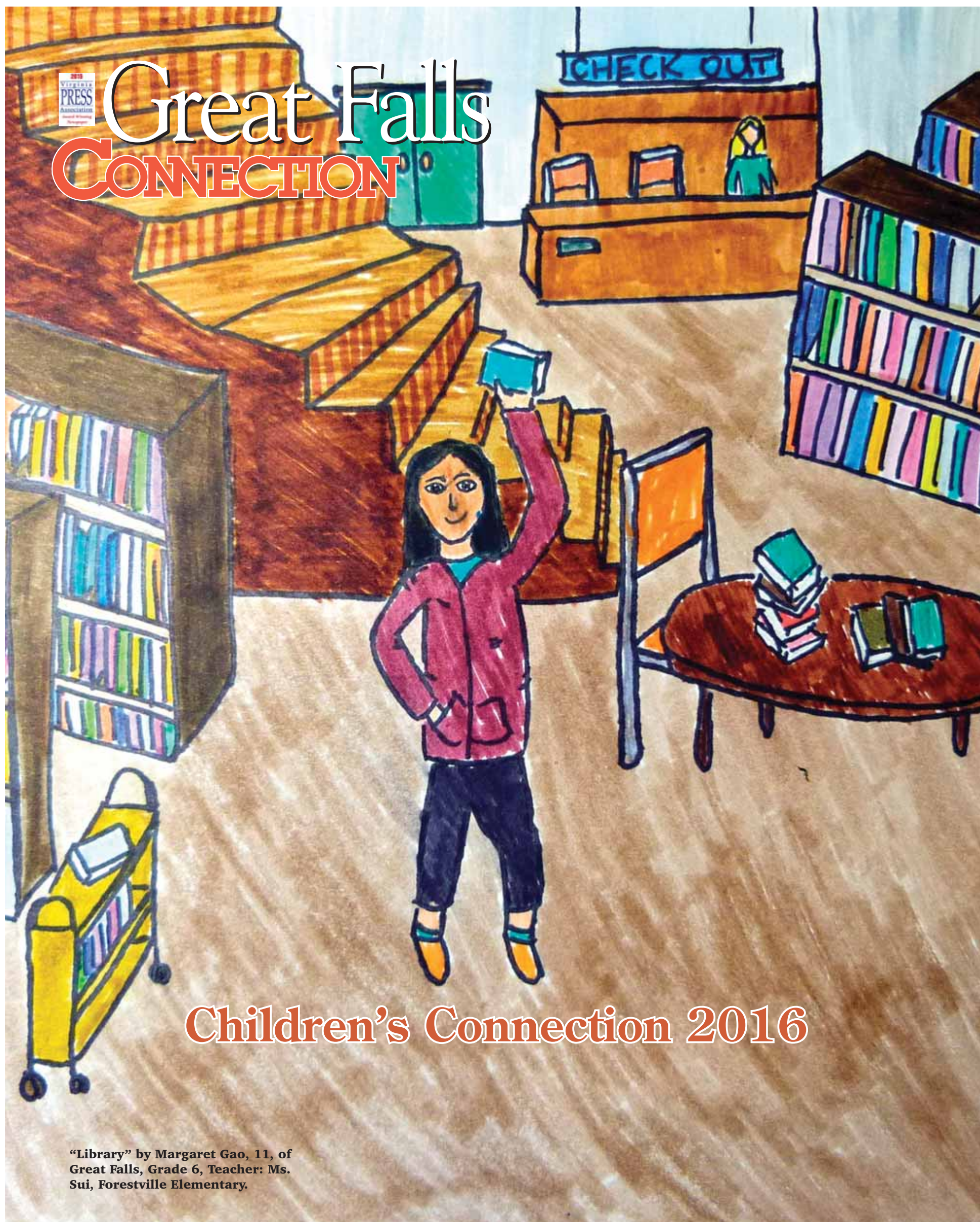




# Great Falls CONNECTION



## Children's Connection 2016

"Library" by Margaret Gao, 11, of  
Great Falls, Grade 6, Teacher: Ms.  
Sui, Forestville Elementary.



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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC  
703-778-9414 OR GREATFALLS@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



**"Best time of the day," by Ann Sun, 11, of Herndon, sixth grader at Forestville Elementary in Great Falls (Teacher: Renee Riddell).**



**By Claire Guo of Great Falls, 9, Grade 4, Colvin Run Elementary School, Teacher: Lauren Grimm.**

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Great Falls 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 2017 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 [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@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



**"Room with a View," by Abigail Paredes, 14, of Great Falls, Dominion High School in Sterling.**



**"Beach Time," by Andrew Gao, 7, of Great Falls, Grade 2, Teacher: Ms. Sui, Forestville Elementary**



**By Max Ehle, Grade 2, Great Falls Elementary**





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## ONE-ARTIST SHOW

Ann Sun, 11, of Herndon, sixth grader at Forestville Elementary in Great Falls (Teacher: Renee Riddell) submitted three pieces of artwork.



Best time of the day



My future pet



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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## PAREDES GALLERY

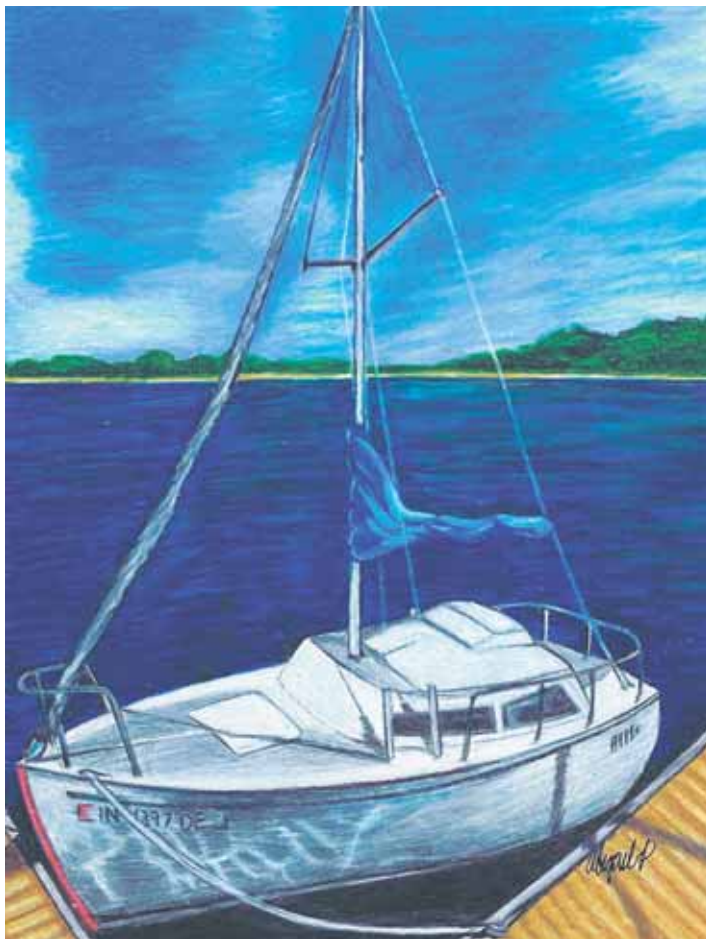
Abigail Paredes, 14, of Great Falls, attends Dominion High School in Sterling.



**"The Journey," by Abigail Paredes**



**"A Girl", by Abigail Paredes**



**"Docked," by Abigail Paredes**

## Grandpa Grumph

"Stop that music NOW!" yelled grandpa Grumph. "It's shakin' my coffee! and it's makin' me angry!". Grandpa Grumph sniffed, "You'r feet stink! I can smell 'em from down here!" (Grandpa Grumph actually stunk and smelled like stinky socks) "Sasha turn off your phone this instant!, and get yourself down here!.

Sasha loved her phone so much that she had to play with it every day. In her opinion, the new phone technology was the best thing on earth. Her grandpa was ok with it until today, when he was so fed up with it that he had to scream.

Sasha was soon down stairs. "When I was little, we would play outside all day long. Go outside and play!" screamed Grandpa Grumph. "But..." said Sasha. "Give me your phone, or else you get no dessert tonight. No buts, no cuts, no coconuts!" yelled Grandpa Grumph. "Fine!" said Sasha, "It's boring when I play outside" muttered Sasha as she put on her sneakers. "Oh well, I haven't played outside in a long time", said Sasha.

Within minutes Sasha was playing tag outside with her friends. Meanwhile in the house, grandpa Grumph was finding a place to hide Sasha's phone so she would never touch it again. "Aha", said grandpa Grumph as he put the phone in the old cupboard he was using since he was a kid. "She will never find it here", he thought.

A few minutes after that Sasha came inside and started doing origami. Grandpa Grumph was so surprised he almost fell over.

Soon after it was time for dinner. Sasha was just about to fold another paper when suddenly..."Hold you 'r horses!" said grandpa Grumph quite surprised. "What's gotten into you?" said grandpa Grump. "Nothing, why do you ask grandpa?" replied Sasha as she ate her dinner of steaming hot pasta. "What do you mean nothing?" asked grandpa Grumph. "I don't need my phone any more" said Sasha as she ate her dinner of steaming hot pasta.

Grandpa Grump's eyes were became as big as golf balls! Sasha finished up her dinner and went to sleep dreaming of her next amazing day outdoors without a phone.

DIVYA GUPTA, AGE 9, GRADE 3,  
FORESTVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
GREAT FALLS. HE IS A STUDENT IN MR.  
JEFFREY LELoup's CLASS.

## Future President

BY SIDH JADDU

When I was 5 years old, my big sister was working on her Thomas Jefferson school project. I was interested and read and listened about the presidents. My favorite presidents are George Washington and Abe Lincoln. I definitely knew one day I want to be a lawyer and then be the president of the United States. When my

doctor asked me one day who I wanted to become when I grow up, I told him I wanted to become the president. Then he laughed and wanted to take a picture with me.

This year, I sometimes watched the presidential election on TV. To become president you have to give long speeches with complicated words. You have to be mean to other candidates and nice to your voters. But, if you become the president, you have your own airplane and you live in the White

House. If you become the president, you will be very famous and running the world because the United States is the best country in the whole world. I would do good things for people and make them happy. Yes, I still want to be the president of the United States of America even after watching the election.

*Sidh Jaddu is 7 years old and lives in Great Falls. He is a second grader in Ms. Stanley's class at Forestville Elementary in Great Falls.*

## "Fall"

BY TINA MECHERIKUNNEL, AGE 7

Fall

The leaves drop, red and orange  
Birds fly south, cold is in the air  
Another year ends, a new one waits  
As fall turns to winter.

FORESTVILLE ELEMENTARY,  
MRS. McCOURT's CLASS.



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Caitlin Giroux,  
the art teacher at Great Falls Elementary.



Nate Butler, Grade 1.



Stefan Voy-  
ages, Grade 1.



Sofia Mufti,  
Grade 2.

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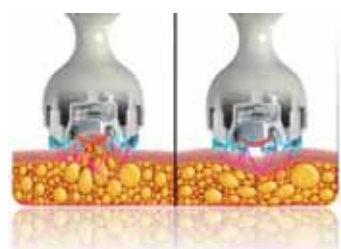


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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

FORESTVILLE ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

By Jenny Wang, 9, Forestville Elementary, Great Falls, Grade 4, Teacher: Ms. Crotty Nancy



By Claire Guo of Great Falls, 9, Grade 4, Colvin Run Elementary School, Teacher: Lauren Grimm.



Library, by Margaret Gao, 11, of Great Falls, Grade 6, Teacher: Ms. Sui, Forestville Elementary



By Jason Wang, 7, Forestville Elementary, Grade 1, Teacher: Ms. Pappas Despina.



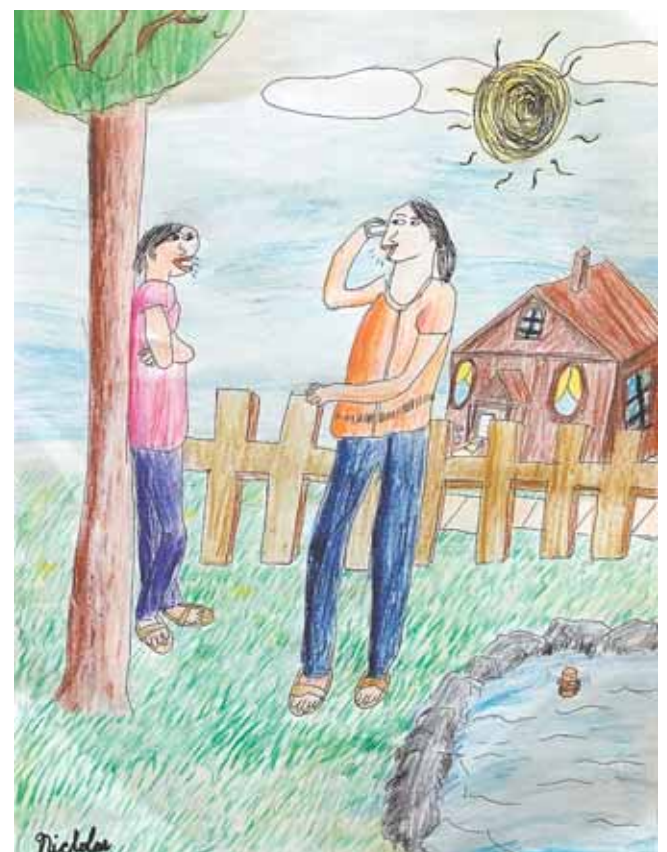
"I Love My Corgi," by Benjamin Mitchell, 7, Forestville Elementary, Great Falls, Grade 2. Teacher: Mrs. Laura Stanley



Beach Time, by Andrew Gao, 7, of Great Falls, Grade 2, Teacher: Ms. Sui, Forestville Elementary



Artwork by Cassie Dallas, age 13, resident of Great Falls and student at Kilmer Middle School.



By Nicholas Chen, 8, of Great Falls, Colvin Run Elementary, Grade 3, art teacher: Yanshun Sui



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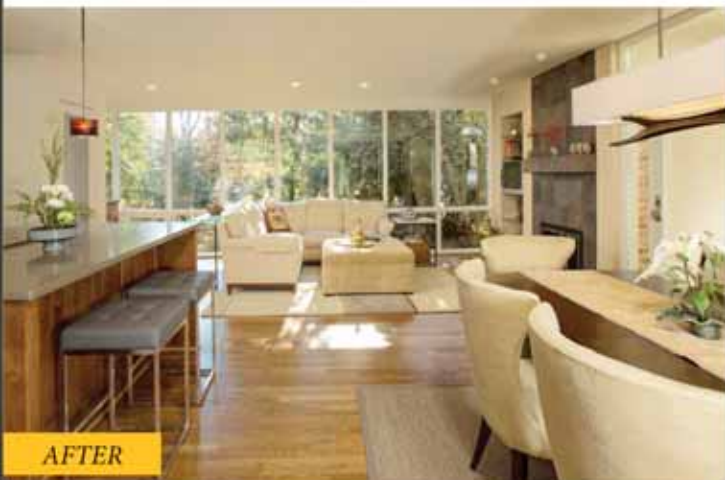
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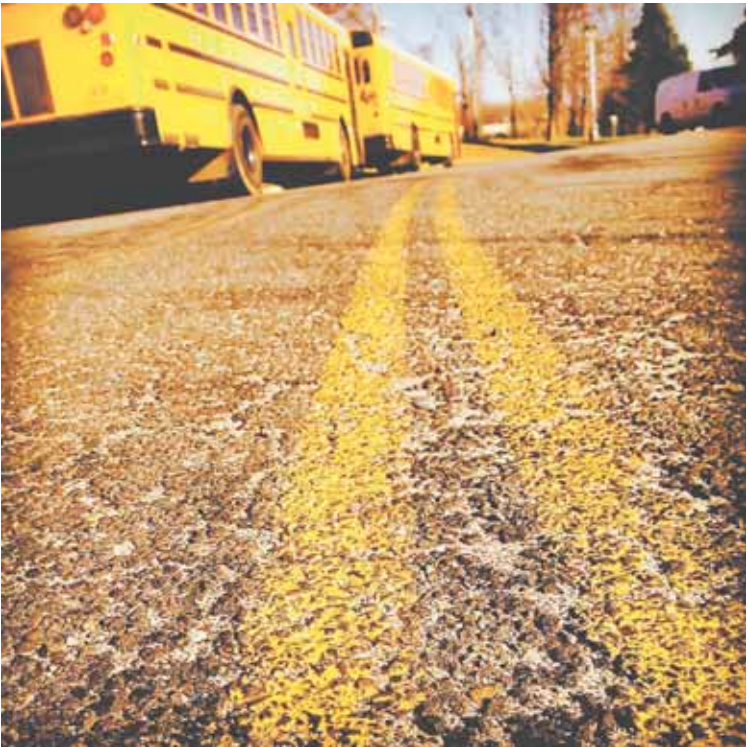
# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

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From Lindsay Bovenzi's  
Creative Writing Class

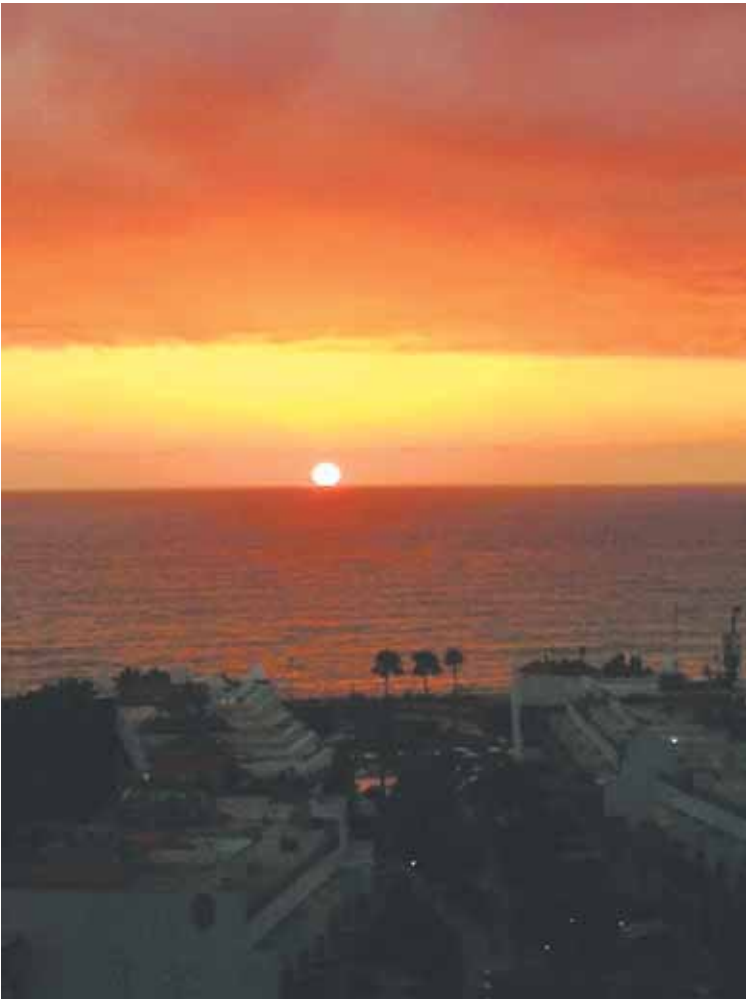


**"Dog," by Lexie Gagnon 13, of Mclean:**  
"I am thankful for my dog Winnie, she brightens my day when no one else can."



**Lohita Sunkara, 13, of Great Falls:**  
"My photo represents that I am thankful to have wonderful education and I am thankful for my teachers."

By Jocelyn Chen, 14, of Great Falls: "I am thankful for the many friends, boys and girls, I earned at this camp because unlike regular schools, this place was for Taiwanese kids so there was no discrimination or bullying."



**Andrea Karam, 12, of Great Falls:**  
"I am thankful for Lebanon, the summer and the beach!"



**By Keelin Byrne, 13, Mclean:**  
"I am thankful for my love of the water, because without it, I would never know what it feels like to do a duck dive under a wave."

# Odyssey of the Mind

BY MULAN PAN

I'm sure many of you have heard of it, and some of you might even be in Odyssey of the Mind competition, but for those who aren't, I wanted to give you an insider's view of what it's all about. I've been participating in Odyssey of the Mind, which I will refer to as OotM, since fourth grade, and I absolutely love it! It's a great enrichment activity for me, and it helps me relax and have fun with friends.

When I first started out, our team chose the balsa wood problem. In this problem, we had to build a structure that could support the most weight possible. It could only be made of balsa wood and glue and could weigh no more than fifteen grams. The amount of weight held translated into points. This part of the problem took the most time and effort, where we experimented with many different designs. Every week, teammates would bring in their newly made structure, and we would carefully load weights onto it until it smashed. After we recorded the weight held, we would then analyze it to figure out how it broke so we could improve the design. Guess how much weight our final structure held? Over five hundred pounds!

While trying to build a balsa wood structure, we were presented a long-term problem. We had to come up with a solution to the problem, which had to incorporate the structure, and turn the solution into an eight-minute skit. The judges would decide how creative and effective our solution was and



## "Mutant Penguins Celebrating Christmas"

Artwork by Mulan Pan, grade 6, resident of Great Falls and student at Forestville Elementary School.

award us points. They would also look at our handmade props, costumes, and other things along those lines, and award us Style points for those.

The Spontaneous part must be my favorite. We were presented a problem, and we had no clue beforehand what it would be. They gave us a limited amount of time to solve it, so we had to think on our feet, getting our creative juices really flowing. An example of a problem would be, "What was the best thing since sliced bread?", in which each member would give a

different response. The more creative responses our team gave, the more points we would get.

Last March, our team got first place in Regional Competition. It was the best day of my life! I must admit, we weren't the best sports about it though. We kept jumping around, screaming, "We won! We won!", the shining gold medal bouncing on our chest. Later in April, we attended the State Competition, where we got third place! This year, our team is determined to get to the World Competition (and maybe even win!).

Overall, OotM is a great sport for the mind. You get to make new friends, exercise creativity, and crush your rivals in the competition. You also learn how to cooperate with your teammates. OotM allowed me to delve deeper into my strengths, as well as find new ones. Although I've only been participating in this event for two years, I have no trouble saying that it's become my favorite part of my after-school life.

Mulan Pan, 12, is a sixth grader at Forestville Elementary School, Teachers: Ms. Conner, Ms. Donlon, and Ms. Kroog

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Weekend Report, by Evie Thomas, age 5.



Weekend Report, by Leena Melkote, age 5.



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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## The Raspberry Pi

Over summer break, I got a Raspberry Pi. I found it an awesome tool, and here's why. The Raspberry Pi is a computer chip with many ports that allow you to access and use many programming interfaces to create applications, hack things, and even create a cool mod for an application.

But first, you will need to assemble it. You can simply buy a kit and follow instructions from [raspberrypi.org](http://raspberrypi.org)'s help area. Check out the video section of it. You will be all set in less than an hour. Now let's get to programming on it.

An example of this would be writing this code in a Python 3 shell for Minecraft Pi (A version of minecraft specifically for Raspberry Pi):

```
>>>from mcpi import
Minecraft
>>>mc = Minecraft.create()
>>>x, y, z =
mc.player.getPos()
>>>mc.player.setPos (x, y +
200, z)
```

This code has the power to teleport you 200 blocks above your current position in-game! There is even a command that you can do to spawn in TNT that explodes when broken!

The best part is that you don't have any limits as to what you can do! You could open a franchise that creates apps using Raspberry Pi's or even upgrade Minecraft Pi to make it as good as the full version of minecraft!

—NEEL SHARMA, GRADE 6,  
LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Artwork submitted by Sandy Pugh  
Art Instructor.

By Alexis Woosley  
Anderson, Grade 2.



By Chloe Xie, Grade 3.



By Ponteha Aryavand of  
Great Falls, Kindergarten.



By - from left - Ellena Suh,  
Grade 2; Cayden McCusker of  
Great Falls, Grade 2; and  
Claire Nitowski, Grade 2.

By Rhys Frischling of  
Great Falls, Grade 3.



## COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by teacher Lauren Grimm.

By Molly  
Samburg, of  
Vienna,  
Grade 1.



By Morgan Frederick of  
Great Falls, Grade 6.



By Sanika Kale of Great Falls, Grade 5.



By Ellie Wen,  
Grade 2.

By Rocco Zhang,  
Grade 4.







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## Seldom Wrong But This Time I'm Write

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Because of the change in some of our publication deadlines for December, I have had to write multiple columns weeks in advance, somewhat unusual for me. Typically, I write my column five days before publication, so time-wise, I'm fairly current and emotionally present as well. Writing ahead, as December dead-lines (it's nothing new. I've been managing to accommodate these deadlines for years) is still a bit off-putting. Though I want to think ahead and live like I have a future; as a cancer patient, it's difficult not to live in the present. Thinking, feeling, projecting ahead, seems presumptuous almost.

This is not to imply that I have to somehow presume a future and write about cancer subjects — or not, which have not yet happened. Hardly. My columns are rarely time-sensitive or date-specific. Still, my columns are generally better written when I'm writing from current feelings, facts, circumstances, etc. And though many of the feelings, facts and circumstances relating to my condition don't exactly change on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis (thank God!), surprisingly, my reaction to them sometimes does. Moreover, writing multiple columns at one time also forces me to pile onto myself emotionally the effects of my disease. Which, if you must know, I'd rather not do. In fact, if there's any way I can not think about my situation, that's a 'way' I'd like to be.

Not that I moan and groan or woe is me about my age 54-and-half-terminal-diagnosis, as those who know me or have regularly read my columns likewise know; but sometimes I'd prefer not to have my hand forced. And even though reading or hearing about other people who have been diagnosed with lung cancer, or who have succumbed to its ravages, doesn't bother me — too much, really (I've matured); occasionally, I'd rather be blissfully ignorant.

Although I readily admit that being ignorant too long concerning my disease is hardly penny-wise but it is most definitely pound-foolish. The trick is, somehow not getting consumed by one's circumstances and maintaining an optimistic point of view. And since I'm a funny guy (though not really fun), I am able to humor myself — and others, so these less-than-ideal circumstances under which I attempt to thrive are not overwhelming, except when forced to confront my demons and focus on myself when newspaper deadlines are advanced and jumbled and I'm having to write four columns in two weeks instead of writing one column in one week.

Though it's not exactly trouble, it is to quote Jerry Seinfeld from a long-ago Seinfeld episode, "something." 'Something' I could likely live without, but 'something' unfortunately I must live with, every December. But I'm a "big boy," as my father used to tell me, with "broad shoulders" (figuratively speaking to my ability to handle the load), so I'll manage. In fact, in another paragraph, I will have completed the task and the presumptive weight of it will be off my 'broad shoulders.'

Now I can relax a little bit, exactly what one (especially this one with cancer) needs. Between the holidays and advanced deadlines, the column-writing and the ad-selling; I'm living and learning with my ever-evolving circumstances (further from the beginning or closer to the end; I never know).

Nevertheless, I am extremely happy to have been there and finished doing it yet again. I hope to see you all back here next year. Happy Holidays!

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

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### OBITUARY

**Johnson, Richard Lee, 88**, of Radnor, PA, formerly of Vienna, VA. Beloved husband of Anne Chapman (nee Hungerford) Johnson, Father of Anne Johnson Graf (Chappy) (Bayard H.) of Strafford, PA and Jessie Edwards Johnson of Purcellville, VA. Also survived by five grandchildren and his sister Lois Johnson Held of Milwaukee, WI. Funeral service will be at St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean, VA on Wednesday, December 28th at noon. In lieu of flowers contributions in his name may be made to St. John's Church Memorial Fund, St. John's Episcopal Church, 671 5 Georgetown Pike, Post Office Box 457, McLean, VA 221 01-0457.

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.  
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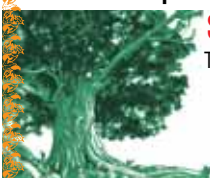
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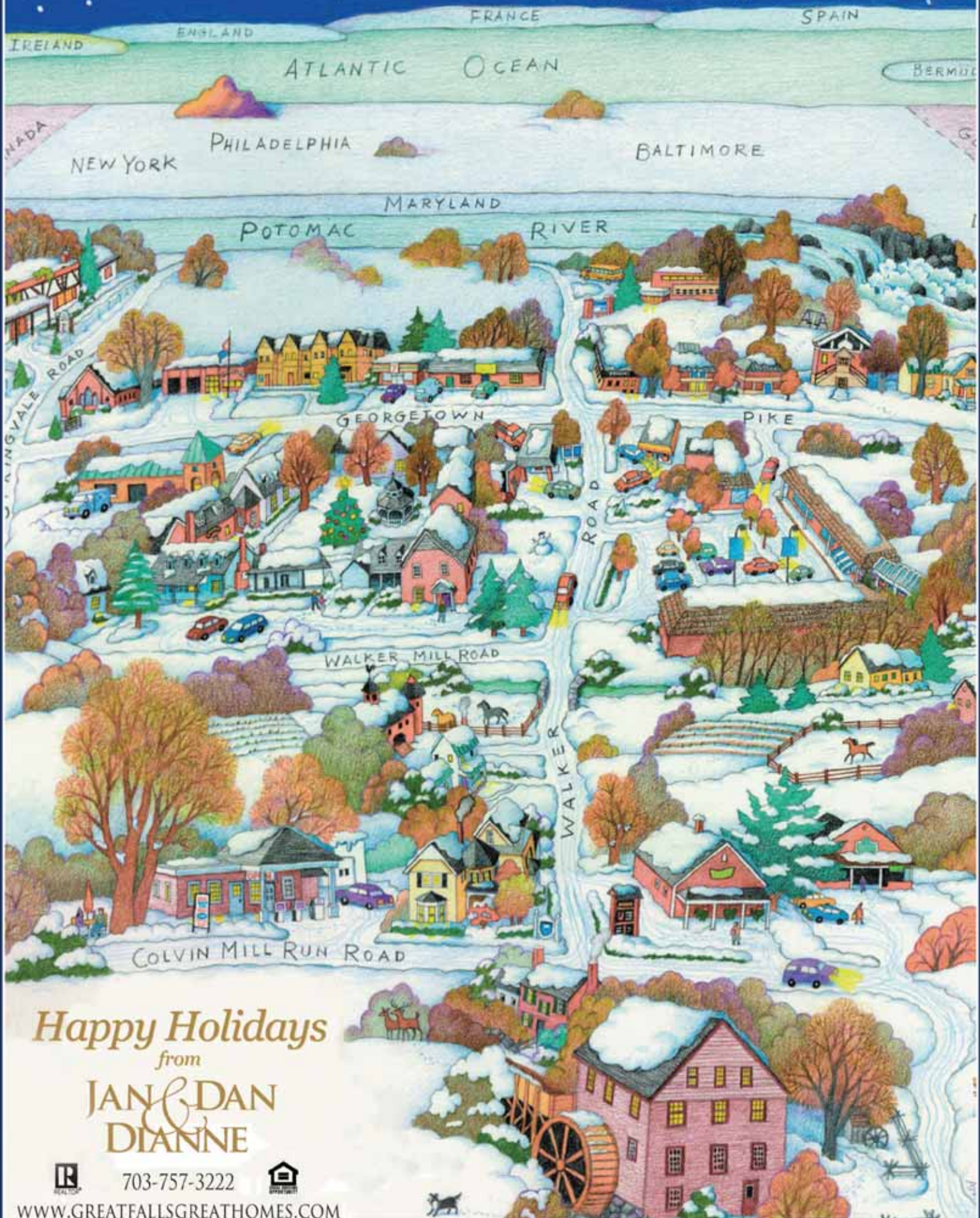
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