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Michelle Le, Oak View Elementary, grade 4, Mr. Gerry Perez and Ms. Amanda Williams.

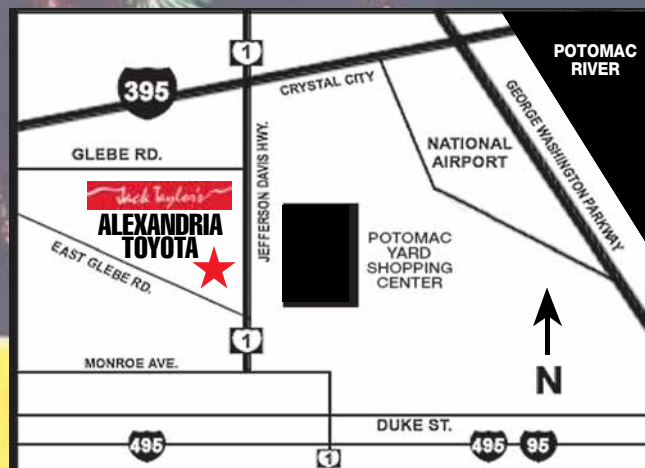


## Children's Connection 2015



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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

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



**Reshmi Balakrishnan, 10, Fairfax, Greenbriar West Elementary, grade 5, Mrs. French, "A Day in Nature"**



**Sophia Wang, 6, Chantilly, Lees Corner Elementary, kindergarten, Mrs. Hellman**

## Welcome

**D**ear 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 2016 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection.

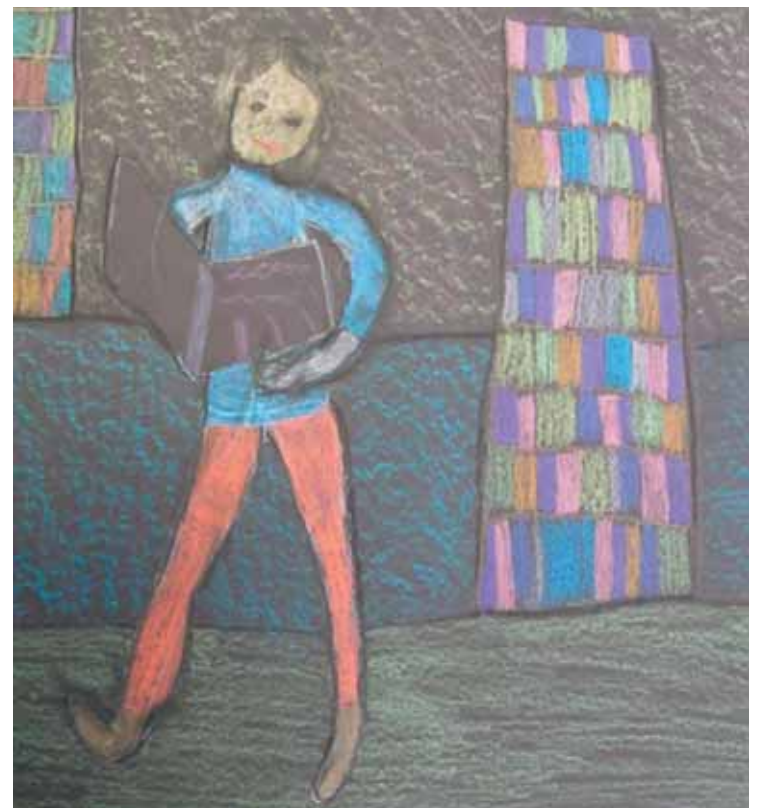
Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

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 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 KURSPAHC

**Anna Kim,  
Mantua  
Elementary,  
grade 4, Mr.  
Davide  
Lorenzi**



**Katherine Hogan, Mantua Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Nathalie Shirley**

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



**Third Grade Cultural Collage, Mosby Woods Elementary, grade 3**

FAIRFAX CONNECTION ♦ CHILDREN'S CONNECTION ♦ 2015 - 2016 ♦ 3



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## MANTUA ELEMENTARY ARTS GALLERY

**Mia Padilla Vaca,  
Mantua Elementary,  
grade 3,  
Ms. Nathalie Shirley**



**Luke Eister, Mantua  
Elementary, grade 6,  
Ms. Nathalie Shirley**



**Clara McAllister, Mantua Elementary,  
grade 6, Mr. Davide Lorenzi**

**Annabel Boezer,  
Mantua Elementary,  
grade 2,  
Ms. Nathalie Shirley**



**Abigail Leiber, Mantua Elementary,  
grade 2, Mr. Davide Lorenzi**

**Andrew McConkie,  
Mantua Elementary,  
grade 5,  
Mr. Davide Lorenzi**



**Siyue (Mary) Fang, Mantua Elementary,  
grade 2, Mr. Davide Lorenzi**



## School Again!

In 2016, I can't wait to make new friends and to learn new things. I do want to change one thing: more math and reading time because it's good to have skills to use later in life and now in life.

I think it would be cool to be a teacher when I grow up. When I think about a teacher, this is what I think they have to be: fun, smart, patient, kind, friendly, and calm.

I think teachers are brave because they come and teach us and even read to us. I think they are brave because they help us by teaching our young minds and helping us grow. I think my teachers, and all other teachers, are great helpers to this earth's community!

—AMANDA C. MARTIN,  
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY,  
GRADE 3,  
MRS. HOCKENBURY

## What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

When I grow up, I will be a veterinarian because I will get a lot of money and I like pets.

My favorite one is the cat because cats are cute and cuddly and I also like them because they are very furry and warm.

My second favorite pet is a hamster because they are fun to watch and they are very cute.

My third favorite pet is a puppy because they are very cute and furry.

—JANE MORRISON,  
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY,  
GRADE 1, MR. NOEL

## The Kiss

If I could give my parents a present that did not cost money, it would be a kiss and a simple "I love you!" I would give them the sweetest, most meaningful hug ever.

I would tell them how I am so thankful for having good, kind, and caring parents and how they always put a smile on my face. My parents are the most important thing in my life.

A kiss is a very special gift because it can't be bought, it must be given and it can turn a bad day into a great one.

—JASMINE HUANG, MOSBY  
WOODS ELEMENTARY, GRADE  
4, MS. MULLANEY



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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



GREENBRIAR  
WEST GALLERY

Ellia Kweon,  
Greenbriar  
West Element-  
ary, grade 5,  
Ms. Erin  
Fillers



Yashaswin Macheria, 9, Fairfax, Greenbriar West Element-  
ary, grade 4, Mrs. Filler, "Skiing in Winter Wonderland"



Sathwika Prasad, 7, Fairfax, Greenbriar  
West Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Fillers



Jessica Chen, Greenbriar West Elementary,  
grade 4, Ms. Tammy French



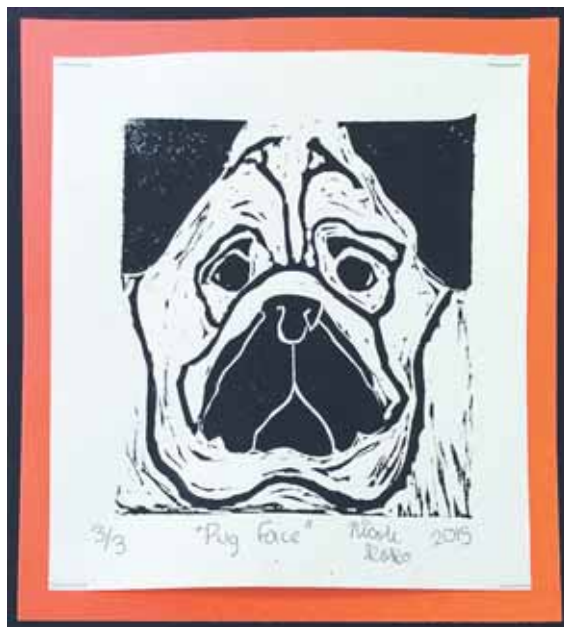
Raghav Kamineni, Greenbriar West Elementary , grade 3,  
Ms. Tammy French



Ashley Chang, Greenbriar West Elementary , grade 3, Ms.  
Tammy French



Nora Lee, Greenbriar West Elementary ,  
grade 6, Ms. Tammy French



Nicole Koko, Greenbriar West Elementary ,  
grade 6, Ms. Tammy French



Ananya Naidu, 8, Greenbriar West Elementary, grade 3,  
Mrs. Gervais, "Thanksgiving"



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



## OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY

Lillian Robin, Oak View Elementary, grade 4, Mr. Gerry Perez and Ms. Amanda Williams



Finley Cosgriff,  
Oak View Elementary, grade 2, Mr. Gerry Perez and Ms. Amanda Williams



Garrett Simonsen,  
Oak View Elementary, grade 1, Mr. Gerry Perez and Ms. Amanda Williams



Walter Gorski,  
Oak View Elementary, grade 6, Mr. Gerry Perez and Ms. Amanda Williams

## SPLIT-LEVEL REMODELED HOME TOUR

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**Lyla Movahed, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Colleen Dolinger**

### What Makes A Good Friend?

**W**hen you make a new friend, it's always exciting. But what is the difference 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, 11, FAIRFAX, COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6

A good friend is someone who is always there for you and who can perceive what you feel within.

He/she shares the joyful moments and is there for you in times when you need someone to be with you, to cheer you up and help you.

A good friend celebrates your successes and soothes your sorrows. If something goes wrong, a good friend comes forward to help you even without you asking for it.

—HAMSINI RANGARAJAN, MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, Ms. MULLANEY



**Hannah Lynch, Greenbriar East Elementary, grade 2**

## EAGLE VIEW ARTS GALLERY



**Zainab Khan, Eagle View Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Tetyana Wittkowski**



**Evelyn Chen, Eagle View Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Jessica Chinn**



**Joshua Cancio, Eagle View Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Tetyana Wittkowski**



**Brandon Nguyen, Eagle View Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Jessica Chinn**



**Juliette Yoo, Eagle View Elementary, kindergarten, Ms. Jessica Chinn**



**George Huynh, Eagle View Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Tetyana Wittkowski**



**Jayden Mok, Eagle View Elementary, kindergarten, Ms. Jessica Chinn**



**Sheryl Zhang, Eagle View Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Jessica Chinn**



**Ammad Malik, Eagle View Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Tetyana Wittkowski**

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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

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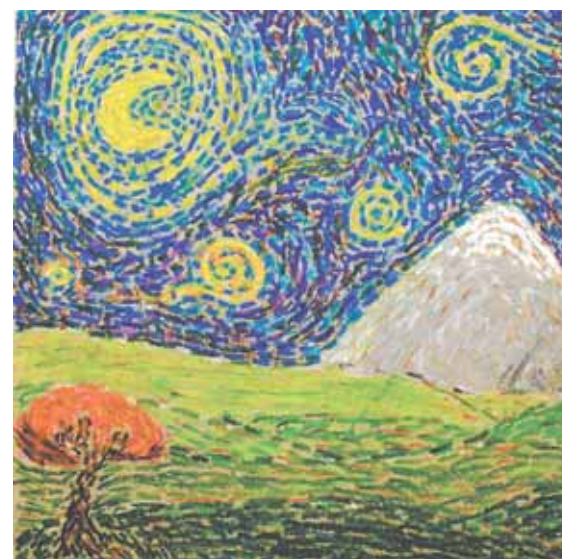
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Sara Chen, Eagle View Elementary,  
grade 6, Ms. Tetyana Wittkowski



Brain Xu, Mosby Woods Elementary,  
grade 5

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Run through your brain,  
Trailing nothing behind them but dust.  
Leaving you unhappy, restless,  
Scared.  
You quickly try to find that small dream again,  
But it's already started.  
Monsters scream in your ear telling you you're not worth it,  
that no one should love you,  
that you deserve to die.  
Maybe, hopefully, they'll complete the job.  
You shut down, everything inside closing.  
You relish in the fact that you are finally free of their screams...  
Then they come back.  
They light their way into your brain, scraping for anything to satisfy their hunger.  
You laugh and laugh in their faces, spitting out they will never find anything.  
Knowing they've already taken everything out of you.  
You laugh and cry, hoping that they'll die and it will end, but you know it won't.  
You fall to the round realizing your fate, when that small inkling of a dream comes back.  
You cry out with joy "He's come to save me!"  
You feel all the happiness and strength return to your body and grasp at the shock of it.  
Everything that you've ever loved has come back to save you.  
To protect you from the demons inside and out.  
Every bad thought leaves your body and you sigh in relief  
Then you wake up. Your eyes blink open.  
And everything in the world, in yourself, is the same as it ever was.

—INDIA MUSA, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY,  
GRADE 6,  
Ms. ALYSSA GRABEL

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Kina Xu, 5, Fairfax, Nysmith School, kindergarten, "Winter Fun"

## "Winter Break"

Icy and cold wind  
Dropping leaves to the ground  
Making trees bare and uncovered  
Light and fluffy snow  
Falling from the gloomy sky  
Layering on top of each other  
Turning the town into a Winter Wonderland  
I ski and snowboard.  
I make snowballs and snowmen  
Back at my cozy home  
I see the dazzling Christmas tree  
With presents wrapped under it  
Winter Break can last forever  
I love Winter Break.

—CAROLINE HONG, 13, FAIRFAX,  
LANIER MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 8, MRS. MILLER

## "Reverse" Poem

Who would win?	Dog's lose?
Dogs vs Cats?	No Way!
Humans	Cats
Like	Lose...
Both	But,
But,	Both
Lose...	Like
Cats?	Humans
No way!	Dogs vs. Cats?
Dogs lose!!	Who would win?

—KARL HIRZ, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY, GRADE 3

## "Viola Girl"

Look at that girl  
The one in the apartment next door  
Plucking at a single string  
Letting go like there's sparks  
A few minutes later  
She picks up the bow  
And scrapes across the taut  
STEEL strings  
Hairs floating off  
Like little feathers  
A new talent  
She plays the viola's song  
Happy, sad  
Dramatic, silly  
She plays a rhapsody  
Sadly, she places the bow back and the music has to stop  
—LUCI KU, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6, MS. ALYSSA GRABEL



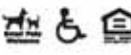
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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Iyla Sharifahmadian, 5, Fairfax, Nysmith School, Mrs. Hand. "Iyla and Minal Visiting the Zoo."



Zani Xu, 9, Fairfax, Nysmith School, grade 4, "Yardsale"



## MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY ARTWORK

Jennifer Xu, 7, Fairfax, Mosby Woods Elementary, grade 2, Mrs. Plummer



Reagan Zoldak, Mosby Woods Elementary, grade 3



Naomi Yoon, Mosby Woods Elementary, grade 5



Eunbee Lee, Mosby Woods Elementary, grade 2



Sun Chi, Greenbriar East Elementary, grade 5



Elizabeth Campbell, Greenbriar East Elementary, grade 5



Myra Jain, Greenbriar East Elementary, grade 3



## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**Wakefield Forest Elementary**  
**Anna Ryder, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 1,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**



**Jesse Thomas, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 3,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**



**Jack Klugiewicz, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 5,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**



**Tess Welling, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 3,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**



**Veronica Takats, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 6,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**



**Luke Tryon, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 4,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**



**Marley Burrer, Wakefield Forest Elementary, grade 6,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**



**Noelle Lukas, Wakefield Forest Elementary, kindergarten,**  
**Ms. Colleen Dolinger**

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Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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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

2/3/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I  
 2/3/2016.....Wellbeing – National Children's  
 Dental Health Month

2/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle  
 2/10/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II  
 2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools  
 2/24/2016.....Pet Connection

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- Reston Connection
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-Theodore  
Roosevelt

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT  
PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN OF  
CLIFTON TOWN COUNCIL**

JANUARY 5, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of the Clifton Café, located at 7144 Main Street, to include an expansion of the use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats, inside and outside; an increase in parking onsite; expansion of the hours of operation; increase in employees. The application for the proposed amendment to the Clifton Café's special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton Café's special use permit.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CODE**

JANUARY 5, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124, directly after the special use permit hearing at 7:30 P.M., to review and implement proposed changes to the fee schedule for use permit applications and other items pertaining to the administration of use permit applications in the Town Code Section 9-10 c. The proposed changes are available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed changes to Clifton's Town Code.

## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

# About Friendships, Parents, Hopes ...

## Observations from Angelus Academy sixth graders.

**W**hat makes a good friend, in my opinion, is honesty. Let's say someone liked broccoli and the person they are trying to befriend hates broccoli. You would most likely lie to them. This isn't really a serious lie but, let's say someone was dating your girlfriend right behind your back and that someone is your best friend. Of course they would try and hide it from you but eventually you would find out. When you finally do, the honesty and trust that you have built over the years would have been broken. This is why honesty makes a good friend.

—ALEXIS BORBRIDGE, 11,  
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

When I grow up I want to play The Doctor in the T.V. show Doctor Who. I could be the first American one in the history of the show. I would even settle with being a companion. If I couldn't play either parts I would at least be a writer for it. I already have some good episode ideas. For example: The Doctor can only save five people during an Auton takeover of an alien mall.

—TIM O'CONNELL, 12,  
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

The worst thing that has happened to me is when my best friend got a medical condition. She didn't come to school. I called her, she said she had nerve pains. I comforted her but I still felt empty. I played minecraft with her and that made it better. After that day she came to school about one day a week. I am all full of joy, and silliness. Yes, my friend and I are pun buddies, only because we are so punny. That is the worst thing that happened to me.

—ROSE FRELK, 11,  
WOODBIDGE, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

A good friend is kind, loving, and charitable. I have many good friends in my school and I am very lucky. A friend helps you when you need it. When you're sad, mad, or need to just scream you can always go to a good friend and express your feelings. Good friends tell the truth even if it's not an easy thing to hear. When a friend teases or annoys you for fun it doesn't bother you. That is what I look for in a good friend.

—MARIAH LASH, 11,  
FALLS CHURCH, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

My favorite animal is a lamb. I like lambs because they are fluffy and cute. I also like lambs because Jesus is the Lamb of God. Another reason I like lambs is on my first Easter my grandma got me a stuffed sheep then my cousin gave me hers and now they are my two favorite stuffed animals. I am



Abigail Viggiano, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Deborah Ehlers

deathly in love with sheep they are just so cute. I hope you love sheep, too.

—ABIGAIL BUTKOVICH, 11,  
FAIRFAX STATION, ANGELUS  
ACADEMY, GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

I'm 11 years old and I live in Springfield VA. When I grow up I want to be a mom, astronaut, dancer, cheerleader, singer, doctor, Olympian, contractor, stylist and author. I know I might not be able to do all the things but I can try. I want to be the first person to go on Mars. I also think it will be fun to be a mom because I love kids. I also want to be a teacher so I can teach kids.

—ELIZABETH MICHAEL, 11,  
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

A good friend is someone who you can rely on. If you get hurt or you are in need of help a friend should always be there for you. A friend should be honest in whatever they say and do. Friends make you happy, comfort you when you're sad, and calm you when you are mad. Everyone should have a good friend to help them on their journey through life.

—GRACE HANNA, 11,  
ALEXANDRIA, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

When I grow up I want to become a nurse and a mom. I also want to be a kindergarten teacher. I want to become a nurse because I like the smell of the doctor's office and I think it would be fun. I want to be a mom so I can have kids, and a kindergarten teacher because kindergarteners are usually adorable and the things I would be teaching would be easy.

—MARIA HURLEY, 12,  
ANNANDALE, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

I want to be an architect or a doctor when

I grow up. I think it would be cool to be an architect because I could design all kinds of cool buildings. My dream is to design my own house. It would also be cool to be a doctor, especially a pediatrician. I have always wanted to be a pediatrician. I think I got the idea from my doctor, who has the same birthday as me. It would be pretty cool to be able to work with kids AND be able to use cool medical instruments, such as a stethoscope.

—RILEY LEBON, 11, RESTON,  
ANGELUS ACADEMY, GRADE 6,  
MS. OSELLA

The thing I am looking forward to next year is Easter. I am looking forward to Easter break because we are going hiking from Washington D.C. to Harper's Ferry on the Appalachian trail with my grandpa and cousins. My grandpa and I love hiking. We will spend the night in tents on the trail and hike all day. I am also looking forward to seeing my cousin who is a tiny bit older than me. We like to do the same stuff and almost never get mad at each other. I am really looking forward to Easter break this year.

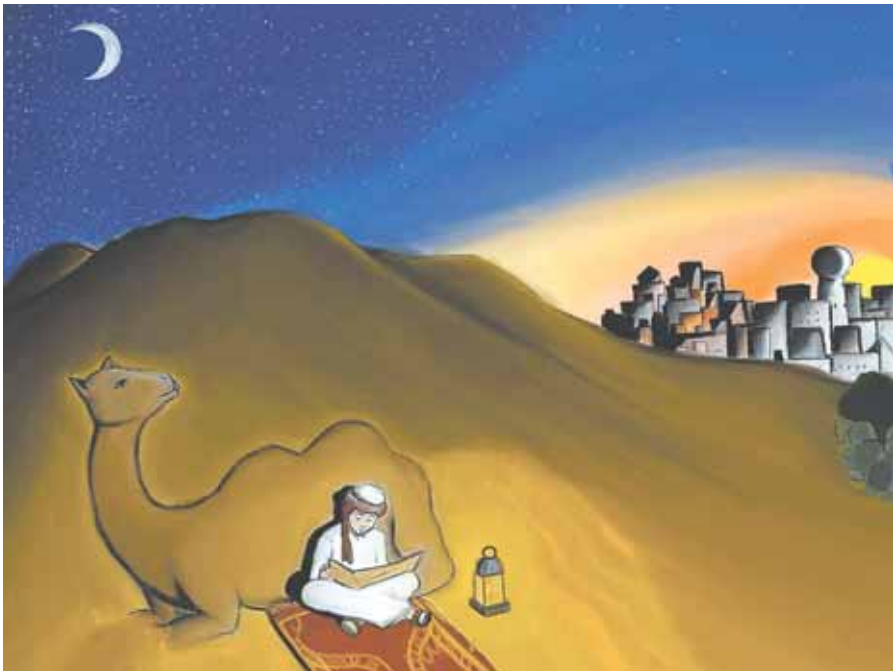
—SEBASTIAN LYONS, 12,  
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA

A good friend is kind to you. If you are not kind to one another how can you even be friends with them. A good friend backs you up and always knows what to say if you are really sad or mad. I have a lot of good friends who always cheer me up and always have my back. You want to have a friend that you can tell what you're feeling and they will understand. And even if they don't understand, they will cheer you up. This is what a good friend is to me.

—PAYTON HURLEY, 11,  
WOODBIDGE, ANGELUS ACADEMY,  
GRADE 6, MS. OSELLA



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**Aseel Elayan, 17,  
Fairfax, Woodson  
High, grade 12,  
"The Desert"**

WOODSON  
HIGH GALLERY

**Olivia Newell, 17,  
Fairfax, Woodson  
High, grade 12,  
Ms. Donna Head,  
"A Real Pickle"**



**Olivia Newell,  
17, Fairfax,  
Woodson  
High, grade  
12, Ms. Donna  
Head, "Space  
Whales"**



**Julia Gacek,  
16, Fairfax,  
Woodson  
High, grade 11,  
"Storybook"**



NAVY  
ELEMENTARY

**Angelina Xu, 10,  
Fairfax, Navy El-  
ementary, grade 5,  
"Warm Home,  
Sweet Home"**

**Isabel Wang, 8,  
Navy Elementary,  
grade 3, Ms. Lee**



**Hannah Dai,  
Fairfax, Navy  
Elementary,  
grade 2,  
Ms. Curto**



**Gabriel Xu, 8, Fairfax, Navy El-  
ementary, grade 3, "My Sister"**

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