



By Aedan Buchanan, Grade 5,
Bull Run Elementary

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CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

UNION MILL ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Artwork submitted by Jamie Clinch, School Based Technology Specialist at Union Mill Elementary School.



Grade 1, Ellie C.



Grade 6, Georgia V.



Grade 6, Esther L.



Grade 5, Makena N.



Grade 5, Mason A.



Grade 5, Sophia Y.



Grade 5, Vivi B.



Grade 1, Lia C.

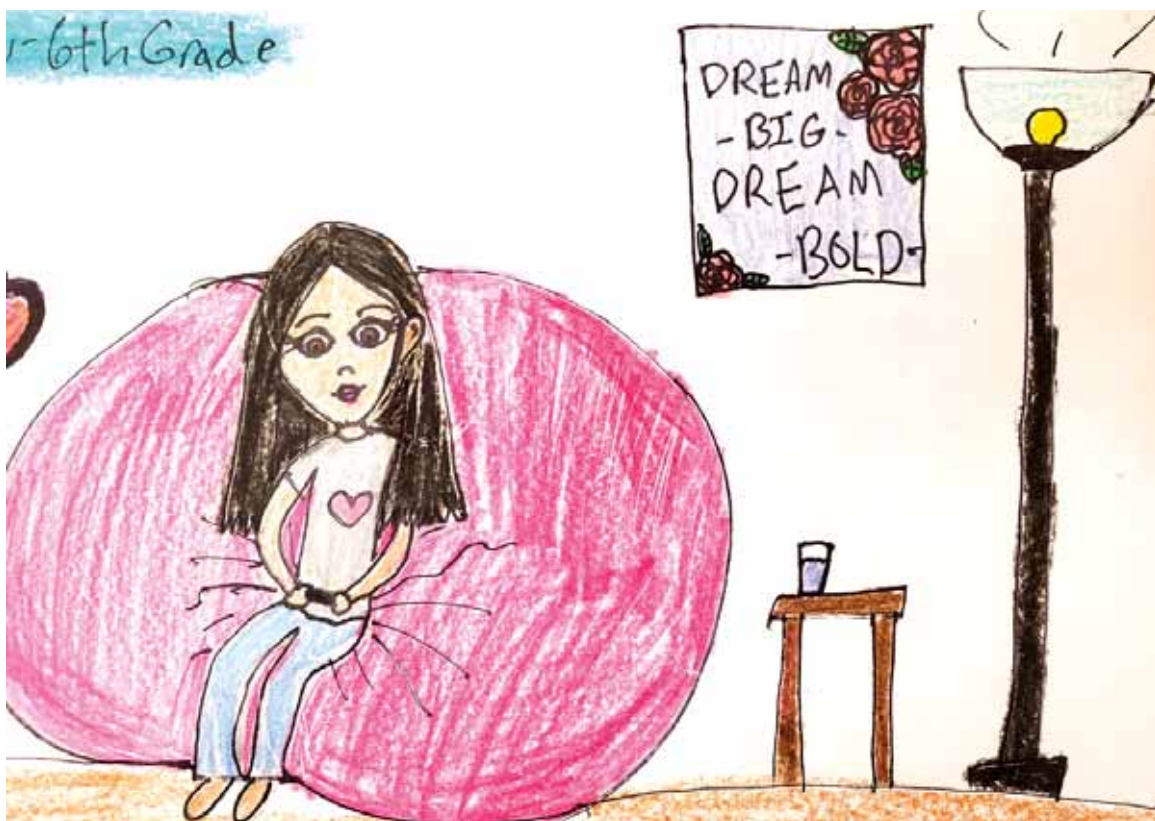


Grade 4, Caitlyn K.



Grade 4, Anna H.

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



By Saavni Aggarwal, Grade 6, Bull Run Elementary.

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Chantilly Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked children from area schools 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 2020 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 news pages. Our preferred method for material is email, which should be sent to kemal@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



Anna H., Grade 4, Union Mill Elementary.



By Kathleen Meehan, Grade 6, Bull Run Elementary.



By Serena Pan, 8, Centreville, Poplar Tree Elementary, Grade 2.



Abby S., Grade 6, Union Mill Elementary.

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



By David Dudzinski, Grade 5



By Emily Luu, Grade 6



By Gwen Eagle, Grade 6



By Jeremias Alvarado-Morales, Grade 4



By Mason Middleton, Grade 4



By Medha Gudepu, Grade 5



By Aedan Buchanan, Grade 5



By Olivia Putman, Grade 6



By Saavni Aggarwal, Grade 6

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

ART GALLERY

By Hengyi Wu, 12, Grade 7, Rocky Run Middle School in Chantilly, Teacher: Yanshun Sui.



Washington Monument with Santa climbing, by: Max Priester, Age 7, Virginia Run Elementary (Mrs. Woodward's class)



Sophia Wang, 10, of Chantilly, Grade 4, Oak Hill Elementary, Herndon, School teacher: Mrs. Wagner, Art teacher: Mrs. Yan Sui



Sophia Wang, 10, of Chantilly, Grade 4, Oak Hill Elementary, Herndon, School teacher: Mrs. Wagner, Art teacher: Mrs. Yan Sui



Family by a Christmas tree, by Jake Priester, Age 4, Centreville Preschool (Mrs. Chapman's class) -



By Sean Pan, 6, Centreville, Poplar Tree Elementary, Grade 1, Teacher: Sarah Lee



By Hengyi Wu, 12, Grade 7, Rocky Run Middle School in Chantilly, Teacher: Yanshun Sui.



"A Joyful Noise," by Liam Howard, 10, from Centreville, Grade 4, Fairhill Elementary in Fairfax. Teacher: Matt Jones

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CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photos by Aubrey Augustine, 17,
 Grade 11, Langley High School,
 Tacher: Kelly Mulligan.*

**Young girl looks off
 into the distance in a
 Christmas photoshoot.**



**A long shut-
 ter speed and
 flashlight is
 used to
 create this
 memorizing
 light picture.**



**By Cynthia Yuxin Huang, 13, Oakton, Grade 8, Luther Jackson Middle School,
 Teacher: Ms. Yanshun Sui**

Chantilly CONNECTION

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Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The doctor told me that I'll probably receive results from today's biopsy in five to seven days. The pathologist will send the results to my oncologist who presumably will email them to me. Now whether that new information will cause a change in my treatment, I certainly don't know. However, I would imagine that knowing the genetic mutation/biomarker would cause an immediate change. We're not exactly waiting for Godot here. And neither is the process rocket science. It's medicine. It's research. It's years of clinical trials. All of which has led to the FDA's approval of more drugs for the treatment of lung cancer in the last three years than in the previous three decades, according to LUNgevity. Lung cancer research, after years of comparative neglect is finally getting the respect - and dollars, it deserves. After all, lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths annually with up to 200,000 new cases diagnosed every year.

"Targeted Therapy" is what I'm talking about. And it's as simple as it sounds. A specific medicine is more effective when given to a patient with a specific biomarker (type of tumor; they're not all the same). Eleven years ago when I was first diagnosed, mutations were not yet a part of the oncologist's playbook. Now, they're on page one. After years of receiving treatment based on old-ish/conventional methods, I am about to move to the head of the class. Maybe even become the teacher's pet (I'm already my oncologist's prize cow.) This is not experimental stuff, this is state of the art, so to speak. And soon, if I'm lucky, I will join the ranks.

At this juncture, I know very little specifically about what might happen next. I have learned during my years of treatment and meetings with my oncologist that future scenarios are rarely discussed. Sure, we've occasionally mapped out, generally speaking, a course of action/reaction, but my oncologist prefers not to get too far ahead of where we are at present. One new symptom and/or unexpected result from a CT scan or a brain MRI and once again, it will be "Katie, bar the door." Accordingly, I have become a patient patient. That's not double talk, that's years of experience. I'd like to think it's part of the reason I'm still alive.

Another reason I'm still alive is the Team Lourie philosophy: hoping Kenny can stay alive until research catches up - or even passes you by which then enables you to take advantage of the next big thing/new drug. Over the last 11 years, I've been the beneficiary of research that has provided drugs which allowed me to live years beyond my original "13 month to two year" prognosis (in quotes because that's what my oncologist said). Now I hope to be the beneficiary once again of the latest and greatest treatment: "Targeted Therapy." If so, another 11 years would suit me just fine.

To say I'm excited would not exactly describe my state of mind. Hopeful, of course. Anxious, for sure, because I think my oncologist, per our last meeting, was anticipating my future a bit and switching from my present opdivo immunotherapy to something brand new (or a new combination of medicines) seemed timely to him. Ergo, my needle biopsy today at the Interventional radiologist. I guess you could say "I'm pleased as punch," though, to quote Hubert Horatio Humphrey Jr., the 38th Vice President of the United States, that I had this procedure. It opens up/creates new treatment possibilities which for a nearly 11-year cancer survivor is likely way more important than I realize. After all, my oncologist did characterize my non small-cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis as "terminal." A disease for which my oncologist also said that he "could treat, but that he couldn't cure." Well, I don't suppose he can cure me now with whatever targeted therapy matches my tumor's biomarker so I'm counting on these new drugs being able to treat me some more. I could live with that.

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

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

ANXIN YE GALLERY

Artwork by Anxin Ye, 15, Vienna, Grade 10, James Madison High School,
Art teacher: Brandy Carter



The Butterfly



A Tranquil Dream



Summer In Metro 2



Summer In Metro 1

REFLECTIONS

By Fairhill Elementary students

The Best Gift

The best gift is not an object or a place yet a feeling. The feeling of warmth of family and friends. The feeling of paying it forward or buying something to help someone. That little drop of kindness that makes yours and others day so much better.

The exquisite delight of making someone smile is the best gift of all.

—MEISSA ISLAM, 11,
GRADE 6

The Best Gift I Have Ever Been Given

The best gift I have ever been given wasn't something big, like a play set or a bike. It wasn't expensive either, like an iPad or a phone. It was something more meaningful than any of those gifts combined. It was a door to imagination, a window to creativity. It was a very highly recommended cure for boredom: A Book. This magical gift led me on so many adventures and to so many memories, even though it was just a combination of writing and pages, brought together by a hard cover. I am extremely grateful that I was able to receive the pages, writing, and cover. I wish that everyone will be able to receive such a gift, and be able to treasure it forever.

—MAXINE LEONARD, 11,
GRADE 6

What Makes a Good Parent

Being a good parent is a difficult task but very beneficial to your child or children. Ways to be a good parent are loving your child, making sure your child is making good choices, being protective of your child, and talking to your child when they need you. Parents are a role model to their child or children. That's why parents also need to make good choices, kids should be able to look up to their parents. A good parent should know how to deal with their child or children in almost any situation. The most important thing a good parent should do is love their child or children.

—AMANDA LI, 11,
GRADE 6