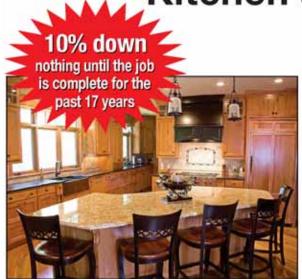




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CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



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

Why Mistakes Are Important?

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-

In life you will make mistakes, but don't 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

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

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

> -Riti Deshpande, 8, Grade 3, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

I made it myself!

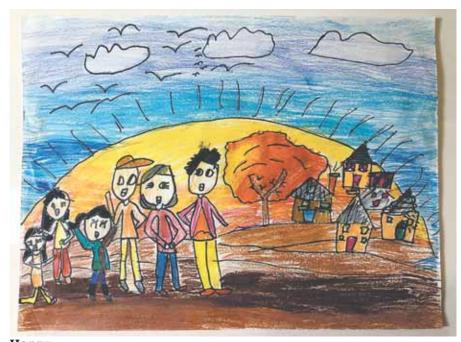
The sheer craftsmanship Attention to detail A complex blend Parsely, thyme, oregano A time consuming endeavor My first plate of spaghetti

and do it. It will help the earth. HOORAY!

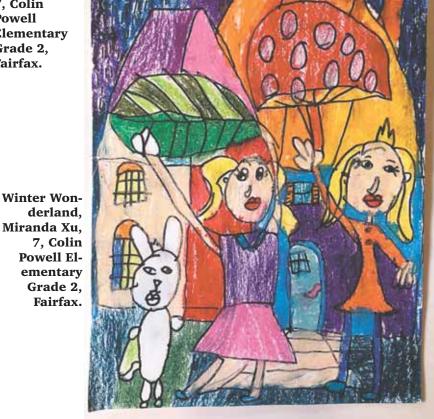




Fireworks on Disney Dream Cruise, Miranda Xu, 7, Colin Powell Elementary Grade 2, Fairfax.



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



CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

By Grace Madigan, 9, Grade 4, North Springfield **Elementary**



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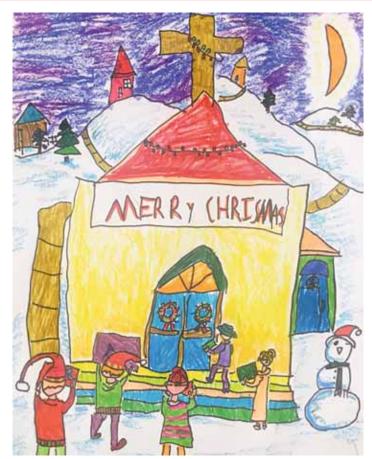


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The Christmas Church, by Yuenshing Ye, 10, Grade 4, Flint Hill Elementary School, Vienna, Art teacher: Katie Gong.

CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

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

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A long shutter speed and flashlight is used to create this memorizing light picture. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



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CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

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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 turning 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, II, 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 racing 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 position.

The panda scenery painted on the walls and a pillow 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

Springfield

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-Thomas Fuller

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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 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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-Werner Heisenberg





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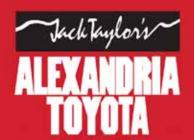
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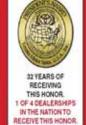
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