

Children's Connection 2015

Joyce Martin, Mark
Twain Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin

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DECEMBER 31, 2015 - JANUARY 6, 2016

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

My Violin Concert

ARIA MIAO, GRADE 5
KEENE MILL ELEMENTARY, MS.
DEL TORAL

“Ready, guys?” my violin teacher Mrs. Vivian inquired, and turned around to inspect us. She was a short, plump woman with a dark complexion and black hair pinned up into a bun she usually wore in thick waves around her face. But today was special. Today was the day of the violin concert.

I took a deep breath. *You can do this*, I thought to myself, but I didn't quite believe it.

We walked in a single file line out into large, airy room. Our parents were seated in rows in front of the stage. I had always thought that stage strange, since it went downward instead of upward, and it looked like something you might imagine from a scene in Cinderella. In the back of the stage was a brick fireplace, with plush, velvety curtains draped on either side. In front of the fireplace were a few small, round ottomans we sometimes sat on while we waited for someone else to finish perform-

ing their piece.

My mom waved and smiled when she saw me, and I recalled the deal we had made. The butterflies in my stomach fluttered.

You see, that school year was just about to end, and I was always able to visit my aunt and her family at least twice during most summer breaks. I had always been enthusiastic about visiting my aunt, since she lived in Delaware, and summer break and winter break were just about the only times I could see her.

My mom had made me promise that if I didn't play *every single note* correctly during my solo performance, I'd have to postpone my visit to a week later than what we had planned.

And then, as if by magic, I found that I had reached my destination. The stage was right in front of me.

I had a sudden urge to tear away from it, but a small voice in my head coaxed me to go forward.

I stepped down onto the stage.

I sat mechanically onto an ottoman, and waited for the other students to find their places.

And then, the concert began.

We started with a group song

called Chorus from “Judas Maccabaeus.” Next, a girl named Maggie performed a concerto. After the second group song, another girl named Kendall performed. It went on like that - group songs with solo performances in between. After each group song, I would be positive that my name would be called. But each time, it was someone else's name that echoed across the room.

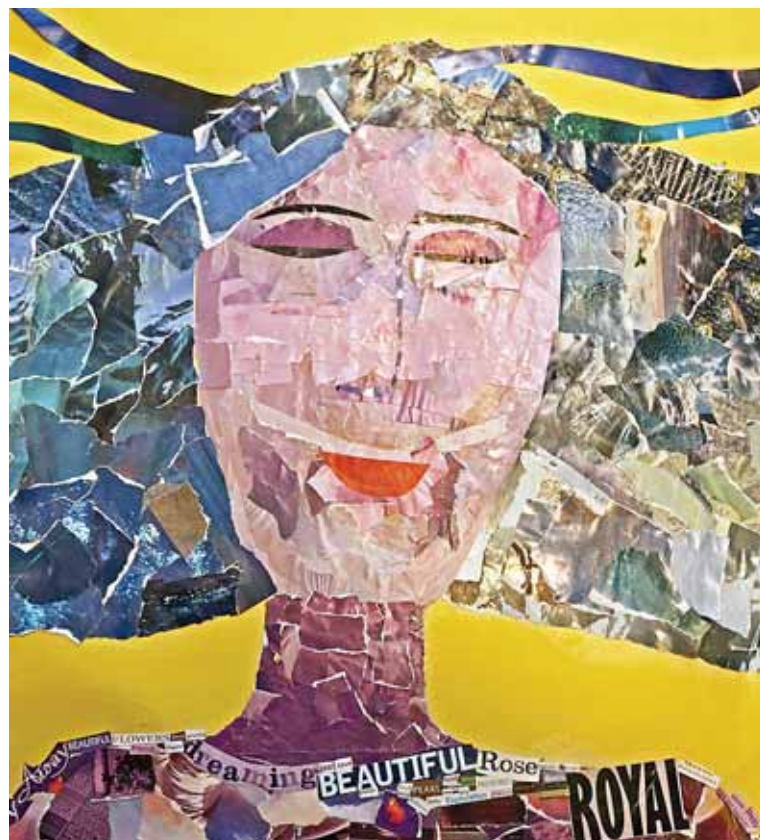
Surely I wouldn't be last, I started to think.

And then suddenly - “Aria Miao, with ‘Concerto in A Minor!’”

My heart started to pound like a hammer inside my chest, and my stomach did a somersault. I walked hesitantly up to the front of the stage, and felt a surge of dread as the music stand loomed closer and closer.

The air was pierced by the sound of the pianist playing an introduction. I took a shaky breath and began my piece.

I winced when my first few notes came out softly and with uncertainty. I forced myself to shift my gaze from the many pairs of eyes looking intently at me and focus instead at the sound of the notes



Rebecca Popp, 12, Springfield, Westminster School, grade 7, Mr. Muntain

gliding off the bow, stringing themselves together to form a melody.

By this time, my eyes had wandered to the bottom of the page, and I cheered inwardly. I had finished the first page of my piece.

My teacher flipped the music to the next page for me and gave me an encouraging smile. I smiled

back waveringly and forged on, note after note.

I imagined each note as the stroke of a paintbrush, adding color to a blank white landscape, and when I drew the last note, I knew that I had painted a beautiful painting.

Smiling confidently, I looked up to a sea of clapping hands.

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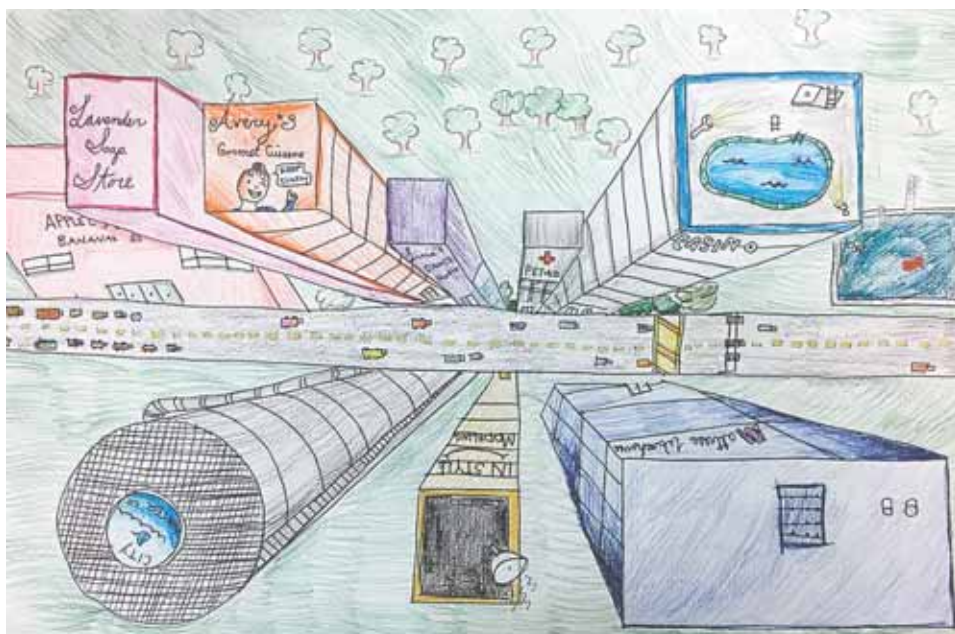


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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

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



Genevieve Brown, Cardinal Forest Elementary, grade 6, Misses Faure-Thompson and Ehardt

Welcome

Dear Readers: This week, The Springfield 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



Shiela Basco, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Dylan Moore, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Olivia Bayolo, Mark Twain Middle School, Ms. Carol Zeitlin



Gryphon Nichols, 9, Springfield, Westminster School, grade 4, Mr. Muntain

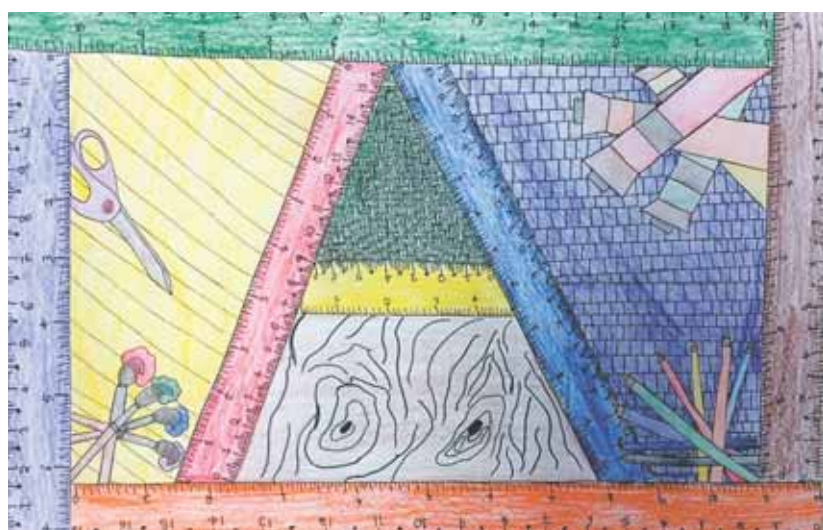
CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

MARK TWAIN MIDDLE ARTS GALLERY

**Sophia Zawidzki,
Mark Twain
Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



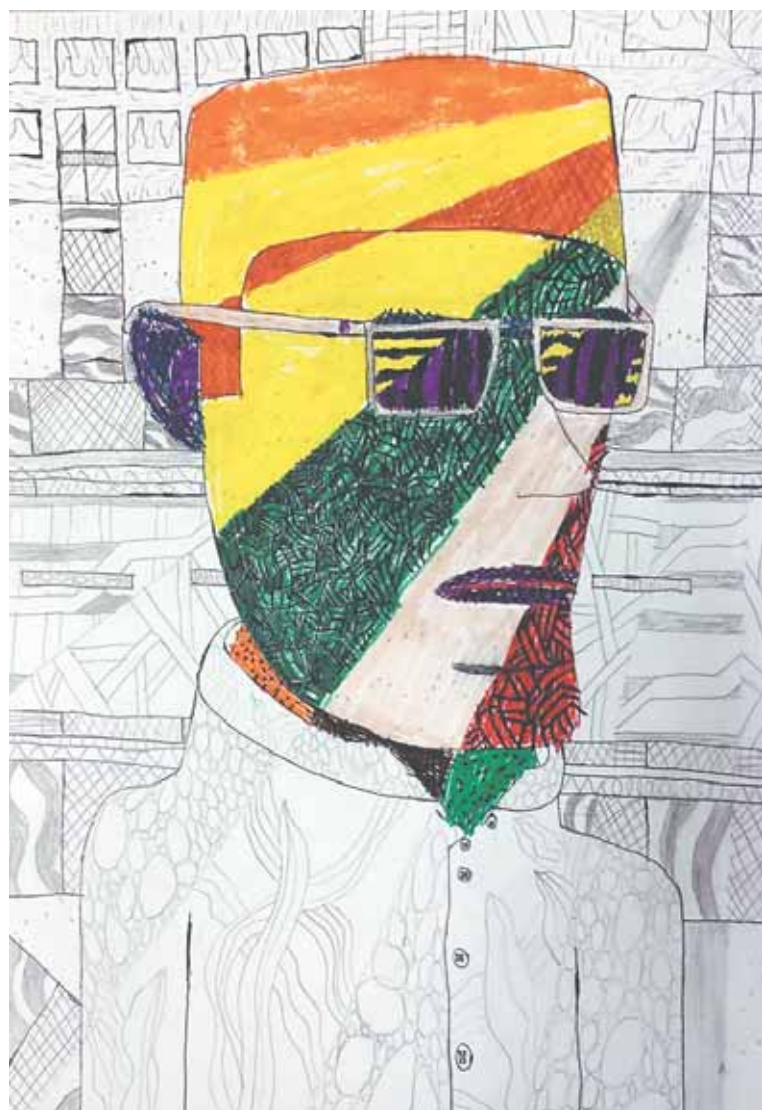
**Rahma Elseidy,
Mark Twain
Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



**Katelyn Humiston,
Mark Twain
Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



**Nathan Stephenson,
Mark Twain Middle
School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**



Alex Travia, Mark Twain Middle School, Ms. Carol Zeitlin



**Mason Gower, Mark Twain Middle School,
Ms. Carol Zeitlin**

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



KEY MIDDLE ARTWORK
Pandora Zhang, Key Middle School, grade 8, Ms. Mary Sherwood

Bridget King, Key Middle School, grade 7, Ms. Mary Sherwood



Melissa Gomez-Villalta, Key Middle School, grade 7, Ms. Mary Sherwood



Nicole Coutner, Key Middle School, grade 7, Ms. Mary Sherwood



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BEFORE

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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What Makes a Good Parent?

A good parent is someone who cares about their child and who would do anything to help them grow into a responsible person.

If the child needs help understanding something in life, the parent will try their best to help their child. I'm not saying that the parent should do everything for their kid. Sometimes the parent should let the child know how to handle conflict or scenario on their own. Parents should give advice, be encouraging, and should always be there for their child. Guardians should always love their kids, no matter what happens.

—DANIELA SANTOS,
 FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY,
 GRADE 6, MS. MOLLY
 MOORSTEIN

If you're me, this paper won't be hard. Why? My response is: I already have great parents! My mom makes sure I do well in school and makes sure I'm trying to be the best person I can be.

She isn't super strict or super careless. She also reminds me every day of all the beautiful things in life. My dad does his job really well, too. He wants his daughter to be happy. He makes me laugh and likes taking us to the movies and eating buttery popcorn. What else can a child ask for in their parents?

—ALEXANDRIA MARTE,
 FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY,
 GRADE 6, MS. MOLLY
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Bryan Murray,
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Leryn Tibayan, 6,
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Zara Rasuli, 5,
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REFLECTIONS

Peace

If I could give my parents any gift I would give them peace between them.

I want to give them this gift because I don't like it when they fight and don't think they like it any more than I do.

I love my parents and the only thing I want for them is to be happy.

I think the way for them to be is happy is to not fight.

—LEAH SHOSTECK,
GRADE 6,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY,
MS. RENEE OCTAVIANO

What is a Good Friend?

What makes a good friend? A good friend should be someone you think can be trusted.

Another thing that a good friend needs to be is a good sport.

A good sport is someone who celebrates other's' success. To be a true friend they must never lie to you or hide something from you.

Lastly, all friends must have at least one or more things in common. Without it, your friendship will be boring.

—DONALD NGUYEN,
GRADE 6,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY,
MS. RENEE OCTAVIANO

Arctic Wolves

My favorite animal is the arctic wolf because I love the sound of their howls.

To me, the sound is like fresh wind flowing through the trees. The way they run is so majestic and swift. It's as if they are walking on air.

Their fur is beautiful and looks so soft. Their fur shimmers in the moonlight. I love how they hunt in packs. These are the reasons why I love arctic wolves.

—STEPHANIE MOWERY,
GRADE 6,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY,
MS. RENEE OCTAVIANO

When I Grow Up

When I grow up I want to be

a photographer because I take pictures nonstop, all day and all night.

I have always had a passion for photography ever since I was a little kid. I always felt like photography was a way to express myself and my love for nature.

When I take a picture, I feel like I can do anything.

I feel like I can climb a mountain, I feel like I'm on top of the world. All with the click of a button, and that's why I want to be a photographer when I grow up.

—SOPHIA MIRANDA,
GRADE 6, FRANCONIA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
MS. RENEE OCTAVIANO

The Definition of a Good Friend

To me a good friend is kind and understanding.

They will be someone who stays with you through thick and thin.

A good friend is someone who will laugh with you and also let you cry on their shoulder.

When you're with a good friend, it's like the world is at peace. A good friend will stay in your memory and never leave.

—DEVIN REYES, GRADE 6,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY,
MS. RENEE OCTAVIANO

My Favorite Animal is a Puppy

My favorite animal is a puppy because they are cute, soft, grateful, playful, and active. Puppies are cute because they are small and cuddly. Their fur is soft like a pillow. Puppies are grateful animals too because they appreciate their owner by showing them love with sloppy kisses. Also, puppies can be playful because they run after balls. Puppies stay active by playing outside. These are the reasons why I like puppies.

—ZING LU, GRADE 6,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY,
MS. RENEE OCTAVIANO



Henna Pothuraju, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Sara Lincicum, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 4, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Erin McCreary, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Emily Chen, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 3, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Eva Bousquet, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Krista Bjarnason, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Amy MacIver



Tatum Pinkard, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 1, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Yusur Al Sukairi, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Deborah Ehlers



Serena Sara, Keene Mill Elementary, grade 5, Ms. Deborah Ehlers

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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

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

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 memories 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

My Soccer Future

When I grow up, I want to be a beast soccer player. I want to play soccer because it has touched me since I was little. I love showing off my amazing skills; I can rainbow, scissor and do other awesome skills. When I was 9, I traveled to Walt Disney World to play in the best 3 v. 3 tournament in the country on the ESPN Zone. It has been my dream since I was 6 to play for the Catalanian Giants Barcelona. My favorite soccer player is Neymar Jr. I hope to be the greatest soccer player ever.

—NATU SENAI, 10,
LORTON, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 5, MRS. HICKMAN

When I Grow Up

When I grow up I want to be a baseball player. I want to be a baseball player because I'm a lefty. I already know how to pitch, play first base and outfield. My role model is Adam Jones and Jackie Robinson. Adam Jones is a great player. He has a great work ethic. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. He was also a Type 1 Diabetic. I have the same disease. He proved that you can do anything even if you have a disease. That's why I want to be a baseball player.

—MCGREGOR YARBROUGH,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GRADE 6, MS. MOLLY MOORSTEIN

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 generosity. 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

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Dallyn Holme, Springfield Estates Elementary, grade 2, "Me and a Friend"



Melanie Vazquez Gomez, Springfield Estates Elementary, grade 2, "Me and a Friend"

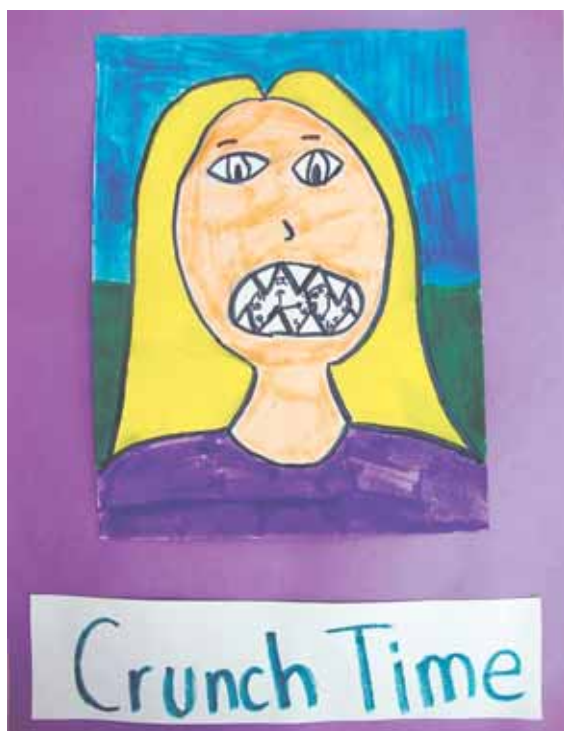


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Willa Maeve
Macfarlane,
Springfield
Estates
Elementary,
grade 5,
"Fruit and
Vegetable
Basket"



Jada Sheppard, Springfield Estates Elementary, grade 6, "Me as a Dessert"



Anne Marie Bulmer, Springfield Estates Elementary, grade 4, "Time Phrase"

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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

2/3/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/3/2016.....Wellbeing – National Children's
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2/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



CARDINAL FOREST ARTWORK

Neko Thompson, Cardinal Forest Elementary, grade 1, Misses Faure-Thompson and Ehardt



Lucas Reyes, Cardinal Forest Elementary, kindergarten, Misses Faure-Thompson and Ehardt



WEST SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY ARTWORK

Jaden Neibauer, West Springfield Elementary, grade 3, Ms. Allison Whitbourne, "Set The Table Collage"



Precious Bonajah, Cardinal Forest Elementary, grade 2, Misses Faure-Thompson and Ehardt



Cristina Orellana, Cardinal Forest Elementary, grade 4, Misses Faure-Thompson and Ehardt



Lilly Kurtz, Franconia Elementary, kindergarten, Ms. Erica Cho



Zainab Yousufzai, Franconia Elementary, grade 6, Ms. Erica Cho



FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY ARTWORK

Campbell Fischer, Franconia Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Erica Cho



Amaya Brown, West Springfield Elementary, grade 6, "Evocative Memory Collage"



Ashlyn Moon, West Springfield Elementary, grade 2, Ms. Allison Whitbourne, "Watercolor Landscape"

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

ORANGE HUNT ELEMENTARY ARTWORK



Taylor Dunbar, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 3



Taylor Odom, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 3



Clara Jury, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 4



Ce Su, 6, Springfield, Orange Hunt Elementary, grade 1, Mrs. Facinoli, "Going to Giant, Wal-Mart, ice cream and Target by bike"

POETRY CORNER

What If I could Fly

SORAYA NATH, GRADE 5
KEENE MILL ELEMENTARY, MS. MACIVER

What if I could fly?
Touch the stars, touch the moon, touch the sky
With no gravity
Nothing that can stop me
If I could fly
Would I have wings
Or could I just jump into the gleaming moonlight?
Can I take others with me
Into this paradise?
If I could fly
How high can I fly?
Until I reach space
Would I leave everything below me?
And forget?
Or remember?
So many questions
What if I could fly?

Butterfly poem and Tree poem

Butterflies
Butterflies, Butterflies
Majestic in their own way
Their wings are pretty and have lots of patterns
Monarchs to me are the prettiest of all
Butterflies, Butterflies
We never know what we will find!

EUNICE CHOE, 9,
GRADE 4, HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD

Trees

Some trees are red
Others are green
Some are blown away by the wind
Others stand still
Some lose their leaves in the winter
Others stay green and cold
Some grow at the beach
Others thrive in rainforests
Trees are trees no matter what

EUNICE CHOE, 9,
GRADE 4, HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD

Winter Wonders *

BY ALEXANDRIA STEIN, 11,
GRADE 5
KEENE MILL ELEMENTARY, MRS. AMY MACIVER

I was sitting on the floor watching T.V when I heard my dog barking to let her outside. When I slide open the door, at that moment, a chilly breeze accompanied by two or three frosty snowflakes cooled my face. I took another step forward and my face lit up. It was snow! I had never seen snow except on T.V. Living in Alabama for the past 10 years of my life, meant no true snow.

Not caring that all I was wearing was an old t-shirt and shorts, I pranced into the snow, picking it up and throwing it. When the snowflakes hit my face and I kicked around piles of snow in tons of different directions, it made me feel warm inside. It was just like when you're all gathered around the Christmas tree or doing other special things like that.

About an hour later, I was freezing, but I wanted to play more. So, I went inside to get my brand new snow gear. Sadly, by the time I went outside again, the snow had stopped falling in a flash. It might be gone today, but I knew there would be more snowflakes to come, this winter and many more.

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-Theodore Roosevelt

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-William Van Horne

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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.

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 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.

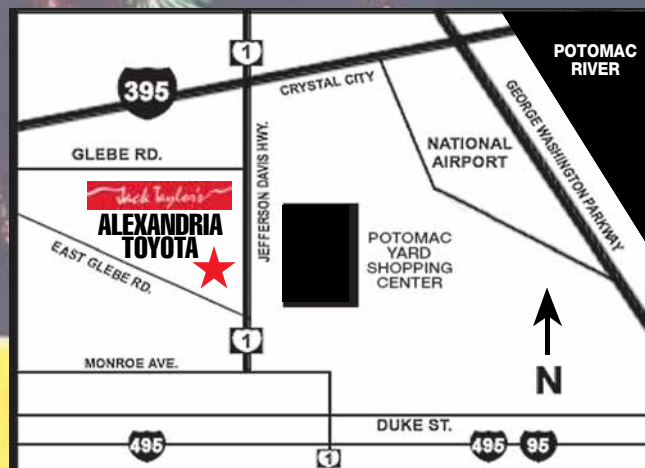
—SEBASTIAN LYONS, 12,
SPRINGFIELD, ANGELUS ACADEMY,
GRADE 6, Ms. OSELLA

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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