Extrax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

Children's & Teens' Connection 2018

By Jacob T., Grade 1 at Union Mill Elementary. Submitted by art teacher Anne Hollis. яттеитіон Розтмаятек: Тіме зеизітіvе матекіаl. 81-8S-SI эмон иі датезираЯ



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December 27 - January 2, 2019





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2 Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection Children's & Teens' Connection 2018-2019

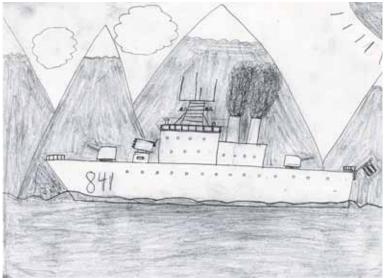
GALLERY





Photography, 'Sunflowers,' by Dylan Sablone, 6, Lorton, Grade 1, Silverbrook Elementary.

By Tessa Chandler, Kindergarten at Burgundy Farm Country Day School.



By Carter Lin, 11, Fairfax Station, Grade 5 at Sangster Elementary in Springfield.

CHILDREN'S & TEENS'



Lady Bug by Sarah Keller, Grade 2 at Silverbrook Elementary.



By Abby N., Grade 4 at Union Mill Elementary.



The Family Front by Alyssa Bernardi, 8, Fairfax Station, Grade 3 at Bonnie Brae Elementary.



Kathryn Wood, Grade 2 at Fairview Elementary – "Me and a Friend" Crayon drawing.



Clay House by Gensen Linten, Grade 6 at Silverbrook Elementary.

The Fairfax Station / Clifton / Lorton Children's Connection is published by Local Media Connection, LLC.

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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 & Teens' 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 2019 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's & Teens' 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 Con-

nection 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 email, 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

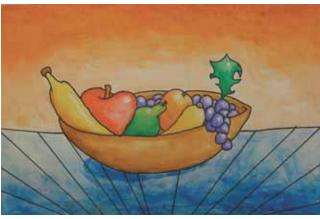
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FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY



Ella Brown, Grade 5 – "Fruit In Basket" Watercolor painting.

Submitted by Vered Grossman, Art Teacher.



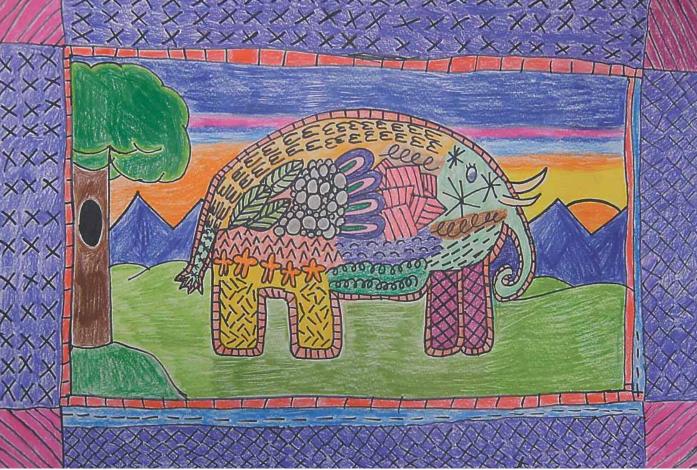
Andrew Erbrecht, Grade 5 – "Fruit In Basket" Watercolor painting.



Sara Lyons, Grade 5 – "Fruit In Basket" Watercolor painting.



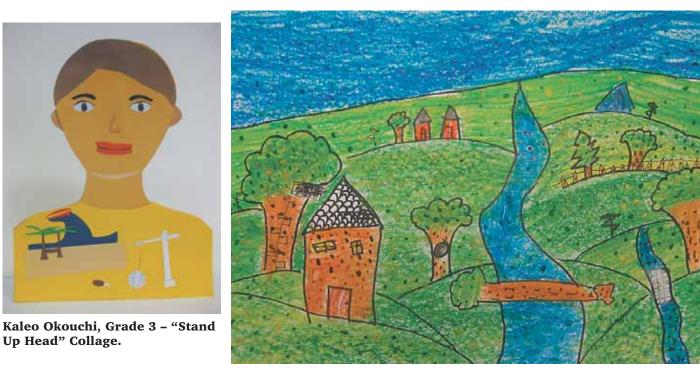
Benjamin Fulwiler, Grade 4 – "Mo-ment in Action" Construction paper crayon drawing.



Emily Morosco, Grade 5 – "Animal, Mithila Style" Colored pencil.



Kathryn Wood, Grade 2 - "Me and a Friend" Crayon drawing.



Abigail Sheehan, Grade 2 - "Favorite Landscape" Crayon drawing.

4 * Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection * Children's & Teens' Connection 2018-2019

Up Head" Collage.



Submitted by Vered Grossman, Art Teacher.



Hannah Morrison, Grade 4 – "Moment in Action" Construction paper crayon drawing.



Henry Schwaberow, kindergarten – "Line, Shape, and Color" Watercolor painting.

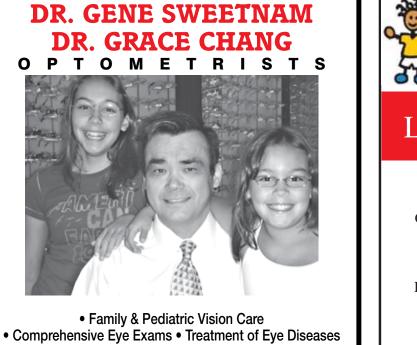


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Your "Nicely Done" Kitchen or Bath is Right Around the Corner! *A "One-Stop Shop" That Goes Above and Beyond Your Imagination*

SILVERBROOK ELEMENTARY Submitted by Andi Kim, Art / STEAM teacher



Zentangle by Allie Gardner, Grade 6



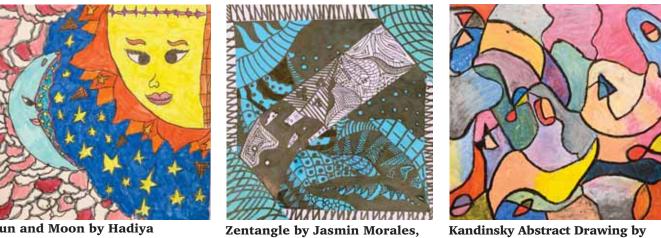
Zentangle by Brian Farish, Grade 6



Sun and Moon by Caroline Apergis, Grade 4



Sun and Moon by Connor Corley, Grade 4



Sun and Moon by Hadiya Pirzada, Grade 4



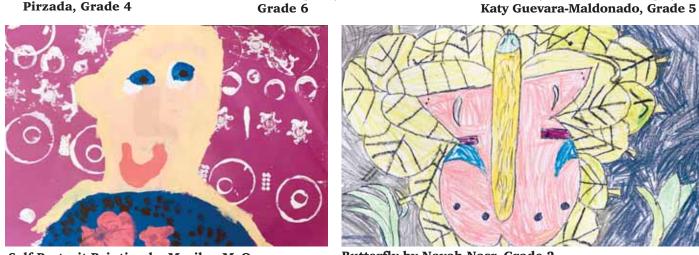
Clay Pot by Addy Falkofske, Grade 4



Insect Drawing by Emily Corner, Grade 2



Picasso Self Portrait by Ryker Russo, Grade 3



Self Portrait Painting by Marilyn McQueen, Kindergarten



Clay House by Anna Stephens, Grade 6



Clay Monster by Ashlyn Crowell, Grade 1



Zentangle by Nayiri Bedros, Grade 6



Cultural Cardboard Mask by Evelyn Fulton, Grade 3



Cultural Cardboard Mask by Regan Laurenz, Grade 3 6 Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection Children's & Teens' Connection 2018-2019



Insect Drawing by Isaac Jeanes, Grade 2



Kandinsky Abstract Drawing by Riley Jacobs, Grade 5





Zentangle by Royce Ward, Grade 6 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Zentangle by Jasmin Morales, Grade 6

Butterfly by Nayah Nasr, Grade 2





Self Portrait Painting by Patti Quigley, Kindergarten

Zentangle by Sienna Mersinger, Grade 6 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Sun and Moon by Vincent West, Grade 4



VDDT Virginia Department of Transportation

Fairfax County Parkway Widening Fairfax County

Public Information Meeting

Monday, January 7, 2019 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Presentation starts at 7 p.m Inclement Weather Date: Monday, January 14, 2019

> Robinson Secondary School 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Find out about plans to widen Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) from four to six lanes between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Ox Road). The proposed project design also includes an interchange at Popes Head Road and the future Shirley Gate Road extension, improvements to the existing trail in the Fairfax County Parkway right of way and construction of a new shared-use path to make the trail continuous within the project limits.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and its preliminary design, including Popes Head Road interchange options under consideration. VDOT will hold a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-691-6710 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **January 22, 2018** to Mr. Sitaram Kodali, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Fairfax County Parkway Widening" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Mr. Sitaram Kodali at 703-691-6710 or TTY/ TDD 711.

> State Project: 0286-029-259, P101, UPC: 107937, Federal: STP-5A01 (775)



Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection I Children's & Teens' Connection 2018-2019 I 7

UNION MILL ELEMENTARY Submitted by art teachers Anne Hollis and Jennifer Martinelli.



By Matt M., 10, Clifton, Grade 5



By Bella G., 7, Clifton, Grade 2



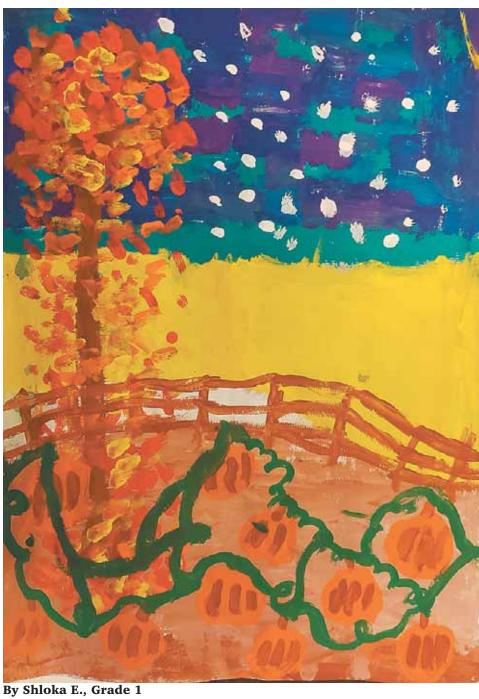
By Alan C., 6, Clifton, Kindergarten







8 💠 Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection 🚸 Children's & Teens' Connection 2018-2019



Grade 3



By Darian P., Grade 3

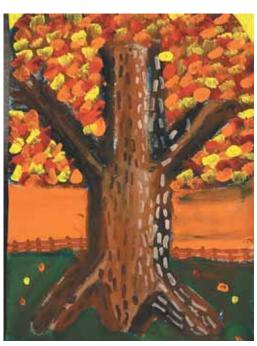
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UNION MILL ELEMENTARY

Submitted by art teachers Anne Hollis and Jennifer Martinelli.



By Jonathan G., Kindergarten



By Emma S., 7, Clifton, Grade 1



By Max B., 11, Clifton, Grade 5 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



By Parker H., Grade 1



By Dylan C., Grade 5



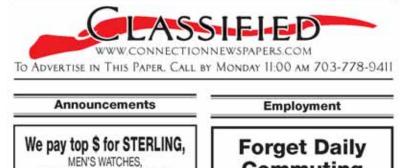
By Gwyneth C., 12, Centreville, Grade 6



By Jaime O., Grade 5



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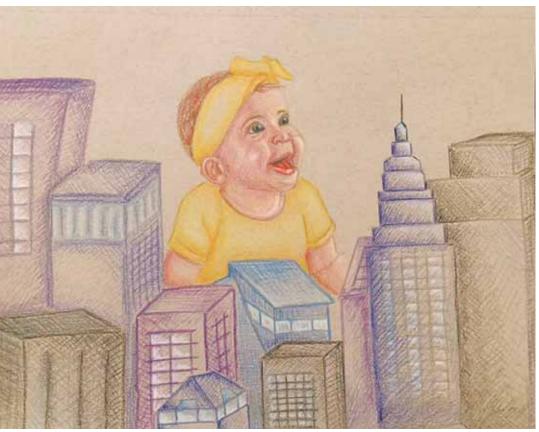
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Announcements



10 🚸 Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection 🚸 Children's & Teens' Connection 2018-2019

ART CLASSES IN BURKE Artwork submitted by Art Classes in Burke with Instructor Carol Zeitlin.



Color Pencil Drawing by Amanda Bohn



Drawing by **Calvin Ashley**





My Thanksgiving by Josephine Bronson



Animal Collage, Color Pencil Drawing by Audrey Reese

Drawing by Leah Brinkley

Words & Pictures

Favorite Season

My favorite season is summer because it is when my birthday is and we always get to celebrate in Miami.

Some more reasons I like summer is because I have a lot of fun and I do not have to do any schoolwork. I like summer because I get to wear shorts every day and have lots of fun at the pool. One last reason I like summer is because I get to travel to a lot of places for vacation and sometimes I can see my family in different parts of the world.

And this is why I like summer.

 Andrew Desir, 9, Lorton
 Halley Elementary, Grade 4

Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is the Maltese dog because they don't shed. They are cute, cuddly, loving, and also friendly. Because Maltese are small they don't have to go in the cargo of the plane. My family and the dog could go many places like Miami, New York, Boston, and other places. I think that one day if I got my dream Maltese dog I would be happier than ever. My dog name would be Lavender, because it's my favorite flower. Each day when I come home at 2:30 she would run to the door or just sit there wagging her tail waiting for me to come home. Also, when I get home, I would take Lavender to my friend's house, I think she would love it.

After my friends house, I would take her on a walk at the dog park. Once we got back home from our walk I would feed her and play with her some more because she's my dog and I love her!

> — Madison Desir, 12, Lorton South County Middle School, Teacher Mrs. Wilson



By Madison Desir, 12, from Lorton, South County Middle School, Teacher Mrs. Wilson.





By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now that the drama of the last five weeks – and the last three columns – is mostly over, life can return to its previous/usual ebb and flow of cancer highs and lows.

For the moment, what I don't know: the effect on my "Adam's Apple" tumor (as I will call it) of the aggressive, every-three-week-infusion-schedule I've been on since early October, is definitely not hurting. Though I am under no delusions about what my next CT scan might show, I also have no confusion as to the road ahead: stay positive and remain engaged and live life with the least amount of focus and conversation on the dominating fact that I was diagnosed with an incurable form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, almost 10 years ago. A diagnosis which came with a "13 month to two year" prognosis.

By most accounts, I shouldn't be writing this column – or doing anything else for that matter. I should be somewhere else – doing absolutely nothing, so far as we know, anyway. And I don't mean lying on a chaise lounge somewhere soaking in the local culture as I try not to sunburn in the midday sun. I mean... well, I presume you know what I mean.

But here I am, alive and reasonably well; not boasting, just saying.

Because, as amazingly fortunate as I am to still be anywhere nearly 10 years post diagnosis, there's a part or me that believes not so much in what I've done to support my chemotherapy/ conventional treatment (non-Western alternatives) as in thinking I've fallen through some crack somewhere and have been forgotten by whatever reaper is sowing these things.

Granted, he/she/it has a lot of work to do and an incredibly long list to get through; still, as the centuries have confirmed, eventually, everyone's die is cast.

Having survived so long when so few of the thousands of similarly diagnosed cancer patients have not, certainly gives this one pause. But the pause passes quickly and is taken over by positivity; as in I must remain positive about the negative and not allow any semblance of "woeing" about me or moaning and groaning about what I'm able to do or disabled and unable to do. Never!

I have been given the gift of life and I see no point in looking that gift-horse in its mouth. It is my job, if it could even been characterized as such, to keep my head down and keep moving forward, figuratively speaking. There is no point in thinking backwards or wondering who, what, where, when and how. The point is the future, not the past.

Unlike the country music song by Tim Mc-Graw, "Live Like You Were Dying," I don't want to live like I'm dying. I want to live like I'm living. A living which takes into account the good, bad and the indifferent.

If I stray from what I perceive to be my usual path, I will know that I'm doing so for a reason: cancer.

And since I never want to reinforce a negative, let alone give it room to roam, I will continue to try and take it all in stride and be grateful along the way for the life I've been granted and try not to weaken in my resolve to not let others be adversely affected or diminished by my situation.

I pretty much do whatever I want to do anyway. Though there are many things I can't do (particularly, bending), there are still many activities I am able to enjoy.

To quote Spock from Star Trek: "The good of the many outweigh the good of the few." A bit of a stretch I know, but I hope you get the association.

For me to survive the ordeal of cancer requires taking the emotion out of it. The highs and lows must become evens. And the levels and test results which occasionally have become odds, merely moments in time and subject to change.

If I am to finish this race, time cannot be of the essence, time must be what I make of it.

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

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