



LONG, LONG AGO . . .

From second-graders at Academie Da Vinci in Dunedin:

I remember when I was in the bathtub with my sister and everyone was eating. They heard a scream then everyone was laughing because I had pooped in the tub.

— By CHANDLAR LORCH, 7

I remember one time when I went to my granny and grandpa's house. When I opened the door, everyone yelled "SURPRISE!" I ran all the way home. When my mom got home and told me it was my party I ran all the way back to my granny and grandpa's house. I had a great time with my Winnie the Pooh cake and my presents.

— By KENDYL HENDRISON, 8

From Mrs. Snyder's seventh-graders at St. Paul's School in Clearwater:

I wake up on New Year's Day.
I see that my windows are frosted.
I go downstairs.

I feel the warmth when I put on my jacket and mittens.

I go outside.
I touch the newly fallen snow.
I taste the snowflakes that have fallen in my mouth.

I hear my mom calling me inside.
I smell the hot chocolate as I sit in front of the warm fire.

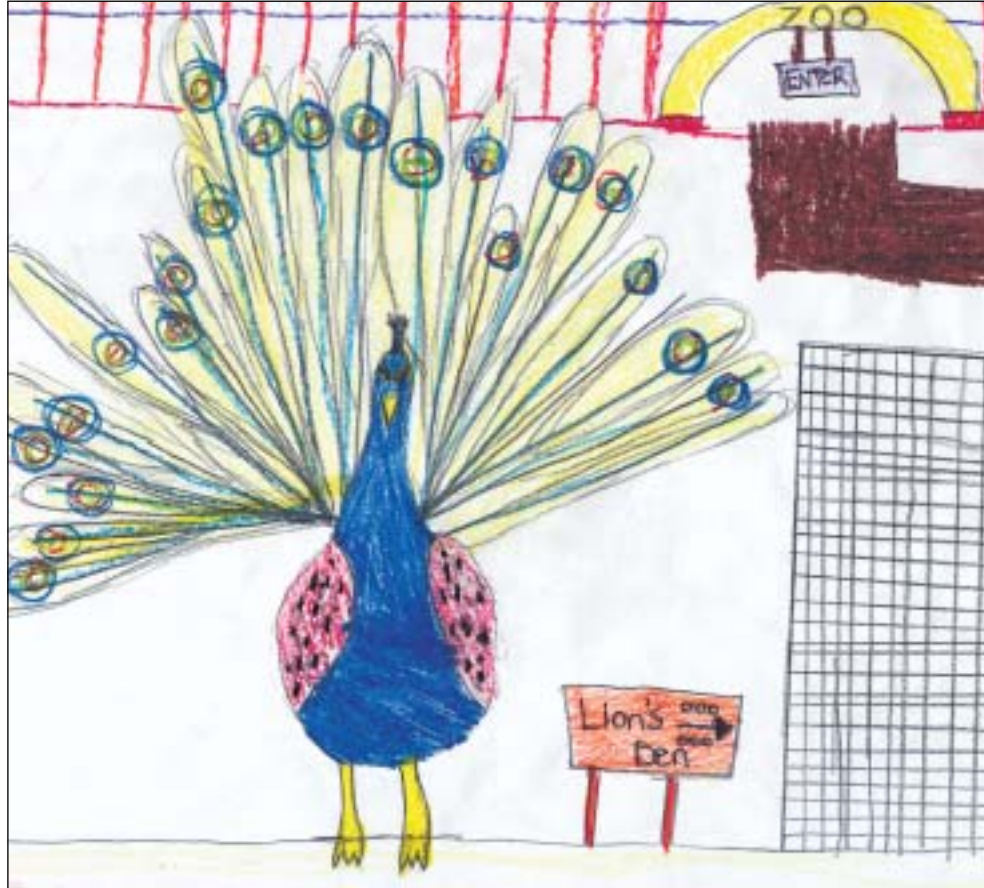
Happy New Year!
— By CAITLYN HANLON, 13

Barbie dolls, imaginary friends, going to the zoo,
Picture books, board games, puzzles, stuffed animals, too.
Playing in the trees outside, running in the park,
Having a hard time falling asleep, being afraid of the dark.

All of these memories, bad and good,
Come from times of my childhood.
Like words that gather all together on pages,
They will stay with me throughout the ages.
— By KELLY COOGAN, 12

From Deerwood Academy in Port Richey:

When I walked into the music room, my palms were sweaty. There were kids everywhere. Four girls walked around with different instruments for us to try. We all got to blow into all the instruments. I didn't like the trumpet at all. I thought the flute and clarinet were too girly. When I tried the sax, I knew right away that I loved it. I got to take one home and practiced *Mary Had a Little Lamb* for hours. I was so happy when I made the band that I bought my own sax.



By ZACHARY VENER, 10, fifth grade, Carrollwood Day School, Odessa

I had some great experiences with my saxophone. I played a duet in a talent show with my friend at the mall, and I also used to play *Tequila* for my fourth-grade class. Although I don't play anymore, I still take out my music and remember those good times I had with my saxophone.

— By ANDREW ESCHENBACH, 13, seventh grade

About six years ago my dad and I went to a Tampa Bay Mutiny soccer game. I'm not a big fan of soccer so I thought it would be boring — even more boring than math class. But I was wrong — it turned out to be more fun than I ever imagined. There were games, music and even food, and that was outside the stadium! Like a fiesta before the game! I also got a soccer ball that I now treasure. It is autographed by many of the players, but my favorite is Carlos.

My soccer ball is not in the best condition because I played soccer with it, but it doesn't matter how messed up it gets. It will always remind me of my very first soccer game, and I wouldn't trade those memories for anything in the world.

— By MIKE NICHOLS, 13, seventh grade

From fifth-graders at Carrollwood Day School in Odessa:

Three years ago on my grandmother's Name Day, Nov. 11, I was doing homework when my mom came home from the

hospital and told me something that would change my life forever. She told me my grandmother had died. When I first heard that, I froze! It felt like a thousand arrows had gone through my heart. I did not want to believe it. For the next few days I did nothing but cry.

This memory I will never forget as long as I live because I was closer to my grandmother than to anyone else. I used to tell her all of my secrets. Even though she has been gone for three years I still have a stabbing pain in my heart that will never go away.

— By ALEXANDRA MAMONTOFF, 11

New Members of the Family

When I was five years old I went with my family on a special trip that would change my life forever. I had no idea where we were going, but when we pulled into the parking lot, I screamed. It was a dog place!

I ran into the store and went straight to two little bichon frise puppies. They were the ones I wanted! My dad wanted only one dog, but we didn't want them separated, because they were sisters. So my brother and I begged my dad to get both of them. He gave in, because of our pitiful faces.

We took the two adorable, fluffy puppies home. Snicker and Doodle fit right into our hectic household. Three years later they are happy, healthy and cheerful and just as cute as when they were little.

— By ALISSA EBERBACH, 10

Send us your Xpressions!

Want to see your work here? Send us your art, writing and photography for consideration. Xpressions, the showcase for creativity by students through grade 12, appears the last Monday of each month inside *Floridian*. Please read the following instructions before submitting your work, which must be based on the designated themes. Here are some upcoming themes and deadlines:

JUNE: UNDERGROUND

— Close your eyes and imagine what's going on under our lawns, our houses, our roads, with this month's theme, contributed by Marie Breslin of SunFlower Private School in Gulfport. Postmark deadline: June 3.

JULY AND AUGUST:

OPEN THEME — Dream about the fun you'll have this summer, dream about anything you wish for this month's "unthemed" submissions. Postmark deadline: July 8 and Aug. 5.

Work may be edited for length and content. Please send your work, theme suggestions and comments to: Xpressions, c/o Nancy Green, St. Petersburg Times, 1000 N Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL 33602.

All work must follow the designated theme and be your own creation.

Artwork must be on white, unlined paper, with the medium stated on the back (oil, pastel, crayon, etc.). Be sure to include your name, age, school, grade, address, ZIP code and phone number, with area code.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR WORK WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE INFORMATION ABOVE. Stories must be no longer than 150 words. We can return only artwork, and only if you indicate that you want it back.