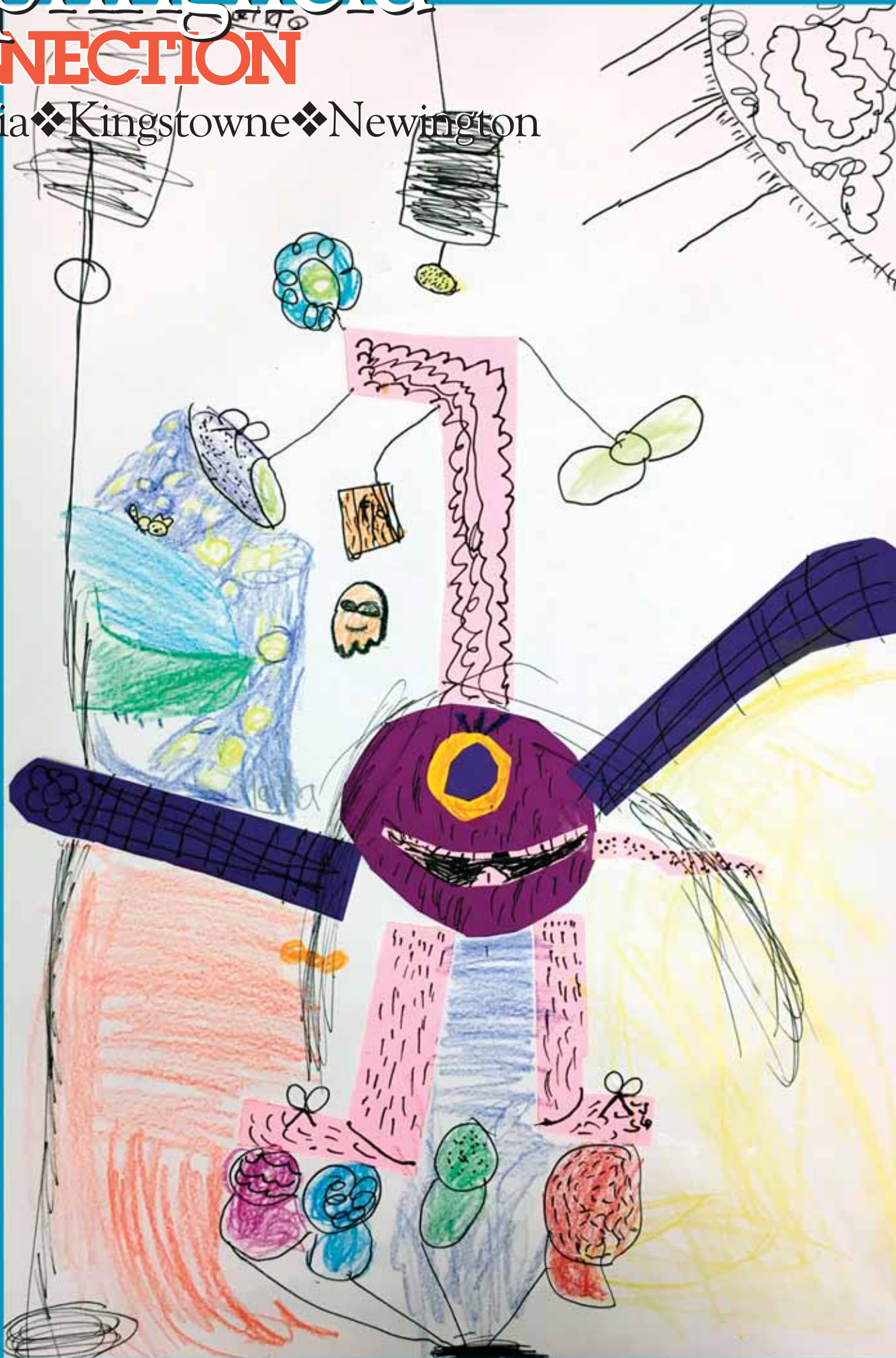




Springfield CONNECTION

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"Wild Thing" by Leila Marcantel,
Grade 1, Sangster Elementary.



Children's Connection 2016



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

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



By Sarayu Kalarickal, age 5, Mrs. Druggan's Kindergarten Class at Accotink Academy Preschool in Springfield.



"Community Map," by Henry Wells, Grade 2, Keene Mill ES, Art Teacher: Deborah Ehlers.

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Springfield/Franconia/Kingstowne/Newington 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 KURSPAHC



A Special Moment in Time figure painting by Juliana Fernandes, Grade 4, Forestdale Elementary.



Watercolor, by Megna Ratnapuri, 13, of Springfield, Grade 9, Congressional School, Falls Church, Art Teacher: Mrs. Rula Brock.



By Kai Wheeler, Grade 6, Orange Hunt 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

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 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.

The Fairfax Children's Connection

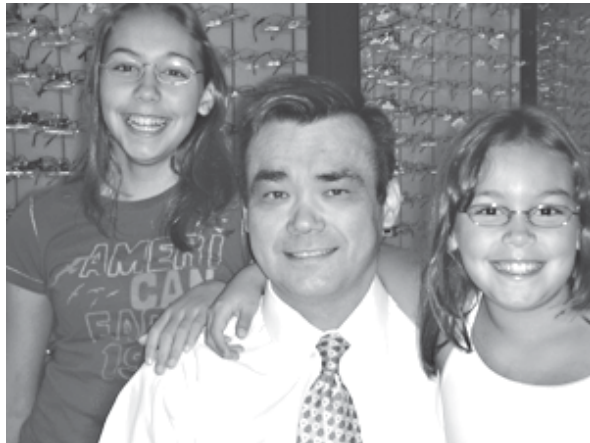
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

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.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Dad

BY CHRIS KERNAN, SENIOR
WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

As a young boy I always had a sense of childlike wonder. I questioned everything, from "why the microwave beeped," to "why birds fly," but the one person I asked the most questions towards was my Dad.

As he would leave for work every morning, I would stand on top of the stairs and ask, "Where are you going?" or, "When are you coming back?"

To which he'd always reply softly, and with confidence, "I'm going to work buddy, see you before dinner." His confidence gave me confidence that he would always come back. I mean, why would he not? He was my dad after all.

Years passed and I grew up. Through the tough breakups and bad grades he would always be by my side, like a loyal fan, cheering me on until the finish line. Whenever I had a question, as silly or serious as it may have been, he had

the answers. Soon I lost that sense of childlike wonder, but he never stopped being there for me. However now, as I sit next to him on his death bed years later, I feel that sense of childlike wonder coming back, this time with a bitter taste to it.

I ask him with a tear gently cascading down my cheek, "Where are you going now, Dad?"

He looks at me with sorrow in his eyes, I can see the tears forming.

"I don't know," he says plainly, but I can tell he's holding back.

For once in my life, he didn't have all the answers, nor did I feel the confidence I once felt as a child. As I watch him pass, I start to realize that my loyal fan is leaving the stands.

Still to this day, as I walk up the stairs, I turn my back to the door and imagine my father walking out into the morning sunlight. Though I know he won't step through the door again, I can still hear him cheering me on from above.

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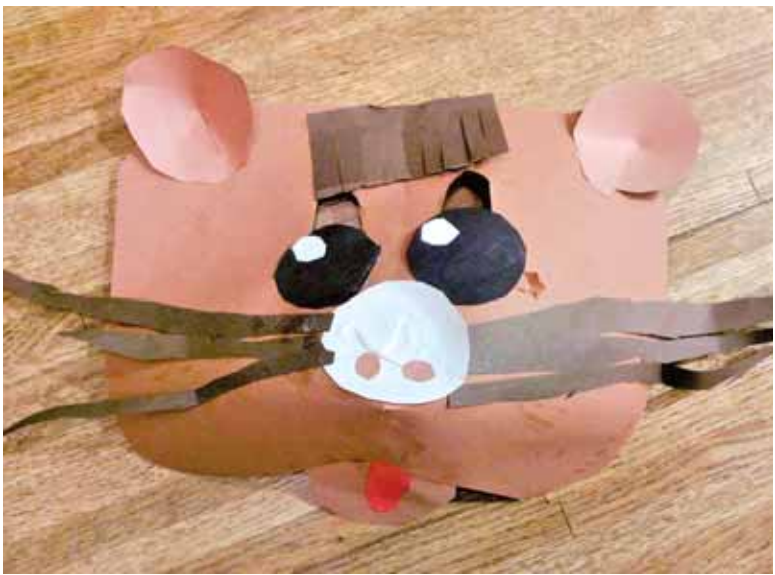
CHILDREN'S CONNECTION FORESTDALE ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY



Woven and cut paper picnic collage, by Milton Rivera-Machado, Grade 3.



Woven and cut paper picnic collage, by Hector Manzanares Guillen, Grade 3.



Paper mask, by Jackson Anderson, Grade 1.



Self portrait figure collage by Nebay Teferi, Kindergarten.



Self portrait figure collage by Olivia Abdall, Kindergarten.



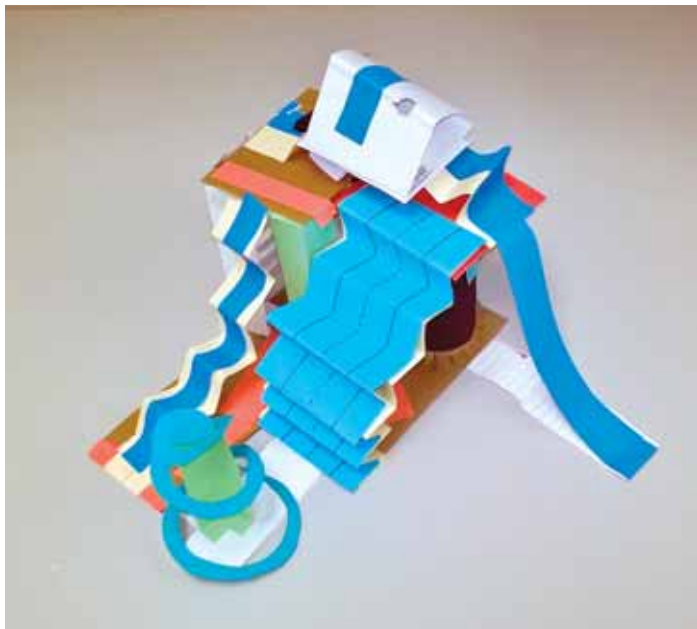
At Play With Architecture 3-D paper sculpture, by Kaitlyn Duong, Grade 5.



A Special Moment in Time, by Rayyon Ghozi, Grade 4.



Clay figure sculpture, by Star Sey, Grade 6.



At Play With Architecture 3-D paper sculpture, by Joel Guevara, Grade 5.



Woven and cut paper picnic collage, by Winter Talde, Grade 3.

ORANGE HUNT ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY



Melissa Newell, Grade 5.



Zoe Herring, Grade 1.



Megan Glenn, Grade 2.



Carly Ogden, Grade 2.



Ryan Medgyessy, Grade 2.



Betel Kirose, Grade 1.



Elia Mazerolle, Kindergarten.



Jasmin Duffing, Grade 1.



Natalie Galusha, Grade 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.

HUNT VALLEY ELEMENTARY

Writing by students in Ann Spring's second grade class.

Santa's Technology

Santa has no technology. It is pecsy dust. The pecsy dust makes the raindeers go. Santa never runs out of pecsy dust. I don't know how Santa does not run out of pecsy dust. Without the raindeers Santa could not finish his job.

—ARIANNA HAIDARI

Santa's technology is unknown even though there are some interesting theories. One theory is that Santa uses rockets to get around the world so fast because usually shooting stars are seen. Another is what appear to be planes is actually Rudolf's nose. The last one is that sometimes you can hear faint bell noises.

—JULES JAFFE

Snow

There are sports you can only do in the winter if it snows.

Snow is beautiful when it blows.

It has to snow to make a snowman. But, it will make trouble for planes to land.

—TYLER STEWART

Snow falls in the Night sky when the lights are Off and you're sleeping Winter is here now

—WYATT DAVIS

Snow days are the Number 1 days to have fun Outside there's a Winter Wonderland!

—ZACHARY NORRIS

The Best Gift I Ever Received

One Christmas I got a lego set! It was so cool! I waited till all the other presents were opened then I started building. It was hard at first but then it got a little easier. Once I finished I saw it was a batplane from Bat Man. I played with it till my brother Ryven broke it! I tried to find the parts to make it but I only found two, so ya. It wasn't that big of a deal but really you got a present and then lost a present.

—LANDEN MATIS

Four Things I Could Do to Help Others

During the holidays I could give someone a present that they can't afford one.

During the holidays if someone does not have a friend I could try to be their friend.

During the holidays when someone is crying or lost a loved one I can give them a hug.

When someone loves this toy but they don't have it I can get it and give it to him or her.

—MAX MANENO

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

I want to be a marine biologist when I grow up because I can go in submarines. I could find undiscovered plants or animals. I might be in newspapers, science, and history lessons. I could look at some of my all-time favorite animals such as sea turtles and seahorses. I will get to wear cool scuba gear, ride in awesome submarines, and use complicated technology. The last reason is I'll see coral reefs and the amazing life within the coral reefs. That is why I would like to be a marine biologist when I grow up.

—CALVIN YEE, GRADE 5,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY

I want to be a robotics engineer. Then I can make things to help the earth. I can build a robot that picks up trash to help the environment, or it can help take care of animals. Also, building robots can help by doing chores, taking in groceries, making food, and robots can do many more things. It might even be able to read stories to children

and help them with their homework. Another reason is that robots can help armed forces keep this country safe cause robots can go under cover. That's why I want to be a robotics engineer.

—JOSHUA BASKIN, GRADE 5,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY

What Are You Looking For?

I am looking forward to going on the field trip to the National Aquarium and Baltimore Science Museum. I'm excited to go because it would be amazing to see marine life animals up close and learn more about them, especially the dolphins and seahorses. When we go to the museum it's going to be interesting that we're basically going through everything we learned about the ocean. It's great because we'll learn more information to add on to what we have learned.

ABBY TZECCAI, GRADE 5,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY

I am looking forward to my trip to Egypt. It is so far from the USA. There is so much to explore there. It is a place I have studied and wish

to go to and now I am! I am going to see the Nile river and the pyramids. It will be so much fun! There will be so many new people to meet and new foods to try! I really want to see a museum about the life of cats. The best part about this trip is that I will spend it with my family!

—TAVIANA SCHLEICH, GRADE 4,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY

My Birthday

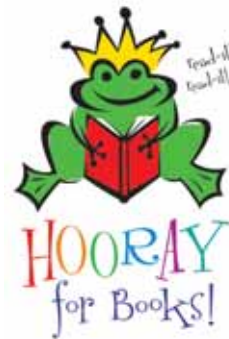
When I was turning 6 I had a camping birthday party. We set up my tent in my front yard. All of my friends came. Maddie came, Isabella's brothers came because Isabella was sick. Also Kiara's friend Laya and her sister Uma came over. We had smores. My dad made a campfire and we roasted the marshmallows. We played in the tent and had food.

Then we had cake! The cake was shaped into a unicorn. Its horn was an ice cream cone.

There were lots of M&Ms on it. It was very yummy!

—SAVANNA FREY, 8,
FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY.
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

LYNBROOK ELEMENTARY

Submitted by
Art Teacher Libya Doman

**Zaria Palmer,
age 8, Grade 3.**



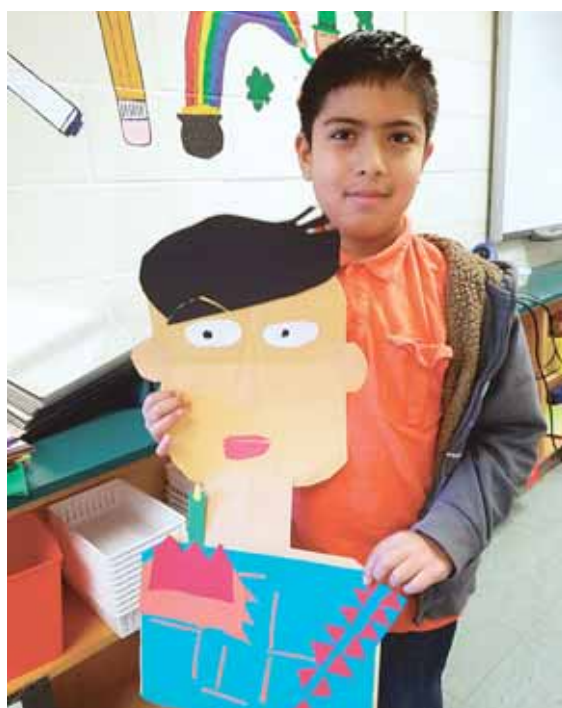
Angel Andino Reyes, age 11, Grade 5.



Carlos Zurita Cordova, age 8, Grade 3.



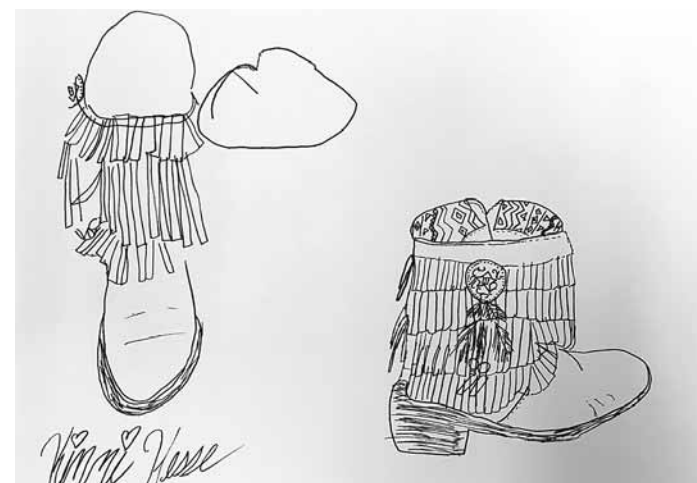
Luciana Bolgaiano, age 8, Grade 3.



Ramon Melera Canales, age 8, Grade 3.

SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

Teachers Becky Summers and Susan Hammang.



"Contour Line Drawing" by Kimmi Hesse, Grade 5.



"Family Fun" by Caroline Fitton, Grade 1.



"The Identity Design" by Ariana Rebello, Grade 6.



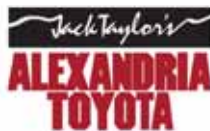
"The Playground Collage" by Cameron Aspecto-Nolen, Kindergarten.

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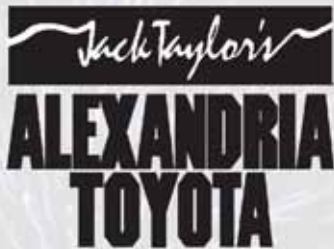
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<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p>BRAKE SPECIAL</p> <p>\$99⁹⁵</p> <p>INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</p> <p><small>DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/17.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p>\$29⁹⁵ LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL</p> <p>\$49⁹⁵</p> <p>INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/17.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p>COMPLIMENTARY 15 MINUTE ALIGNMENT CHECK</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. GOOD THRU 1/31/17.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p>30,000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE</p> <p>\$159⁹⁵</p> <p>Synthetic \$10 More</p> <p>INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts.), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/17.</small></p>
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Michael painting.



Maria painting.

Creating Artwork at Forestdale Elementary

Students at Forestdale
 Elementary school created
 artwork using using shaving
 cream and water color
 paint.



Michael's artwork.



Maria's art.

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.



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

Caroline Lieb, age 5.

Jaiden Hill, age 5.

