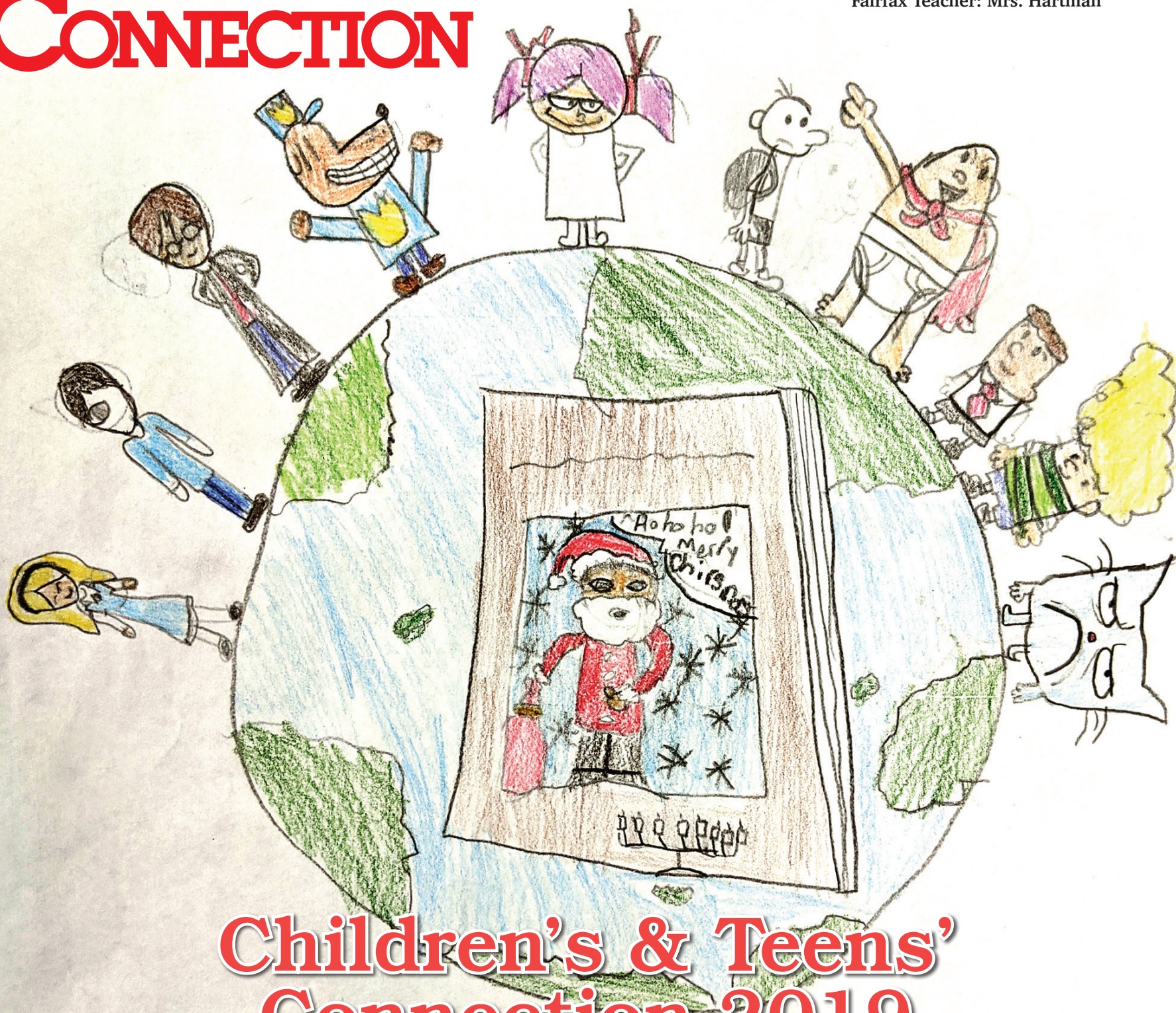


# Fairfax CONNECTION

Reading Takes You Everywhere!  
By Ainsley Lee, 9, Grade 3,  
Fairhill Elementary School,  
Fairfax Teacher: Mrs. Hartman



## Children's & Teens' Connection 2019



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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



By Juliana Esen, 11, Vienna, Grade 6, Fairhill Elementary



Anne Basilio, Grade 3, Mantua Elementary

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the 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](mailto: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 KURSPAHIC



My castle,  
by Emma Yuan, 6,  
Grade 1,  
Daniel's Run  
Elementary School



My Dream of Space, by Eva Huang, 8, of Vienna, Grade: 3,  
Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax, Teacher: Yanshun Sui



Catch, by Nora Li, 8, of Fairfax, Grade 3,  
Greenbriar West Elementary School



# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



**Joeun Park, Grade 5**



**Yueling "Lisa" Xu, Grade 3**

## MANTUA ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Artwork submitted by Nathalie Shirley, Mantua ES Art Specialist



**Talia Gomelsky, Kindergarten**



**Alannah Murphy, Grade 4**



**Knox Lake, Grade 1**



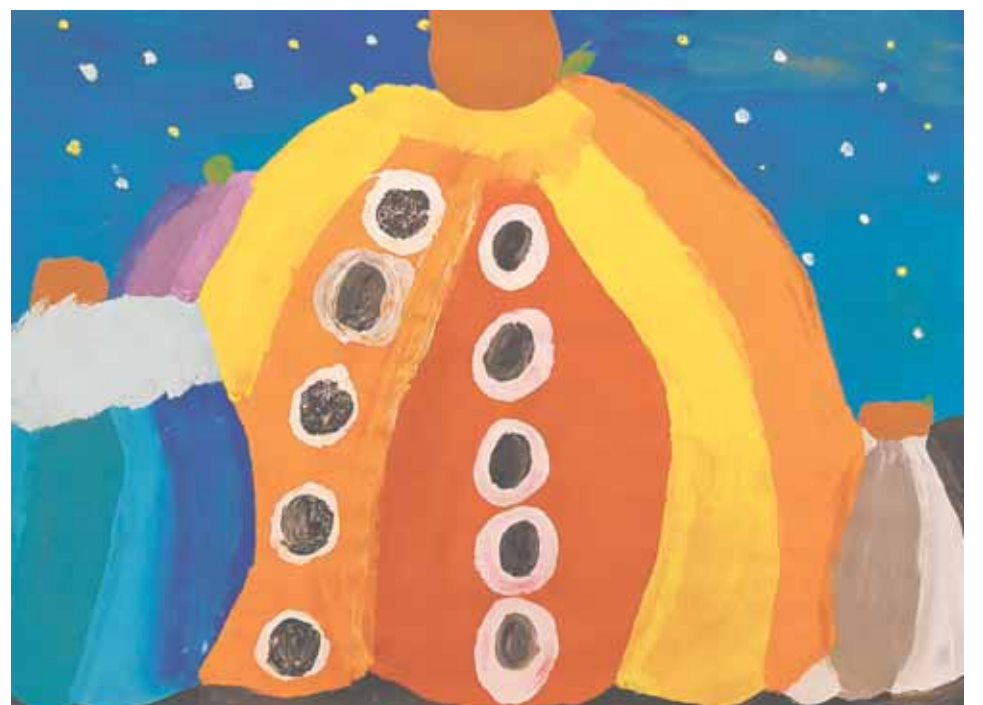
**Victoria Pham, Grade 6**



**Owen Breitbeil, Grade 1**



**Autumn Silverman, Grade 8**



**Genesee Chinn, Grade 5**



# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



By Heather Chen, Laurel Ridge Elementary

## LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY:

Fourth graders' writings.

Pitter pat, pitter pat,  
down comes the rain.  
Pitter pat, pitter pat,  
against the windowpane.  
Pitter pat, pitter pat,  
we're warm by the fire.  
Pitter pat, pitter pat,  
I sit there as I tire.

—SERENA ANMUTH, 9

## School Stress

If I had the power to change one thing about school, I would change the back-breaking, bone-crunching stress. Both my sisters are at Robinson Secondary School. In sixth grade, both my sisters were on top of it! Now it's like my sisters don't exist, buried in homework. But it's not their fault, it's the teachers. The teachers spring assignments and test reviews unreasonably, and they pretend to care about "time with your family." This is a problem not just for my sisters, but it happens to everyone. I love learning but I don't like how they force it into your brain and I don't like how they pretend to care. This needs to stop.

—HARLAN TAYLOR, 10

One thing that makes a good friend is being the person that when one of your friends is about to do something wrong, you tell them it's wrong. The reason why is because the job of a friend is not just to support, it's to keep your friend out of trouble.

—EVAN BARTOLETTI, 9

## "Evil Homework"

Slamming doors  
Stomping feet  
getting more and more  
grinding teeth  
Homework's due  
nothing to give  
Nervous as can be  
Teacher announces,  
"It's 50% of your grade"  
a nervous gasp  
We say, "Oh no!"

—KATIE DIPETRO, 10

I run around kicking the big ball  
see the defense, I dodge them all.

It is me against the last player,  
I hope and give a prayer  
kick the ball with all my might  
See the goalie full of fright  
The goalie dives  
but the ball thrives  
and I score a goal!

—BRYCE SCHAFFLING, 9

Soccer is awesome  
soccer is fun  
I play soccer all day long  
I play soccer through the day  
that is my average way  
I play soccer through the night  
It will be full of delight  
On my team I score a goal  
That is my soccer roll.  
It is awesome  
It is fun  
It is spectacular all day long.

—CALEB BURLEY, 10

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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



Nate D'Mello, 11, Grade 6



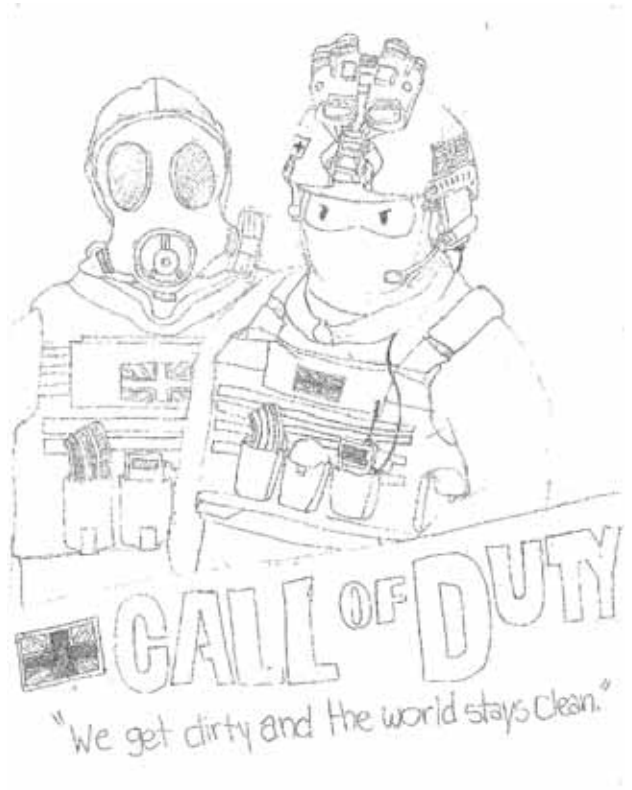
Hazel, by Eleanor Kim, 11, Grade 6



By Natalie Mejia-Ramos, 11, Grade 6



By Norah Easter, 8, Grade 3,  
Fairhill Elementary, Teacher: Ms. Hartman



By Vincent Deo, 12, Grade 6



Karuna Dongol,  
12, Grade 6

## FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Artwork submitted by Fairhill Elementary  
Advanced Academics Teacher Joan Swanson.



By Juliana Esen, 11,  
Vienna, Grade 6



## CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

### 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

#### What Makes A Good Friend

There are many ways to be a good friend. A good friend should be kind and aware of how the other person is feeling. Friends shouldn't make one another feel bad, but they should always tell the truth. They find you fun and interesting. They laugh with you, not at you. They comfort each other and keep them company. Even if they can't figure something out they try to help the other person. They cheer and applaud for you. They encourage you when you need it. They never forget about you. Most of all they always care about you.

—Elise Yang Ravenhill, 9,  
Grade 4,  
Fairhill Elementary School



## Special Connections Calendar 2020

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

JANUARY	
1/8/2020.....	Wellbeing
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1/22/2020.....	A+ Camps & Schools
1/29/2020 .....	Senior Living
FEBRUARY	
2/5/2020.....	Wellbeing
- National Children's Dental Health Month	
2/5/2020.....	Valentine's Dining & Gifts
2/12/2020.....	HomeLifeStyle
2/19/2020.....	A+ Camps & Schools
2/26/2020.....	Senior Living /
Connection Families - Pet Connection	

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# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



**Beautiful Sea World, Monica Xu, Kindergarten, Colin Powell Elementary, Fairfax.**

## Why Mistakes Are Important?

In life you will make mistakes, but don't worry, everybody does. Those mistakes are much more important than you think they are because those mistakes help you learn. If you never make mistakes, like my friend once told me a secret and i told someone and now we aren't as good friends as we used to be, and from that day on I have never done that again. That was important because it helped me learn, you don't learn as well as if you make mistakes. Mistakes help you succeed in life, in school, work, university, and even when you're working at home.

You should learn from your mistakes, be-

cause if you learn from them you don't repeat your mistakes, and you know what's right and what's wrong. If you see someone that does something better than you, don't worry about it. Everybody has their skills. For example, maybe you're better at math, reading, or drawing, anything you're good at. All that matters are you know everybody has something that they are good at - whatever it is. When you make a mistake don't take that as a bad thing. Take that as a normal part of life and a part of learning.

—LAYAL MAHMOUD, 9, GRADE 4, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

## Snow Day

I watch beautiful snow fall from the sky  
I watch each snowflake fly high, high, high  
I watch a snowflake fall onto my nose  
I look down at my body, snow covering my clothes  
I hear my Mother call me in for supper, I guess my time is up  
I bury myself under a pile of snow I just can't get enough

I feel my nose begin to freeze under that big snow pile  
I hear my mother offer me hot cocoa I can't help but smile  
I get up off of the cold snowy ground  
I grab my hot cocoa and sit down to lounge

I lounge, lounge, lounge  
—GABRIELA BASHIR-ELAHI, GRADE 4, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

## Humility

What the word humility means is that you don't think of yourself only but also think of others. Another explanation for the word humility is you put others' needs before yours. Another way to show humility is not to brag. Another word for humility is humble. People often use humility at Christmas time because you give kindness. Here

is one way to show humility: if you see someone that is homeless person give them something that they need like water and food. Think of your own way to be humble and do it. It will help the earth. HOORAY!

—RITI DESHPANDE, 8, GRADE 3, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

## I made it myself!

The sheer craftsmanship  
Attention to detail  
A complex blend  
Parsely, thyme, oregano  
A time consuming endeavor  
My first plate of spaghetti

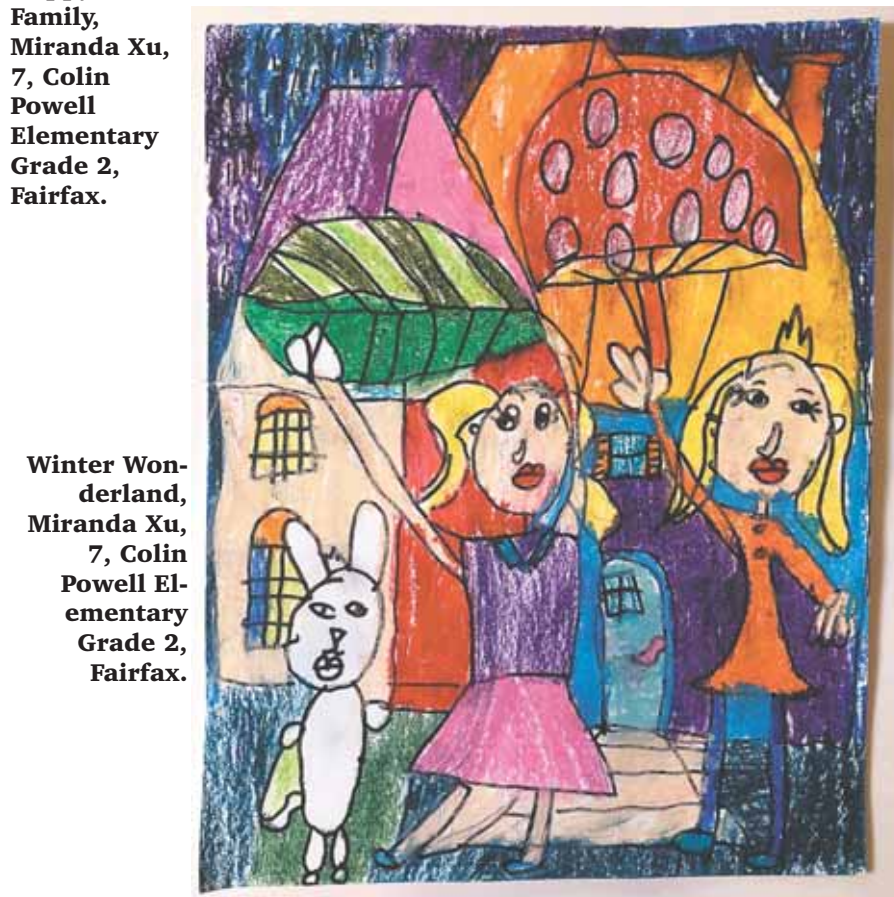
—JIMIN YIO, 15, FAIRFAX HIGH FRESHMAN, TEACHER: FELICIA HAMILTON



**Fireworks on Disney Dream Cruise, Miranda Xu, 7, Colin Powell Elementary Grade 2, Fairfax.**



**Happy Family, Miranda Xu, 7, Colin Powell Elementary Grade 2, Fairfax.**



**Winter Wonderland, Miranda Xu, 7, Colin Powell Elementary Grade 2, Fairfax.**



# CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

By Vaishnavi S Sariputi, 10, Fairhill Elementary, Grade 4



Save the Planet, by Reyhan Akca, 9, Grade 4, Fairhill Elementary, Teacher: Mr. Jones.



Ready for Christmas, by Eva Huang, 8, of Vienna, Grade: 3, Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax, Teacher: Yanshun Sui



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Artwork by Emma Yuan, 6, Grade 1, Daniel's Run Elementary School, Teacher: Ms. Forstall

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**Date:** Saturday, January 11, 2020  
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9:30 - 1:00 PM - Workshop

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## CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

### Close Your Eyes Collection of the Happiest Places to Be

Poetry from Mantua Elementary in Fairfax.

#### Bolivia

I on the basketball court.  
It's a hot summer morning.  
Kids and adults are playing sports and having fun  
all around me.  
Sweat and food fill the air.  
The touch of the basketball makes me want to play.  
Happy, excited, everyone is having so much fun.

—ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ, 10, GRADE 5

#### 520

mosaic  
in the Thai Ice-Cream shop called 520  
lamps turn on as the sun goes down slowly turn-  
ing into night  
a long line of people outside when I walk closer  
people screaming, talking, and laughing  
as I sit the smell of pizza, ice-cream, and barbecue  
in my nostrils  
couple minutes later  
I hold my cold cup full of ice-cream in my hands.

—ALISSA MORRIS, 11, GRADE 5

#### My Barn

I am in my barn  
The barn is warm and quiet.  
I can see my animals. The horses are sleeping in  
the stables.  
The lambs are lying in the hay bales.  
I can smell the hay,  
it is stacked neatly on the wall.  
I can feel the soft, wonderful wool on my hands  
from the dozing sheep.  
And it makes me smile.

—ALLEY MACDONALD, 10, GRADE 5

#### San Francisco

San Francisco is the best place by far  
the honks of many cars.  
Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge,  
the gas and smoke.  
the delicious seafood  
As you can see  
San Francisco put me in a good mood!

—AMELIA FRIAS

#### At Home

I am at home,  
I am playing computer games in late afternoon,  
I see the glowing screen,  
I smell an avocado sandwich on the table,  
I feel the springy click of my mouse as I tap on it,  
I have a feeling of anger because I keep on getting  
tagged,  
But I still like to play the game anyways

—ARAV TYAGI, 10, GRADE 5

#### Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico  
It's the middle of the day when the sun is up  
Colorful rainbow-colored buildings everywhere  
Popsicles on the side of the street  
The popsicle stick was hard, and the popsicle drips  
down on my hand  
It makes me get a brain freeze  
It felt like I was at the beach sitting in the sand  
and relaxing

—BO NONG, 10

#### A Mountain Sunset

I'm at the top of a tree covered mountain  
It's sunset  
Brightly colored flowers....  
I spot a wandering moose  
Soft floral scent of bluebells and oak trees  
The taste of lavender in the air  
I hear chirping birds as the leaves rustle beneath  
my feet  
I feel calm, serene, and peaceful

—AVERY CHANG, 10

#### Black Friday

At one or two a.m.  
People everywhere tackling each other  
Shopping carts rolling in different directions rac-  
ing to the front of the line

—BENJAMIN HIU, 10

#### King of the World

My house  
With no lights on  
It's very late  
Though I'm still up  
Watching TV  
Sneaking food in  
I smell the beans  
That I'm eating  
I feel nice  
Like I'm the king  
Of the world

—BRYAN MONTANO, 10

#### Home is Nice

Under my covers with my cat at my feet.  
In the middle of the day.  
My cat is turning, trying to find a comfortable po-  
sition.  
The panda scenery painted on the walls and a pil-  
low make me feel happy.  
The heater is on.  
Mom's cooking lunch.  
My sister's baking.  
Hummmm...my fluffy blanket and my warm cat.  
The alarm goes off for my sister's baking.  
My mom is calling my sister.  
I feel comfortable  
and happy  
and calm.

—CAROLINE EHLERS, 10



# Fairfax CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by**  
Local Media Connection LLC

**1606 King Street**  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>			

## 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 a simple as is 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.



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