

Burke CONNECTION

Photo by Luke Teasley of Clifton, 11, sixth grade, Mrs. Gilbert's class at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke.

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Children's Connection 2012

DECEMBER 27, 2012 - JANUARY 2, 2013

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012



By Chamber Lucas, seventh grade, South County Middle School.



By Uriel Kim, sixth grade, Cherry Run Elementary School.

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Burke 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 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 2013 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's 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 e-mail, 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 KURSPAHC



By Betsey Gallier of Burke, 16, 11th grade, art student at Accotink Learning Center.



By Glynnis Farleigh of Springfield, 14, ninth grade, West Springfield High School.



My Front Door 2012, by Katherine Edmunds, Burke Centre Conservancy at Woods Community Centre, Carol Zeitlin's student.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Luke Morrison, fourth grade, Mary Ellen Zavaleta's class.



Sophie Lever, sixth grade, Mrs. Rodas' class.



Blake Rathigna, fourth grade, Ms. Rost's class.



Savannah Raeder, fourth grade, Ms. Rost's class.



Sarah Olson, third grade, Mrs. Rodas' class.



Preston Fu, kindergarten, Mrs. Rodas' class.

Thoughts From Mrs. Zavaleta's Fourth Grade Class

Gifts Given

"...I gave my mom a paper heart."
—BAILEY GORSKI

"...I helped my mom clean the dog's mess on the kitchen floor."
—KYLE RICHARDS

"...I gave my sister a pig! She collects pigs. She was born on the year of the boar."
—KATIE WHEELER

"...I call my sister every day because she's at college."
—LILY METRESS

"...Taking my dog Woodsy out."
—ALEX MALDONADO

"...I gave my brother a toy superman truck. I got the toy from the prize box. I also got a Power Rangers speeder bike for him. He liked that one too. I got them from the 100 minute Club. I was happy that he was happy."

—NATE LAPLACE

"It was a normal day until my mom saw a bunch of ants!! She asked me to smash them all so I did. A lot of ants escaped but I smashed a lot!"

—DEAN GIATIS

Things That Make Me Thankful

"Sometimes during school I raise my

CONTINUED, PAGE 5

Zavaleta

FROM PAGE 4

hand. Sometimes I wait so long to say something I really want to say and then sometimes I don't even get to say it.

That's why I'm thankful when the teacher calls on me.

—SKYLAR BIBBEE

I am thankful for doughnut balls at Mike's.

—ALEX MALDONADO

"...stuffed animals, Lego figures, crisp ice cream sandwiches, Saturday mornings with some eggs, and Harry Potter, Goblet of Fire, Chapter 30."

—JONATHAN RYAN

"I am thankful for breaking my arm because I didn't have to go to my sister's pool party but I still got cake.

—NICOLE THOMAS

"My first day of soccer practice my coach said I did a very good job and I felt proud of myself.

—DEAN GIATIS

Response to Student Artwork Portraying Historic Life of Cherokee Indians

- ❖ A bald eagle soaring through the sky
- ❖ The Trail of Tears, a very sad tale
- ❖ The trees all around them
- ❖ Men fishing with spears and nets
- ❖ Hunting deer in the great forest
- ❖ A finished house

—JONATHAN RYAN

NEWS INTERNS

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

Kings Park Elementary School

Ms. Tanya Siwik's class wrote holiday letters to veterans.



Zachary Ginesberg, third grade.



Lynn Lam, third grade.



James Lee, third grade.



Priscilla Augment, third grade.



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

West Springfield High School

Dr. Jennifer Beach, Ph.D. and English Department chairperson, submitted art from West Springfield High School students.

Photo Essay: My Dog Pepper

My labradoodle loves to put her cold nose on my exposed hand or foot first thing in the morning as if to say "Get up! Your dog requires your attention! Get up!" She puts her butt high in the air with her front paws stretched way out in front and wags her tail when inviting you to play. Pepper loves to chase all things that scurry into HER backyard . . . squirrels, birds, chipmunks and the occasional cat or fox. She LOVES to play in leaf piles and flops down in them with glee . . . occasionally hiding a very important stick. She turns into a ball of fluff, lying on her back, bent like a pretzel, when she thinks you rubbing her belly is a great idea. You can almost hear her say, "Rub my belly. You know you want to." And I do.



My Dog Pepper, by Teresa Steenman of Springfield, 15, ninth grade, Ms. Martin's class.



By Glynnis Farleigh of Springfield, 14, ninth grade, Ms. Goodman's class.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012

West Springfield Elementary School

Art submissions from Allison Whitbourne's students.



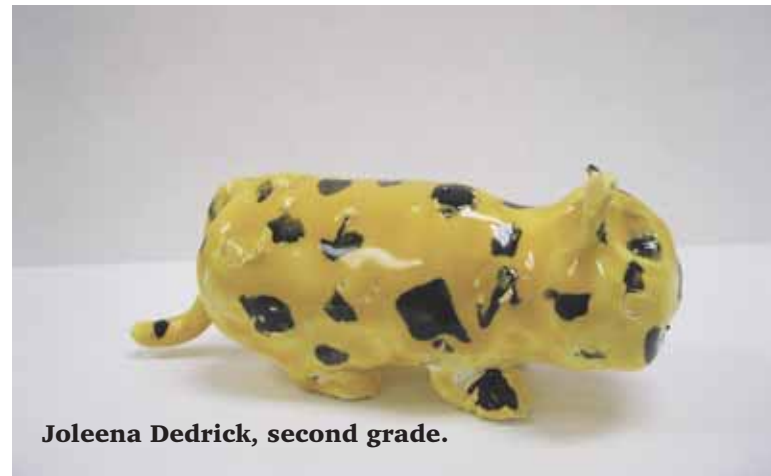
Sydney Lowe, kindergarten.



Elijah Kemeny, sixth grade.



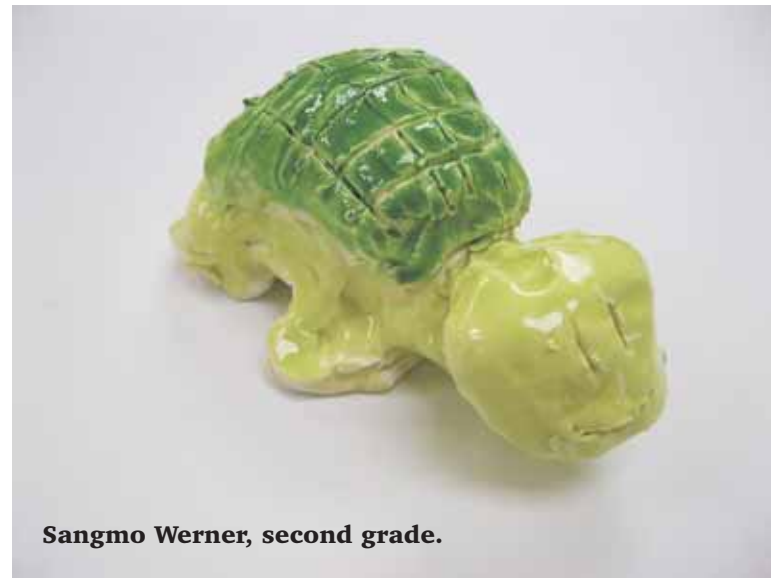
Dylan Janas, third grade.



Joleena Dedrick, second grade.



Brian Higgison, fifth grade.



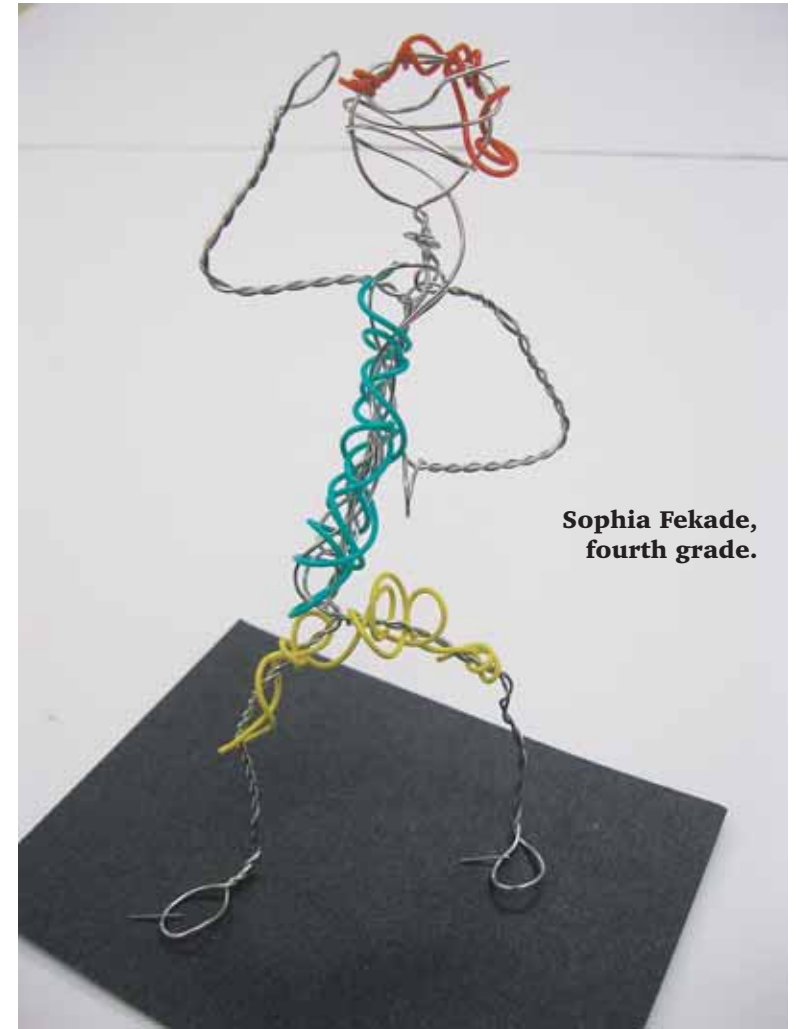
Sangmo Werner, second grade.



Max Gage, fifth grade.



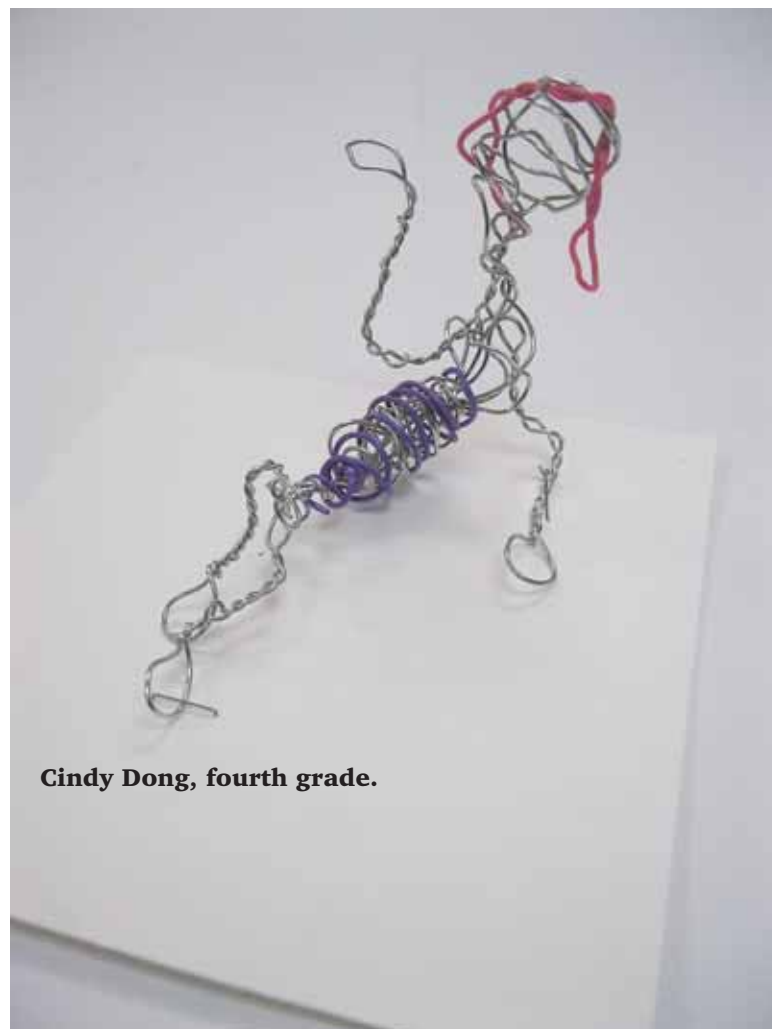
Matt Jones, sixth grade.



Sophia Fekade, fourth grade.



Grace Wevley, first grade.



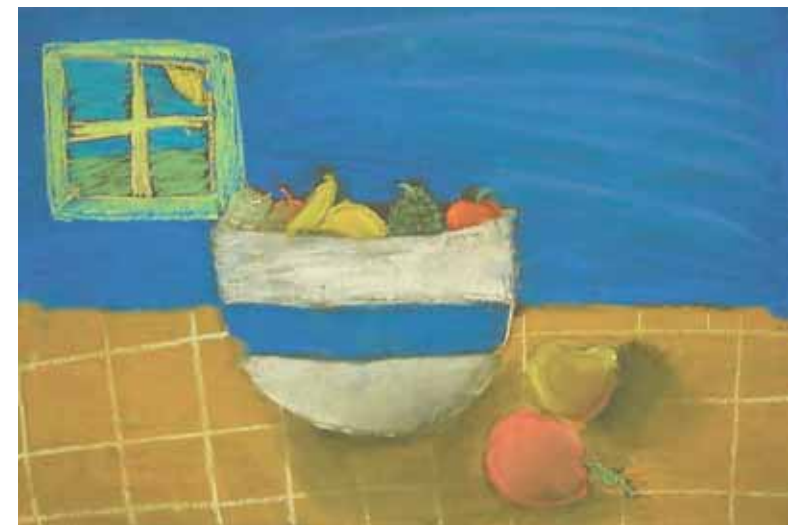
Cindy Dong, fourth grade.



Cara Hilburn, third grade.



Natalia Dignan, second grade.



Brennan Heitmann, sixth grade.

Poems From Robinson Middle School Students

Count Your Blessings

BY JANA CONSIDINE OF BURKE,
SEVENTH GRADE, 13

Even now, we are lucky,
we are lucky to have food—
or fresh water
Lucky to have the sun in the sky
or be living on this Earth
or have a home
There are many things we have
that others don't have
Many things we could cry about
That we are lucky to not be a part of
"We could have been killed if we had
gone there,"

"If we had stayed we would have died!"
You cry for deaths of those close to you
but every minute there is another
reason to cry

Another person is dying—there is a
murder happening right as you read this.
There are people being abused, and
those with no will to live each day
There are many people living content—
with no knowledge of technology
with much less than we have now
Some are living with knowledge of us
in tyrannical Nations
who don't get all that we have, and
every day is hard

Yet even if we have everything
we still have no problems in crying and
begging for more

We are foolish and selfish and greedy
because we already have so much
Remember this next time your family
didn't get you what you wanted for
Christmas, or your birthday.

At least your family celebrates your
birthday

So count your blessings
even if you don't get what you want,
remember what you have
There are many who would give
anything to switch places with you
Count your blessings

Blushing

BY AUDREY MYERS OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE, 13

Sweeping across your cheeks,

Your nose, your face
Rosy red
Eyes wide
Palms sweating,
When you can't say a mutter
Your mouth is clenched tight,
Your stomach is doing flips
You want to run and hide,
All you do is squeeze your eyes shut
Cheeks are heating up,
Laughter fills your ears

Winter Traditions

BY AUDREY MYERS OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE, 13

Wrapping a scarf around my neck,
Racing to the car with my sisters
Turning on the radio,
Hearing winter tunes
Humming along
Holding mugs of hot chocolate
Shopping at the mall,
Seeing winter coats,
Boots and gloves sitting on shelves.
Christmas morning
Waking up early,
Old robe thrown on
I scatter on the carpet, my sisters side
by side
My mom, dad, brother sitting on the
couch,
Watching, smiles on their faces
Ripping open presents
Gasps, eyes widen
Snapping pictures
Late night, hot fire
Sweet Pannetone
Lights blink
Snow falls

Winter Night

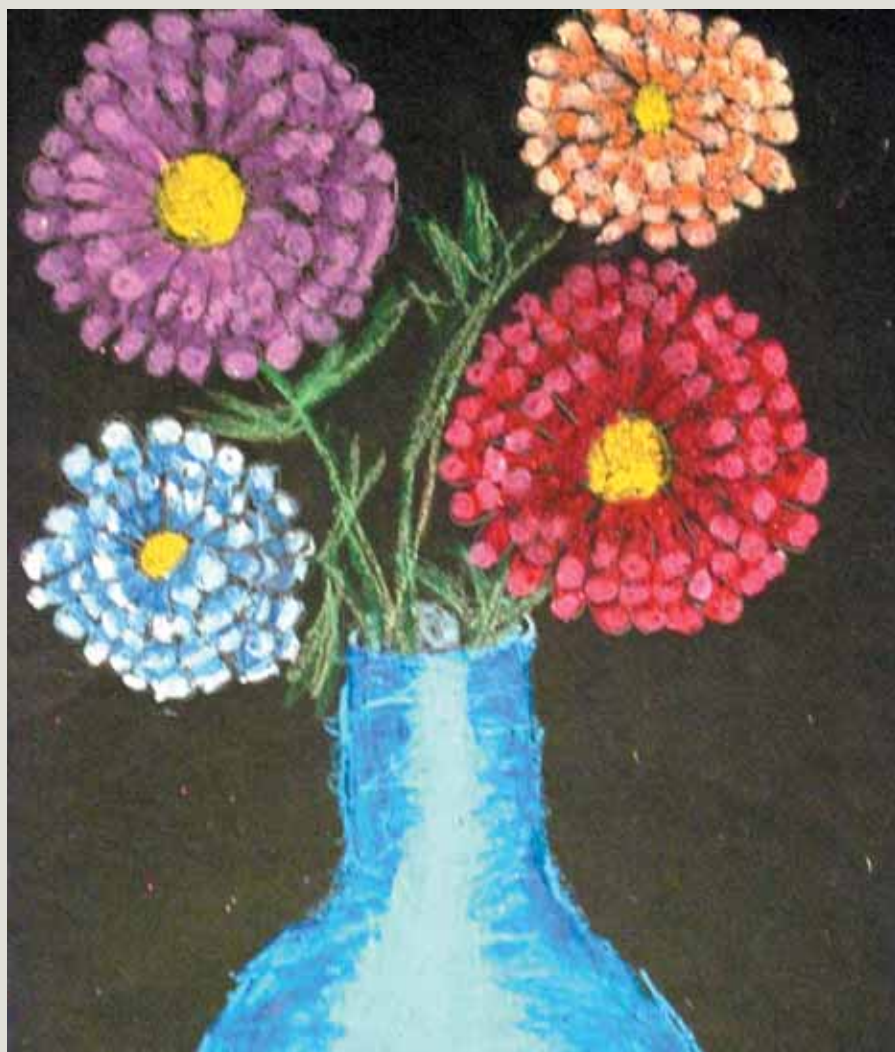
BY RACHEL MCGIRL OF FAIRFAX,
SEVENTH GRADE, 12

I watch the moon's reflection on the
snow,
Shimmering like water.
The snow falls from the clouds,
Weightless, like feathers.
Drifting down, placing itself softly
Upon countless snowmen and snow
forts,

Shrouding
the once clear
sidewalks,
The once
clear drive-
ways and
sidewalks.

Encasing the
earth in a
majestic white
blanket,
Waiting for
all to awake
and see,
The beauty
within.

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Allison Lloyd of Burke, oil pastel, fourth grade, Fairview Elementary School.

I hit the water like a brick.

The Diving Board

BY JACK LETZKUS OF BURKE,
SEVENTH GRADE, 13

I look at the water, as the red hot sun
shone
I look at the water, shivering down to
the bone
I just don't know if I should dare to try
It's about time I'd probably start to cry.

I mean, the board I'm on, is just so high
If I do a belly flop, I will definitely die
I step back to the beginning of the
panel
As I look at the pool, the people and my
suit made of flannel

And then I start to run, up to the edge.
And I jump in the air like I'd jump over
a ledge

My heart rapidly races as I am in mid-
air
As the wind blows through my short
brown hair.
At this point I don't care
The chances I don't die are very scarce
And right as I'm about to get sick...
BAM!!

Them

BY EMILY BOLAND OF BURKE,
SEVENTH GRADE, 12

Everyone knows those type of people,
The people you pass in the hallway and
act like you don't exist,
The people that act like they're soooo
much better than you.

They're kind of intimidating, everyone's
scared of them.

They seem polite sometimes, but if you
are one of the few who is brave enough to
look them in the eye, you see the disgust
reverberating through their minds
As if you are worthless,

As if you have as much value as a
wilting flower growing through the cracks
in the concrete and they are the mighty
bee, taking your nectar, pollen, fruit of
labor.

But what they don't know is that they
are really helping you, because as they
walk away with nothing more than
another enemy, they leave you stronger,
because you only take in that which
makes you stronger.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

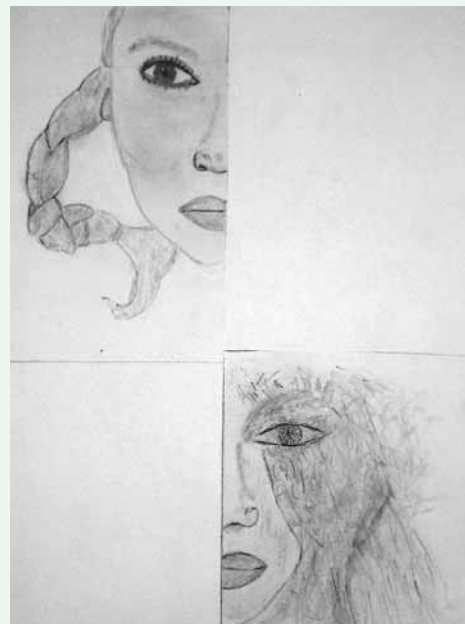
One February Night

BY ANDREA SOLOMON OF BURKE,
EIGHTH GRADE, 13

One February night
I'll never forget
The sight of your blue eyes smiling into mine
One February night
I'll never forget
How happy I was sitting there with you
One February night
I'll never forget
You strumming your guitar
As you did my heart strings
And that one February night
I'll never forget
How I fell in love.



**My Door 2012, by Amanda Bohn,
Burke Centre Conservancy at
Woods Community Centre.**



**Different Personalities, by Camilo
Clark, Burke Centre Conservancy at
Woods Community Centre.**



**Primary House, by Kaley Newlon,
Burke Centre Conservancy at
Woods Community Centre.**

Life or Death

BY EMILY BOLAND OF BURKE,
SEVENTH GRADE, 12

My mind is reeling, my heart is beating,
I know that my time is quickly fleeting.
There are no excuses that I can make,
This moment is truly make or break.
The pressure is pushing in all around
me,
It's engulfing me, swallowing me, has
completely surrounded me.
My thoughts are swirling through my
head,
I can't believe this might be the end.

I take a deep breath and plow right
through,
I race, I pull, do all I can do.
But alas my best is not good enough,
I've finished last and I don't have the
stuff.
I feel my future float away,
Scholarships, Olympics all gone today.
But I take a step back and take a deep
breath,

One bad swim is not life or death.

Tomorrow

BY EMILY BOLAND OF BURKE, SEV-
ENTH GRADE, 12

Please take me to tomorrow,
I'd love to see the land,
Where hopes and dreams not only come
true but walk hand in hand.
Oh how I long to see tomorrow,

This cheery hopeful place,
That countless songs have taught me of
the glory it has encased.
But tomorrow is unattainable,
No matter what Annie says,
A day away is never here, just dangling
above our heads.
So yes, there is always tomorrow,
And yes, it's a day away,
But why don't you take that faith you
put in tomorrow and put it into today?

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2012



Anna Kate Halligan of Burke, 7, second grade, Mrs. Hayes' class at Fairview Elementary School in Fairfax Station.



Vivian Stewart of Burke, 9, fourth grade, Mrs. Capriotti's class at Laurel Ridge Elementary School.

Peace

TARA GRIFFITTS OF BURKE, 11, SIXTH GRADE, MRS. GILBERT'S CLASS AT WHITE OAKS ELEMENTARY

Peace is coming together
When I see the ants working together,
That is peace to me,
For coming together to make something better,

is perfect harmony.
Many together makes one that is great.
It's very clear to see.
If you look hard,
You'll see peace everywhere
No matter where you are,
There is peace in the air.
Peace is like when each helps the other
Reaching out to help your brother
Even when there is nothing in return,
you hear him say thank you,
That's what you've earned.
When peace comes,

You know that it ends,
All of your troubles,
A new life begins.
"Meow" says the cat,
"Bow wow" barks the dog,
You are even are happy,
To feel the frog.
Peace is nature's gift to us,
Feeling the wind without a fuss
Happily hearing the hard working bees,
Seeing the wind blow in the trees.
Peace is every single good thing,
If you look at your memories,
You'll see what I mean,
Still one thing you must remember,
You have to recall
Even when times are tough
Peace is the best thing of all.

What is Your Favorite Season?

RONAN CASEY, SIXTH GRADE, MS. ELLIOTT'S CLASS AT WHITE OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sleep, Dream
Sleep, Dream,
Sleep, Dream,
Wake up.

I get off my bed
and see,

that Jack Frost has left a surprise for me.

I look out the window, the world covered with snow,
and the sun creeps upon it and gives it a glow.

So I got dressed, went outside so that I could play.

And I knew I was going to have fun today.

I made snowmen and snow angels.

Oh, what fun!

And I came inside when playing was done.

Later that night, in bed after we played,

I said to myself,

"I'm glad winter can stay!"



Eduardo Rodas Medina of Burke, colored pencil drawing, fourth grade, Fairview Elementary School in Fairfax Station.

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Alley, suite 110, Fairfax, VA
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ment is applying to the
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL (ABC) for a wine
and beer, on and off premises,
mixed beverage on premise
license to sell or manufacture
alcoholic beverages. J.
Michael Babin, Member
manager Neighborhood
Restaurant Group XVI.

NOTE: Objections to the issu-
ance of this license must be
submitted to ABC no later than
30 days from the publishing
date of the first of two required
newspaper legal notices. Ob-
jections should be registered
at www.abc.virginia.gov or call
800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE
TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank
system at:

Burke Facility # 24624
10480 Lee Highway
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring
Burke Petroleum Realty, LLC to develop a Corrective Action
Plan to address cleanup of Liquid Phase Hydrocarbon at the
Site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please
contact:

Kleinfelder
1340 Charwood Road, Suite 1
Hanover, Maryland 21076
(410) 850-0404

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern
Regional Office of the DEQ on December 21, 2012. If you
would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action
Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Kurt
Kochan at (703) 583-3825 after the date of the Corrective Action
Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will
consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective
Action Plan until January 21, 2013 and may decide to hold a
public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written
comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed be-
low. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference
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Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
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-Winston Churchill

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Marintchev, Managing
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