

Fairfax Station ✧ Clifton ✧ Lorton
CONNECTION

Children's Connection 2015

Meghan McHenry,
Silverbrook Elementary,
kindergarten

DECEMBER 31, 2015 - JANUARY 6, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

“Why does it have to be different?”

You don't have to be awkward like this.
You've been putting me through hell and I don't deserve it.
Why does it have to be different?
We know it's there.
It's not hard to tell.
Yet you make me an emotional wreck.
Everything with you is so wishy washy.
All kind words,
Yet no proof of substance.
You say certain things that make me grin,
And then you say other things and I can't help but cringe.
Why does it have to be different?
Why can't you just be honest with me.
I don't care how it ends or what you say.
I just want to know, an answer, the truth.
Why does it have to be different?
I hate when people ask me about you and all I can do is turn and look away
Or tell them to ask you instead.
It hurts.
It hurts to feel like you don't care.
That I'm unworthy of putting in the effort for.
It makes anyone who could feel like the happiest...
feel like the worst.
If you cared,

Why would you make everything so difficult.
Why does it have to be different?
This jersey debacle is dumb,
A simple piece of clothing.
Yet it holds so much meaning.
It may seem unimportant to you, but it's hope for me.
If you don't want me to, just tell me.
I won't get mad.
I just don't want to keep looking like a fool each time I have to ask.
Why does it have to be different?
You make me feel like I'm just a hookup, stsyd or pos.
I shouldn't.
I'm chill and easygoing,
But without respect and a little bit of effort,
I'll get angry and confused.
You're on your phone all day, yet you take forever to respond.
Why does it have to be different?
I get it, you're shy.
But you don't have to be shy around me.
You don't have to act like that.
It doesn't have to be different.

—SAMANTHA HAMILTON, 17, SOUTH COUNTY
HIGH, GRADE 12, MS. LESLIE PRATT



Quentin King, Liberty Middle School, grade 7, Ms. Ellen Rosenthal, “Surprise Bowl; Fish and Fire,” papier mache



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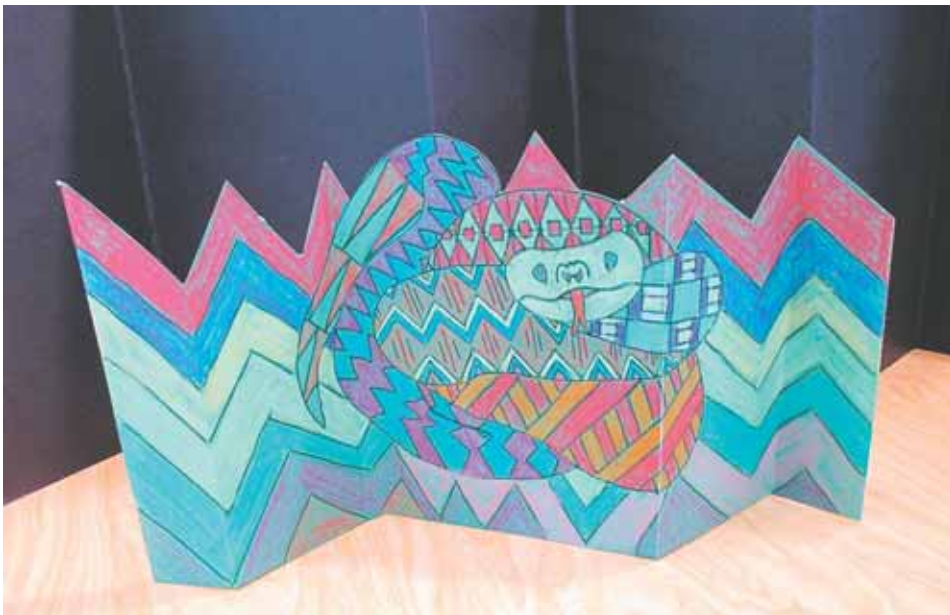
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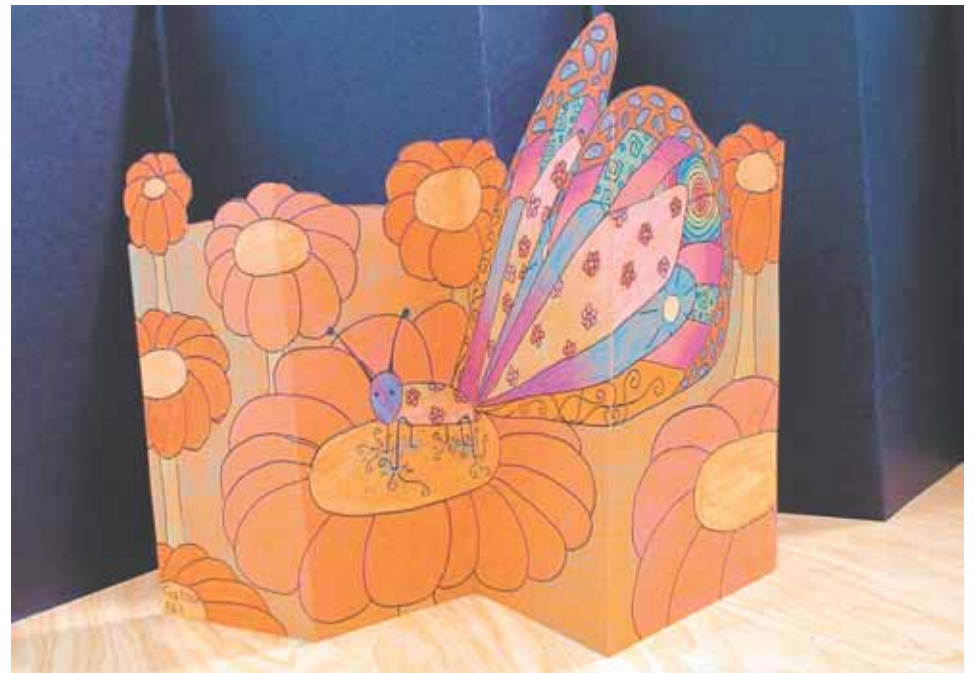



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Aiden Gebo, Liberty Middle School, grade 7, "Oaxacan Snake Folded Drawing," crayon on toned paperboard



Tina Dash, Liberty Middle School, grade 7, Ms. Ellen Rosenthal, "Oaxacan Butterfly," folded drawing, crayon on toned paperboard

Welcome

Dear Readers:
This week, The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton 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 KURSPAHIC



Elliot Ketcham, Silverbrook Elementary, grade 3



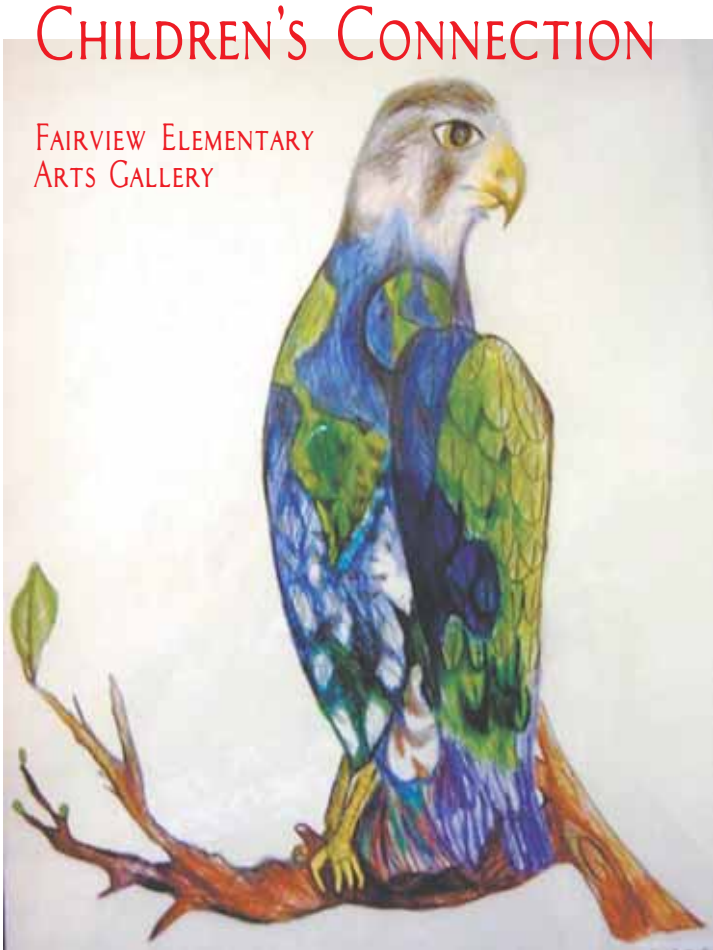
Morgan Pearson, Fairfax Station, Fairview Elementary, grade 3, Ms. Kaplan



Matthew Jeong, Liberty Middle School, grade 8, Ms. Ellen Rosenthal, "Self-Portrait," scratchboard



Isabella Willard, Fairfax Station, Fairview Elementary, grade 2, Mrs. O’Sullivan



Eduardo Rodas Medina, Burke, Fairview Elementary, grade 6



Morgan Pearson, Fairfax Station, Fairview Elementary, grade 3, Ms. Kaplan



Emily Morosco, Burke, Fairview Elementary, grade 2, Mrs. Hayes



Hallie Morrison, Burke, Fairview Elementary, kindergarten, Mrs. Harstad



Alexandra Weatherbee, Fairfax Station, Fairview Elementary, kindergarten, Ms. Harstad

“Afraid To Love”

So sweet, so gentle,
and full of grace.
Everytime he smiles,
her heart starts to race

He stares at her
with cautious eyes.
Eager to make a move,
but then he shies.

They look around ,
from left to right,
both can’t conceal
their feelings in sight.

She giggles at him,
his cheeks begin to fire.
Neither can escape
their deepest desires.

Two young souls,
possessed by love.
Their intentions are
as pure as a dove.

So shy, so nervous,
and both afraid,
they can’t ignore
a love that won’t fade.

A boy and a girl,
together by fate.
Love works wonders
when you find your soulmate.

—HAWA HAMIDI,
SOUTH COUNTY HIGH, GRADE 12, MS.
LESLIE PRATT

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

My Favorite Gift

My favorite gift was my first American Girl doll. I liked the doll because she had long hair and I could braid it. Braiding is harder than it looks. I also liked the doll because I could shop for its tiny clothes and then put them on her. I could take her anywhere and I could play with her by myself or share with friends. I named her Audrey.

—AUDREY HOWELL, FAIRFAX STATION, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY, GRADE 5, MRS. SAROYAN

My Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is the baby penguin. It is so cute and small. A baby penguin is very fluffy. Penguins have small wings but they do not fly. They like cold weather.

—EVITA JOHNSON, BURKE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY, GRADE 3, MS. SMITH

What Makes a Great Parent?

Things that make a good parent are: parents that discipline, help with activities, teach you, help with homework, are gentle, and reward good behavior. They take you to cool places. My parents have all of these things.

—GENEVIEVE DEADY, BURKE, FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. CHIAPPONI

**The Fairfax Station /
Clifton / Lorton
Children's Connection**

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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



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



Zani Xu, 9, Fairfax, Nysmith School, grade 4, “Yardsale”

Thanks and Giving

“Patrick is my older brother. He loves to read and he has a great imagination. For three years he has been an ambassador for the Diabetic Association. He and our family ride our bikes in the Tour de Cure to raise money for Diabetes research. Patrick has given speeches and has been interviewed many times. I am so proud of my brother. He does great work.”

—MICHAEL SWINGLE, 9, SPRINGFIELD,
NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL, GRADE 4,
MRS. VIDAL

“After the piñata, someone didn’t have candy. So I gave him all of mine.”

—EMMA RICHEY, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA

“I remember the time when my friend Will went to Texas for Christmas, so I had to feed his fish for the week. The day he got back, he came to my house with something. He was holding it behind his back. He pulled it from behind his back like a magician! He bought me a hat from Texas.”

—NOAH GIDEON, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA

“It makes me happy when my siblings joyfully just play with me and we don’t fight.”

—EMILY MONAHAN, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA

“I am thankful for the time my mom and her friend Rachel surprised me on my birthday for lunch at school.”

—KATELYN RICHEY, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA

“Sometimes in the summer, my sister and I have sleepovers in her room. We play on our computers, talk and sleep. It makes me glad that I have a sister, even if she can be a little annoying!”

—NATALIE WEATHERINGTON, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA

“We were driving to my mom’s friend’s house. When we entered, there were two dogs. I thought we were here to play, but my mom told me we were getting the smaller black and white puppy.

I was yelling! We were getting a puppy. We named her Scarlett.”

—LUKAS JELENIEWICZ, CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Olivia Brown, Liberty Middle School, grade 8, Ms. Ellen Rosenthal, "Self-Portrait, Ó scratchboard

"Villanelle –Bond of Affection"

Please do not leave me in the dust
I discovered her outside in a late winter night
I will do anything for you that I must.

Her body I found motionless, with the bitter cold gust
Took her to my house, following the blue starlight
Please do not leave me in the dust.

I gazed at her wondrous beauty that I lust
Watching over her, protective like a knight
I will do anything for you that I must.

Her gifted singing is attractive and just
Humming along with her voice in delight
Please do not leave me in the dust.

Her sweet innocent face that anyone would trust
Warms my heart to hug her with all my might
I will do anything for you that I must.

But her terrible secret we soon learned, much to our disgust
Now searching for a way to save her~ to do what is right
Please do not leave me in the dust
I will do anything for you that I must.

—AMIR AZIMI, 17, SOUTH COUNTY HIGH, GRADE 12, Ms.
LESLIE PRATT



**Lauren Clark,
Silverbrook
Elementary, grade 6**

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GRADES 1-6

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Vivian Ngo, grade 1



Ava Herrington, grade 4



Dennis Mulligan, grade 6



Cooper Hill



Garren Linton, grade 5



Charley Forrester



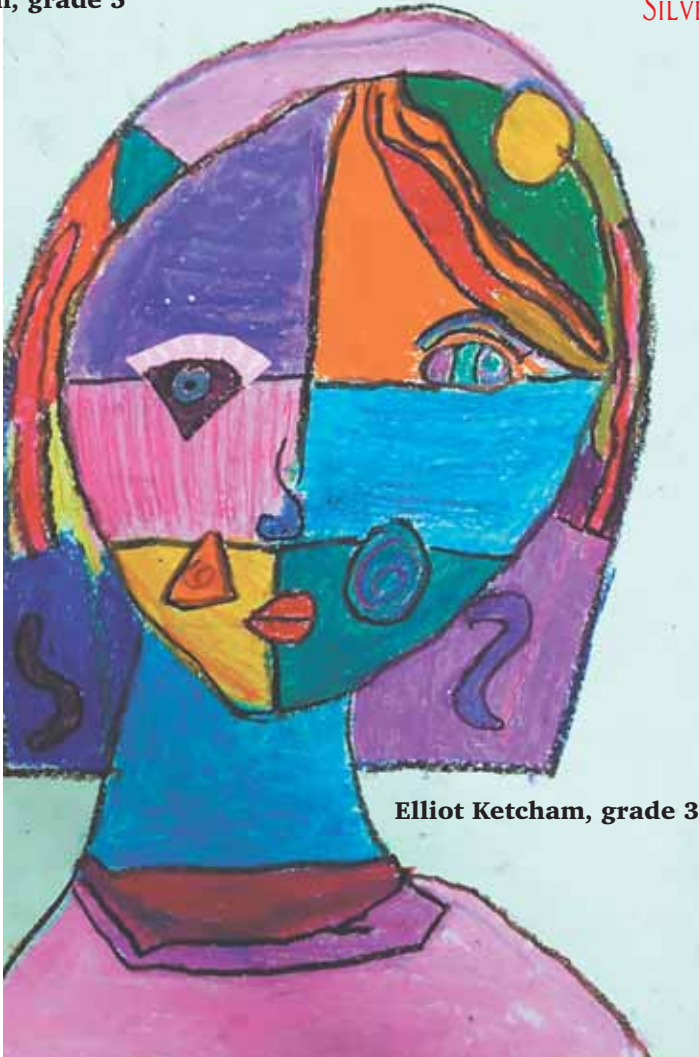
Claire Gribschaw, grade 6



Hope Van Beek



Juliet Josselyn



Elliot Ketcham, grade 3



Michael Edwards



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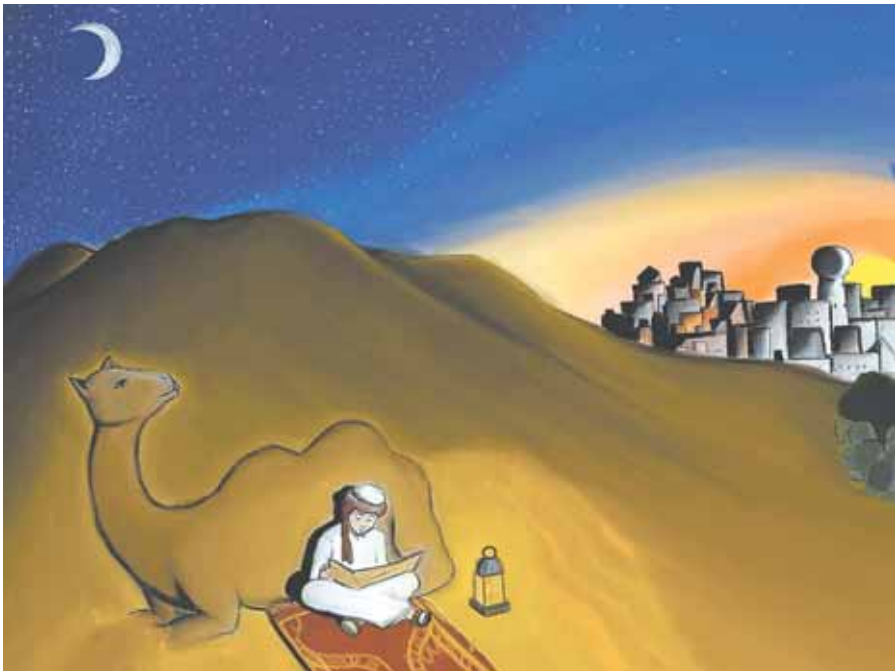
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**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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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



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



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

What Makes A Good Friend?

When 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

The Best Gift I Ever Received

The best gift I ever received was my puppy, Cookie. I always wanted a puppy, and when I was 8 years old, my dad and I stopped by my brother's teacher's house. To my surprise when she opened the door three Shih Tzu puppies ran up to greet me. They were all so cute, but the cutest puppy was the littlest black and white one. I wanted that one. But the owner said she wanted to keep that puppy, because she was the runt. Then she looked at my dad and said if your daughter really wants that one she can have her. When I got home that day I was thinking of names, and finally a name clicked in my head: COOKIE. I named her that because she reminds me of a cookie, and my brother's dog is named Oreo, so when they're together their names are Oreo Cookie.

—GABBY MOFFAT, 12,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6, MRS. STRING

The best gift I ever received was my dog. My dog's name is Winston. We got my dog Winston in September at Yorktown, Virginia.



Colton Elliott, 12, Lake Braddock Secondary School, grade 7, "Husky Flyer," If my dog, Clutch, could fly he would be a husky flyer.

He is a toy poodle, and he has black fur, gray fur, white fur and a tan mustache, too. His fur is really fuzzy and soft. Winston is a cute puppy. He just turned 2 years old. We walk with my dog Winston on his leash and collar. My dog Winston goes outside to go to the restroom. Winston comes upstairs to my room or my brother's room or sisters' room to sleep and play with us. Winston chases his toys, and we fetch them. My dog Winston loves me, and that's why

he is the best present I ever received.

—HANNAH MCLAMB, 12,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6, MS. EHLERS AND MRS. STRING

"We were driving to my mom's friend's house. When we entered, there were two dogs. I thought we were here to play, but my mom told me we were getting the smaller black and white puppy.

I was yelling! We were getting a puppy. We named her Scarlett."

—LUKAS JELENIEWICZ,
CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY, GRADE 4, MRS. ZAVALETA



Genesee Chinn, Eagle View Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Tetyana Wittkowski

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

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

REFLECTIONS

A Friend

A good friend needs to have some interesting qualities. Most of those qualities you should know about. One of those is, the friend must be caring. All friends should know you and like you. Friends should play and do other stuff with you. An awesome friend does not have to have any of the same qualities as you do.

—ANTHONY AGLIECO, 10,
ALEXANDRIA, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN

If You Could Give Your Parents a Gift

The free gift I would like to give my parents is a surprise visit from my grandparents. My parents would cry from happiness, since we don't get to see them but once a year. I would do anything to make my parents happy and I think this gift will make my parents super happy. I wish I could go all the way to New Mexico and bring my grandparents to surprise my parents and make them cry from excitement. This surprise visit would create so many memo-

ries for them that they could cherish forever.

—ELAINA CANO,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY, GRADE 6,
MS. MOLLY MOORSTEIN

Blizzard

I am looking forward to blizzards and snowball wars next year. School would definitely close that day. It would be incredible. Ten feet of snow would be great. I would like everyone to have a good time that day. It would probably happen around Christmastime when presents are around. It would be stupendous. That is my dream for next year.

—PATRICK DONOVAN, 10,
DUMFRIES, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN

What makes a good friend?

What makes a good friend? Well lots of things make up a good friend. The first thing that comes to my mind is that they like you for who you are not what you look like.

Kindness can make up a good friend. Oh and loyalty or generos-

ity. Honesty is a big part of a good friend. Friends should always be there for you no matter what the problem. Good friends listen to you and help you when times are hard. This is what I think makes a good friend. What do you think makes a good friend?

—REYNA EBERHARDT,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
GRADE 6, MS. MOLLY MOORSTEIN

The Perfect Friend!!!

What makes the perfect friend? There's a lot more to friendship than you think. Here are some rules on having a healthy friendship! The first rule is don't be friends with someone because they're popular. Be friends with someone because they make you happy and you enjoy each others' company. Another rule is don't lie or be secretive with your friends. If you do, it shows you don't trust them and you are trying to impress them by saying things that aren't true. You can discover more on how to be a perfect friend at your local bookstore.

—CATHERINE HANSEN, 10,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN



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-Theodore Roosevelt

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-William Van Horne

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21 Announcements

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**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.

What 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 like to draw and I like to help people. I want to be an architect because I like to design buildings and I want to be a doctor because I like to help people feel better. I want to be an architect or a doctor when I grow up.

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.

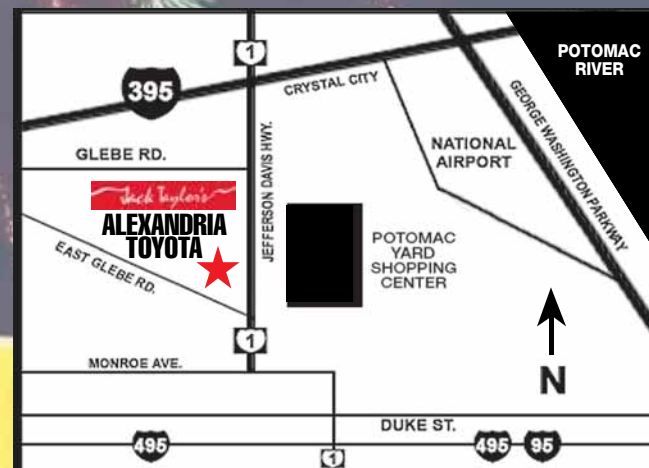
—SEBASTIAN LYONS, 12,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

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

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