



2016
VIRGIL
PRESS
ASSOCIATION
Annual Writing
Competition

Reston CONNECTION

Children's Connection 2016

By Emily Slater, Grade 7, Langston Hughes Middle
School, submitted by Arline Liu, MA, Visual Arts.

DECEMBER 28, 2016 - JANUARY 3, 2017

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Reston's 4th Annual Camp Expo is Bigger & Better Than Ever!

Reston Camp Expo

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Reston Community Center • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA

Don't miss your chance to learn about hundreds of Reston-area summer camps and out-of-school activities – all in one place. This year's event will also feature youth sports organizations and providers! Bring the whole family out for a fun and informative morning of snacks, music, games, prizes and resources:

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- **Activities for the Kids**

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- **Scholarships**

Discover the range of fee waiver and camp scholarship opportunities.

- **Summer Employment**

Find out about summer camp employment and volunteer opportunities.

- **Learn More**

Get info on registration dates, camp requirements, locations and fees, while meeting directors and staff teams.



THE EVENT WILL FEATURE MORE THAN A DOZEN NON-PROFIT PROVIDERS INCLUDING:

Boy Scouts of America, Cornerstones, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, Fairfax County Office for Children/SACC, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Public Schools, Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), Rec-PAC, RecQuest, Reston Association, Reston Community Center, Reston Regional Library, YMCA Fairfax County Reston and more!

This event is coordinated by local non-profit organizations and Fairfax County government agencies in support of the Reston Opportunity Neighborhood program. It is hosted by Reston Community Center.



www.restoncommunitycenter.com

2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston VA 20191
To request reasonable ADA accommodations,
call 703-476-4500, TTY 711.



CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

RESTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC
703-778-9414 OR RESTON@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



By Lela Ripley, Grade 3, Lake Anne Elementary.



“3D Window Art” by Addison Griest of Reston, age 9, Grade 4, Congressional School, Falls Church, Art Teacher: Sarah Philip.

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Reston 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 reston@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



By Anna Yerukhimovich, age 11, Aldrin Elementary, Grade 6, Teacher: Sean O'Day.



By Anita Anbari, Grade 7, Langston Hughes Middle, Arts Teacher: Arline Liu.



“Starry Night” by Teresa Heang, Grade 6, Hunters Woods Elementary, submitted by Norma Ruiz Morris, Art Specialist.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

HUNTERS WOODS ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Elise Napolitano, Art Specialist, Hunters Woods Elementary School.



By Yulee Kang,
Grade 6.



By Ariana Inamdar, Grade 6.



By Ella Kamp, Grade 2.



By Aurora
Eddy,
Grade 6.



By Quentin
Priolet,
Grade 6.



“Starry Night” by Cole Kasper,
Grade 6.



“Air Balloons” by Altia Ramos,
Grade 3.

HUNTERS WOODS ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Norma Ruiz Morris, Art Specialist, Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences, Reston.



“Starry Night”, by Selina Sun



“Starry Night”, by Kaitlyn Bartolutt, Grade 6

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



**"Water Fun" by
Evan Pan-Wang,
age 7, of
Reston, Lake
Anne Elementary
School.**

Poem

BY MAYA CALLAHAN, II, OF
RESTON

Teacher: Kathy Kaplan

It came too fast.
Time to break out jackets.
Autumn air. 9-28-16

High tide.
A seagull cries.
Morning sunrise. 8-22-16

His morning ritual
Begging for breakfast.
Loki cat. 10-5-16

Summer night.
A cicada chirps.
Pitch black ocean. 8-23-16

The waning moon kitty
is now waxing.
Fat boy cat. 10-26-16

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were to live
forever; live as if
you were going to
die tomorrow.

—John Wooden

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Reston Camp Expo 2017 ...Bigger and Better

Several years ago, with insightful encouragement and involvement by esteemed Reston founder, Bob Simon, a network of Fairfax County agencies, non-profit and community organizations gathered to discuss and collect data on out-of-school opportunities for school-age children in Reston.

The purpose was to assess not only availability but also accessibility related to age, location, transportation, fees and scheduling. The group discovered many educational, healthy and enriching programs occurring throughout the year and particularly during the summer season. What seemed to be missing was widespread knowledge of these activities and, in particular, awareness of the transportation and scholarship opportunities that exist to support our young community members.

As a result, the group developed the Reston Camp Expo – a resource fair featuring dozens of County and non-profit organizations to provide key information on camp programs, out-of-school activities, registration dates, transportation options, registration fees and applicable scholarships and fee waivers, and even summer employment and volunteer experiences.

Hundreds of families now attend this annual event to learn about the fantastic youth programs available in our area, to meet staff, to engage in games and craft activities, and to plan and prepare their summer calendars. In 2017, the Expo is expanding the number of exhibitors to include non-profit sports leagues and clubs. Nowhere else can you find all of your local camp providers, youth sports and activity resources in one convenient location!

Please join us for this free and informative event on Saturday, January 28 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Reston Community Center. This event is coordinated by local non-profit organizations and Fairfax County government agencies in support of the Reston Opportunity Neighborhood program. Center.

Reston Community Center

2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 2019
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See more at: restoncommunitycenter.com/

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

SUNRISE VALLEY ELEMENTARY ARTWORK

From students in Ms. Warstler's Art Class.

By Kaila, "St. Basil's cathedral in Moscow" Grade 4.



By Mia, "Symbols of America" Grade 2.



"Snow Fight" by Yuting Liu of Oakton, age 8, Grade 3, Hunter Woods Elementary, Art Teacher: Yanshun Sui.



"Exploring Watercolors" by Zia, Grade 6.



"Aztec calendars" by Keegan, Grade 5.



Class, by Yuting Liu of Oakton, age 8, Grade 3, Hunter Woods Elementary, Art Teacher: Yanshun Sui.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

LANGSTON HUGHES MIDDLE SCHOOL ART GALLERY

ARTWORK SUBMITTED BY ARLINE LIU, MA, VISUAL ARTS



By Matthew Io Sapio, Grade 7.



By Anita Anbari, Grade 7.



By Jostyn Escobar, Grade 7.



By Amy Nguyen, Grade 7.



By Kendra



By Maria Uriaste, Grade 8.



By Bradley Stevens, Grade 7.



By Edwin Figueroa, Grade 8.



By Daniel Hickey, Grade 8.



By Charlotte Singer, Grade 8.



By Jonathan Gomez, Grade 7.



By Mya Hurley, Grade 7.



By Nick Afanasyev, Grade 7.



By Charlotte Zatterstrom,
Grade 8.



By Jin Din, Grade 7.



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

ALDRIN ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY



By Lyric Romero, Grade 2.



By Belle Walke, Grade 2.



By Sofia Brown, Grade 2.



By Olivia Watts, Grade 6.



By Rivera Ayala, 7, Grade 2,
Teacher: Caitlin McBriden.



By Christina Malik, Grade 2,
Teacher: Jennifer Eu.

POETRY CORNER

Cooper

BY ANTHONY VITALIE, 12

From large,
hairy paws,
to melted-chocolate eyes,
with khaki fur in between,
blending to a
black mask.
Cooper is my dog.

We play fetch until
he tackles me,
And licks me all over.
So cute.
While he chews on
a bone

I lay on him
napping on
the couch.
We chomp on
bananas together.
My heart melts when
he stares at me.

From the small puppy,
to my big hulking dog,
he is changed in size,
but on the inside
he's even better.
Cooper,
my beautiful dog,
my pride and joy.

Flipaclip

BY LUX DuBAY, 11

Like any other day,
I was at home,
on my Kindle Fire
drawing and animating
on my favorite app in the
world,
Flipaclip.

Suddenly,
the screen went
black.

My beautiful animation,
gone before my eyes.
I called for my mother
saying the Kindle was acting
up.
She took it from me,
and asked if I had dropped or
spilled
anything on it.
I said no.
She tried to turn it on
and nothing.

I was on the verge of tears.
This had happened once be-
fore
but we were able to handle
the
situation.

My grandma I named GaGa
came into the room
and asked what was going on.
My mom told her that the
Kindle
was broken.

I felt my heart shatter inside
me
I couldn't help but cry.
I used the Kindle every day
since I had the privilege.

GaGa was getting ready to
head out
to go to the store.
She said,
"I hope it will be ok,"
and walked out the door.

Meanwhile, I watched TV,
hoping that what my mom

said
was not true.
An hour had passed,
and I had started to lose
hope.

Suddenly,
GaGa burst through the door,
with bags.
I asked her what she had got
while following her into her
room.

She pulled out a box
with a picture of a tablet on
it.
I screamed with joy,
but she shushed me,
then told me to show mom.
I asked,
"You didn't tell her you were
going to buy
This?!"

She shook her head
and followed me out her bed-
room door.
My mother was frightened by
the scream
and asked what had hap-
pened.

"Look what GaGa got!~"
I said.
"Oh my god..."
Sighed my mother.

After questions,
(mostly asked by me)
my mom took the
Kindle Fire HD 10
Out of it's orange box
and began setting everything
up.

After a few minutes,
she handed
it to me:
A brand new,
shiny tablet
that was
surprisingly bigger than an
iPad,
and I got to work.

And for this,
I am grateful.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

LAKE ANNE ELEMENTARY ARTWORK



By Hadley Pound



By Audrey James, grade 6.



By Elaha Jaghori, grade 1.



By Margot Ripley Kindergarten.



By Audriana Jay



By Bridget Brennan


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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

TERRASET ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Submitted by Mary Wehle, Art Teacher Terraset Elementary.



By Emma Sarmiento, Grade 3.



By Emma Sarmiento, Grade 3.



By Gabriela Lozano Chacon, Grade 6.



Second grade butterfly sculpture.



By Laura Wickramaratne, Grade 3.



By Kamilo Navarette-Salinas, Kindergarten.



By Karl Daniel, Kindergarten.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Mary Ruth Brown, a 2012 graduate of Oakton High School and a 2016 graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is currently in graduate school at East Carolina University studying meteorology/atmospheric science. She has been selected for an internship at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA for spring semester 2017.

David Clark, alto sax player, is recognized as a member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band and will receive honorary jacket in front of family, friends, fellow band members and classmates.

Eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools — all attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) — have been named semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search. The students, with their project names, are:

❖ **Jake Cui**, A Machine Learning Approach to Identifying Ordered Binding Regions on Order-disorder Protein Interfaces.

❖ **Tarun Kamath**, Marked Decreases in Pediatric and Young Adult Solid Organ Cancer Mortality in the United States Since 1940: Analysis and Hypotheses.

❖ **Ava Lakmazaheri**, Brain-actuated Robotics: A Logic-based Approach for Multimodal Programming and Operation of Assistive Humanoid Robots.

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 13

POETRY CORNER

Sheri Brick, Fifth Grade Teacher at Dogwood Elementary sent us a selection of poetry written by her students.

Extinction

BY MARLEY DUVAL

Always care for animals
Buy animals more food
Cut down all poisonous berries or food
Don't eat animals that are endangered
Eat fruit and vegetables
Find hurt animals
Go become a vegan or vegetarian
Help animals
I will help animals in all ways I can
Jaguars and pandas are endangered
Kind to animals
Let them cross the road
Mind your business
Never kill
Orcas are going extinct
Polite to any animal you see
Quiet when animals are sleeping
Rabbits are getting hurt because of people
Stop killing animals just for food
Tolerate not eating meat
Underwater creatures are getting hurt because of pollution
Vegans and vegetarians are good
Water is going bad from all the pollution
X-rays can tell if animals are hurt
Yelling at animals
Zipp there goes another animal

Help the Earth You Live On

BY KAYLEE GUIDRY

Animals don't have homes
Because of us
Can't you help them
Don't destroy habitats
Every living animal needs a home
Frogs don't have much water for them to lay eggs
Great populations of animals are going down
Help nature
I need your help
Just recycle
Keep roads clean
Leave nature alone
Maybe save electricity
Help the world
Or clean up after yourself
Please help the animals
Quit littering
Recycle
Save the earth
Thank animals for what they do to help
Use less electricity
Very many people are destroying habitats
We need animals for food
X means big habitats
You can help
Zoos are not good for animals

Cutting Down Trees for Paper

BY ROSIE MACHADO

Apples grow on trees giving us food
Bananas grow on trees giving us food
Cutting down trees when they give us food
Down they go, can't go back up
Every company wants to make paper
For everyone but just to make money
Good for nothing because you are going to waste it
Habitats of tree animals are getting destroyed
In the North, East, South, and West
Just for paper and other things
Know from such little but I do care
Look around they are hurt and eaten because there lost
Money to take tree animals houses
No one should do that
Or great pain to animals and animal lovers
Protesting for great loyal thing but losing homes
Quite sad for millions of pieces of paper
Ripp there it goes once used now torn
Such a waste of trees
Through these years trees have been gone
Under the sky
Vandalizing animal's houses
Why do it to them but not us
X-ray for animals because they are hurt
Yelling at animals just to get out of their homes
Zipp there goes the tree

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

**"Friends Riding Bike"
by Francise Ramirez,
age 7, Grade 2, Hunt-
ers Woods Elementary,
for Science and Art.
Teacher: Mrs. Basel.**



Reston Camp Expo 2017...Bigger and Better

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Artist-in-Residence at Hunters Woods Elementary

A photo of our 2016 Artist-in-Residence legacy project that Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts & Sciences did with their sixth graders. They are now entering into the 11th year of having the sixth graders collaborate with a visiting artist to create a mural that represents the specialties of Hunters Woods. The next project will begin in January with visiting artist Ali Mirsky. This will be an indoor mural that will complement the 2016 mural.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 12

❖ Austin Mills, Demonstrating the Development of Heavy Metal Resistance in Non-tolerant Multigenerational *Brassica rapa*.

❖ Kunal Shroff, The Relationship Between Lethality and Genomic Instability in Euploid and Aneuploid Yeast Cells Expressing Pathological Huntingtin.

- ❖ Matthew Sun, Hyperacute Temporal Resolution with a Neural Population for Biologically Plausible Firing Rate Change Detection.

❖ Jason Wei, Improving Lateral Flow

Immunoassay Sensitivity by a Palladium-catalyzed Dye Reaction.

❖ Michael You, Two-degree-of-freedom Bubble Oscillations in Elastic Vessels and its Application in Sonar-induced Marine Mammal Injuries.

The 300 semifinalists were chosen from more than 1,750 entrants and will receive matching awards of \$1,000 along with their school.

This is the 75th year of the Science Talent Search, which Intel has sponsored since 1998, providing \$1.6 million in awards and scholarships to contestants.

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

UPCOMING SPECIAL EDITIONS

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

1/4/2017.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

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

FEBRUARY

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

Valentine's Day is February 14

2/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

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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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I Am

BY BENJAMIN TAYLOR,
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I am curious boy who likes sci-fi.

I wonder what the world will be like in 50 years.

I hear time ticking along.

I see the questions dancing in my brain.

I want to know the answers.

I am curious boy who likes sci-fi.

I pretend to be a Rebel flying an X-Wing.

I feel the speed as I soar.

I touch the stars that shine bright.

I worry about the melting Antarctica.

I cry for animals who are losing their habitats.

I am curious boy who likes sci-fi.

I understand I will not get all the answers.

I say never stop asking questions.

I dream of meeting my relatives in Ireland.

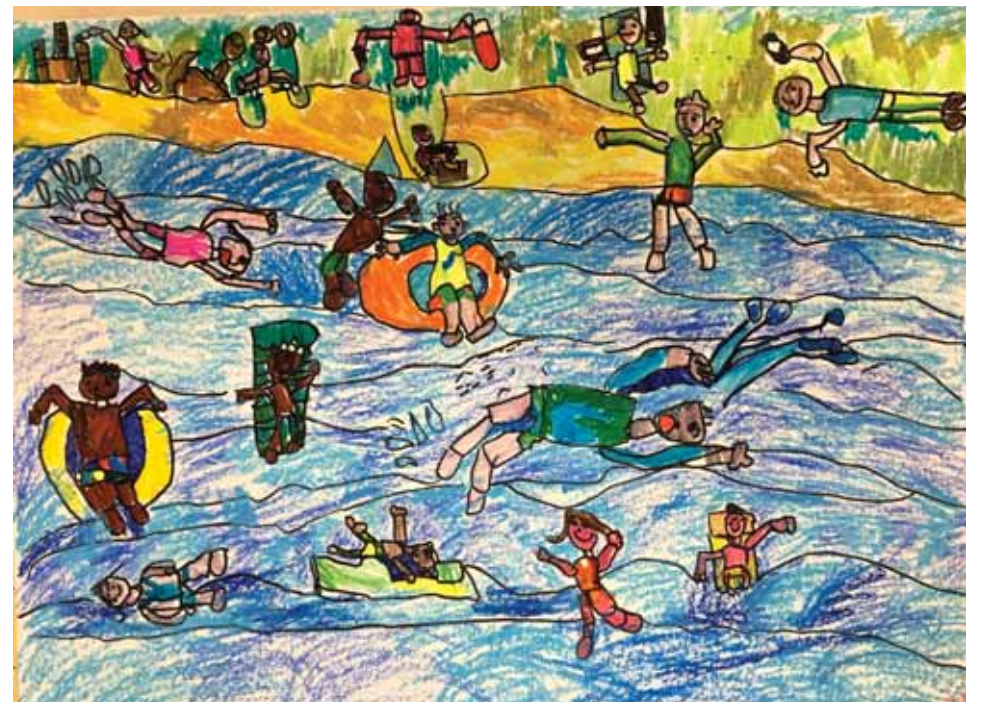
I try to be positive.

I hope I never lose my curiosity.

I am curious boy who likes sci-fi.



By Cynthia
Yuxin Huang,
age 10, of
Oakton, Grade
5, Sunrise
Valley Elementary, Teacher:
Mr. Ian Kidder.



"Water Fun" by Evan Pan-Wang, age 7, Lake Anne Elementary

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