# Schools



**SPECIAL SECTION** 



# SHAPING LIVES

 $LNP/Lancaster Online\ Student\ Journalism\ Contest\ asks\ young\ journalists\ about\ the\ impact\ of\ education$ 

he 2023 LNP | LancasterOnline Journalism Contest is an opportunity for Lancaster County students in kindergarten through 12th grade to showcase their talents. This year's theme is "The Importance of Education." Students were

asked to tell us about their schools and teachers, and explain how what they have learned will help them be better citizens and shape their career interests.

Each grade received a specific assignment:

Kindergarten and first grade: Draw a picture showing a job or occupation they've learned about in school, or what they want to be when they grow up.

**Second through fifth grade:** Submit an essay, with no more than 200 words.

**Six through eighth grade:** Submit an essay, with no more than 250 words. **High schoolers:** Submit an essay, with no more than 300 words.

The winning entries in each category are on the following pages.





**FIRST PLACE** 

▶ Harley West is a first grader at Lampeter Elementary School. Her teacher is Allison Wagner.

**FIRST PLACE** 

#### My backpack



**SOPHIA FIORELLO** SPECIAL TO LNP LANCASTERONLINE

With a backpack bigger than my tiny 5-yearold self, I confidently let go of my parent's hand and stepped on a big yellow bus 13 years ago. So excited to finally go to school, I couldn't wait to write my name, practice sitting crisscross applesauce, and maybe even read a sentence or two. I couldn't wait to learn. But little me had no idea that her education was so much greater than being

able to count to 10. Sure, school taught me to read and write and calculate crazy long equations, but I also learned the importance of hard work, that asking for help is OK, how to engage in meaningful conversations with others and much more.

Education is important

because while it teaches us how to be successful in school, it also teaches us how to strive for success in the real world.

While I may not use trigonometry on a daily basis, I often find myself using skills like grit and perseverance in my daily life.

Most recently, I decided to take on a pretty challenging class this year, and while it has taken hours of my time, it has taught me that my hard work does pay off. It has taught me that doing the right thing may sometimes be difficult, but if I continue to take time and if I continue to stick with something, it will get easier, both in my education and for the rest of my life.

Education is important because it is irreplaceable. It provides children with skills that will forever help them in life. I can confidently say that my little 5-year-old self has traded in her brightly colored backpack full of colored pencils and crayons for one full of lessons learned and useful skills, preparing me for what lies ahead.

• Sophia Fiorello is a 12th grader at Lampeter-Strasburg High School. Her teacher is Jeffrey Marsh.

### Students design winning ads

Students who entered the advertising portion of the contest were paired with an LNP | LancasterOnline business that chose to be part of this program. Entrants were tasked with designing an ad that conveys the advertiser's mission and message to the public. Each advertiser picked its first-place winner.



Pippa Robert

A kindergartner at Sacred Heart of Jesus School. Her teacher is Jane Lobeck. Her ad for Ephrata National Bank is on page 11.



**Autumn Rohrer** 

A kindergartner at Paradise Elementary. Her teacher is Sara Tomison. Her ad for Greenawalt Roofing is on page 4.



William Steigerwald

A first grader at Lampeter Elementary. His teacher is Elizabeth Fluck. His ad for Penn Cinema is on page 5



Riya Dahal

A first grader at Elizabeth R. Martin Elementary. Her teacher is Ashley Smith. Her ad for Bank of Bird in Hand is on page 6.



Eli Ropp

A first grader at Bart-Colerain Elementary. His teacher is Joy Malinowski. His ad for Friends of Rail Road Museum of PA is on page 7.



**Cooper Tubbs** 

A second grader at Fulton Elementary. His teacher is Lori Long. His ad for Wolf Sanctuary is on page 6.



Caedmon Charles

A homeschooled sixth grader. His ad for Water's Edge Mini Golf is on page 9.



**Aubree Snader** 

A second grader at Fulton Elementary. Her teacher is David Trout. Her ad for Leisure Lanes is on page 8.



Stella Belt

A second grader at Fulton Elementary. Her teacher is Jodi Eberly. Her ad for Clemintines is on page 2.



JJ Frankhouser

A second grader at Bart-Colerain Elementary. His teacher is Lynsey Wissler. His ad for National Toy Train Museum is on page 2.



Sarah Rodriguez

A second grader at Lampeter Elementary. Her teacher is Michelle Getchis. Her ad for Strasburg Railroad is on page 10.



**Jocelyn Cammauf** 

A third grader at Adamstown Elementary. Her teacher is Robyn Reel. Her ad for Iron Valley Golf Course is on page 10.



Kayden Hudler

A third grader at Bart-Colrain Elementary. His teacher is Sheila Schmitt. His ad for Certified Carpet is on page 10



**Hannah Smith** 

A third grader at Denver Elementary. Her teacher is Kelly Barnett. Her ad for Blue Ridge is on page 4.



**Jack Hammond** 

A third grader at Resurrection Catholic School. His teacher is Patricia Fertal. His ad for Candyology is on page 6.



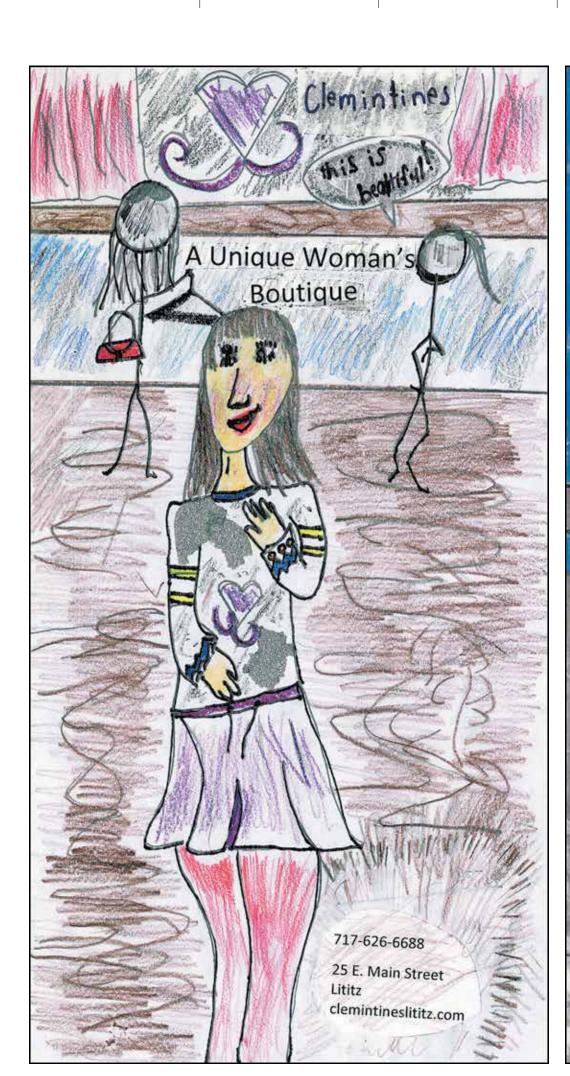
Camden Casella

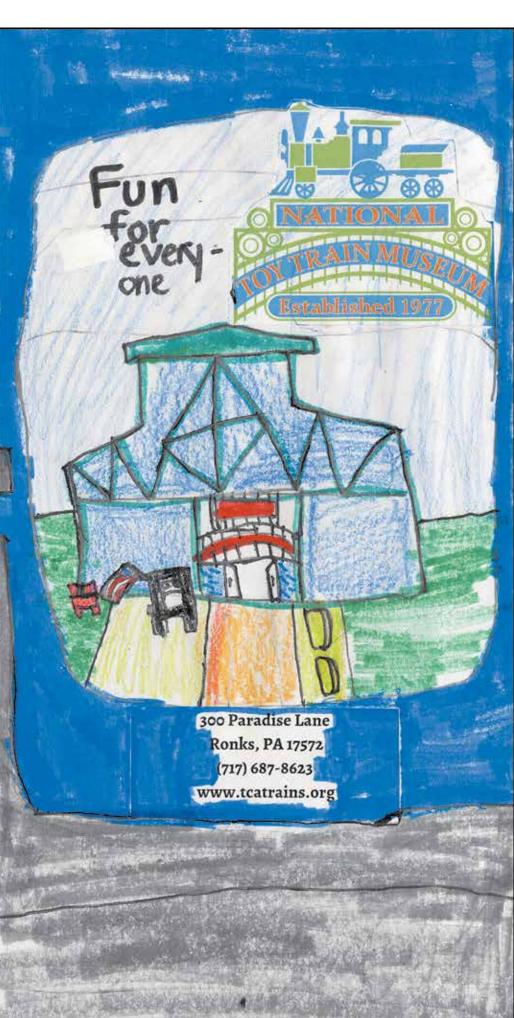
A third grader at Donegal Intermediate School. Her teacher is Sarah Lawrence. Her ad for Go 'N Bananas is on page 7.



Skylar Heisey

A fourth grader at Bear Creek School. Her teacher is Amy Horner. Her ad for AM Jewelry is on page 6.







**Kayla Shingle** 

A fourth grader at Blue Ball Elementary. Her teacher is Evan Beebe. Her ad for Lemon Street Market is on page 9.



Nadia Zlatkin

A fourth grader at Bear Creek School. Her teacher is Lori Carrasco. Her ad for Refreshing Mountain is on page 3.



Jordyn Shirey

A fifth grader at Smoketown Elementary. Her teacher is Steve Scheidt. Her ad for Nyes Gym is on page 7.



Mia Emaikwu

A fifth grader at Paradise Elementary. Her teacher is Courtney Rafter. Her ad for Bayada Nurses is on page 7.



Racka Ashraf

A fifth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. Her teacher is Alane Klepper. Her ad for Argires Marotti Neurosurgical is on page 12.



Liam Bradley

A fifth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. His teacher is Alane Klepper. His ad for Argires Marotti Neurosurgical is on page 12.



**Shanny Montanez** 

A fifth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. Her teacher is Alane Klepper. Her ad for Argires Marotti Neurosurgical is on page 12.



**Delilah Soto** 

A fifth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. Her teacher is Alane Klepper. Her ad for Argires Marotti Neurosurgical is on page 12.



**Mary Sheakley** 

A fifth grader at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School. Her teacher is Dottie Boyd. Her ad for Woodcrest Retreat is on page 7.



**Zury Vidal-Munoz** 

A sixth grader at Taylor Middle School. Her teacher is Amy Wright. Her ad for Lancaster Pediatric Associates is on page 8.



Evelyn Feltman

A seventh grader at Manor Middle School. Her teacher is Kerri Miller. Her ad for Hinkle Insurance is on page 9.



Carina Randall

A homeschooled ninth grader. Her ad for Hartz Physical Therapy is on page 10.



Jodi Bright-Walck

A seventh grader at Lancaster Friends School. Her teacher is Malinda Clatterbuck. Her ad for Wild Wings is on page 5.



Shamani Norales

A senior at J.P. McCaskey High School. Her teacher is Matthew Lawrence. Her ad for Choice Home Remodeling is on page 11.



Jasmyne Kay

A junior at Lancaster County Career and Technology Center — Brownstown Campus. Her teacher is Randy Hess. Her ad for George J. Grove is on page 11.



Annabelle Lieb

A sophomore at Lancaster Country Day School. Her teacher is Gina Donnelly. Her ad for State Farm — Christine Flomerfelt is on page 6.



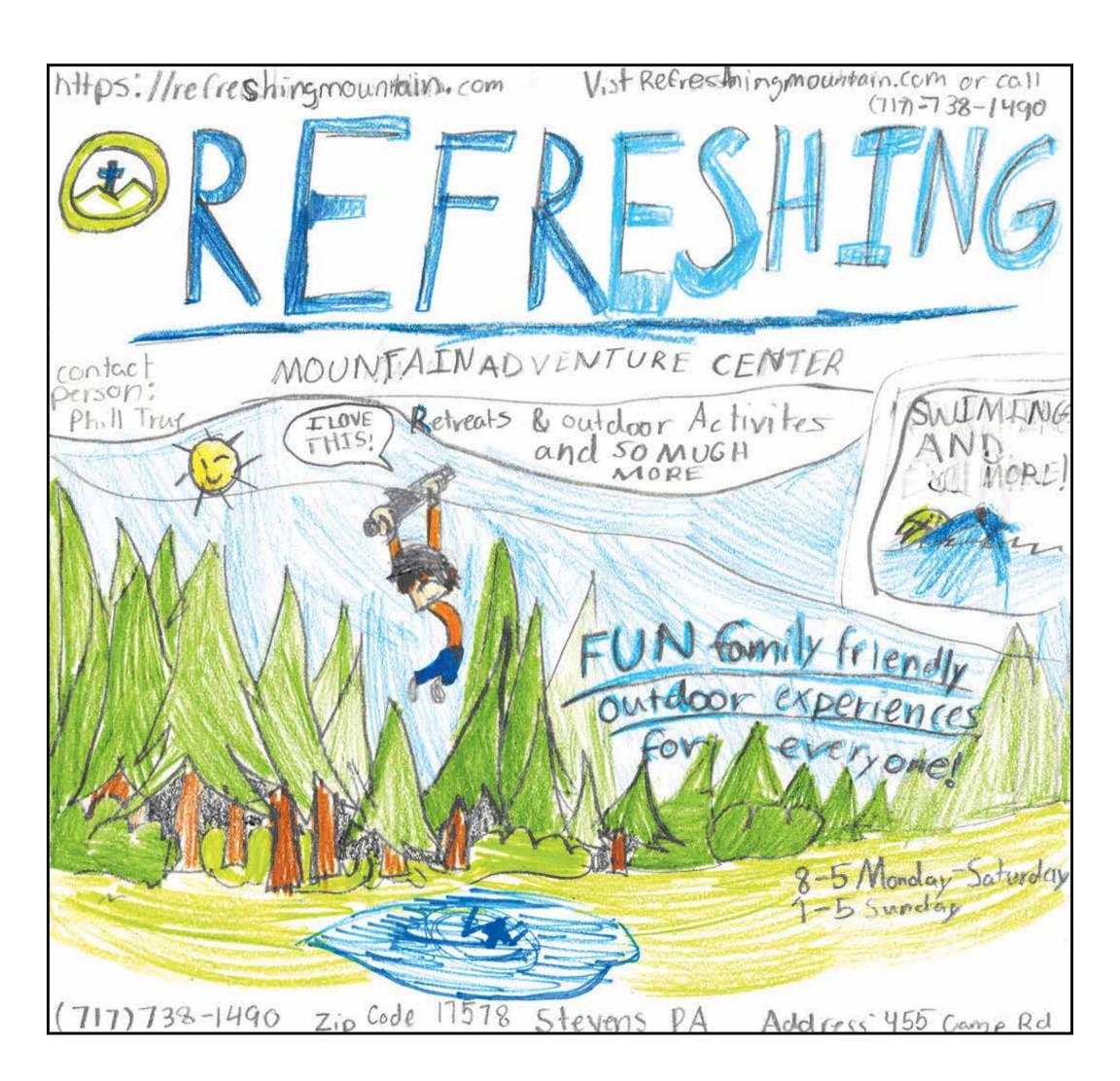
**Andrew Blomiley** 

A freshman at Octorara Area School District. His teacher is Rachel Minnich. His ad for Rhoads Energy is on page 7.



Quinn Bertoncini-Troutman

A junior at Hempfield High School. His teacher is Andy Wise. His ad for Fox Country Sheds is on page 6.



Blue Ridge Replace your taditional

**Blue Ridge Communications** 804 Academy Hgts Ave Ephrata, PA 17522 **↑** Blue Ridge

Mondays and Wednesdays 8am-5pm 1st and 3rd Saturdays 9am-1pm

www.brctv.com (800) 222-5377

**FIRST PLACE** 

#### Education through sports



LANCASTERONLINE

Why is education important? Education is not just related to school. Skills, values and habits can be taught through sports.

Discipline is a very important habit. Athletes learn discipline through taking care of their body, showing up to games and practices on time, and working hard for their sport. In life discipline helps you get done what needs to get done. Discipline creates habits, habits make routine and routine becomes daily. It helps you focus on your goals. Through sports and coaches, athletes develop great discipline.

value in life. Through sports, athletes develop a high level respect. By respecting coaches, opponents, referees and teammates, you also gain their respect. Having a good attitude toward others is great practice for respect, and athletes learn to control this. Respect builds relationships by feeling trust and safety. By athletes practicing respect on a daily basis they are more prepared

Teamwork is a very important skill that athletes play-

for real world situations.

Respectis a very important ing team sports need the most. Most sports are not a one-man game; they require a team effort. You have to work well with others to succeed. Even if you do not like the people on your team, or in your workplace, you have to set that aside and work together. A lot of times big tasks are tackled by working with a group of

> These are some of the most important ideas taught through sports. They will help you in life in any situation.

• Chris Baumler is an eighth grader at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School. His teacher is Natasha Pickett.

**FIRST PLACE** 

#### I want to be an engineer



**BEN BEHAN** SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

My third grade enrichment teacher made me build stuff, and it was fun, so now I want to be an engineer. Then I started playing with my brother's Legos that I destroyed, and I really liked it, so I bought more. I then learned about duct tape and cardboard and after that, I built a lot, so I partially stopped playing video games, and I started researching jobs, and I found out about engineering.

I started building more in Mrs. Torchia's class when I was in fourth grade. I built a dam and an egg drop. This helps me toward my career as an engineer because I have more experience and I know more building techniques.

This helps me be a better citizen because I can build things to solve problems. For example, I could work on making renewable energy, or I could make something to make fresh water into saltwater.

• Ben Behan is a fourth grader at Bear Creek School. His teacher is Amy Fleming.



SECOND PLACE

#### Importance of education



HARPER KITCHEN
SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

My education — my school, my teachers and my peers have been formative in shaping who I have become.

Since kindergarten, I| have been lucky enough to be taught by some of the most intelligent, creative and caring people I have met, all an instrumental part of my learning journey.

The most influential educational experience I have had has been my time in

AP Language. The class has challenged me to become a better writer and more critical thinker. To be an active and contributing member of society, listening and interpreting what you hear with deep reflection are incredibly important. I have wanted to be a writer — a journalist more specifically – since I was 9, and AP Language has taught me so much about how to succeed in that field, but more importantly how to succeed in general as part of a world that requires constant attention and thought.

I have learned how to not only argue a point effectively, but take the time to find evidence to support that point, and incorporate my own beliefs. On top of writing instruction, much of the reading we have done served to

shape my world view. Novels like "Brave New World," "1984" and "Parable of the Sower" encouraged me to think critically about the direction society is heading in, and what role I want to play in that direction. "Other books such as "The Great Gatsby" and "A Farewell to Arms" have been catalysts for reflection on the past.

Being exposed to a large variety of literature has broadened my knowledge and introduced me to new perspectives. My educational experiences, especially in AP Language, have influenced my aspirations of being a journalist and have taught me crucial skills to be both a successful writer and human being

• Harper Kitchen is a 10th grader at Donegal High School. Her teacher is Audra Brackbill.

SECOND PLACE

#### The key to success



ABIGAIL MARTIN SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Education. Ask anyone. It's a huge part of our lives. In fact, in a 180-day school year, an average student spends about 1,080 to 1,260 hours learning, creating, collaborating and socializing in school. Have you ever wondered why?

"Education can give you a good future," says Demayah,

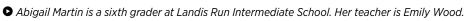
a sixth grader. "Without education it would be harder for people to help the world when they grow up because they might not know important life lessons, general knowledge or have the same opportunities." Education can give you opportunities and sharpen your thinking. The better your education, the bigger possibility of getting your dream job.

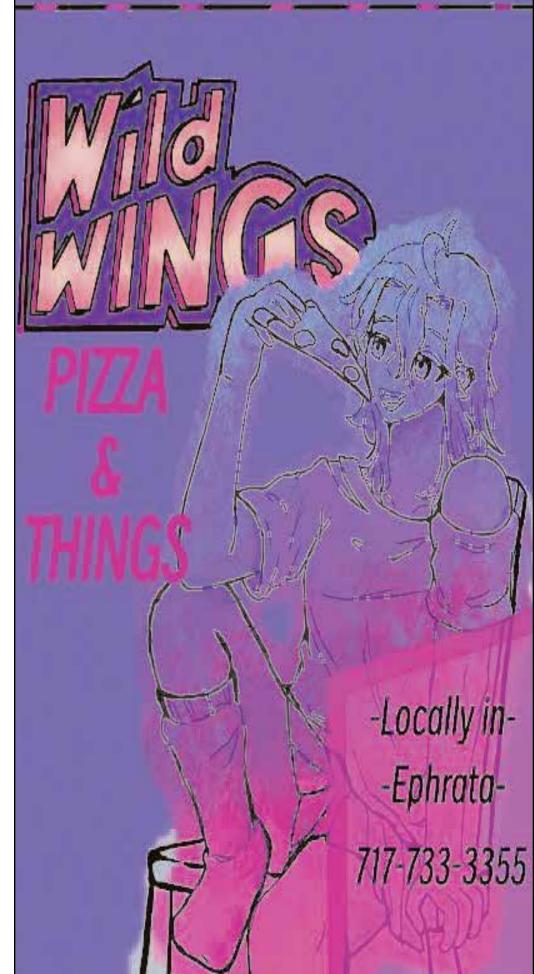
"I have met a lot of people at school and I'm now friends with them," says Samantha, a sixth grader. Think about all the friends you have ever made at school. Most likely, you can list a few. The average school student is around people every single weekday.

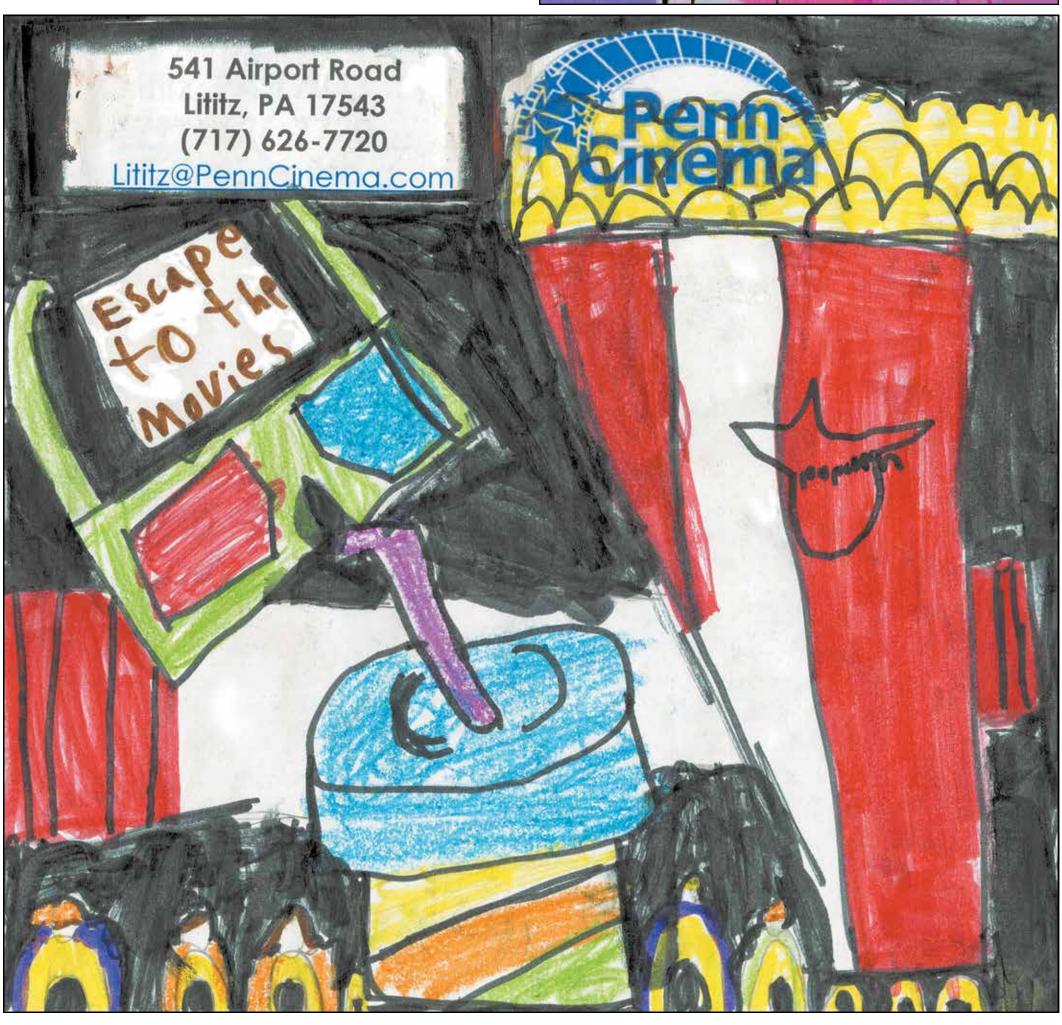
That makes sharing and cooperating mandatory and helps students learn to work with people quicker, which comes in handy.

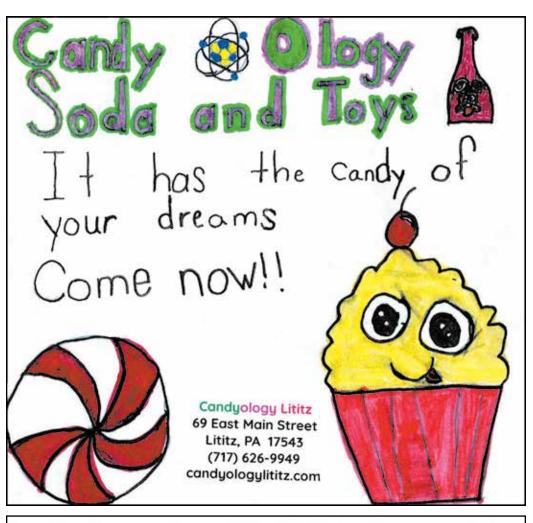
Oprah Winfrey said, "Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom." Schools help people to know where their strengths and weaknesses are and what they might want to be when they grow up.

Education breaks barriers and helps carve the way for peoples' future. Without education we wouldn't be here today. "Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world." — Malala Yousafzai.









Auto Insurance Homeowners Insurance Condo Insurance Renters Insurance Business Insurance Life Insurance Auto Insurance Homeowners Insurance Condo Insurance Renters Insurance Renters Insurance Silve Automatic Insurance Automatic Insurance Silve Automatic Insurance Life Insurance Condo Insurance Renters Insurance Business Insurance Life Insurance Pet Insurance Homeowners Insurance Renters I Automatic Insurance Pet Insurance Auto Insurance Homeowners Insurance Renters I Automatic Insurance Life Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Renters Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Elife Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Business Insurance Business Insurance Condo Insurance Renters Insurance Renters Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Auto Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Pet Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Auto Insurance Homeowners Insurance Pet Insurance Auto Insurance Auto Insurance Homeowners Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Business Insurance Life Insurance Pet Insurance Auto Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Renters Insurance Homeowners Insurance Homeowners Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Renters Insurance Pet Insurance Business Insurance Homeowners Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Homeowners Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Homeowners Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insurance Pet Insuran

when 113 S 7th Street, Akron, PA 17501

.ife Insurance Pet In**swww.christineflomerfeltr.com**ndo Insuran

537 E 28th Division Hwy

(717) 626-9560

Lititz, PA

www.Foxsheds.com

It's not "just a shed" when it's a Fox Shed!

Customize your new shed online.



Area's Largest Selection of Estate & Antique Jevelry
Located in beautiful downtown Lititz!

AMJewelryInc. com

A M Jewelry Inc.

50 S. Broad St.

Lititz, PA 17543

(717) 627-3197

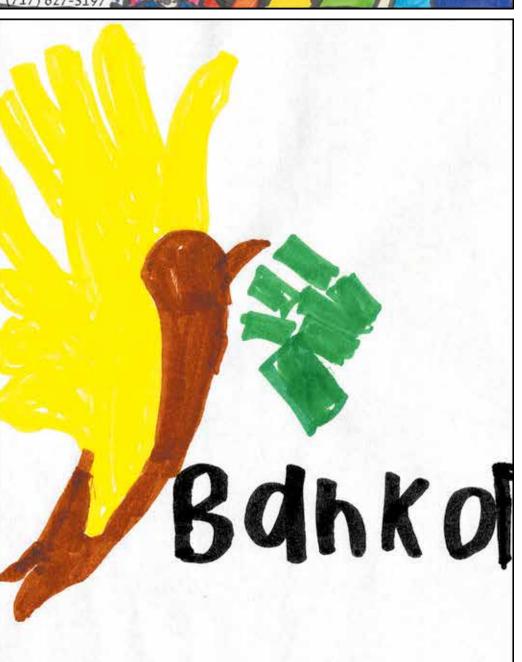


Contact Person:

Michelle Mancini (717) 626-4617 wolfsanctuarypa.org

Visit the Wolves of Speedwell! Adopt-a-Wolf!



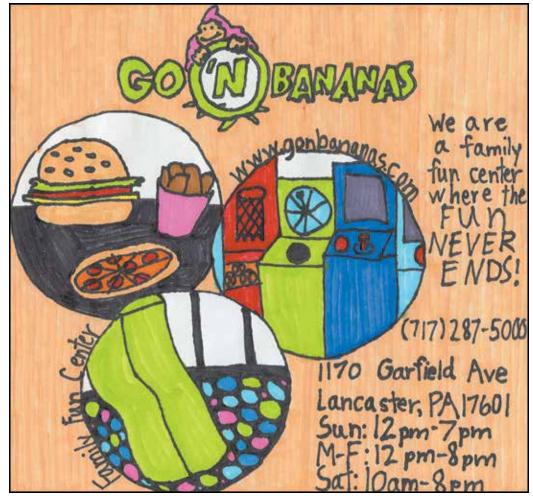


Bitd-Ih-Hdha

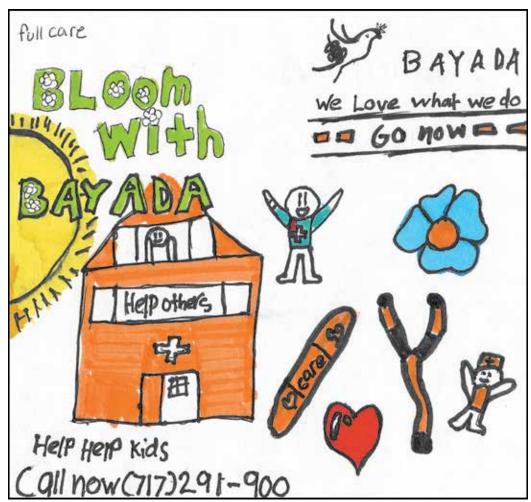
Lobby open Mon-Wed 8:30-4, Thurs 8:30-5, Fri 8:30-6:30, Sat 8-12 Drive-up: Mon-Thurs 8-5, Fri 8-6:30, Sat 8-12 (717) 768-8811

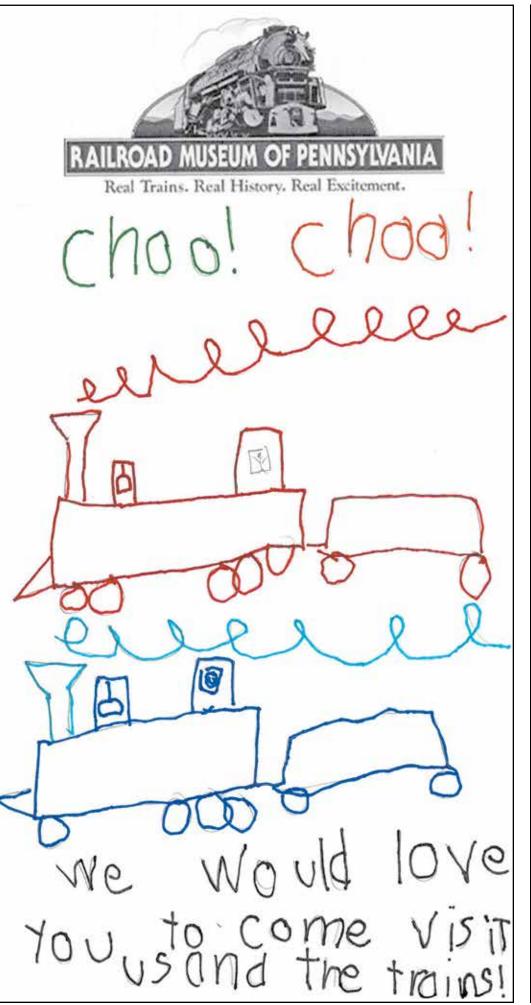
> 309 North Ronks Road Bird-In-Hand PA, 17505

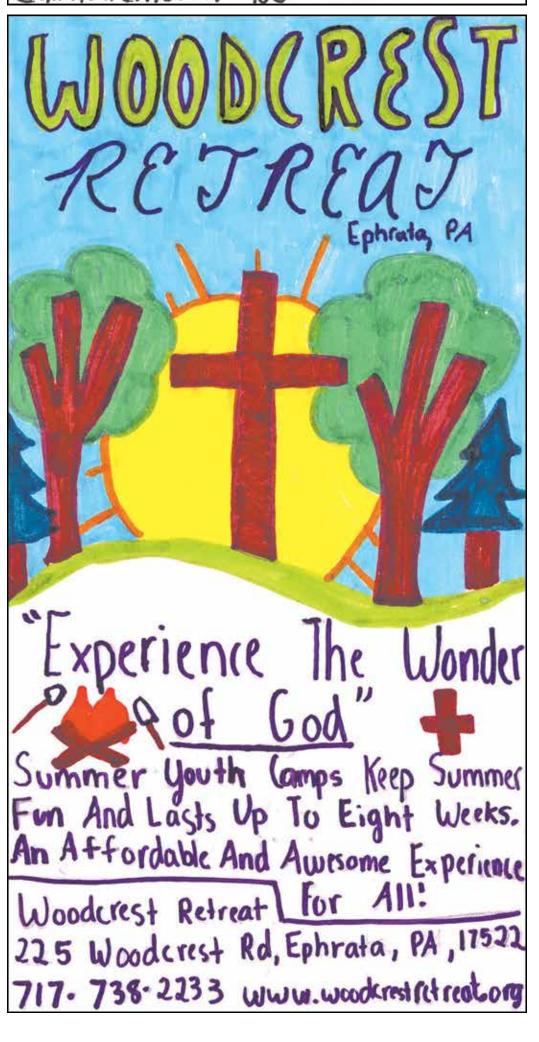












**SECOND PLACE** 

#### Why is education important?



**DELILAH SOTO**SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

Education is important because it helps us achieve our dreams and prepares us for a career in the future. When I was little, I saw how hard it was for my mom to go to school and take care of me at the same time. Watching that experience, I've always wanted to do it differently and finish school before I start a family.

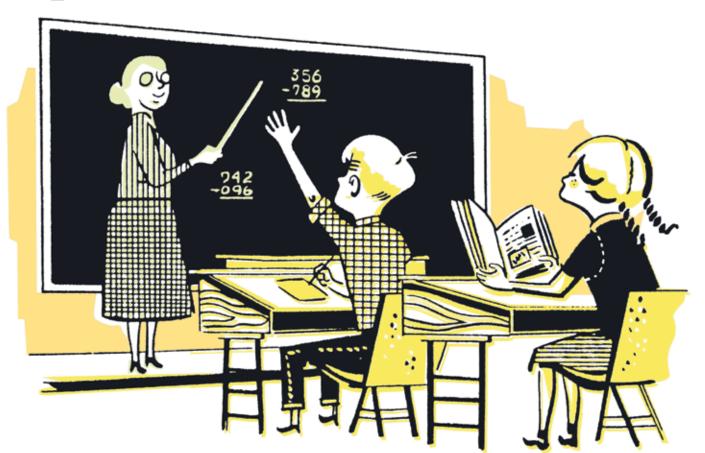
My mom and I are very

close and it was difficult for her to find time for me when she was in school. But,she would always make it work.

I've always pushed myself to have good grades and work hard as my mom did, because she is my role model. She is still in school, soon to finish her bachelor's degree in nursing. She will have more opportunities in her career which will help my family in the future.

I know I need to continue to work hard and get good grades because my dream is to be in a profession where I can help others. In order to become a nurse or a counselor, I will need a college degree. This is why education is important to me.

• Delilah Soto is a fifth grader at Resurrection Catholic School. Her teacher is Alane Klepper.



**THIRD PLACE** 

#### Labels



**ANDREW SHEETZ**SPECIAL TO LNP |
LANCASTERONLINE

Throughout my life, I have been given negative labels. These labels made me look at myself and others differently. Although there have been times in

my life where I let these labels hurt me, I never let them define me or determine my future life path

I came into high school believing these labels. Believing I was worthless and did not belong. However, I met my mentor, Sgt. Beaver, from JROTC. He was the first person who told me I was going to be something — that I was worth something — that I could be great. And I believed him. He told me that despite the horrible labels that were placed on me, I could still achieve greatness if I believed in myself.

"Strive for excellency in everything you do," he said

I started out my 11th grade year unsure of myself but wanting to continue putting in practice what my mentor had taught me. Sept. 7, 2021, I was told that my mother was dying from COVID and that I needed to rush to the hospital to say goodbye. I watched her die that day.

I learned that the first step in rebuilding myself was acknowledging that I needed help. In fact, I went back to school the following day after my mom died. Not because I was OK but because I knew that I couldn't get through this alone. My old mindset was that accepting help or showing emotion

was weakness, but what I learned from accepting help was that in the support I was given I found my strength.

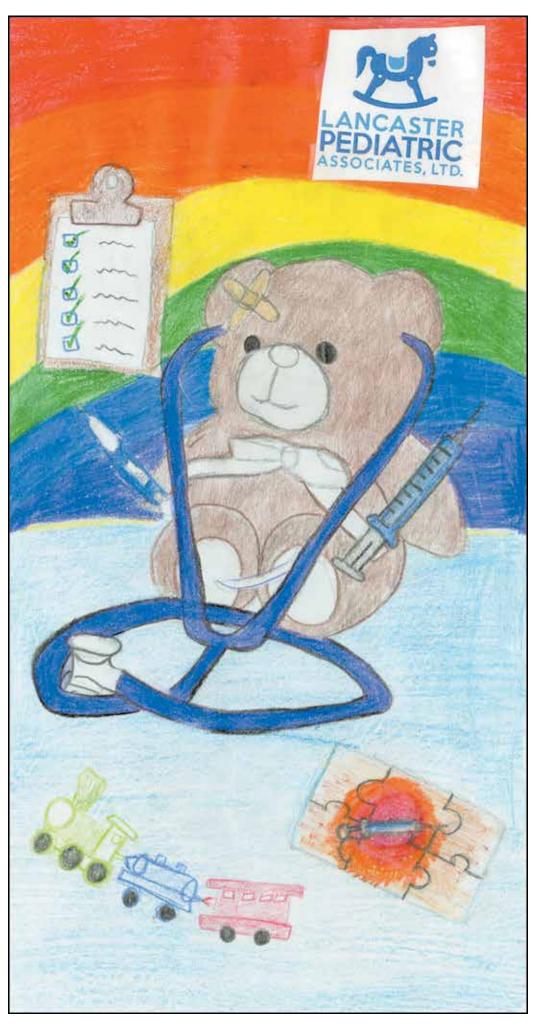
Thank you, Mr. Bechtold, for taking time out of your life to check in on me and mentor me. Thank you, Mrs. Beats, for telling me that I can still become the man I want to be despite my hurdles. You've said to me once when I was giving up on myself, "You've been through many hard things. What is the difference between now and then?" Thank you, Brother Albrecht, for being a positive role model in my life and everyone at McCaskey. Thank you, Sgt. Beaver, for teaching me to use every life circumstance as a learning opportunity to grow. Also, thank you to my struggle and those who doubted me, for it taught me to fiercely believe in myself and to grow into the man standing today.

Lastly, we live in a society that so readily celebrates success and victories but overlooks the role of failure in shaping our successes. What do successful people have in common? They have failed more times than they succeed, yet they stay persistent, determined, and they get there. Where there is darkness there is also light. In dark times shows true in-

ner strength to give yourself hope to keep the drive alive for a better future. Where there is failure there is also success. Where there is a foster kid, a special education student, an individual who was previously bullied and abused, here I stand before you A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.

To leave you with a piece of wisdom from a special person to myself and all of McCaskey, Brother Albrecht tells us to "fall forward." And to leave my fellow classmates with a new label here graduating today, I now hereby call you all ... HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

• Andrew Sheetz is a 12th grader at McCaskey East High School. His teacher is Cristy Groff.







THIRD PLACE

## Education helps children have successful futures



**LEAH RISSER** SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Primary and secondary education is important because it helps develop the mind and body and supports students' futures.

It is vital for a child to be taught in a stable environment to reach their full potential. Teachers who educate kids on valuable life lessons can make a difference in how they grow up and live their lives.

The school offers many opportunities for students to give them a well-rounded education. Some examples are sports, clubs, music and art. These activities can help them explore outlets outside of the classroom. This is essential because not all classrooms are able to provide extra opportunities because of the difference in money that is available to support these programs.

Additionally, an overpopulated classroom can occasionally overwhelm a student's mental health. However, at many schools, there are guidance counsel-

ors and support staff that can help with any struggles a student is experiencing.

School is supposed to be a safe place for students to interact with their peers and a place to foster creativity. School districts should help provide a balance between learning and helping students achieve their goals. It is a good start for career guidance. In many high schools, they provide certain classes that can be used for their careers.

In conclusion, the primary purpose of K-12 education is to provide essential building blocks so that all children can have a successful future.

Stop by and get Some tasty goods.

Buy Local!

Local!

Buy Local!

Buy Local!

241,W.Lemon Street Lancaster:

• Leah Risser is a seventh grader at Manor Middle School. Her teacher is Lindsey Harper.

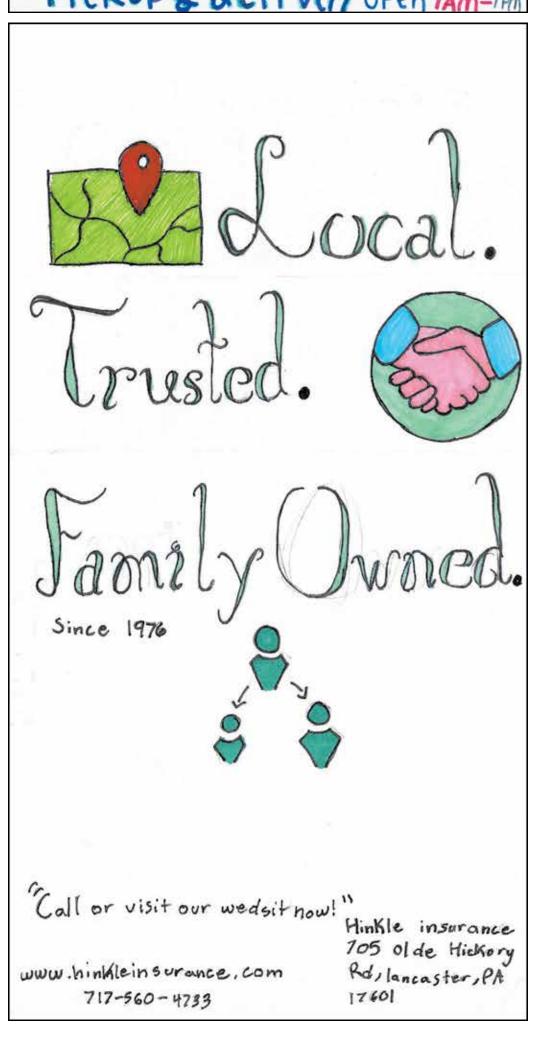


# Water's Edge Mini Golf and Ice Cream

Two Fun Courses!!!

Outdoor Fun for Everyone!

230 N. Ronks Road, Bird in Hand, PA 17505 (717) 768-4653 watersedgegolf.net



THIRD PLACE

#### Education helps us



**CORRIE CHARLES** SPECIAL TO LNP LANCASTERONLINE

I am homeschooled. I enjoy being homeschooled because I can be with my family a lot. We take our schoolwork on vacations because we can help you be able to learn anywhere. I like

• Corrie Charles is a homeschooled second grader.

teacher. Education is important because it can help you pick a job you will like when you are older. Studying helps you learn what you like best. It will help you learn how to spend money wisely. Education helps us know how to solve problems.

Education is nice because when you are older you can teach your children and other people. It can serve people in your having my mom as my community.



#### Be grateful for education

SPECIAL TO LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

Education is very important. Education prepares us for our futures. For example, if you apply for a job, you need a resume. By showing that you are experienced with the right words, you probably will get the job.

I know I am very lucky to have an education. Girls in other countries such as Afghanistan are not getting an education. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, women and girls were not allowed to attend high school or colleges in that country.

All subjects in school are important for our life ahead. Social Studies helps us not make the work such as our body and same mistakes again as others did in the past. Math helps us understand God's helps us prepare for when we need to complete tax returns. ILA helps us to make resumes and sound smart when we are apply-

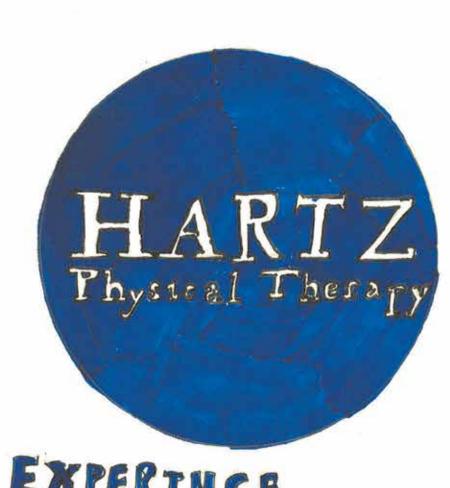
ing for jobs. Science helps

us understand how things

the environment. Religion love for us.

I know some people right now that do not care for school, but those people will be grateful for their education when they start in the workforce.

• Clare Bertz is a seventh grader at Sacred Heart School. Her teacher is Jackie Muehleisen.

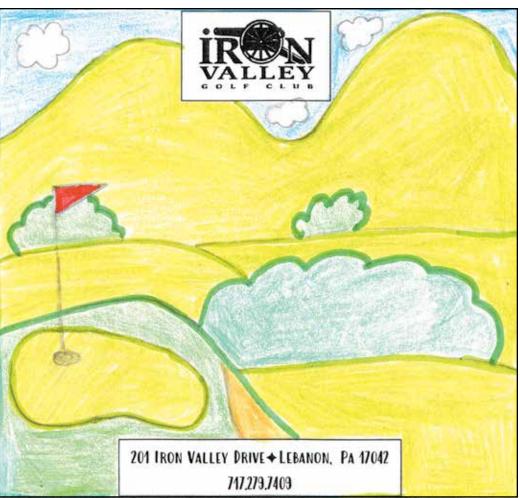


### EXPERINCE DIFFERENCE!

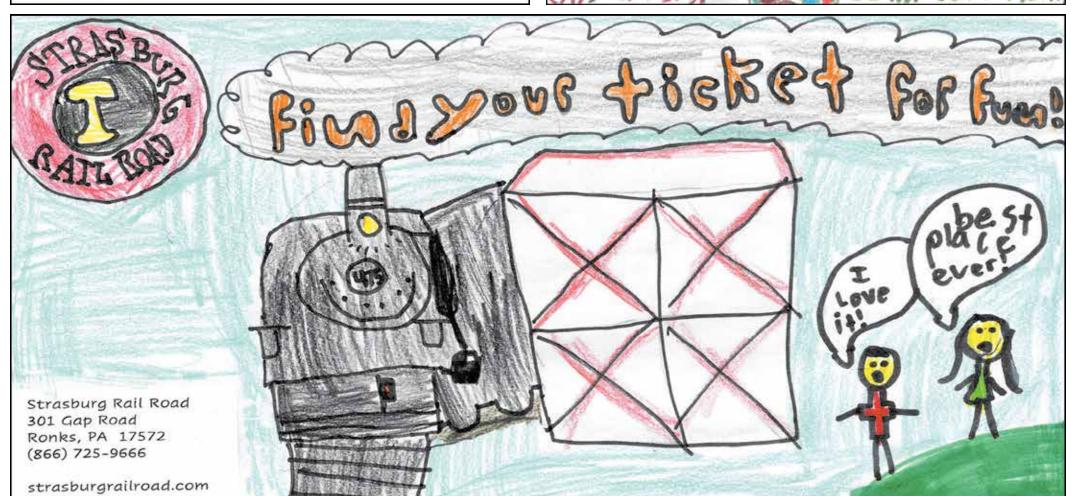
- · Locally owned with 6 offices throughout Lancaster county!
- · One-on-one care for many types of injuries!
- · Appointments available within 24-48 hours!

Offices located in Lititz, Ephrata, Mount Joy. Manheim, Lancaster East, and Lancaster West!

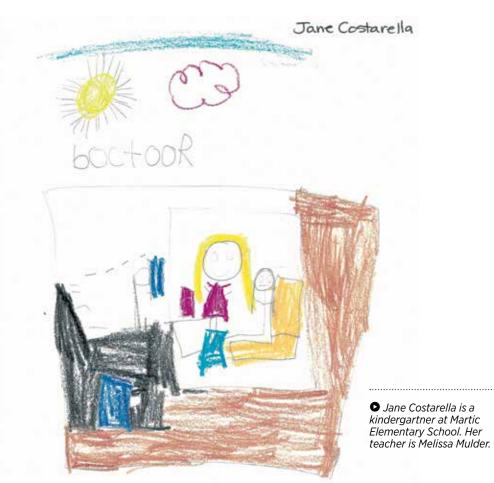
(717)-625-2228

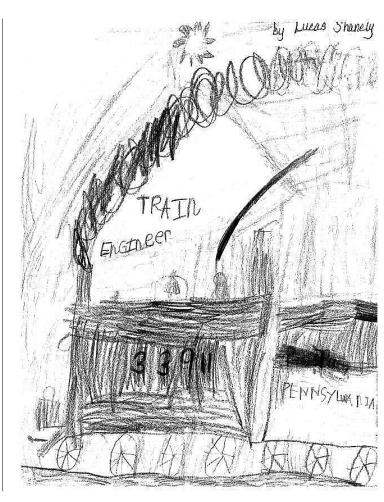






LNP | LANCASTER, PA





Lucas Shanley is a kindergartner at Veritas Academy. His teacher is Jacqueline Lake.







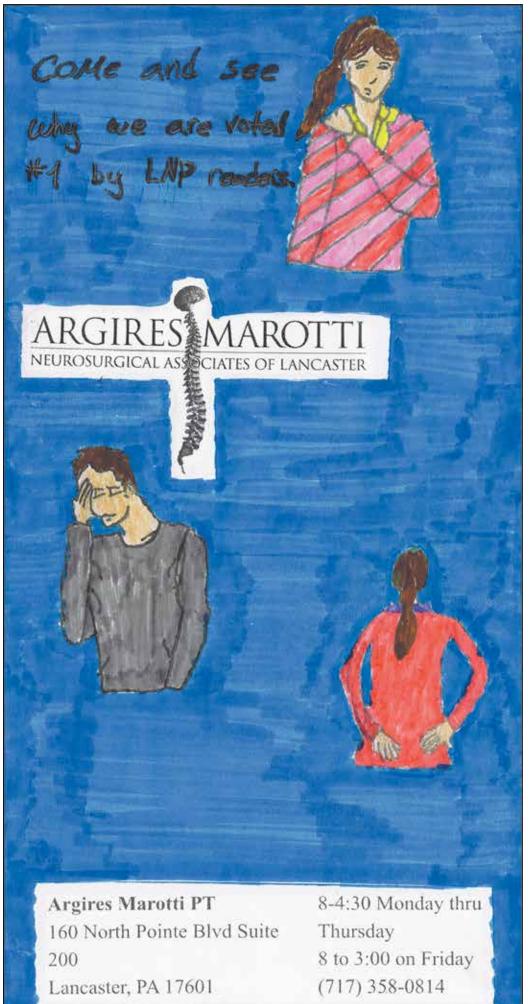


160 North Pointe Blvd Suite 200 8 to 3:00 on Friday Lancaster, PA 17601 (717) 358-0814 come and See Neck Pain? why we are voted. ARGIRES MAROTTI ▲ Ad designed by Shanny Montanez

8-4:30 Monday thru Thursday

Argires Marotti PT

▲ Ad designed by Racka Ashraf



ARGIRES MAROTTI
NEUROSURGICAL ASSOCIATES OF LANCASTER Argires Marotti PT 160 North Pointe Blvd Suite 200 Lancaster, PA 17601 8-4:30 Monday thru Thursday 8 to 3:00 on Friday (717) 358-0814

▲ Ad designed by Liam Bradley