



# Fairfax Station

## CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton



Children's Connection 2016

By Angela Guo, age 11, of Clifton,  
Grade 6, Willow Springs Elementary,  
Teacher: Mrs. Miskovich.

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## HAPPY New Year

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The new year is the time to set new goals,  
to change and be a better you.  
The new year is the time to cheer,  
"It's a new year!"

Happiness, excitement and laughter in the air.  
We all love this time we share.  
Friends, family and siblings, too  
We all say I like you, too.

Happy new year to every boy and girl,  
Moms and dads, and teachers, too.  
Because we all like each other  
And we all like you.

—BIANCA OFILIA PARKER, AGE 9,  
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Love

Love is sweet and feels nice. Never let it go.  
On the day I was born that was the day that I re-  
ceived the best gift ever – LOVE.

Voice. Without a voice, how would you express  
your love?

Everyone deserves to be loved and appreciated.

—GABRIELLA ROSE MCCLUER, AGE 9,  
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY

## What Makes a Good Friend?

A good friend makes you laugh. A good friend is  
there for you when you're sad or mad. Your friend is  
someone you can play or have fun with. Your friend  
helps you do homework, personal things, and gar-  
dening. Your friend is someone you care about and  
someone to tell your secrets to. It helps to get some  
stuff off your chest by telling your friend.

—ALEXANDER ORELLANA HERNANDEZ,  
AGE 10, MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY

## Dreams

Dreams are a weird kind of thing. They seem so  
real, but when you open your eyes they are not there.  
Dreams can be nightmares. They can be from the  
past or the present, but you just don't know it. I re-  
member when I was young my mom gave me a crys-  
tal necklace. I always imagined that the necklace had  
special powers. I imagined that the necklace's power  
is that you can wish anything in the galaxy and it  
would come true and the wishing powers would  
never run out. Some people say that a dream is just  
a fairy tale that never came true, but when you be-  
lieve with all your heart - it will come true. How do  
I know this? Well it's because I can wish anything in  
the world and it will come true.

—KARIN SALWANS, GRADE 5,  
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY

## POETRY CORNER

### Anger

To be angry sounds like an inferno,  
Like an animal in a tornado  
It tastes like an overcooked steak  
Smells like a burning tire  
Looks like a pig getting butchered  
Feels like lightning zapping you at 200 volts  
As quick as a cheetah coming at you  
At the speed of sound

—MAX CASTRO, OF FAIRFAX, GRADE 3,  
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

### Flags

Flags  
Waving, saluting  
Blowing, honoring, standing  
The flag represents our country  
Symbol

—JUSTICE EMORD, OF CLIFTON, GRADE 2,  
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL



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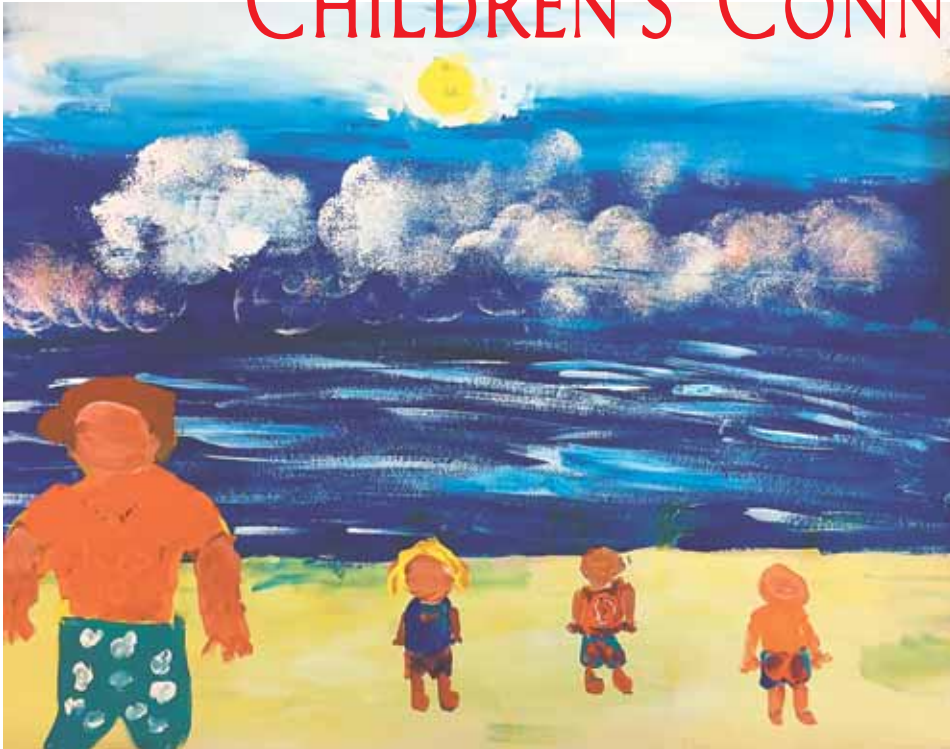
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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

LORTON/FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON CONNECTION  
EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC  
703-778-9414 OR SOUTH@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



**Trevor L, Grade 6, Union Mill Elementary.**



**“Local Landscape,” by Amelia Terrill, Grade 2, Fairview Elementary.**

## 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 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.

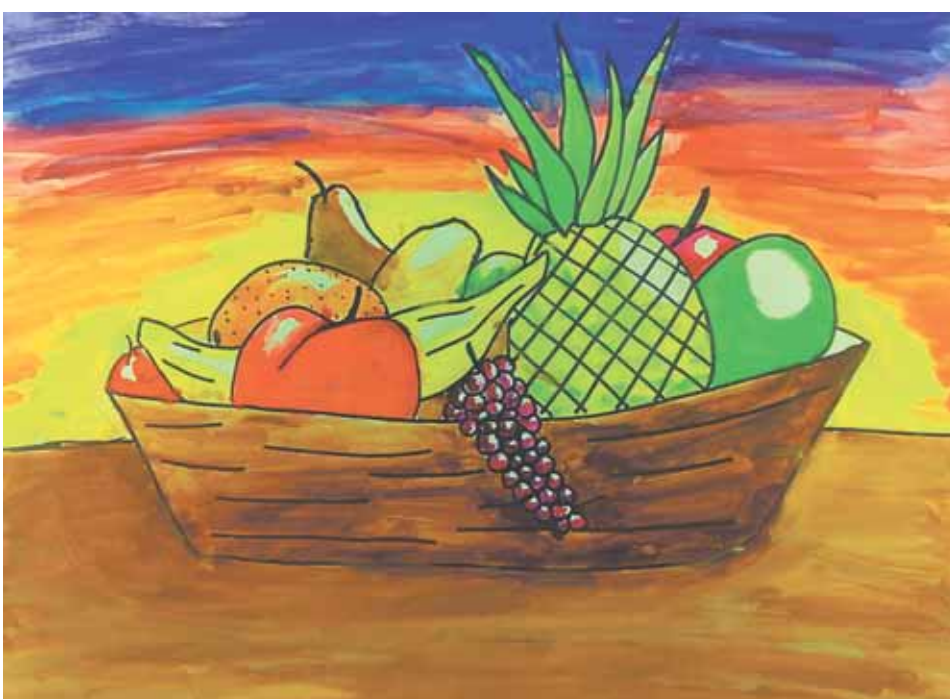
The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly school pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to 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



**By Kelsy Guevara Maldonado, Grade 3, Silverbrook Elementary.**



**“Still Life — Fruits in Basket,” by Isabella Snow, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary.**



**Abby Hernandez, Grade 2, Silverbrook Elementary.**

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

## SILVERBROOK ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Artwork by students  
in Meredith Cosier's  
class.

**Luke  
Jensen,  
Grade 2.**



**Rhesa Hicks, Grade 3.**



**Sam Hjelkrem, Kindergarten.**



**Mia Miller,  
Grade 2.**

## KINGS GLEN ELEMENTARY POETRY CORNER

Writings by the students in Mrs. Kelly's Class.

### I'm Ready

I'm ready to swing my baseball bat.  
I'm ready to be struck out at that.  
I'm ready to pitch the ball into the glove.  
I'm ready for it to go high, high above.  
I'm ready to hit the ball.  
But I'm not ready to be the best at baseball.

—BY AIDEN CAZA, 9, SPRINGFIELD

### Getting a Dog

I woke up at 7 a.m. to go to school. I had breakfast, math, reading, lunch, recess, writing, music, and PE. At the end of the day, I went home on Bus 1. My mom and grandpa went to Maryland that day to go to an animal shelter to look at dogs. But, I did not know that, so when I got home, I saw a puppy! I asked, "Is it mine?" and my mom said, "yes." My mom was recording me because my dad is stationed in Qatar. That night, we had to go buy a doggie bed, brush, food and choose a name. We named him Milo and I can still not believe he is mine.

—ANNABELLA VASQUEZ, 9, BURKE

### I'm Sorry

I'm sorry for eating the cake  
I'm sorry for taking a break  
I'm sorry for not going to school  
I'm sorry for being such a fool  
I'm sorry for pulling your hair  
I'm sorry for sitting in your chair  
But I'm definitely not sorry for being your daughter.  
(Dedicated: To Mom)

—BRIANNA ALCAZAR, 9, BURKE

### I'm Sorry

I'm sorry I hit your head  
I'm sorry I broke your bed  
I'm sorry I hit Mr. Ted  
I'm sorry I broke Ned the fly.

I'm sorry for eating your cake  
I'm sorry for messing up the lake  
I'm sorry for taking your tool  
I'm sorry for being such a fool.

—BREEANNA HEYUNGS, 9, BURKE

### My Garden

My garden is grassy green  
My garden has pinto beans  
My garden is nice  
My garden has peppers and spice  
My garden bursts with beautiful flowers  
My garden showers with red, white, blue flowers  
My garden has bunnies  
My garden is sunny  
My garden has a swing  
My garden and me sing  
My garden has a pond  
My garden has a nature song.

—CATHERINE MENDOZA LOZANO, 9, BURKE

SEE POETRY, PAGE 7

# LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY



**Kairos Woods, grade 2 — Lamb**

## My Dream Job

My dream job is to be a veterinarian. I like to work with animals. Animals are sooo cute. When I am a vet I will go to Africa, Asia, Australia and maybe South America. When I travel I will help and learn about other animals. I can't wait to be a vet!

— ANNETTE McGRATH,  
GRADE 2

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**Vocal musicians from 12 Fairfax County public schools** have been named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2016. This select choir is open only to the top 125 singers from around the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career. Thirty-one Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students were selected for the choir, and five students were named as alternates. The choir will perform at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) convention to be held at the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Nov. 17-19. FCPS students named to the 2016 Virginia Honors Choir include the following students from our area schools: **Woodson High School:** Megan Humes, Caroline Grass, Jacob Lamb, Lucas Valdes, and Marc Manaloto and **Hayfield Secondary School:** Jessica Pressley.

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

KEENE MILL  
ELEMENTARY  
ART GALLERY

Artwork submitted by  
Art Teacher Deborah T. Ehlers.

**"Self Portrait"  
(Rainbow Artist),  
by Sophia Muslim,  
Grade 6.**



**"Special Occasion Collage" (Christmas),  
by Natalie Ignacio, Grade 3.**



**"Hockey Player," by Allie Morrison,  
Grade 4.**



**"Self Portrait" (Just Be Happy),  
by Cailee Halligan, Grade 6.**



**"Shoe Journey," by Ayesha Rahman, Grade 5.**



**"Shoe Journey," by Megan Lincicum, Grade 5.**



**"Cultural Self Portrait," by Elizabeth  
Maxted, Grade 3, Art Teacher: Alison Long.**



**"Me and My Friend," by Sebastian  
Velasquez, Grade 2.**



**"Soccer Goalie," by Nolan Valliere, Grade 4.**

## I'm Happy

I'm happy I got a phone,  
I'm happy I didn't break a bone.  
I'm happy that we have to write,  
I think I have to wear glasses because I play video games without any light.

I'm happy that I ran a mile,  
I'm happy that I read about a fantasy potion called Bile.  
I'm happy that I'm great at video games,  
I'm happy that I remember a lot of names.

I'm happy that it's almost Christmas time,  
I'm unhappy that I'm running out of words to rhyme.  
I'm unhappy that I'm not made of fire,  
I'm unhappy that I'm not wire.

I like to wonder the pros and cons of being immortal,  
I wish to go through a dimensional portal.  
I'm happy that I'm almost done,  
I hope that you're having fun.

I'm unhappy that I can't hop over the moon,  
But I'm also unhappy to broom my room.  
I'm happy that when it comes to video games, I'm unstoppable.  
But I'm very unhappy to be done.

—ELIJAH DUKES, 9, BURKE

## I'm Sorry...But I'm Not

I'm sorry for breaking your new vase  
But I'm not sorry for dropping your doll case.  
I'm sorry for eating all your beans  
But I'm not sorry for eating your ice cream.

I'm sorry for jumping on your bed  
But I'm not sorry for almost hitting your head.  
I'm sorry for breaking your bike  
Just kidding, I'm not, SIKE!

—ETHAN NGUYEN, 10, BURKE

## My Messy Room

The pencil is on  
the clipboard is on  
the red folder is on  
the green folder is on  
the notebook is on  
the loose papers are on  
the blue binder is on  
the rainbow binder is on  
the book is on  
the shelf is on  
the desk is on  
the carpet is on  
the floor is on  
the Earth is in  
Space.

—RILEY MILLER, 9, SPRINGFIELD

## The Time My Baby Sister Was in the Hospital

My baby sister was in the hospital, because of her heart defect. She was in the hospital for one year and was hard because I knew that someone I love is at risk. Recently, my baby sister was diagnosed with pneumonia. This is an infection of the lungs, and that is why she was coughing so much. It's just hard to be happy when your sister is sick.

—YONUS HUSSEN, 9, BURKE

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

**FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY**  
Artwork by students in Vered Grossman and Heather Devlin's classes.

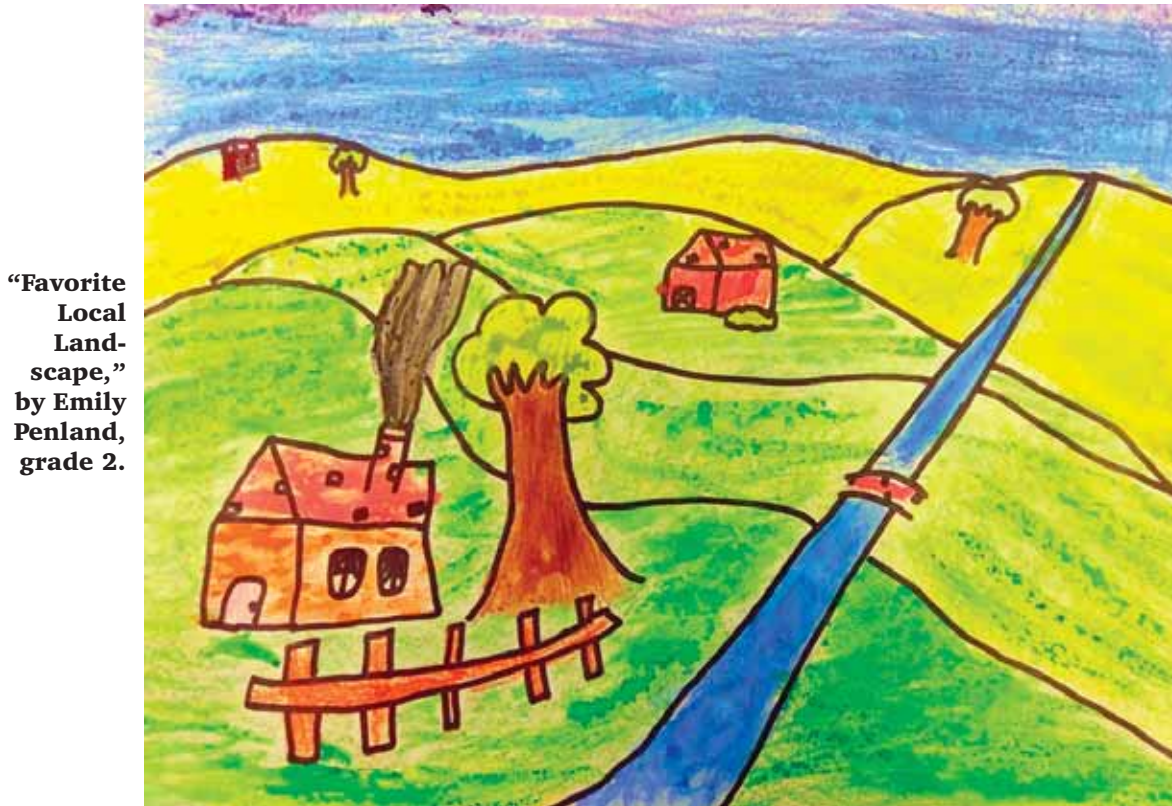
**"Fruits in Basket"** by Katie Vu, grade 5.



**"Moment in Action"** by Lauren Manzi, grade 4.



**"Me as a Dessert"**, by Avery Hagen, grade 6.



**"Favorite Local Landscape,"** by Emily Penland, grade 2.

**SILVERBROOK ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY** Artwork submitted by Art Teacher Laura Lajin.



**Maddie Emert, Grade 5.**



**Minami Bach, Grade 6.**



**Neda Azami, Grade 6.**



**Noah Anderson, Grade 4.**



**Abby Moyers, Grade Kindergarten.**



**Ethan Senatore, Grade 3.**



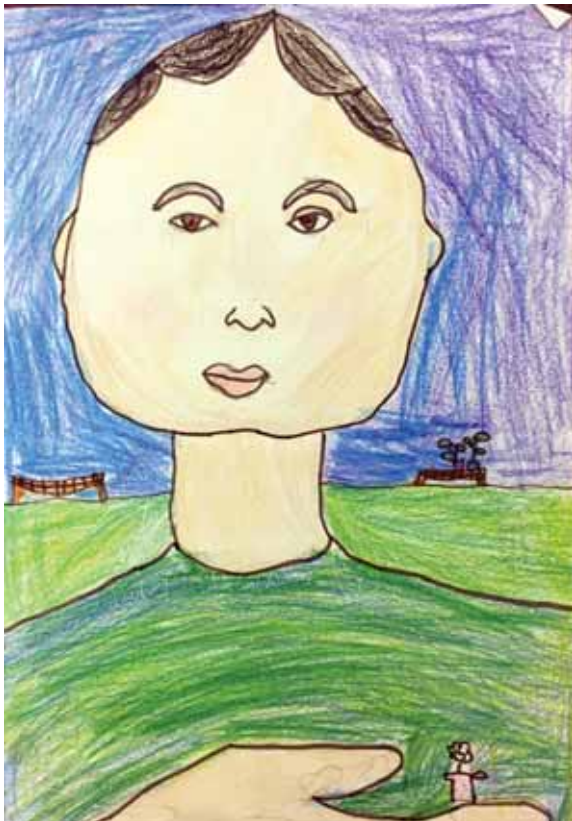
**Brady Davies, Grade 3.**

**UNION MILL ELEMENTARY**  
Artwork submitted by Anne Hollis.

**Hunter B, Grade Kindergarten.**



**Anjali M, Grade 2.**



**Caitlyn K, Grade 1.**



**Jaime O, Grade 3.**



**Trevor L, Grade 6.**

# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Olivia Neel, age 5.



Tony Pettenkofer, age 5.



Vivienne Rizer, age 6.



Richard Ly, age 5.



Olivia Abueg, age 5.



Kellan Harrison, age 6.



Jackson Wolfe, age 5.



Jacob Webster, age 5.



## ACCOTINK ACADEMY PRESCHOOL

Artwork by children in Kindergarten in Mrs. Druggan's Kindergarten Class.

Caroline Lieb, age 5.

Jaiden Hill, age 5.



# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Abigail



Veronica



Katie



“My Family” by Angie Navas Oliva, age 4. She is a student at Forestdale Elementary School FECEP/ Head Start program in Springfield.

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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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## CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

# The Most Important Thing

By students in Catherine Fernandez-Martell's 5th grade class at Kings Glen Elementary.

### Ethan S

The important thing about Ethan is that he is awesome. He is a big brother and feels responsible because he's the oldest. When he grows up, Ethan wants to become an engineer.

He has a lot of family members on his dad's side. They got together last summer. it was a blast.

Ethan has a younger brother, Owen whom he loves dearly...as long as Owen is not being rough.

Pho is Ethan's favorite food. He enjoys eating it at different restaurants.

Rock music is his favorite genre of music to listen to and most of his music videos he watches on YouTube.

Ethan has five blankets which keep him cozy. The different blankets are a treasure for him.

He enjoys building Legos and making music with his instruments.

But the important thing about Ethan is that he is awesome.



### Cole H

The important thing about Cole is that he loves his family. He has a dog, cat and fish and his mom and dad. Cole's mom and dad both work for the government. His dad is a police officer and his mom works in DC. When Cole has free time you can find him playing with his army men, in the woods, or practicing basketball. Cole loves to travel. He has gone to many states and one country. Since he travels so much he's been on many planes so he's used to them. Cole's interest is reading about the Vietnam War and playing cowboys and army men. Cole is a mountain man; he loves the outdoors.

He likes to go hunting and horseback riding. Cole really likes cowboys. He watches western movies and likes to pretend he's a cowboy.

Cole plays soccer and basketball. He also does swim team. His best time for going across the pool and back is 39 seconds.

But the important thing about Cole is that he loves his family.



### Tina T

The important thing about Tina is that she loves to play soccer. She has a brother who she fights with all the time. Her favorite subject is math. She is in advanced math. She loves to go on walks. She is willing to walk anywhere.

Her favorite thing to do when she is bored is too watch youtube videos. She really enjoys laughing at some of the funny clips people put online.

When she is at her cousin's house she loves to play badminton. They play in the driveway.

Tina also loves to listen to music. Her favorite genre is pop. She loves to pet dogs one day she hopes to own a dog.

She also likes to play minecraft. The best part is that she can play with her friends.

But the important thing about Tina is that she loves to play soccer.



### Patrick G

The important thing about Patrick is that he is an amazing kid. He likes legos. He once built the Assault on Hoth.

Fifi is Patrick's cat. Patrick definitely is a cat lover. He had four other cats, but they have since died.

Patrick is a boy scout. In fact, he is on pack 1965.

He is good at math. He likes to challenge himself by trying to figure out difficult problems.

Patrick likes Star Wars. He has seen almost all the movies because he only saw part of Attack of the Clones.

He is a good swimmer. He is not on a swim team, but he does swim on Sundays.

Patrick can sometimes be found watching tv. Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network and Disney XD are his favorite channels.

Garfield is an all-time favorite graphic novel that Patrick likes to read.

The important thing about Patrick is that he is an amazing kid.



### Spencer G

The important thing about Spencer is that he likes to make people laugh. He has a soft spot for dogs and pandas too. He feels that he could get lost in a good book. He loves to fence with his trusty sword, named sting. He is a lego fanatic and loves to build a complex structures out of legos.

Spencer also loves crazy roller-coasters that twirl and go upside down.

Star Wars is his all time favorite movie. He also likes to play cool video games.

He likes to have nerf wars in his backyard. And lastly, his sister means the world to him!

But the important thing about Spencer is that he likes to make people laugh.



### Madison M

The important thing about Madison Miller is that she loves her family.

She likes to play instruments like the violin and the flute and she wants to try to play the ukulele.

She likes to do gymnastics. Her favorite events are bar and floor.

She likes to hangout with her family and friends. Taking adventure trips with them is awesome.

Minecraft and Roblox are her favorite video games.

She used to play them daily, until her laptop broke.

She likes to cook and make treats. She has become a cookie making expert.

Madison also likes to play with her brother Grant. They can be found playing in the pool together throughout the summer.

The beach is Maddison's vacation spot. She's pretty crafty at building sandcastles. Basically you could say that Madison loves to live life. But the important thing about Madison is that she loves her family.



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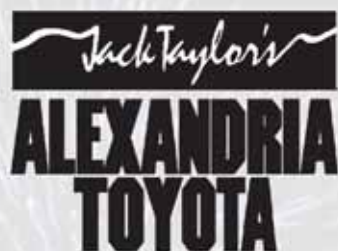
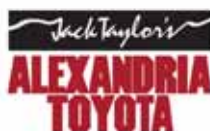
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