

2016  
VIRGINIA  
PRESS  
ASSOCIATION  
Annual Meeting  
Hagerstown

# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Kateryn Garcia Palacios  
Teacher Elliott, Louisa B.  
Grade 6

## Children's Connection 2016

By Kateryn Garcia Palacios, Grade 6,  
Dranesville Elementary.  
Submitted by Anne Nagy, Art Teacher.





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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

HERNDON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC  
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**Take Life One Step At a Time, Photo by Sathiya Kannan, age 13, Carson Middle, Herndon.**



**By Kyla Gordon, Grade 5, Dranesville Elementary, Art Teacher: Anne Nagy.**

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Oak Hill/Herndon 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 school pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@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



**Autumn Tree, by Zinat Naqibullah, Coates Elementary, Grade 1.**



**Fall Activity, by Abhinav Mogili, Grade 3. Floris Elementary, Art Teacher: Joan Hussey.**



**Scuba Diving, by Amber Li, age 8, of Herndon, Grade 3, Navy Elementary School, Fairfax, Teacher: Mrs. Barbara Louie, Art Teacher: Ms. Yanshun Sui.**



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

**"Fall Leaves"**  
by Riya Ghatge,  
Grade 5.



FLORIS  
ELEMENTARY  
ARTWORK  
Submitted by Art  
Teacher Joan Hussey.



**"Action Figures"** by Asmita Kodityala, Grade 4.



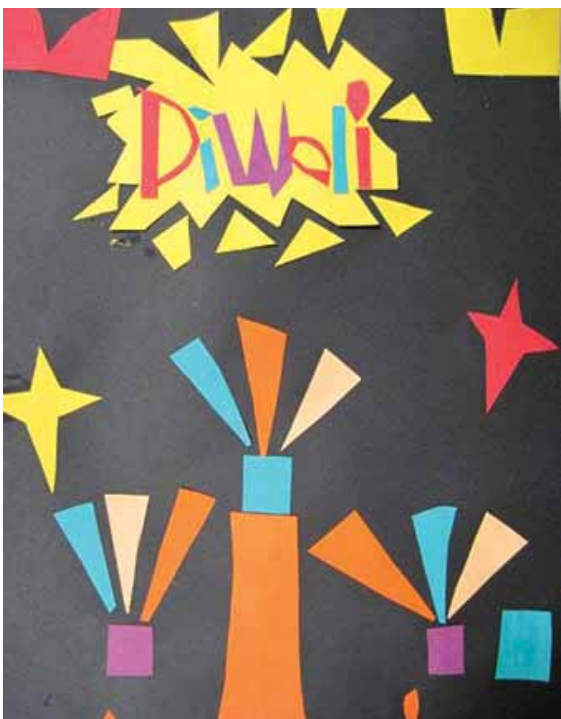
**"Celebrate"** (artist Matisse inspired), by Ryan Paul,  
Grade 3.



**"Celebrate"** (artist Matisse inspired), by  
Yalini Kathamuthu, Grade 3.



**"Celebrate"** (artist Matisse inspired), by  
Sophia Hao, Grade 3.



**"Celebrate"** (artist Matisse inspired), by  
Dhaya Kumaresan, Grade 3.



**Self portrait**, Hannah Bernstein, Grade 3.



**"Fall Fun"** by Antonio Costa, Grade 3.



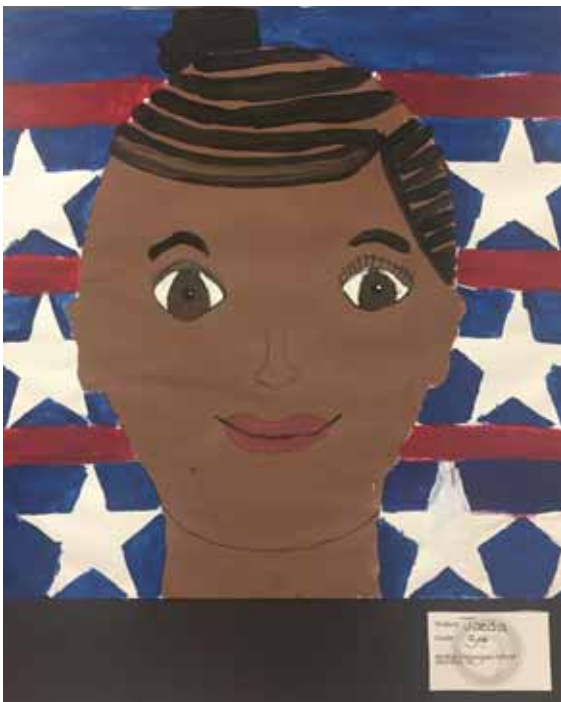
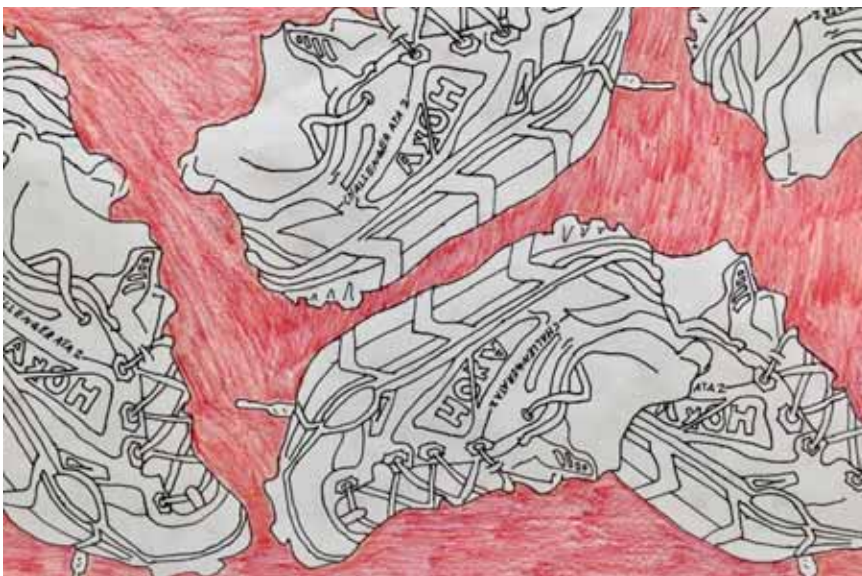
**"Fall Activity"** by Vikky Khvan, Grade 4.



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

McNair  
ELEMENTARY  
ART GALLERY

By John-Paul  
D'Andrea, age  
10, McNair  
Elementary,  
Grade 5.



By Jaeda Hunter, age 9, McNair Elementary, Grade 3.



By Annie Guevara, age 7, McNair Elementary, Grade 2.



By Hannah,  
McNair  
Elementary,  
Grade 5.



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DRANESVILLE  
ELEMENTARY  
ARTWORK  
Submitted by Art Teacher Anna Cadin.

By Chris  
Crennel,  
Grade 5.



DRANESVILLE  
ELEMENTARY  
ARTWORK  
Submitted by  
Anne Nagy, Art Teacher.

By Kyla Gor-  
don, Grade 5.



By Ashly Alvarez Gorgua, Grade 6.



By Emely Melendez, Grade 6.



By Lily Howard, Grade 2.



Savannah Baker, Grade 5.  
Katherine Phillips Dranesville Elementary  
5th Grade



Katherine Phillips, Grade 5.



By Savannah Baker, Grade 5.



By Emely  
Melendez,  
Grade 6.



By Jacob Hoppa, Grade 3.

By Kateryn Garcia  
Palacios, Grade 6.



By Ellie Patton, Grade 5.



By Alexandra Blanchet, Grade 2.



By Lian Wasser-Goren, Grade 6.



By Teagan Williams, Grade 6.



Herndon Elementary Kindergarteners artwork submitted by Art Teacher Margaret McDonald. Lines That Wiggle-Silly  
Monster, by (from left) Rayso Osman, Saffa Khan and Keily Taheri.

“Playing Game” by  
Avery Duan, age 5,  
Kintergarten,  
Crossfield Elemen-  
tary, Herndon,  
Teacher: Ms.  
Biladeau.



By Ailee  
Byington,  
age 5, of  
Herndon,  
Grade: K,  
Teacher:  
Yanshun Sui



Beach, by  
Lillian Duan,  
of Herndon,  
age 8, Navy  
Elementary,  
Teacher:  
Mrs. Work-  
man.

Beach Town,  
by Lillian  
Duan, of  
Herndon, age  
8, Navy  
Elementary,  
Teacher: Mrs.  
Workman.



A Raining School Day, by Winston Wang, age 9, Oak  
Hill Elementary, Teacher: Mrs. More.



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## COATES ELEMENTARY ARTWORK



**"Winter Collage"** by Reina Hernandez-Lopez, Grade 3.



**"Radial Design"** by Edwin Serrano-Flores, Grade 6.



**"Super Hero"** by Natalie Najera-Luna, Grade 6.



**"Queen B"** by Breanna Bates, Grade 4.



**"Basketball All-star"** by Kaleb Cabell-Peebles, Grade 4.



**"Gorilla"** by Elias Chiadmi, Grade 5.

## 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"**



**"Here we go again..."**



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

**"Friendship"** by Iyla Sharifahmadian, age 6, of Fairfax, Grade 1, Nysmith School in Herndon.



By Ethan Zhu, age 7, of Herndon, Fox Mill Elementary, Grade 2, Teacher: Mrs. Stanton.



**"Family Time,"** by Kina Xu, age 6, Grade 1, The Nysmith School, Herndon.



By Chloe Mia Zhu, age 5, of Herndon, Kindergarten, Fox Mill Elementary, Teacher: Mrs. Fernandez.

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2/28/2016.....Children's Connection 2016

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1/11/2017.....HomeLifeStyle

1/18/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

1/25/2017.....Community Guide

1/25/2017.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

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2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month

2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle

2/8/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

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3. no longer owned or known

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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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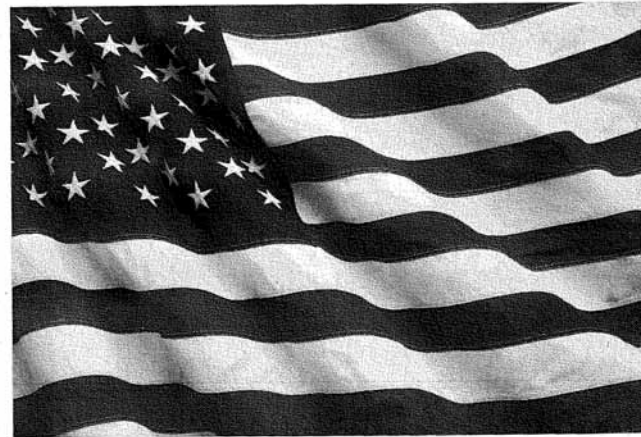
## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

### Thank You Veterans!!

By: Aparna Peri

Today is the day that you will be honored,  
Today is the day that you will be respected,  
It is Veterans Day!!

You are a veteran who fought in the war,  
To save our country and give us freedom!  
You did that by fighting until America's army won the War!  
We are very thankful that you have served in the war  
To keep us safe and to have our own rights to learn and,  
To be who we really are!!  
Thank you all Veterans!!!



By Aparna  
Peri, age 10,  
Grade 5,  
McNair  
Elementary.

Name Nikitha

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Playing

(title)



By Nikitha  
Duraismy, age 6,  
McNair Elementary,  
Herndon, Grade 1.

I like to play. I like to  
play with clay. I like to  
play teacher. You are a  
teacher. I like to play  
with toys. I like to  
play with boys.



**Soccer Game, by  
Brayden Ziheng  
Wang, age 11, Oak  
Hill Elementary,  
Grade 6, Teacher:  
Kevin E.  
Monaghan.**



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## HERNDON ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

"Radial Symmetry" by Grade 5 students, Teacher: Margaret McDonald

By Abdias Rios-Garcia



By Carlos Abrego-Franco



By Fanny Sibrian Serrano

## HERNDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Optical Art, Cut Paper Collage, Grade 4, Teacher: Margaret McDonald



By Yoselin Otero-Hernandez



By Kaitlyn Travis



Herndon Elementary First Graders' Kandinsky Cut Paper Collage, by (from left) Aline Ayala Salguero, Elsy Lopez Lopez, Kemberly Portillo Lopez. Teacher: Margaret McDonald.



"Paper Plate Radial Dots" by Herndon Elementary second graders, left to right, top to bottom: Alexsi, Baden, Aaliyah and Valeria. Teacher: Margaret McDonald.



"Paper Plate Radial Dots" by Herndon Elementary second graders, left to right, top to bottom: Jace, Katherine, Evan and Laurdes. Teacher: Margaret McDonald.

## HERNDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Fall Leaves-Drawing from Observation," Oil Pastels, by third graders. Teacher: Margaret McDonald.



By Josalyn Rodriguez-Machoro

## "Gifts to Give"

By fifth graders in Katy Curran's class at Hutchison Elementary in Herndon.

If I could give my mom a gift I'd give a helpful thing, a hug or a nicest card and a love candy and if we could go to Vietnam to have fun and at home finding the notes.

—ANDY NGUYEN

If I could give a free gift to my mom and dad it will be a card, it will be shiny. Inside the card say i love you. Mom gave me a kiss in the head. We'd all be happy.

—BRYAN RIVERA-ARGUETA

If i can give a gift to my mom with no money it's going to be Spanish song to make her feel the best mom in world.

—JOSE HERNANDEZ

I will give you a hug because you have been really nice to me and you have never talked behind my back and I trust her because I have been best friend since second grade and I have never heard that someone says to me that she is talking behind my back or she said something mean and I love her like a sister.

—NANCY PARADA-RODRIGUEZ

My Mom and I would like to give her a card it would say I love you song. I'm so happy she is the best Mom in the world. Her food is best in the world.

PS - I love you Mom

—LESLIE PORTILLO

Dear mom, I love you because you do all the work in the house and you care about me and our family, that's why I love you.

—PATRICK CASTILLO

My friends are my family. It will be a hug, a card of love and a stuffed animal. I will

give a stuffed animal that i have because it will make her or him feel great. And I will give her or him help them if they need help. And I will give them a big kiss and a big hug, all day long love.

—SANDY ARANA TOME

I will give my mom a hug and a kiss so she is happy and give her lot of hugs.

—SANTIAGO PANOZO

If i could give a gift to my dad it would be a handmade ship, because he likes ships.

—UMAIR BHALL