Elementary, grade 4



Eva Lossos, Terraset Elementary, grade 4

Raskia Phadke,
Terraset
Elementary,
grade 2



Mary Kalinowski,
Terraset
Elementary,
grade 5

pek A Choo



Corin Benesch, 7,
Sunrise Valley
Elementary,
grade 1, Mrs.
Cantillana,
"Pikachu,
a.k.a.
PekAchoo"



Annie Wang, 5, Herndon, Academy of Christian Education, Mrs. Barros, "Family Day at Beach"



June Valone, 7,
Reston, Oak Hill
Elementary, Ms.
Clarke



Cameron Soto, 6,
Dogwood
Elementary,
grade 1

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Horse Show

I took a deep breath and stood on my toes, looking over my horse's thick, coal black mane. Hundreds of eyes were watching the group of riders that were already inside.

"Okay, you can go in and start fixing your girth," one of the instructors breezed past me, flashing me smile and added, "Good luck."

"I'm going to need the whole state of Virginia's luck on my side if I don't want to go in there and make a fool of myself," I muttered under my breathe, lightly tugging my horse forward. "Come on Nacho, now's not the time for napping."

As I lead him through the arena gate, I stroked his soft, brown neck so I didn't have to look at the audience.

When I had led him to the arena and halted him, I finally dared to look up.

The bleachers were packed with parents, friends, and siblings coming to watch us ride.

"Good luck." Siri smiles at me as she leads Twinkie, the palomino gelding she often rode, past me.

I smile briefly at her, feeling the butterflies in my stomach erupt into giant moths.

Swinging the beat-up leather reins over my shoulder, I start to tighten Nacho's girth.

"Too loose," I murmur, my slick hands slipping on the smooth leather as I tighten the girth a couple more holes.

When I finish, I lead Nacho over to the dusty wooden mounting block. Climbing on, I had to steady

myself so I didn't fall off as it rocked back and forth.

Holding onto the saddle to steady myself, I stick my left foot in the stirrup and swing over and onto his back, gently lowering myself into the saddle.

Clicking to him, I directed Nacho over to where the two girls that I was riding with sat as their mounts stood quietly under them.

"We have to say our names?!" Rachel squeaked as I got closer. "That's it, I'm outta here!"

Our instructor, Meredith, rolled her eyes, "Come on guys, you can do this, and you can't back out now, it's show time!"

Much to my dislike, I ended up being first.

Facing the crowd, I announced, "Hi, my name is Michaela, and this is Nacho," I say, surprised at how clear my voice sounded.

While I wait for the other girls to finish saying their names and that of their mounts, I fiddle with my brand new, purple and red riding crop.

"Okay girls, let's get started," our other instructor, Christopher, called out as she marched through the dusty ring to the center of the arena. "Tighten your reins and when I say 'three,' pick up your posting trot."

When she reached three, I give Nacho a slight nudge and tap with my crop.

Ignoring the sea of faces, I focus on rising up and down in time with his outside leg.

"Up, down, up, down," I mutter to myself, "Come on Nacho, you can do it!"



Aubrey Augustine, Cooper Middle School, grade 7, "Horse"

Gradually, I feel the myself relax and the tension leave my shoulders. *This is fun!* I thought.

As suddenly as it had started, the show ended and I was leading Nacho out of the riding ring and to his stall.

Wiping my brow, I circle him and began to take off his saddle and bridle. When I finish, I slipped on his faded orange halter and clipped on the lead rope.

Tugging on the rope, I led him out of his stall and to the area where you bathe your horse. "Come on boy, let's go take a bath." Nacho seemed to blink in agreement.

Leading him over to where a few spare hoses were laying around, I tied him to a steal circle in the wall, making sure to use a safety knot so that he could pull away, without getting hurt, if he got scared or spooked.

Grabbing an already soaked sponge, I started to rub it over his back where his saddle had been.

His back glistened from the wa-

ter, and I licked my dry lips. I was parched. Spraying myself with the hose was definitely a possibility.

Forcing myself to stay focused, I soon finished and led Nacho back to his stall.

I pull off his halter and I hug him. "Thanks boy, you were awesome."

Digging through my jacket pocket, I find a horse treat and hold it under his muzzle. He immediately stops trying to chew on my jacket and snatches the treat from the palm of my hand.

Crumbs fly everywhere as he chews on the treat.. "Piggy." I laugh and scratch his nose lightly with my finger tips.

As I watched him munch noisily on some hay that he found on the floor of his stall, I thought back to earlier today, *It was amazing*, I thought, *I hope I get the chance to be in another horse show sometime.*

—MICHAELA SVENSSON,
CHURCHILL ROAD ELEMEN-
TARY, GRADE 5, MR. DEPA'S

A Good Person

The majority of people strive to be a good person, but not everyone knows what it means to be a good person. Yes, it is important to be kind to others and respect others rights, but there is more to being considered "good." The motive to your kindness is also a key component. A good person will be kind only for the sake of being helpful. A good person will feel it is necessary to be pleasant even when it seems impossible, and strives to make someone's day just because they feel like it. People who have a good attitude towards other people, and a sense of selflessness, are what I believe are good people.

—TATUM LOHMAR,
COOPER MIDDLE
SCHOOL, GRADE 8

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"The Little Snowflake"

KATIE RAUST, ALDRIN ELEMEN-
TARY, GRADE 6, MR. O'DAY

Racing down the hill on my sled
Zigzagging over the powdery snow
Icy wind tugs on my scarf
I crashed into one sled and then into another

"Make a choice whispers the snow-
flakes..."

Warm hands help me up
Gazing at the faces of friends
Laughter fills my ears
I brush off the sparkling snow

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Grabbing my creaky sled
He groans as I pick him up
Turning my head to where the friendly
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I see only footprints which are being
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Chants and chatter echo around me
Scrambling uphill the cold snow enters
my boots
Smoke comes from my mouth, I push on
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I hear a little whimper

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flakes...

Glancing at the bottom a hill, stands a
little girl with a giant sled
Eyes are lost and dark
Her frail body shivering
I stare for a moment then trudge towards
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"Make a choice" cries the snowflakes...

A chilling stare comes from the girl
Tapping on the girl's shoulder she turns
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She looks up at me
Whispering quietly as a snowflake
drops
"I won't leave your side"
"Excellent choice," echoes the snow-
flakes...

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**FOREST EDGE
ELEMENTARY
ARTWORK**

**Mou Deng, Forest
Edge Elementary,
grade 5**



**Ghania Shahbaz, Forest
Edge Elementary, grade 3**



**Tashawn Ater, Forest Edge
Elementary, grade 3**



**Isabella Alam, Forest Edge
Elementary, kindergarten**

**Liliana Hernandez,
Forest Edge
Elementary, grade 6**



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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JANUARY

1/13/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18
 1/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
 1/27/2016.....Community Guide
 1/27/2016.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts
 & Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

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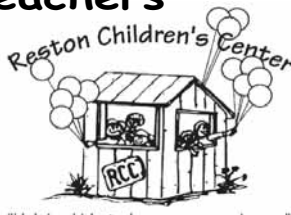
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21 Announcements

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OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer
on and off premises license to
sell or manufacture alcoholic
beverages.

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

Objections should be registered at
www.abc.virginia.gov or
800-552-3200."

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Get Pie Enterprises, LLC trading as Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers, 1030 Elden St. Herndon, VA 20170. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Amit Mehta member

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

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The Time Is Now, And Then Some



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sit and write, I am 25 days out from my next CT Scan. Which ordinarily, wouldn't cause a blip in my thinking; having been scanned and "resulted" over 25 times in the last seven years (usually, once every three months). However, this time the scan will occur after a quarter in which I've changed my infusion schedule from every three weeks to every four, as written about in a recent column entitled "All Four It." In doing the math: 13 weeks divided by three; 13 weeks divided by four; as a result of this modification, I am now receiving one fewer dose of chemotherapy. And this change was made not because I was in remission or my tumors had shrunk. No, this change was made because of a less-than-desirable quality of life. Also, as written about in a previous column, one entitled "Slippery Hope," feeling miserable one out of every three weeks was not contributing much to the quality of that life so in sharing these feelings with my oncologist, the change in frequency was agreed to. But my CT Scan schedule remains quarterly. Ergo this column's angst.

Given this rather significant change – and the correlating reduction in medicine administered, this next scan is hardly just another few slides in and out of the computerized tomography. No. This may very well be a crossroads in my treatment. If the scan shows no growth, then off I can continue infusing into the wild blue yonder (at least for the next three months until my next scan). If, on the other hand, the scan shows growth and/or movement, then perhaps I have crossed over onto a path going who knows where. And since my frequency change was made without discussing the what-if scenarios (which my oncologist prefers not to do), I am free to speculate without the benefit of any professional insight. Presumably, we'll either go back to infusing every three weeks (continuing with Alimta) and see what appears – or not – on the CT Scan (three months hence) or we'll change medications/protocols entirely and then, as we say in Boston: "It'll be Katie 'bahr' the door;" meaning, watch out/hang on for dear life (no pun intended) because new and different drugs don't necessarily equate to an improved/ "normal" quality of life. In short, my situation/health could get worse. And my request/desire to alter my previously effective infusion schedule – so far as keeping my tumors stable is concerned – from three weeks to four, may be the direct cause. Wanting to improve the quality of my life may now have led to a reduction in the quality of that life. And though I certainly understand how unreasonable it is for a patient/survivor to expect to have his cake (sugar-free preferably) and eat it too; still, I was hoping I had a few more bites at the apple.

I'll know soon enough – not, and that's the point of this column. Unfortunately, I'm already worrying about the results and the consequences of my actions. Usually, the associated anxiety starts about two weeks before the scan. Now, considering the stakes, I am worrying about it nearly four weeks before. Double the trouble and none of the fun. And believe me, it's not as if worrying this far ahead of the next scan serves any purpose whatsoever. Nor will it speed up the process or affect the scan results. All that happens is that I will be nervous and anxious about something I can't control, and make worse a situation (the waiting) that I've previously been able to manage.

Well, at least I'm not blaming myself – totally, anyway. This is all premature and nothing is pre-ordained. And considering that I've been on chemotherapy for almost seven years, and survived way beyond my oncologist's original "13 months to two-year" prognosis, perhaps my tumors won't be effected and life will go on as-per-usual. Who knows? Maybe infusing less will actually help me more?

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for
The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



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