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**Arlington**  
Connection

# Children's Connection 2011

Sujin Kim, 12<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Bishop O'Connell High School

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## WORDS & PICTURES

### EID!

#### A Special Holiday

Eid is a special event. Eid ul fitr is very special because it comes one month after Ramadan. Everybody is fasting all day. During the day there is no eating and no drinking. The last night is Moon Night. The girls and women go outside and wear mehndi and bangles. On Eid morning we wake up and get ready to go to the mosque and say, "Eid Mubarak." On the day of Eid we get money and presents. We also wear new clothes and bangles and we eat kheer which is sweet like a dessert. After that we go to each other's houses because the whole family is together. The children play and the women sit together and eat and the men sit together and eat. They play card games.

We have two Eid holidays. One is Eid ul fitr and the other is Eid ul adha which comes two months and ten days later after Eid ul fitr. They are both Muslim celebrations and they are fun.

— **Ramissa Imran**, 9 years old,  
Grade 4, Campbell Elementary School

### Evie

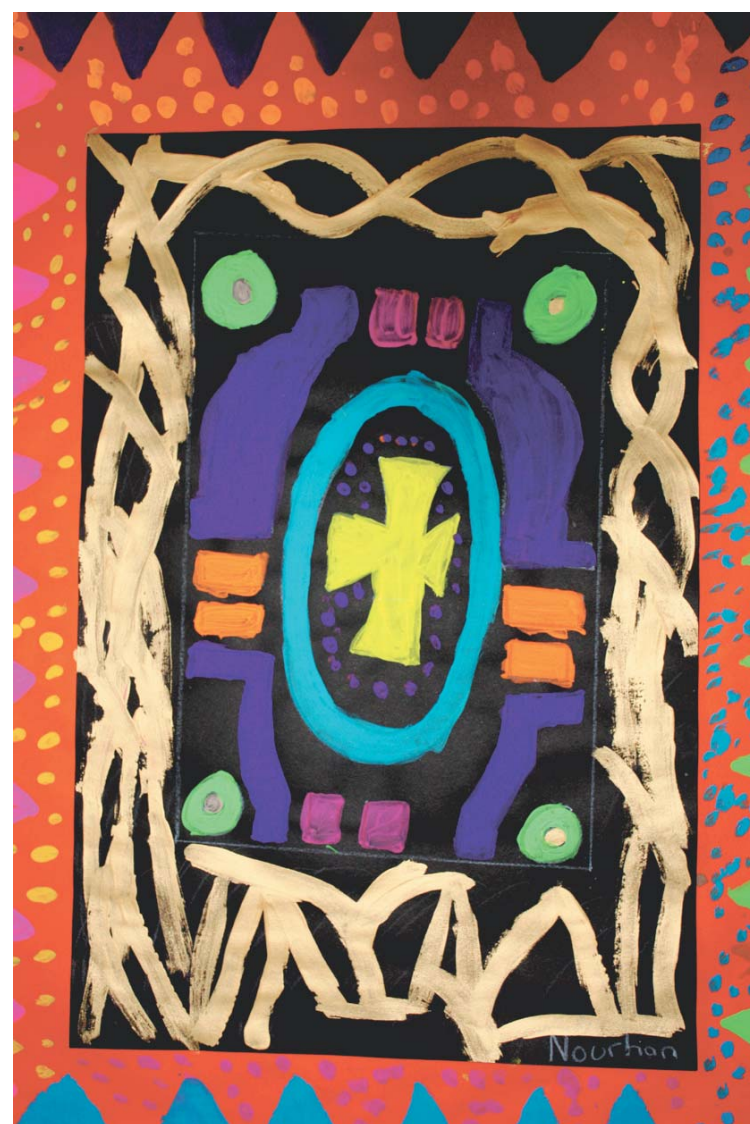
Evie was my yellow and black parakeet. I don't know if it was a boy or girl but I loved it anyway. Evie could be about 6 months old by now. My sister and I went to the park down the hill to play and we took Evie with us. We were playing and having fun and Evie disappeared. Evie got lost or someone took Evie. I miss my parakeet very much and would love to get another one.

— **Ager Workneh**, 9 years old,  
Grade 4, Campbell Elementary School

### Book Review

I think children that are nine or ten years old should read "A Lion to Guard Us." This book is about Meg, Jemmy, and Amanda. They are all in the same family. The dad is in America and their Mom died in England. The children try to get to America to meet their father. Many things happen to them in the book. If you read it, you will find out if they ever get to America and if they ever see their father again. I would recommend this book.

— **Mishell Orellana Arispe**,  
9 years old, Grade 4,  
Campbell Elementary School



**Nourham Mohamed**, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School

### Eil Ul Adha

Eid ul adha is a fun tradition. First, you go to a place where you have to get a sheep. The next step is my favorite. You choose a sheep. One time I saw a big horn sheep. Next is the saddest part. You have to wait in a line in the barn. When it's your turn, someone comes in and takes you to the place where people sacrifice your sheep. I didn't want to go in but somehow I did. It was so sad. I was crying and I ran outside. People were eating the piece of meat from this special knife.

I went outside to play with the kids for about an hour and my mom put the meat in a bag and then in a big red basket. We drove home. It took so long to get there and we ate it when we got

home. My mom made like it was a good old roasted chicken.

— **Soufiane Badri**, 9 years old,  
Grade 4, Campbell Elementary School

### The Aquarium

I went to an aquarium. I saw a lot of fish. I asked a man who works in the aquarium, how many species are in the aquarium. He said, "There are three." We saw jelly fish too. I saw a little jelly fish. It was white. Later, you could buy a coin and you needed 5 quarters and 1 penny. I went to a dolphin show too. They were doing some awesome things. A girl went in to the water with the dolphins. One dolphin did a back flip and another dolphin did a front flip.

After that, I went on a water taxi with my aunt. It was a good view. You could see buildings that make salt. There were 5 stops. Then we went to a restaurant called "U." We went back to see the sharks and stingrays. The sharks were huge!!!! The stingrays are big too. Then I saw two sea turtles.

— **Matthew Montero**,  
6 years old, Grade 1,  
Campbell Elementary School

**Chrissie Moten**,  
11<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Bishop O'Connell  
High School

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# CHILDREN'S CONNECTION 2011

## Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Arlington 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 2012 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 [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com), but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN



**Antonia Kotliarov, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Rebekah Nance, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Autumn Landscape: Andrew Voight, Grade 2, Nottingham Elementary School**



**Virginia Landscape: Addie Azelton, Grade 4, Nottingham Elementary School**



**Pawnee Maiden, Bishop O'Connell High School**



## Been There, Done That

**By Caroline Boda**  
Grade 5,  
Nottingham Elementary School

Hi, my name is Scott and I'm a tiny drop of water. Right now, I'm floating at the top of Lake Erie, which is at the top of the United States. Now, I'm going to tell you an adventurous story from when I was younger. This story is all about the water cycle!

It was just another lazy day in the Gulf of Mexico, when suddenly, I felt like I was flying. All around me, it was humid, and we, the water droplets, felt like we were eggs on a frying pan. Then I started rising!

"What is going on?!" I cried.

I wasn't the only one who was terrified. All the other droplets had puzzled looks on their tiny faces.

I felt myself getting thinner and thinner and thinner ...

"Wow!" I must have dozed off. Looking down at myself, I was stunned. I had transformed into a puffy cloud!

Just like a magnet, right then, all the tiny clouds around me, including me, were pulled together to form one massive cloud. I was stuck right in the heart of cloud. We all started chatting about how odd this was.

Over the next two weeks, my cloud started to get really packed. Also, I noticed that it was cooling down up here.

Then I remembered that we couldn't fit any more clouds inside our one big cloud. As weird as it was, at that very moment, I dropped. But I felt different. I felt stronger. I forced my eyes to open against all the gushing wind.

What I saw was epic. I was now a chunk of ice! As a matter of fact, I was stronger, just like I guessed. I heard a chunk bellow, "We're hail!"

I predicted that was the kind of ice we were.

After about five minutes, we hit near the top of Mount Everest.

"Oof," I muttered.

Next, we slid down the mountain. This took a long time.

After what seemed to be a year, finally we slid into a huge form of water, back home again.

Later, we, the water droplets, calculated that we had slid into the Indian Ocean. This "ocean" is a brand new place for us. It's almost halfway across the globe from where our first home was: The Gulf of Mexico!

My group and I always travel together. We have been through the water cycle twenty-three times. Each time we land in a different spot. Though, everywhere we drop, we still call it home, because we're always together.



**Kebron Zike, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Apple Tree Print: CJ Agulles, Grade 1, Nottingham Elementary School**

## The Story Of Orange

**By Chuck Watson**  
Grade 5,  
Nottingham Elementary School

Hi. My name is Orange. I'm an orange. This is my story. I woke up in Harris Teeter (Which is right in front of the Safeway grocery store and pharmacy.). I sat at aisle 4 for a week, and everything was the exact same. Blah,

blah, blah. Same shopping cart. Blah, blah, blah. Same Taylor Swift song on the radio. Blah, blah, blah. My best friend, Tan-ger-ine, proclaimed that it was repetitive, but since I'm not as smart as Tan, I didn't know what "repetitive" meant. So I just agreed with what he said.

Tan and I also had a neighbor,

Mistah A. Mistah A. is an apple that was plucked from an apple tree and was sent from Germany. Since he was from Germany, he talked in a German accent and it got annoying after awhile. Thankfully, on Sunday, someone bought him. The last sentence I heard him speak was, "Vhy cruel vorld, vhy!" It turns out he forgot his shades.

By the time it was Wednesday, Harris Teeter started feeling more like a prison rather than a grocery store. There was just nothing to do! I had to get out of it! When Harris Teeter closed, I took this as an opportunity to escape. But apparently, oranges can't open "automatic doors" because they're too short. Dang automatic movement sensor!

When Friday came along, a lady stopped underneath aisle 4. "Finally!" I thought. "A chance for freedom!" I told Tan to shove me into the shopping cart below us. I didn't even try to convince Tan to come with me, because he's afraid of heights. He reluctantly agreed to do this, though. I guess I never thought about how lonely he would be with no friend by his side. But I wasn't thinking about that then. I was thinking of freedom! My selfishness quickly prevailed. Tan yelled goodbye as he shoved me into the cart. I fell, and fell, and fell ... onto the floor. Missed my target! I was helpless as shopping carts and feet stomped on my face. Squish! Juice everywhere, Tan screaming, the janitor literally sprinting to clean me up.

This was all happening when I died.

The End



**Samantha Brem, Grade 4, Drew Elementary School**



# WORDS & PICTURES

## Pigs Like To Type

By **Kaiden Yu**  
Grade 2, Nottingham Elementary

Farmer Brown had a very big problem. His pigs liked to type. His chickens liked to play baseball. His horses liked to sing. His cows liked to play video games. The pigs typed because they were hot. This is what they typed: "Dear Farmer Brown, we are very hot. We would like some lemonade and ice cubes. From the Pigs."

A few months later, Farmer Brown received a message from the cows. Here's what it said. "Dear Farmer Brown, our video games are lost. Please buy more. From Mr. and Mrs. Cow."

Farmer Brown typed his message. Here's what it said. "Dear Mr. Pig, there will be no lemonade or ice cubes from Farmer Brown." Then Farmer Brown typed to the cows. Here's what it said. "Dear Mrs. Cow, there will be no video games. From Farmer Brown."

Farmer Brown told Duck to send the messages to Cow and Pig. Then, one day Farmer Brown went to collect milk. But he saw a sign. It read, "Sorry, we're closed. NO MILK. NO MILK!" Farmer Brown was furious.

"Well, I can still wash the pigs." But then he saw another sign. You'll never guess what it said. It said, "Sorry, we much prefer to stay in the mud. Bye."

"NOOOO!" Farmer Brown went BANANAS! The very next day, a message was in Farmer Brown's mailbox. It said: "If you give us lemonade, ice cubes, and video games, we will let you have milk and let you wash us. From Pig and Cow." Farmer Brown agreed. So then the animals got what they wanted and Farmer Brown got what he wanted. But ....

A few months later, Farmer Brown received another message. It said, "Quack, quack! Farmer Brown, the big pond is boring. We would like a diving board. From Duck."

"NOOOOOO!!" screamed Farmer Brown.

"Quack!" said the duck.



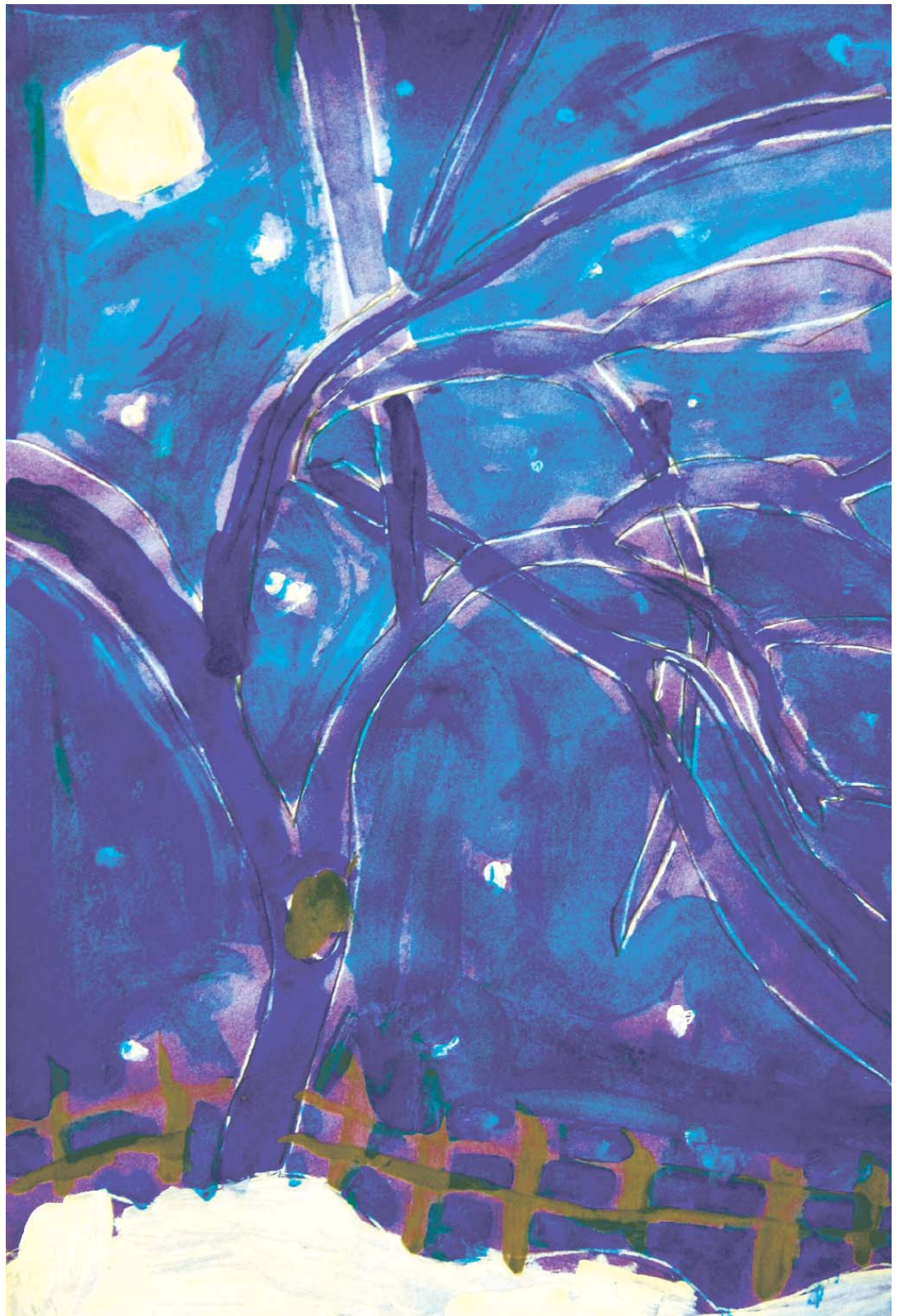
**Mack Bell, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Trunya Joaquin, Grade 4, Drew Elementary School**



**Haydon Rockman, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Winter Landscape: Jacob Willcox, Grade 2, Nottingham Elementary School**



**Ian Moran, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**

## POETRY

### What Is A Family?

What is a family?  
A family is helpful.  
People in a family love each other.

A family visits together.  
A family plays together and enjoys being together.  
That's a family.

— **Bianka Turcios, 9 years old, Grade 4, Campbell Elementary School**

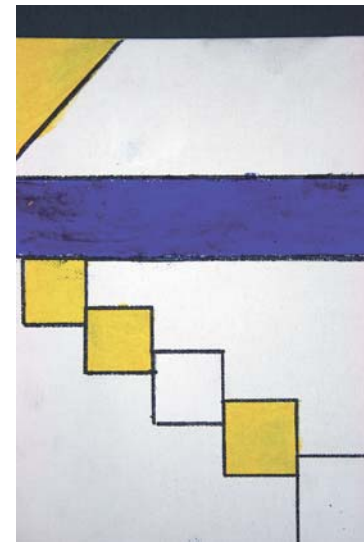
### My Teacher

Helpful, kind  
Loves to play games  
She is like my mom  
Mom

— **Kensy Landaverde, 9 years old, Grade 4, Campbell Elementary School**



## INSPIRED BY ...



**"Stairway to Heaven," Abby Dinegar, Saint Agnes Catholic School**



**"Storm," Kyle Johnson, Saint Agnes Catholic School**



**"Bird" Patrick Mangan, Saint Agnes Catholic School**

**Andrea Menza, Saint Agnes Catholic School**



**T**he works by Alison Criswell, Andrea Menza, Michael Lundquist, Karen Cusmano and Patrick Mangan are inspired by artist Paul Klee. They learned about his techniques and the Bauhaus school and executed these pieces based on a lesson Paul Klee actually taught at Bauhaus. The medium is acrylic.

The works by Selene Swanson, Regan Morche, Kyle Johnson, Abby Dinegar, Helen Carroll are inspired by artist Piet Mondrian. Students had to abstract in the same manner as Mondrian and painted in acrylic.

— DANIELA SHUMATE,  
UPPER SCHOOL ART TEACHER,  
SAINT AGNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL, ARLINGTON

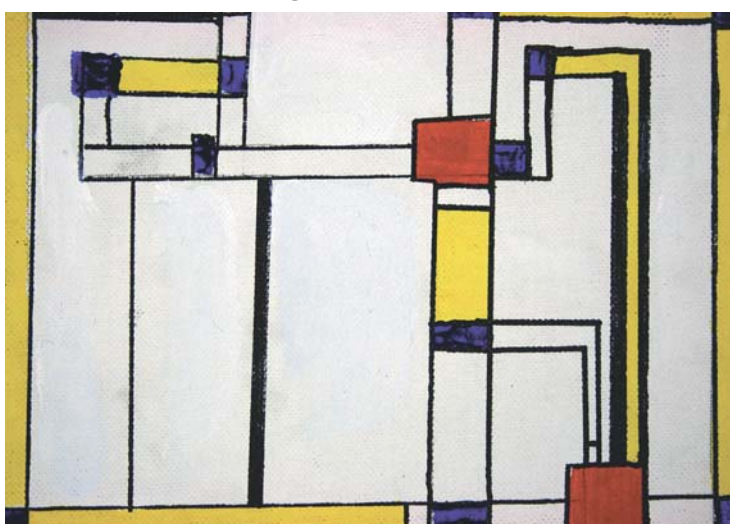


**"NYC Stage Curtains," Helen Carroll, Saint Agnes Catholic School**

**"Rudolph," Regan Morche, Saint Agnes Catholic School**



**Michael Lundquist, Saint Agnes Catholic School**



**Karen Cusmano, Saint Agnes Catholic School**

### Computer Mind

**By Selene Swanson**  
*Grade 6, Saint Agnes Catholic School*

Primary and particular, sharp it be,  
Lean and linear, angled so all can see.  
A thousand clicks trigger an action,  
It's simple beauty, you can see but a fraction.

**"Computer Dreams," Selene Swanson, Saint Agnes Catholic School**



**Alison Criswell, Saint Agnes Catholic School**



# WORDS & PICTURES

## Hamsters Don't Do Hip Hop

By Mackenzie Kaczmarek  
Grade 2, Nottingham Elementary

One mysterious day, a hamster named Caprice called everyone on her phone. Life was about to become awesome. From 7:00 to 12:00, it would be too good to be true. There was going to be a party!

"Bring your hip-hop shoes!" Caprice said in a mysterious voice. "And your hip-hop outfits," she said eagerly. "The party is going to be so fantastic! Rock and Roll music will fill the speakers! The volume will be at 1,000 decibals."

"Soon the hamsters will arrive," Caprice exclaimed. "I must decorate!"

About 45 minutes later, all of the hamsters were there! Caprice turned on the music. At the party, there were lots and lots of food and drinks. Everyone started to dance as soon as they got there. Next, the hamsters spread out on all levels of the house when they were supposed to stay on the first level! It was too CRAZY! Everyone went co-co-loco or WILD! Very soon, hamsters were coming in the house when they weren't even invited!

After the party, Caprice started to clean up. At 6:00 a.m. she was finally finished cleaning. She was so pooped! When she was done, she went to a bar and got a root beer and a scoop of ice cream. Mmmm! It was good!

"Next time, I will invite less hamsters," Caprice said.



Charlotte Smith, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School

## The Uprising

By Alexander Bartlett  
Grade 5, Nottingham Elementary

Every thing we knew was wrong. There are other worlds besides our own. We found the alien body that was carrying an ancient disease. The disease is incurable. It's like an inextinguishable fire. It always comes back. Any world that gets it, falls like a rock. Our only hope is to get all of the people that don't have the disease and repopulate on a new planet.

There is only one ship that can take us to another planet. That ship is Zeonox. Only one million people can fit on the ship. Zeonox is owned by the U.S.A. The people that can go must be less than 39 years old, except for important leaders, like the President of the United States, and allies of America. Other people that are qualified to go in the space ship are inventors, scientists, soldiers, pilots, engineers and farmers. If you're qualified to go, you must go to a waiting room. The disease has a signature on the brainwaves, so a signal is transmitted to a computer where it is analyzed to see if he or she has the disease. All books and documents are put on storage units.

The planet called Xeow is where they are going. It has other intelligent life forms. It has no deserts, only jungles. That is where the Iquans live. They hate outside races. They will fight for their home. So we will try to arrange peace. We offered them some of our technology, because we're more advanced.

Now we have a new home and the life of the human race continues.  
The End



On his 3rd tour in Iraq in 2008, Spc. Josh Schictl was driving a Humvee which was hit by two IED's. He suffered life-threatening injuries to his face and head. Despite the quick work of medics, Spc. Schictl lost his right eye and nine teeth. Nearly all of the bones in his face were broken but were stabilized before transport to Walter Reed Medical Center. He also suffered a TBI.

Wounded warriors and their families struggle for years to recover physically, emotionally and financially from the sacrifices they make in wartime. Operation Homefront seeks to walk with them on their journey and ease the hardships they face. The DC Metro Chapter assisted Josh and Emily with transitional housing, household furnishings, holiday gifts and grocery gift cards during these difficult times.

There are many ways you can work with the DC Metro Chapter to assist local military families like Josh and Emily.

People ask us everyday how they can show their appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices made by military families. One way you can do this is to let the DC Metro Chapter fill the gap for military families as they adjust to the 'new normal' after being deployed or wounded in combat. Send your tax deductible donation before Dec. 31st to help us meet next year's needs.

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## GALLERY



Camille Beck, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School



Autumn Still-Life: Geoffrey O'Malley, Grade 5, Nottingham Elementary School



Georgia Gibbon, Grade 3, Drew Elementary School



Sarah Russel-Hunter, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School



Erin Loftus, Grade 4, Drew Elementary School



One-Point Perspective: Zoe Carter, Grade 5, Nottingham Elementary School



Autumn Leaf: Charlotte Ross, Grade 2, Nottingham Elementary School

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# WORDS & PICTURES

## The Beach Ball

By **Abi Burkholder**

*Grade 3, Nottingham Elementary*

Here I am just melted rubber, motionless. Then I am moved and squished into the shape of a beach ball. Carefully I am dried, and placed on a shelf. I wait for days to get bought. Finally I am chosen by a little boy who has sunglasses and sun block. I am brought to a sandy place with water next to it. I am thrown far and near. Then a terrible thing happened. I was thrown into the ocean!! The boy started to cry. The farther I drifted, the smaller the boy got! I was terrified. The whole process was scary!

I couldn't sleep all night. The waves were too salty and rough. Then daylight finally came. I couldn't believe it! An angel fish was right there!

"Hi, my name is Abi," I said.

"Hello, my name is Callie," she said.

Callie was very nice. She kept me company. Then two sharks were right next to me! Callie swam away. When the sharks started to fight over me, the waves that they made were so strong that they flew me up into the air, and I landed right next to Callie.

"YAY!!!!" We shouted. But then a bottle came and Callie got stuck in it! I pushed Callie over and over to keep her moving. Then a huge wave came and swept us to shore. Luckily, we landed on sand. So Callie's bottle didn't break. It was still filled with water. Then a little girl came and picked us both up. Callie was still in her bottle. Then the little girl brought us home. Her family went on a vacation for a week and forgot me. The dog bit me, so I deflated. But I went to that little beach in the sky. Callie missed me very much, but she knew I was in a good place.

The End



**Ceramic Imaginary  
Animal: Gwyneth  
Jones, Grade 3,  
Nottingham  
Elementary School**

## Fortunately, Unfortunately

By **Benjamin Westergren**

*Grade 3, Nottingham Elementary*

Fortunately, I got invited to a banquet.  
Unfortunately, a cyborg from outer space chased me.

Fortunately, I got into his spaceship before he did.  
Unfortunately, I got lost.

Fortunately, I found Earth soon.  
Unfortunately, I landed in the ocean with sharks!

Fortunately, I got a submarine from the cyborg's ship.  
Unfortunately, I crashed.

Fortunately, I got into the escape pod in time.  
Unfortunately, the escape pod crashed.

Fortunately, there was an island and I could swim.  
Unfortunately, there were tigers.

Fortunately, I got into a building.  
Unfortunately, what looked like a building was a rocket!

## Counting Up To Halloween

By **Lauren Merrill**

*Grade 3, Nottingham Elementary*

A pumpkin in his purple pot  
gave the witch a stinky sock.  
Two skeletons lying still  
gave the witch a pot to fill.  
Three mummies with their grooms  
gave the witch an empty tomb.  
Four bats on the loose  
gave the witch some slimy juice.  
Five spiders in their rooms  
gave the witch some hair perfume.  
Six cats while they boo  
gave the witch some goblin's goo.  
Seven ghosts on a hill  
gave the witch a scary thrill.  
Eight goblins in the air  
gave the witch a pretty pear.  
Nine owls in their nests  
gave the witch the best fest.  
Ten witches on their brooms  
gave their friends some awesome stew.



**Autumn Tree: Reese Anderson, Grade 1, Nottingham Elementary School**



**Paper Collage Boat: Ryan O'Dea, Kindergarten, Nottingham Elementary School**



## ESSAY

# Consider Emerging Scholars Program

By William Reid  
Grade 5, ESP Scholar  
Drew Model School

Attention all fourth graders! If you would like to go to an independent school — but do not think you are ready or your parents need financial aid — then apply to the Emerging Scholars Program. The program is about teaching young children to be leaders in and out of the classroom.

In the fall of your fourth grade year, you take an admissions test to see if you can get into the Emerging Scholars Program. If you get accepted, you first attend the summer session as a fourth grader. This year's summer classes were held at Burgundy Farm Country Day School in Alexandria, Virginia.

During the summer students learn math and English. Scholars have snack breaks and lunch. For the duration of these breaks, students have the chance to go outside and play or stay inside and talk. At the end of the day students go down to the pool and swim for a little more than an hour. Then

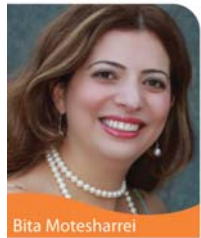
parents are either waiting for them or they stay for a little while and do homework. HOMEWORK POLICY: if you do not do your homework, you do not go swimming. You do it in the time when you were supposed to be swimming.

Throughout the following fall, winter, and spring; the fifth grade students meet on Saturdays at 7:55 AM and then get out at 12:00 PM — leaving half a Saturday to play or finish homework. The Saturday sessions are different. Every Saturday, until the winter SSAT test, is spent practicing for it. The SSAT is an admission test for getting into a private school. We practice for the SSAT by doing little sections of it. There is no lunch because the program ends at 12:00 PM, but there is a snack break.

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**Churches- Catholic**  
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**Church of Christ**  
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**Church of God-Anderson, Indiana**  
Church of God...703-671-6726

**Churches-Episcopal**  
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Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991  
**Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod)**  
Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846

**Churches-Nazarene**  
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Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411

**Churches -Baptist-Free Will**  
Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040

**Churches -Christian Science**  
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First Church of Christ, Scientist, Arlington...703-534-0020

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**Churches- United Church of Christ**  
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**Non-Denominational**  
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Celebration Center for Spiritual Living...703-560-2030

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Arlington Metaphysical Chapel ...703-276-8738

**Presbyterian Church in America Churches**  
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Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM  
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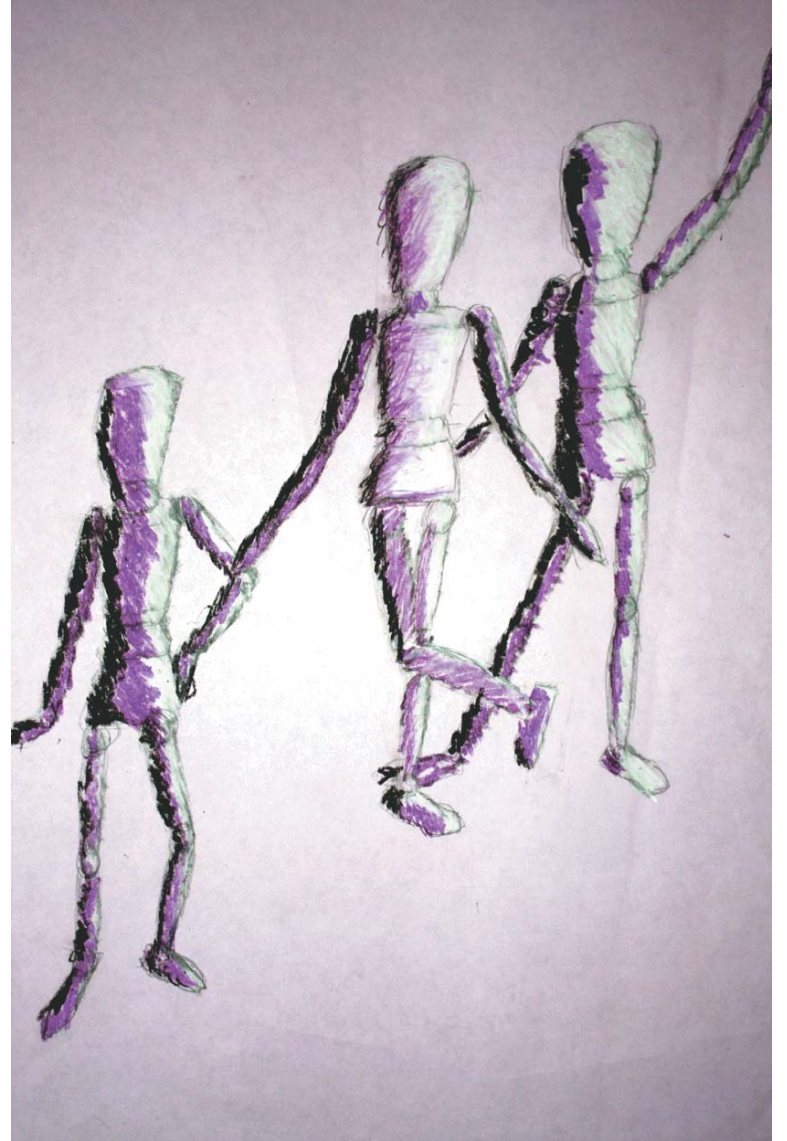
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# GALLERY



**William Talbot, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



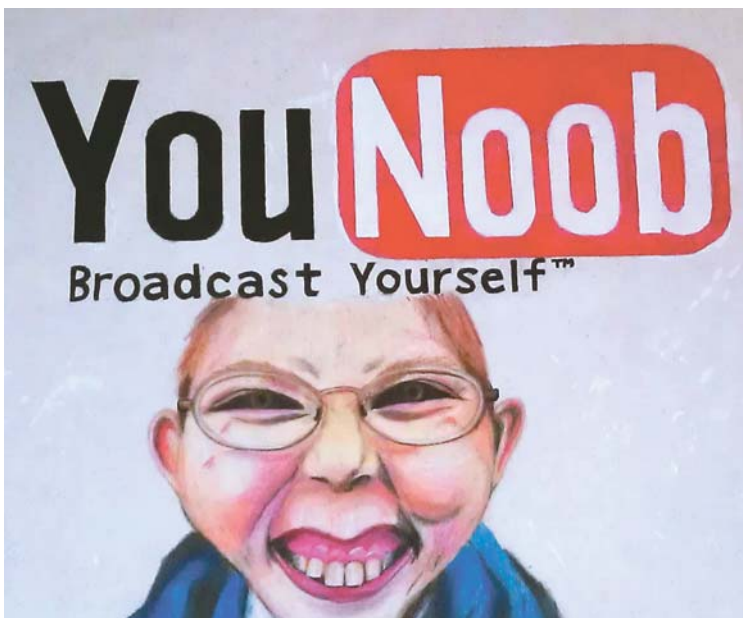
**Anna Ingram, Grade 4, Drew Elementary School**



**Elaysia Thompson, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Julia Norsworthy-Edghill, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Pawnee Maiden, Bishop O'Connell High School**



**Erick Veliz, Grade 5, Drew Elementary School**



**Margaret Norsworthy-Edghill, Grade 4, Drew Elementary School**



## GALLERY



**Sujin Kim,  
12<sup>th</sup> grade,  
Bishop O'Connell  
High School**

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### 21 Announcements

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### 21 Announcements

## Fairfax Water

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/REDEVELOPMENT

On December 6, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing regarding an ordinance to establish exclusive water service areas and maximum allowable rates, fees, and charges within Fairfax County for water service. At the same meeting, the BOS enacted the ordinance as Section 65-6-13 of the Code of Fairfax County. Section (a) of the ordinance provides that effective 12:01 a.m. December 7, 2011, Fairfax Water will be the provider of retail public water service within Fairfax County, Virginia, for any new construction or redevelopment of any dwelling unit and any residential or non-residential structure, unless Fairfax Water determines it cannot make water service available due to a utility-related reason.

The ordinance requires that any determination by Fairfax Water that it cannot make service available be made in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations established by Fairfax Water for the purpose of establishing when a utility-related reason exists that prevents it from supplying water. The ordinance further requires that the policies, rules, or regulations be adopted by Fairfax Water after notice and a public hearing.

**At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/ REDEVELOPMENT.** The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed rule should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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Zones 1, 3.....Tues @ 4:00

Zone 2.....Wed @ 11:00

Zone 4.....Wed @ 1:00

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**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette

**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South

**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac

**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
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### 21 Announcements

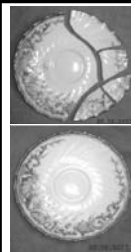
### 21 Announcements

### NOTICE

Edward E. Gahres, MD is closing his medical practice at 5021 Seminary Rd, Ste 109, Alexandria, VA, on December 31, 2011. Patients interested in requesting copies of their medical records should call (703) 931-7515 between 10 am and 4 pm, Mon., Tues. and Thurs.

### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements



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## State of Flux



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I delude myself – and others – into thinking that Kenny's life-with-cancer is just another bump in the road, I suppose it's only fair, after two and one half years of weekly writing about it, to admit the truth: I wish it were a bump in the road, but it's more like a sinkhole. Emotionally, physically and every which way including loose.

Most days I manage all that I'm expected to, reasonably well. There are other days however, not so much. Sometimes those days relate to something cancer-related: medication, scan, appointment, chemotherapy – or cancellation or change of any of the preceding; or it can be unrelated, specifically, but related generally, as everything becomes when you're categorized as "terminal."

Having employed various mechanisms – and rationalizations since my initial symptoms appeared in late December, 2009 – which ultimately led to my subsequent stage IV lung cancer diagnosis two and one half months later, compartmentalizing has been my greatest ally. A real-life version of "the vault" from a Seinfeld episode, a place where information is stashed for safekeeping and secrecy. However, "the vault" is all mental. It's not protected by doors and locks. Fort Knox it's not. In fact, gaining entrance is fairly easy. And once inside, it's akin to opening a Pandora's Box of your greatest fears; ruling your roost; beyond your control.

And on those days when control is lost and emotions/energy run down – and negative, and depression sets in: wallowing is easy and giving in to it provides a peculiar sort of calm/a why-fight-it sort of attitude. After experiencing this sort of mental meandering multiple times, I can actually tell/feel when it's happening; not before, definitely during and almost always after. It's never easy. However, it is unfortunately a condition with which I am all too familiar.

Assessing its particular cause, other than the obvious cancer connection, is also part of the problem. Knowing and understanding its origin provides me with another peculiar sort of calm. What I have determined is that, as an adjunct to the compartmentalization I regularly employ, my subconscious is weakening under the continual stress of the diagnosis/prognosis. It works so hard to maintain my calm exterior that occasionally it loses its ability to do so, sort of like a rubber band that eventually loses its elasticity. The pulling and tugging and stretching on me emotionally has the identical physical effect that a rubber band would experience under similar demands. And so I snap, sort of (although I don't shoot across the room): I get sullen and lethargic.

Sometimes, I feel like the character Odo (Rene Auberjonois), the Changeling/shapeshifter from Star Trek, Deep Space Nine. In order for Odo to maintain his "humanoid form" 16 hours a day, rather than exist in his normal, restful, "gelatinous state," it required constant vigilance on Odo's part (emotionally, physically; who knows really, it was Science Fiction). As such, there were moments (episodes) when he just couldn't function normally in his humanoid form; the stress internally to maintain his shape was simply too great. It was only when he returned to his quarters and his bucket that he could relax and regain his composure.

Unlike Odo, I don't have a normal state to return to: I only have my "new normal" (Kenny-with-cancer at age 57). And some days I wonder if pretending I don't have cancer might be causing me more problems than admitting to it would. As Dr. Sidney Freedman from the classic television show M\*A\*S\*H said in his farewell episode, "Ladies and gentlemen, take my advice, pull down your pants and slide on the ice." Or not.

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

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