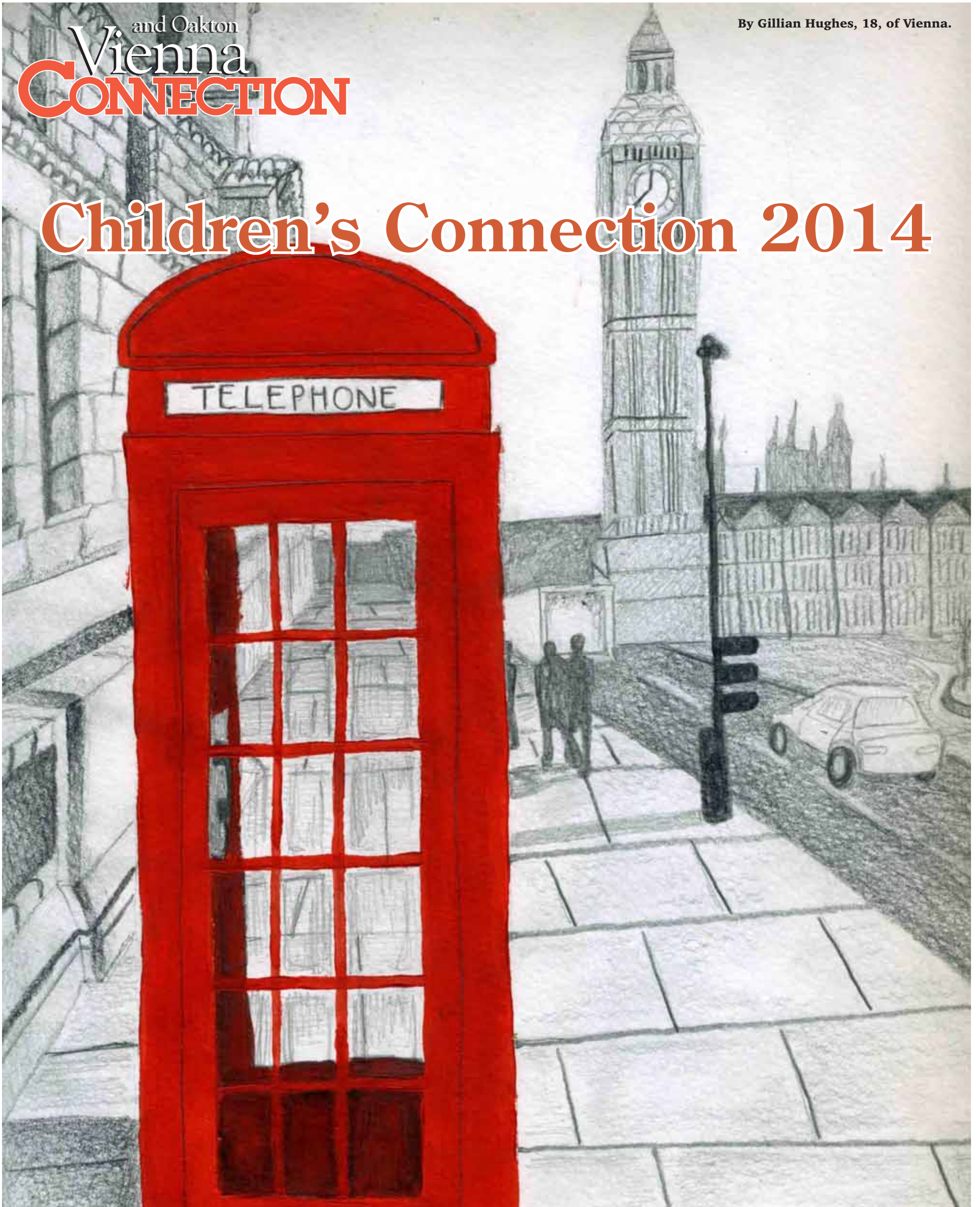


Children's Connection 2014



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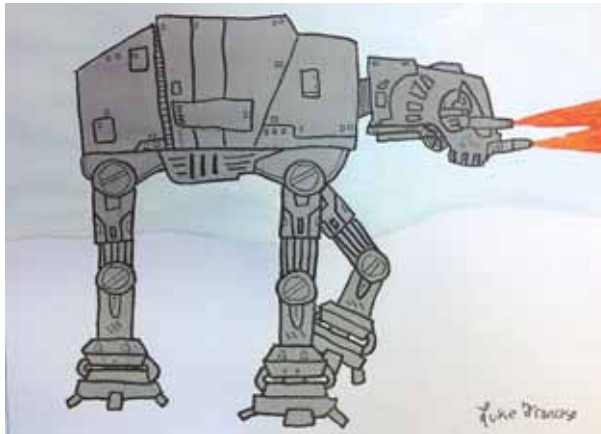
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By Luke, grade 7, Our Lady of Good Counsel.



By Trudy, grade 8, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC
703-778-9414 OR VIENNA@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



By Madison Knapp, grade 8, Thoreau Middle School.



By Dave, grade 3, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

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 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 2015 calendars for early December, the deadline for sub-

missions 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 school pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to north@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 Madeline Doherty, grade 3, Vienna Elementary.



By Allie Reback, 8, Wolftrap Elementary.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

By Abigail Paredes, 12, of Great Falls.



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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Isabelle Bellegarde, grade 7, Thoreau Middle School.



By Jayde Thomas, grade 7, Thoreau Middle School.



By Thomas McIntyre, grade 8, Thoreau Middle School.



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

A Fearful Polar Bear

BY LUKE CAPLAN
GRADE 5, LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY

Wandering through the icy snow,
I've lost my cubs, I don't know where to go.
The wind is howling to and for,
I'm wandering through the icy snow.
A snowflake lands upon my nose,
It flies away when a strong wind blows.
I would follow that snowflake wherever it goes,
When the snowflake lands upon my nose.
I stumble on, towards the sun,
The wind strikes me like a deadly stun.
I'll tell you that it isn't fun,
When I stumble on, towards the sun.
I see my cubs playing happily
At the base of a frozen tree.
The ice and cold don't scare me,
As I watch my cubs playing happily.

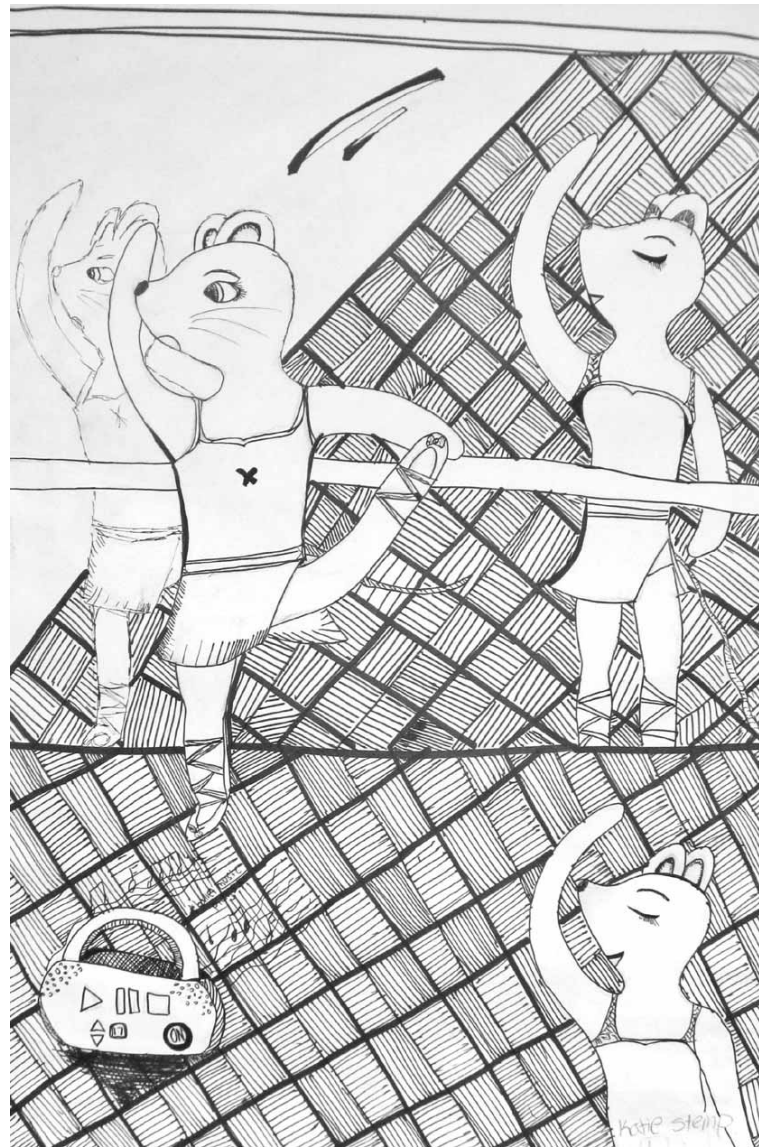
When I Grow Up

I really want to be the World's best soccer player. These are some reasons why. First, if you are really good, the club owner will pay you a lot of money.

Second, my league (Great Falls soccer)

is probably the worst in the All Stars group. So if I train harder, that hard training might help me be the best.

— YOUNGMIN HONG, GRADE 4,
CHURCHILL ROAD ELEMENTARY



By Katie Stemp,
grade 7,
Thoreau
Middle
School.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Jordan Forrester, grade 6, Cunningham Park Elementary.



By Alec Thompson, grade 1, Cunningham Park Elementary.



By Percy Park, grade 4, Cunningham Park Elementary.



By Geneva, grade 3, Cunningham Park Elementary.



By Bridget Frank, grade 2, Flint Hill Elementary School.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Emilia Kim, grade 3, Colvin Run Elementary.



By Taylor Adeli, kindergarten, Colvin Run Elementary.



By William Gotts, grade 3, Colvin Run Elementary.



By Amanda Mullins, grade 5, Colvin Run Elementary.

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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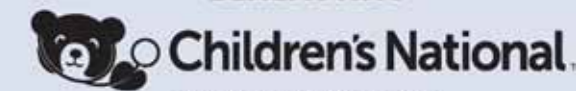
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Alexia Russo,
grade 6, Colvin
Run Elementary.



By Tyler Abele, grade 4, Colvin Run Elementary.

By Elsa Billingslea,
of Great Falls,
grade 5, Colvin
Run Elementary.



By Theresa Ryan, grade 4, Colvin Run Elementary.



By Michael Yao, grade 3, Colvin Run Elementary.



By Lily Cohen, kindergarten, Colvin Run Elementary.

USB

By SEONGJUN LEE,
GRADE 5, COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY

Thumbnail, thumbdrive, flash drive,
hardware,
I keep my memories in you
When I need I take it out from you
Shhh...This is top secret,
Many names you have.
Where is it?
It's in here.
Where did I put?
It's in me.
Give me the File.
Just pick me up.
I'll keep it safe.

Storm

By ALEXANDRA RADT,
GRADE 4, COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY

The storm came down from the mountains old,
through the forest it roared and rolled;
the tree trunks groaned,
the forest moaned,
trees fell down upon the mold.
The storm went on from west to east,
all movement in the forest ceased;
but the storm went on across the marsh,
and its shrill voice was released.
The reeds hissed, their tassels bent,
the grasses rattled, on it went;
from north to south and east to west,
disaster struck wherever it went.
The storm blew on from west to east,
then it blew off the Earth
and finally ceased.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Isabella Zhang, grade 1, Colvin Run Elementary.

Sights

BY EMILIE KIM
GRADE 5, CHURCHILL
ROAD ELEMENTARY

It was a winter night, bone-chilly and the ground was covered with milky white snow. A wavy, steep slope awaits the people who were going to go sledding or skiing the next day. At ten o'clock p.m, any five year old kid would be fast asleep, but not me. I was going to go animal watching with my father. My stomach was filled with butterflies and they seemed to kick my stomach very harshly. My heart was thudding with an unusually fast pace. As I was wide awake, I waited as my father was coming in my room. We were going to go animal watching.

As my father and I stepped out into the moonlight, the grass crunched and made beautiful, ruffling sounds. I stared at the moon for a few seconds. Enchanted by its radiant light, I stepped forward. The moon was magnificent and mysterious to me as I moved closer and closer. The stars seemed to dance around me as I glanced away from the moon. My misery had suddenly vanished. It

was replaced with hope. I think it is from the amazing moon and stars. Then, I remembered why I was outside with my father. As a frightening cloud had stolen my moon, I sprinted across my yard and I leaped into my father's awaiting arms after a quick glance at the shining moon and stars.

I grasped my dad's navy blue shirt and I ran to our small, but pretty, stone pond. I gasped as I saw that the moon was on the pond.

My father said reassuringly, "It is just the moon's reflection on the pond. The water acts like a mirror."

I understood, and I went toward the pond. I was silent as a shadow as I scurried across the lawn. Then, a gust of wind blew me off course, and it took away my courage as it flew past me. I ran with all my might to my father.

He asked, "Are you okay?"

I nodded silently and we continued our sightseeing for animals.

My father and I were filled with joy as we saw some animals as we walked away from our quiet house. There were raccoons and squirrels along our sight. I heard a low hoot and I knew that we were not alone in the darkness that gave me goosebumps. As we

walked for miles it seemed, I dug my heels into the soft, amber-brown mud and my father was concerned. We were about to enter the woods.

The woods is a terrible nightmare, and darkness surrounds you in that creepy place. I froze and I whispered that I would never go in that place. My father noticed that and he said that we weren't going into the woods. As my father was checking the time, I tumbled down a hill and I was terrified. I shut my big golden brown eyes, and as soon as I landed, my eyes slowly blinked and then I opened my eyes out of curiosity. I stared at the place I had landed on. My father had followed me and started scolding me. I shushed him and we both stared at the place I had fallen. It was beautiful with a snow covered slope that was filled with trees that were the color of an emeralds. The part I liked best was that there were so many animals in my sight.

That was the most amazing thing that has happened to me. I enjoy being around animals and even when I was really young I loved to pet and see many different animals.

The Storm

BY CATE POLIQUIN,
SPRING HILL
ELEMENTARY

In 2008 there was a huge snowstorm in McLean. The snow measured up to be as high as 2 ft. tall. Playing in the snow the next morning was super fun but, staying up through the night turned out to be super scary for my family. My family was having a nice time watching the snowfall, and listening to Christmas music. The fire was so warm, but we used up a lot of wood. I watched as the piles of snow grow bigger and bigger. Soon my dad became worried. We had used up most of our wood! Then one of the worst things happened, the power went out. My dad soon became super worried, because all we had to eat was cereal and cold food.

As time passed by, the house became colder and colder. Then my parents hopes came true, the power came back on! The next morning my sister and I played in the snow all day. Now my family knows to be prepared for a snowstorm.



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Stars

The stars smile down at me
They rock me to sleep
At night they wake me up
They go back to sleep at daybreak
They have bright, sparkly eyes
I love the stars,
They love me back
— CATHERINE KIM, GRADE 4

Winter

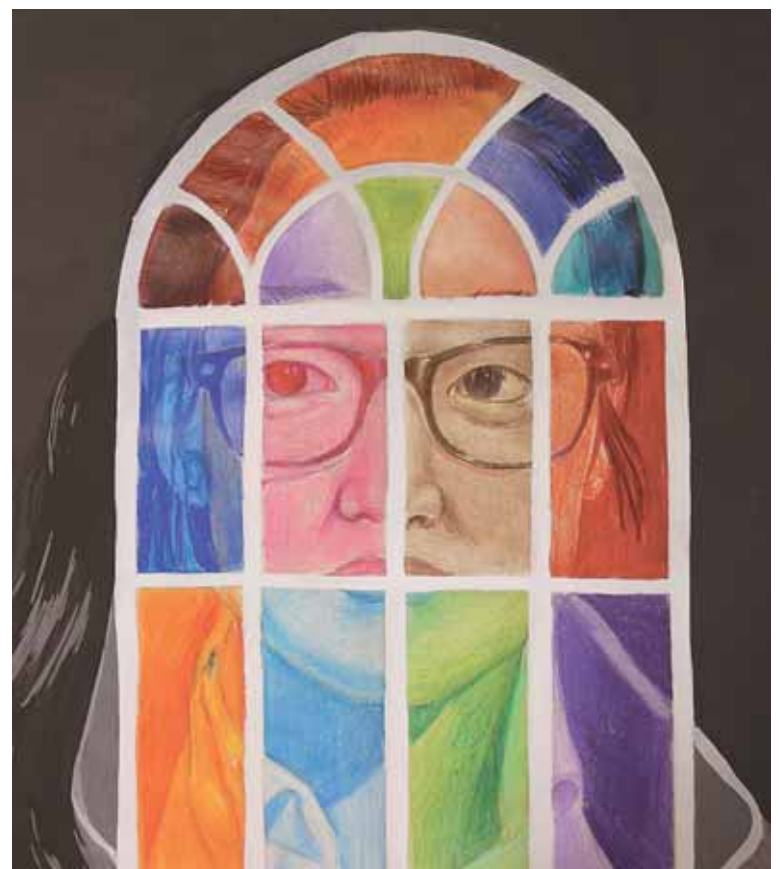
Winter comes, pushing fall away
It breathes its icy cold breath
Chilling my spine
Crying, rain turns to snow
It sleeps with a blanket of white
As it comes, it freezes the land
The world feels blank
There is nothing in sight
Winter takes over day and night
The cold winter
— ALEXANDER HEARN, GRADE 4

Grandmother

Her gray dry hands holding mine
Resting so quietly on a blue quilt
After dinner she turned and whispered
Not all bruises hurt
Divine in the day all dressed up
So many years ago
Older now but laughing
The cancer did not get her
How come she feels so tired
Every minute counts
Remember
— MICHAEL PANDULA, GRADE 6

The Sea

The wind blows through my way
hair here and there I listen
to the sounds of the Earth
I jump happily through the wicked sand
Tumbling to my feet and tasting the air
Seeing the sea and sun
gleaming bright like shining starts
fish swimming by
beauty strikes everywhere
but my happiness beats it all
with my moonlight fun
— CHRISTINA BURAVTSOVA, GRADE 7



By Ejun Kim, grade 8, Westminster School.

A Moment Along the Way

The sun shone a spotlight, for this was the day
When I took a moment along the endless way
— ROSY SULTANA, GRADE 8

Trudging along an endless and unknown path
Eyes cast towards the concrete ground
Mind filled with idle and unimportant chores
Never once looking up and glancing around
Suddenly, I halted to sweet sounds of wind chimes
I looked up and glimpsed at streaks of rainbow birds flying by
I stood in surprised awe of the emerald land
A land of wonders and magic in every bend
I took a moment to stop along the dull way
Breathing in sweet fragrance of alluring flowers
Mesmerized by the trees as they gently sway
Stumbling upon a world of filtering light
Tranquil lullabies sang the soft chorus of a breeze
Exquisite decoration of floral and leaves

A Bike Ride

Needles spin around a metal center
Black rubber covers the spokes
My feet rest on the pedals
As I steer towards the distant dunes
Wisps of smoke fade around me
And the skyscrapers disappear
The shore finally in view
As the concrete slips beneath me
I reach the sandy knolls
And swiftly hop off my bike
A spray of sea salt mists my face
As the azure tide froths at the shore
The air slowly becomes grey and hazy
Shrouding the streaks of early sun
Heavy clouds begin to trudge in
And tiny droplets of rain tap me
I rush out of the tumbling sea
And am loath to get on my wet bike
To return to the grey buildings
That will never satisfy me
— EJUN KIM, GRADE 8

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Hunter Moss, grade 6, Vienna Elementary.



By Laura Balle, grade 1, Vienna Elementary.



By Arden Lee, grade 6, Vienna Elementary.

Doing What You Love

Something that I would adore doing as an occupation is to be an author. I would like to be an author because I love to read and I am frequently anxious to pour out my imagination onto a piece of paper. The single piece of paper becomes two, and soon enough I have a story before my eyes. What I think a lot of people do when they are choosing a job is to see how much money they would get for it.

But the most important thing about a job is if you love doing it all the time.

— AIDAN DICONTI, GRADE 5, VIENNA ELEMENTARY

Love

The best gift I have ever given someone is love and hope. Hope gives people inspiration

and determination to do better things and to keep going. Love helps people when they're down or when they've suffered from a loss.

They're both important because what would happen if we didn't have them? Everyone would hate each other. All in all love helps the world and makes it a better place.

— CIARAN SULLIVAN, GRADE 5, VIENNA ELEMENTARY

The Best Gift

Last Mother's Day, I gave my mom a book of quotes that I wrote entitled "Waiting for Thunder." I filled it with quotes that I had either heard, or conjured up myself. My favorite quote of mine was "Be the is, not the was." I think I have probably given gifts that are better, but this was really special to me, and my mom. On the afternoon of Mother's Day, I presented the printed and final copy to my mom. While reading it, right then and there, Shani Horne was

brought to tears.

— KAI MCCLOSKEY, GRADE 5, VIENNA ELEMENTARY

The Best Present

The best present I have ever given someone was a puzzle I made out of pictures I drew. I carefully drew blue birds at the top of the page facing in two different directions.

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I drew a picture of a creek next to it that held family memories deep in the roots of the trees that grew over into the creek so that the memories flooded out.

— ASHLEY SCHRODER, GRADE 5, VIENNA ELEMENTARY

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Level Best



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If I wanted to rationalize the benefit of delaying my heretofore every-three-week chemotherapy infusion from three weeks to four and now on to five, possibly six – and that's dependent on improved results from a second/maybe even third retest upcoming (this retest a bit more involved than drawing blood) – I would say it's only fitting that I should have a break/brake; after all, it is the holiday season when all good things; yada, yada, yada. If only it were that simple.

But simple is the last thing that a cancer patient's life can be characterized as being; whether they have been "prognosed" as "terminal" as I was, or are at the beginning (diagnosis), middle (under treatment and surviving under circumstances too numerous and varied to list) or end of their cancer-affected life. And so for me to expect smooth sailing at any time during this process is totally and entirely unreasonable – and mostly, I haven't. I'm just lucky to be in a boat with a few provisions still left in it. Ergo, this column is not a complaint, just an update, as the previous few columns had sort of led you regular readers on a bit of a walk in my shoes, although one likely without the neuropathy nearly six years of non-stop chemotherapy can exact. Still, I am mostly upright, up and about and able to handle any and all activities, especially those relating to daily living. However, right now I worry that after two consecutive three-week-interval, pre-chemotherapy lab results specifically measuring my creatinine levels (which reflects kidney function), and a second retest as well, all indicated too high/abnormal (a first-time occurrence), thereby preventing my regularly scheduled Alimta infusions – twice – if I have indeed crossed the Rubicon, so to speak. Obviously, it serves no particular purpose for me to invoke history, especially history with which I have very little familiarity. However, if some of what I've read concerning this historical event is true – the event's significance notwithstanding, it has partially led to the creation-and-then-acceptance of a word's/phrase's figurative meaning – then I sure hope my die has not been cast.

But who knows, really? And even though this cancer stuff is all very personal – and my circumstances are unique to me as a cancer patient – I try not to take it personally, if that makes any sense? Somehow, I try to minimize the negative effect of any of it, mentally, that is. As concerns me and my treatments (starts, stops and fits), it has always been about what happens next. Until there's no more next, there's always what's next. Now I have a third round of lab work next week and a 24-hour creatinine clearance collection in the interim to measure my levels as accurately as possible to help determine what happens next. Hopefully, levels will reduce, and more of the same treatment which has resulted in my unexpectedly long life expectancy and most recent "shrinkage," can continue. But of course, there are no guarantees either. Oh, there is one: this process is excruciating.

Nevertheless, somehow the patient (or at least this patient) has to be patient and life has to be lived. Otherwise the cancer wins. And to quote Brian Dennehy, a/k/a Sheriff Cobb, from the movie "Silverado," completely out of context: "We can't be having any of that now, can we?"

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

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

Desire

BY EMILY S., GRADE 7.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL

The aching desires of the few,
include the necessities for me and you,
but the vast majority want the new,
they want the luxury and they lust,
because they must,
they need the future in the past,
they need products that must last,
for as long as they want them to.
What happened to this world, what must we do?
release the greed,
make a creed,
and find the greatness in giving and not wanting,
loving not taunting,
and fulfill the deserved desires of peace, nourishment, and fair
treatment for others,
for the fathers, children, brothers, sisters, and mothers.

The Substance of Life

SYLESH S., GRADE 8.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL

Time, the substance of life
Appears to be rife
But passes by
In a blink of an eye
Each moment that we waste
Is forever erased
Every second well-spent
Will make us content
Life is a dream
In which time reigns supreme
Make the best use of time
Make each moment sublime

Time

BEN M., GRADE 8.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL

They say time is never ending,
but is that really true
they say the end is impending,
like the damp morning dew
But have you a clue
what's coming for you
a hurricane of sadness
a whirlpool of despair
unnecessary illness
even though it isn't fair
but maybe life is just unfinished business,
and happiness is just around the chair.

"A Fleeting Glance at the Past"

SOPIA F., GRADE 8.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL

When one finds oneself longing for a certain time,
Remember that the time we have now is ephemeral,
And even though it's an uphill climb,
The here and now must be treated like an emerald.
In the words of Penn,
"Time is what we want most, but what we use the worst"
So remember now and then,
To remind yourselves that time can't be reversed.
And though now we may trudge along,
Recall dear cohorts,
That though the days are long,
The years are short.

Tattoos

BY JULIA K., GRADE 8, OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
All the ink
that covers my body
are all the stories



By Dave, grade 3, Our Lady of Good Counsel

I could never tell
Secrets I always kept
Every confession I never made
Tons of memories
made into drawings
will stay with me forever
All the things that have hit me so hard
Are now visible
You look at me and you might judge
But I am covered
With the stories of my life

Paper

BY TOMMY F., GRADE 7.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL

It looks like a magic carpet floating in the wind
paper is a tree that was once skinned
It was recently the stem of a tree
there are two sides of paper, not three
and as you may overlook this piece of art
it has lots of history and the idea is smart
In China paper was made out of bamboo
and that's about it, as I think it through
It started as papyrus in Egypt
they were smart and strategic
papyrus was a good-sized plant
but not used by Ulysses S. Grant
Ulysses S. Grant used something else, I think
maybe he used parchment, pens, and ink
But now it's just paper and a ballpoint pen
paper is pushed to its limits by men
So paper could be a very useful thing
so don't overlook it as you overlook string

Nature

BY DONALD W., GRADE 7.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL

The crisp wind blows,
The ocean's limits no one knows,
The fields of grass,
Green with grace,
Nature fills all,
Earth and Space,
The clouds,
A wisp of white,
They're in the air,
Until night,
The sky the sky,
Filled at night,
With gleaming stars,
That shine so bright,
Until day,
We wait in fright,
The sun has risen,
It beholds such light,
It shines all day,
With all its might,
Until it goes down,
Out of sight

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