

## OPINION

# Reading and More

### From the Tutor/Mentor, Marie Steinle

After moving to Alexandria, I knew I wanted to get more involved in the community. I had previously tutored adults in reading and thought it would be fun and a challenge to tutor a child.

Kevin was just beginning third grade when we met. He was a hesitant and reluctant reader. We started very slowly with basic picture books and have moved on to chapter books. He has made good progress, and now in fifth grade, he reads more fluently and self corrects when he makes mistakes.

### MENTOR OF THE MONTH

Kevin's confidence has increased along with his improved reading. He asks more questions and now he picks about half the books we read.

We work hard during our sessions but we have fun too. In addition to reading, writing and grammar worksheets we play word games. Hangman is a favorite.

We also attend some of the monthly Wright to Read programs like the Holiday dinner at IHOP and the annual picnic. If there is a meal, we are usually there! This past summer we took advantage of some of the programs at the Alexandria Libraries. A highlight for Kevin was petting the albino boa constrictor.

I could not do this alone, but Wright to Read has great resources for tutor/mentors and students so I always feel supported. Thank you Luisa and Jaime. I also would like to send a special thank you to the children's librarians at Beatley Library for all their help.

### From the student, Kevin

I have been working with Ms. Marie since I was in third grade and now I'm in fifth grade. We read books together then do worksheets. We play word games on Ms. Marie's table. She helps me with my reading and writing. Before I was reading pic-



Marie Steinle with Kevin

ture books and now I'm reading chapter books. We read what I like. I think we have read over 10 books about soccer. Working with Ms. Marie, I think I have learned over 900 new words.

Ms. Marie and I go do the activities at the library. The summer program with reptiles and boa constrictors was one of my favorites. I also enjoy the Wright to Read activities. They are cool and fun. The picnic in June was fun and there were a lot of games. My favorite was the Cake Walk. The best place we visited is Huntley Meadows. I felt adventurous in the woods. Another favorite Wright to Read experience has been Readers Take the Stage. I was so scared until I told myself, "I got this." I stopped worrying about it and got in front of the group and read my story.

Ms. Marie is the best because she spends time with me and takes me places. She also gives me snacks. One of my favorite snacks was a trail mix as well as clementines. She has helped me learn new stuff and I feel like I am more confident in reading aloud.

*Wright to Read is a program of The Campaign Center and is a member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. To learn more about Wright to Read, visit: <http://www.campaigncenter.org/programs/elementary-level> or to learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>.*

when it opened in the fall of 1965. George Washington High and Francis C. Hammond High were also integrated at that time. The controversial consolidation plan of 1971 was an attempt to bring racial balance and to improve the secondary school curriculum. The media continues to have problems grasping the chronology of these events. Too many people are getting their history lessons from that silly and historically inaccurate Disney farce of a movie "Remember the Titans."

**Gregory G. Paspatis**  
T.C. Williams High  
Class of 1978

## Protect Karig Forest

To the Editor:

Citizens are asking the city to protect a

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A festive advertisement for 'Shop Small' in Alexandria. The top half features a stylized illustration of a storefront with three windows, each with a wreath. Below the windows, the text reads 'MORE HOLLY & JOLLY LESS HUSTLE & BUSTLE'. The illustration shows two women walking on a sidewalk, one holding a sign that says 'SHOP SMALL'. The bottom half of the ad is on a red background and lists three events: 'BLACK FRIDAY November 24', 'SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY November 25', and 'MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY November 26'. Below the events, there is a paragraph encouraging support for local businesses. At the bottom, the word 'EXTRAORDINARY' is written in a simple font, followed by 'Alexandria' in a large, elegant script font. The website 'VisitAlexandriaVA.com/ShopSmall' is listed at the very bottom.

Alexandria is the D.C. region's Shop Small headquarters! The season kicks off with:

**BLACK FRIDAY**  
November 24

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**  
November 25

**MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY**  
November 26

Support local businesses as you wander our historic streets under a canopy of twinkle lights, and find that one-of-a-kind gift! Enjoy special festivities and surprises on Small Business Saturday. And don't forget to keep shopping small throughout the season!

EXTRAORDINARY  
*Alexandria*

VisitAlexandriaVA.com/ShopSmall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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longer, healthier life for them.

### Allen Lomax and Jim Scott

*Allen Lomax and Jim Scott are the chair and vice chair of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria. To learn more about the Partnership and get involved, visit [www.healthieralexandria.org](http://www.healthieralexandria.org).*

## Consolidation Not Integration

To the Editor:

I am writing to correct a misunderstanding in the Oct. 26 article about the city School Board considering the possibility of creating a second high school at the Minnie Howard campus ("New High School?").

What happened in 1971 was not an integration but a consolidation of three high schools that had already been integrated several years earlier.

T.C. Williams High was fully integrated