

# Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

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## Children's & Teens' Connection 2018

By Jessi Kaminski, 18,  
Grade 12, Madison High

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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS'

## POETRY CORNER

By fourth grade students at Flint Hill School, Oakton, submitted by teacher Lori Emerick.

### Where I'm from

I am from games,  
electronics  
nature  
woods  
sleeping  
Sports  
Tv  
Books  
Super Mario  
Yep - that's all about me.  
— DEMETRIOS DEMETRIOU

### What am I?

I'm round and orange  
I'm quite smooth  
I scare the little ones away and I glow  
I have very very triangle eyes I have  
a round nose  
And I have a scary smile.

You can make pie out of me You can  
smash me up  
You can technically make anything  
you want out of me.

— MIRA DUNN

### It's Halloween!

It's Halloween, It's Halloween

Everyone is filled with cheer,  
tonight will be a special night  
Because they are coming to haunt you  
here.

They will steal all of your candy,  
without any second thoughts on why  
to do it or how  
But keep in mind to be careful,  
because it could happen right NOW!

— ERIN DORAN

### Fire

You roar like a lion with your mane  
so bright,  
you keep me warm on this cold, win-  
ter night

You might give people a fright  
but I know that you want to make  
things right

You glow in the dark as you start as  
a little spark

You do so many wonderful things  
as you go help others in the snow  
You get bigger as you grow  
I love you and I hope you know  
Fire is what you are, from a spark  
you are born a star.

— OLIVIA PARHAM

### Red

Red is as red as a tomato.  
Red smells like a raspberry.  
Red look like red twirlers.  
Red sounds like a war raging on.  
Red feels like a strawberry in the sun.  
Red tastes like a juicy watermelon.  
Red is a strong color.

— BEN WHITE

## YANSHUN SUI ART STUDIO



Secret Ice Ring by Marissa Lin, 8, Freedom Hill Elementary School

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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS'



By Yasmine McCarthy, 7, Vienna, Grade 2 at Marshall Road Elementary with art teacher Ms. Sui at Yan's Art Studio.



By Hannah Yang, 6, of Vienna, Grade 1, Flint Hill Elementary

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Vienna and Oakton 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 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 schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is email, which should be sent to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@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



Summer Pool by Marissa Lin, 8, Freedom Hill Elementary School, Yanshun Sui Art Studio

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By Charles Sicard, 8, Grade 2, Cunningham Park Elementary



By Taylor Fogarty, 15, Grade 9, Madison High School

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ♦ CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION 2018-2019 ♦ 3



# CHILDREN'S & TEENS'



By Luke Pohlman, 17, Grade 12



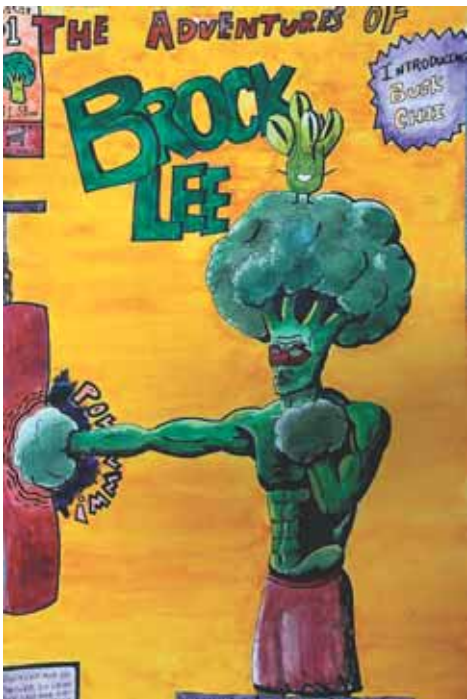
By Matt Howatt, 18, Grade 12

## MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

Teachers: Sydney Carr, Johanna Little,  
Julia Bargo, Matt Dunn and Brandy Carter.



By Scout Sullivan-Fielding,  
17, Grade 11



By John Kustra, 15, Grade 9



By Bela Vilardo, 17, Grade 12



By Alexandra Matthews,  
15, Grade 9



By Bailey Shannon, 17, Grade 12



By Shelby Burns, 18, Grade 12



By Sammi Buttecalli, 16, Grade 11



By Tyler Johnson, 15, Grade 9



# CHILDREN'S & TEENS'

## YOUNG ARTISTS' GALLERY

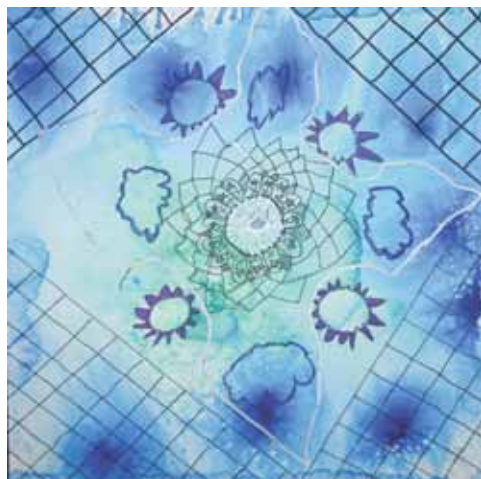
My Pumpkin Family by Phyllis Wang, 6, KG, Vienna, Flint Hill Elementary



By Cynthia Yuxin Huang, 12, of Oakton, Grade: 7, Luther Jackson Middle School



By Jack Kang, 9, of Vienna, Grade 4, Congressional School.



Nature, by Vivian Yu, attached is my drawing. I am a 7th grade student in Thoreau Middle School, Grade 7, Teacher: Yanshun Sui.



Family Party in Farm by Emma Huang, of Vienna, 7, grade 2, Laurel Ridge Elementary (Mr. Leonato)



My Family Farm Eva Huang, of Vienna, 7, grade 2, Laurel Ridge Elementary (Sra. Cordova)

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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS'

## CUNNINGHAM PARK ELEMENTARY

Submitted by Jon Kemmerer, Assistant  
Principal, Cunningham Park ES from  
Alice Bredin Karny's students.

By Ryan  
Kristick, 10,  
Grade 4



By Casey Abbott, 10, Grade 4



By Hailey DeLaOGranados, 7, Grade 1

By Lizzie  
Britt, 10,  
Grade 4



By Suri Paruchabutr, 10, Grade 4

By Madison  
Moseley, 10,  
Grade 4



## The Dark Night

No moon no sun just darkness all around.  
I can hear birds chirping in trees like a chorus.  
and rain dropping down  
Plopping, plunking as they go.  
Footsteps going by and cars whooshing by me.  
I am all alone with hard and smooth objects by my side.  
But then the plopping and plunking turns to splashing.  
Then I hear bees buzzing around.  
There are flowers smelling nice and sweet.  
Then the clouds start to go far away and the moon shows itself.  
Then I see a door  
no fancy handles  
no designs  
just a plain brown door.  
Then I smell something sweet as a hummingbird and flowers.  
I open the door and I see apple pie just for me.  
I can see the sun raising up high  
well I eat  
and I feel happy like I won a game.  
Now the day is done  
I get in my soft bed.  
And I feel great inside.

— KAI LINDROOS,  
GRADE 4,  
FLINT HILL SCHOOL, OAKTON

## The calm day

The light blinded my face,  
It was gloomy,  
The Sky was dark blue  
the clouds were dark gray  
Splashing, Splashing,  
The sun was leaking behind the clouds  
Chirp chirp,  
The birds soar through the sky like a fairy getting a tooth,  
The rain hits the ground  
I feel the rain on my hair,  
I see the sun coming up  
I am happy again.

— JUSTIN AMANKWAH,  
GRADE 4,  
FLINT HILL SCHOOL, OAKTON

## The Beautiful Day

The second I got outside,  
I smelled the calm, fresh smell of rain,  
I saw the beautiful, shiny puddles,  
that the rain made.  
The puddles I saw were  
Big,  
As big as a lake,

I felt the green grass  
The grass had rain drops the size of a ladybug.  
It was like the birds were having a great time playing their happy songs  
together I feel warm. The world is growing as I am getting smaller and  
smaller and smaller and smaller  
I am calm.

— LUCY LIEBERMAN,  
GRADE 4,  
FLINT HILL SCHOOL, OAKTON

## Rain

When I went outside  
the cold wind was blowing through the trees  
and the gray clouds ready to rain hard.  
The sun is tucked away in the dark clouds.  
Then all of the sudden  
I hear plop plop and it starts to rain.  
It started off as a drizzle  
But then BOOM crash!!!!  
The rain is cold and hard,  
it felt like bullets on my face.  
My friends and I RAN  
through the wet grass.  
Finally we made it inside.  
We were **soaking wet**.  
I sit exhausted at my desk.  
I will not go out there again!

— SONIA JACKSON,  
GRADE 4,  
FLINT HILL SCHOOL, OAKTON



# FLINT HILL ELEMENTARY



By Charlotte Zhong, 6, Vienna, Grade 1 with Yanshun Sui, art teacher.



By Scarlett Zhong, 10, Vienna, Grade 5 with Yanshun Sui, art teacher.



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**Re: Dr. Kathryn Sowerwine**

Dermatology & Allergy Specialists of Virginia  
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Dear Patient:

For professional reasons, I have decided to close my Allergy & Immunology portion of practice at Dermatology & Allergy Specialists of Virginia. Thus, I will no longer be able to provide your medical care. The last day I will see patients is January 31, 2019. I will be available for emergency care and scheduled appointments until the closing date.

We are happy to notify you that Dr. Daneshvar will be taking over the Allergy portion of the practice at his offices. Dr. Daneshvar is board certified in Allergy, Asthma and Immunology as well as Internal Medicine. He is the president of the Allergy and Asthma Care Center and has been in practice for more than 25 years. We are glad to offer our loyal allergy, asthma and immunology patients a provider who is highly regarded in the medical community.

Dr. Daneshvar of Allergy & Asthma Care Center provides exemplary care to both pediatrics and adult populations suffering with immunology, asthma and allergy concerns. Dr. Daneshvar is continuing care initiated by this office and looks forward to this opportunity to continue in your care and wellbeing. He has office locations in Reston, Leesburg and Alexandria is accepting new patients at this time. His website and telephone number can be found below.

Your health and well-being are of utmost importance to me and my staff at Dermatology & Allergy Specialists of Virginia. I encourage you to choose another provider as soon as possible to ensure uninterrupted care. For your convenience, I am including contact information for the Virginia Hospital Center, Reston Hospital patient referral line and websites as well as the American College and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology websites and telephone numbers.

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If you have a medical emergency, please dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency department.

As a reminder, your health records are confidential. A copy of your records can be released to you or your new provider with your written permission. To obtain an electronic copy of your medical records at no charge please access your patient portal at [www.dermspecialistsva.ema.md](http://www.dermspecialistsva.ema.md). Please complete the records release form and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope and the fee, if requesting physical paper records, of \$50 per page for the first 50 pages then \$75 per page after that. Postage and a \$10.00 handling fee will be charged to the patient.

Thank you for trusting me with your healthcare needs. It has been a pleasure to provide your care, and I wish you the best in the future.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Kathryn Sowerwine**

**Dr. Daneshvar; Allergy & Asthma Care Center: Reston; 703-709-7736 Alexandria; 703-931-2164  
Leesburg; 703-777-1411**

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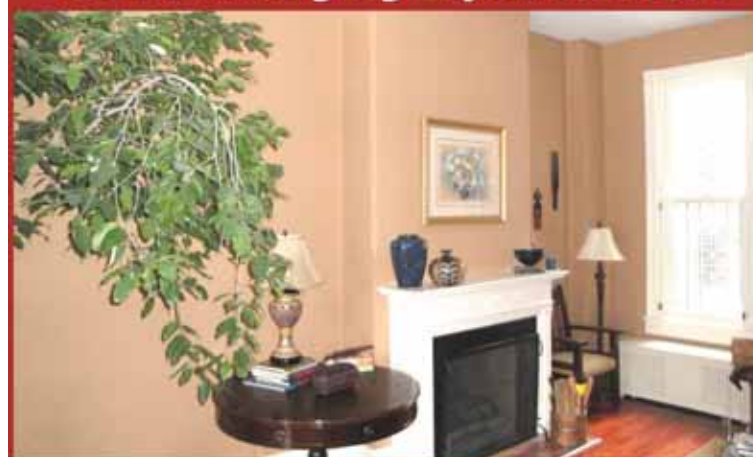
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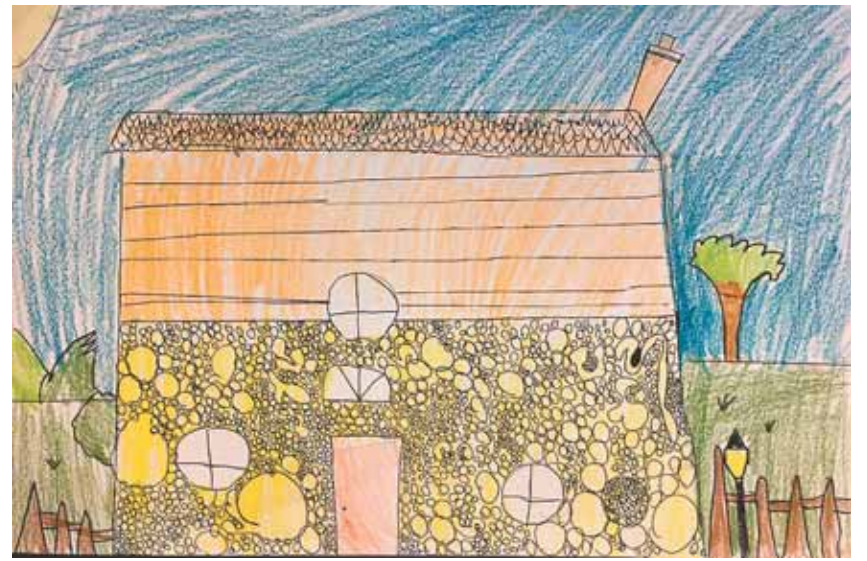


# COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Art Teachers Lauren Grimm and Rachel Wiseman.



By Carolyn Li, Reston, Grade 1



By Rania Virginkar, Vienna, Grade 1



By Alex Hurd, Vienna, Grade 6



By Tadas Stanis, Grade 3, from Vienna



By Amy Key, Great Falls, Grade 6



By Maeve Christie, Vienna, Grade 6



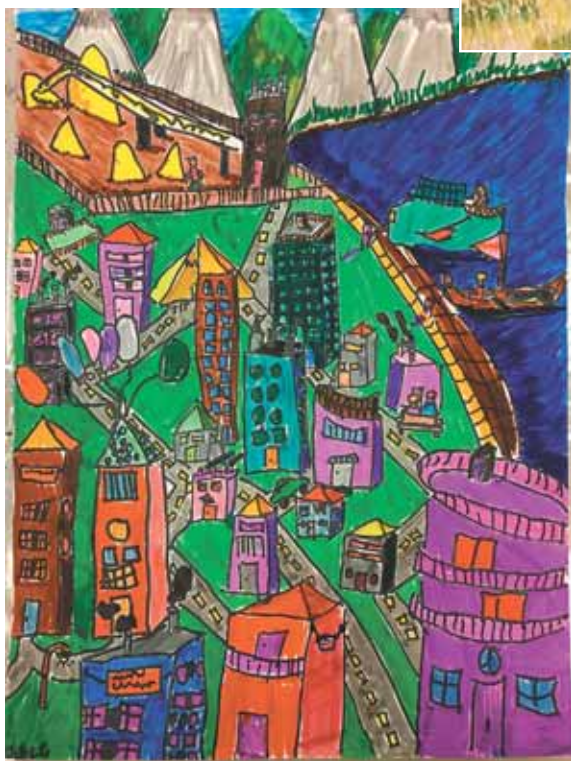
By Alexander Coultas, Grade 2, from Vienna



# LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY



By Chloe Chow, 9,  
of Vienna, Grade 4  
at Louise Archer  
Elementary in Mrs.  
Harris' class.



## CUNNINGHAM PARK ELEMENTARY

Writings by Cunningham Park Elementary second graders from Ms. Heyer's class.

### My First Yearbook

I was really happy when I got my first yearbook! It looked so cool. I thought I looked so weird. It reminded me of my sister, not that she looks weird, but that she was in it! So I flipped to third grade. I found Ms. Brazie's class. I looked at Ms. Brazie's class for a little while. I finally found Abby! I felt as happy as a &#! Abby looked cool. I wanted to look at her forever. She looked like my aunt. She had long brown hair. Peach skin. Blueish greenish eyes. A nose that looked like an upside-down t. Then the teacher told us to shut our books.

— SOPHIA STEILING

### Bear Hunting

I went bear hunting with my Pappy. We went to a

burned down house. And there was a big hole. A hole that was big enough for a bear! We went past the hole. And looked for one.

And we did not find a bear. We went past the hole again and I looked in it and I saw a bear sleeping. And it was as still as a popsicle. A question I asked about the bear, he didn't know. I wanted to know so much I kind of felt blue inside.

— VIENNA CARR

### The Park

I was at the park. The breeze felt like a mermaid's tail fanning me. I never felt anything like it. I ran to tell my mother but she was not there. I looked around. She wasn't there. I quickly ran around. Be she wasn't there. Finally, finally, I heard a voice. "Ellie, I missed you!" It was my mom.

— ELLIE SARAPU

## Here's What's Happening at MCC!

### Closing Notice



#### New Year's Day

MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1, and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

## The Old Firehouse WINTER BREAK TRIPS



**Snow Tubing & Ice Skating**  
Wednesday, Jan. 2, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents



**Laser Tag & Indoor Paintball**  
Thursday, Jan. 3, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents



**Upscale Bowling & Movie**  
Friday, Jan. 4, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents

## MCC is Newly Renovated We're Showing Off!



**Community  
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Saturday, Jan. 5  
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**Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Celebration, "Liner Notes"**  
Sunday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.  
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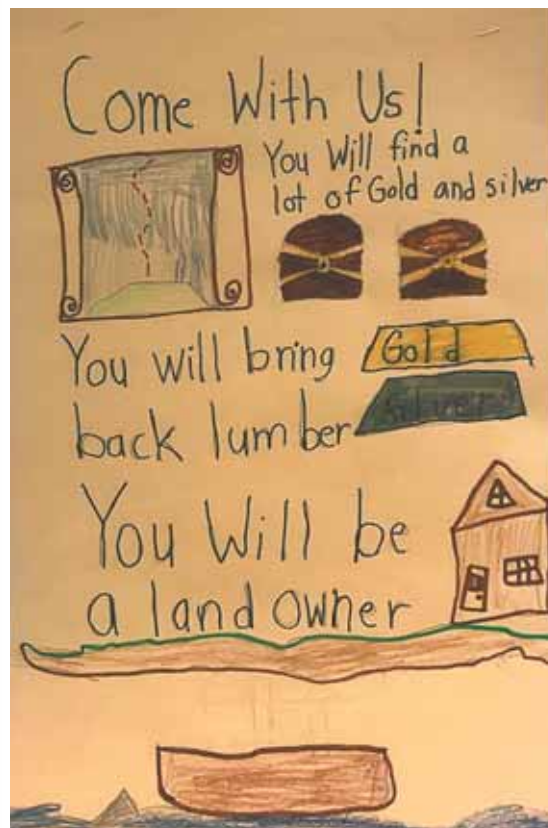
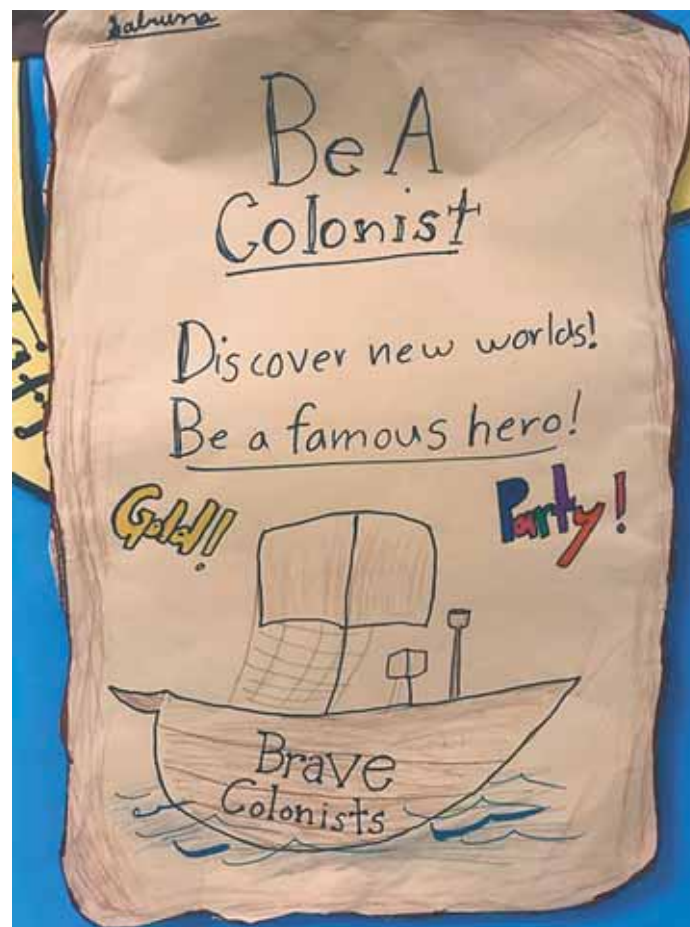
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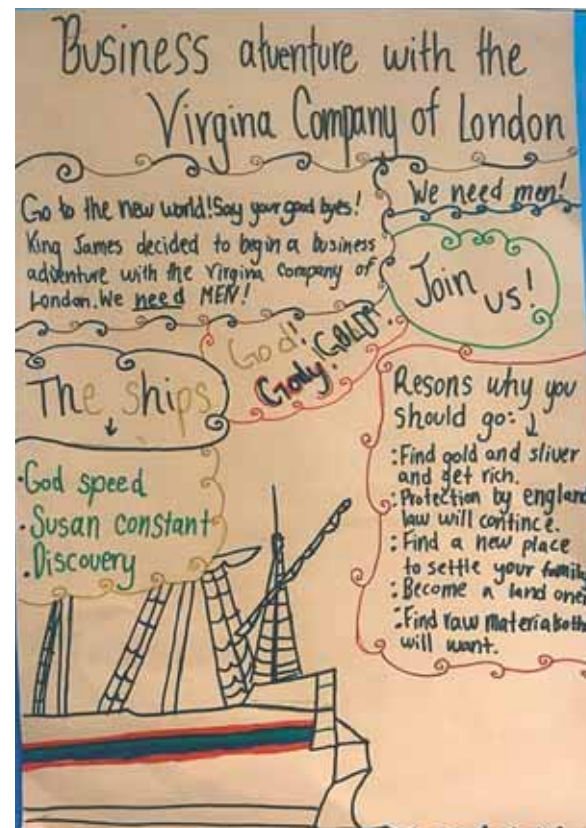


## CUNNINGHAM PARK ELEMENTARY

Be A Colonist by  
Sabrina DeWitt,  
10, with Ms.  
Trivoulides



Come With Us by Edward Lee, 9,  
with Mrs. Orndorff



Business Adventure by Madison Moseley,  
10, with Ms. Mancuso



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# CUNNINGHAM PARK ELEMENTARY

## Holiday stairs

I woke up at 8:30 a.m. excited for today, not any type of day, Christmas day! The excitement rushed through my body, as my parents walked down stairs to grab the camera. Nathan and I always think it takes forever, mostly because we're anxious to see what we got.

My parents said we could walk down the stairs. Creak, crack, I thought about that annoying staircase but that was the least of my worries. I finished walking down the stairs where I saw my Mom and Dad taking a picture. "Yes I got a bungee chair," I said. "And I got nice shoes," Nathan said, as we all gathered around each other. We could smell cinnamon buns in the oven, while we drank delicious hot cocoa. That's the true meaning of the Garrett's Christmas.

— LAUREN GARRETT  
GRADE 6, MS. VAIL

## Cotillion

I love the snacks at cotillion and I thought it would be terrible but it wasn't. Ok you all are probably wondering what I'm talking about. I'll tell you the story from the beginning. So I was getting dressed when I hear the doorbell. "JACKSON," I say excitedly. "Ok, Charlie. my sister told me some tips, first don't load up on snacks, next stand up when your partner stands up," said Jackson. "Ok, thanks for the tips," I said.

To Be Continued...

— CHARLES ORNDORFF  
GRADE 6, MS. VAIL



By Nina Babounakis, 10, Grade 4

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## Back to Abnormal



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 of 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 be 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 McGraw, "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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