

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Preschool Presents

Places to Play: Sandy Springs

A guide to our playful city by children, for children!

SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA

MOUNT VERNON
PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Preschool Presents

Places to Play: Sandy Springs

A guide to our playful city by children, for children!

A project in conjunction with Visit Sandy Springs and the
Sandy Springs Office of the Mayor

Edited by: Kelly B. Kelly, Head of Preschool
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October 25, 2018

Dear Mount Vernon Students,

The smartest people I know dream big, are open to new ideas, and know how to have fun. That is why the City is looking to you to help us with a very important project – creating material which helps parents with children, just like you, find the best places to play in Sandy Springs.

I want you to explore all of the places in Sandy Springs that are good for playing. Talk with other kids (and their parents), take or draw pictures, and help us create the stories around these great places to play. In fact, I want you to write the book to help other children, parents, grandparents and other grown-ups learn about the fun side of Sandy Springs.

Your teachers are ready to help you with this important project. We know it will take some time to explore and put your thoughts and ideas into your book. It's a big project, but I know you can do it!

I look forward to reading about and exploring your recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rusty Paul', is written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Rusty Paul
Mayor

Our project started with a letter from the Mayor of Sandy Springs himself! He issued us a challenge to create a book for parents and children alike to talk about all the fun things there are to do in Sandy Springs!



Mount Vernon's Journey with Children are Citizens!

According to Merriam-Webster the most basic definition of a citizen is “an inhabitant of a city or town.” Upon the assumption that this is the universal definition of a citizen, would not all people, even the smallest of us, be considered citizens? Supposing that the smallest of us are to be considered citizens, what would that look like? These are the questions asked by Project Zero's ‘Children are Citizens Project’. They took it upon themselves as a collective to ask the questions;

“Are children citizens? Well, yes, but we don't often think of them as having the capacities we expect of citizens, and we don't often include their voices in civic conversations. But what if we changed that framework? Instead of viewing them as junior, cuter, future versions of citizens, what if we saw them as citizens now, capable of making meaningful contributions to their communities?”

The children of Mount Vernon set out to answer these questions and more. They, along with their educators, searched for and found the most magical places in Sandy Springs to play. This book is filled with information, photographs, artistic renderings, and advice all collected by the children here at the Mount Vernon Preschool. We hope this book is both informative and inspiring for you and your family.

Most of all, we hope you play together!



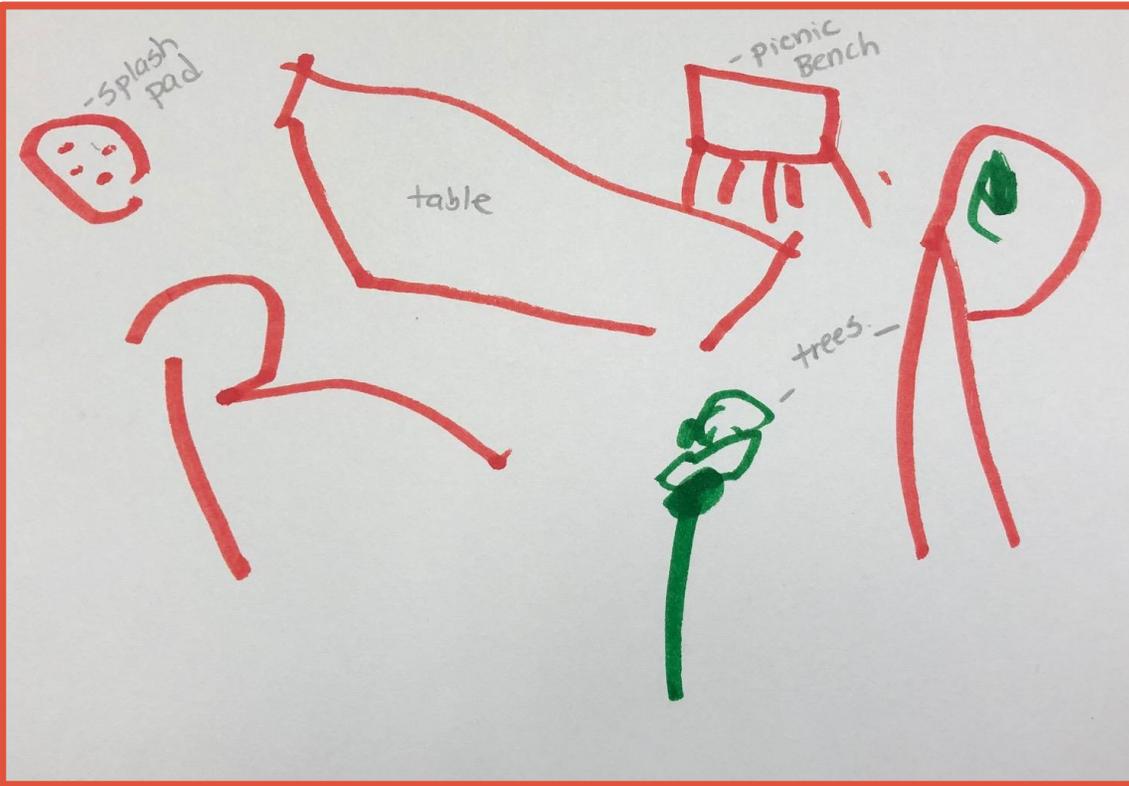


City Springs

Sandy Springs, Georgia



Picnic Tables and Splash Pad



“You can have a picnic at the tables by the splash pad.”
- Sayward (age 4)

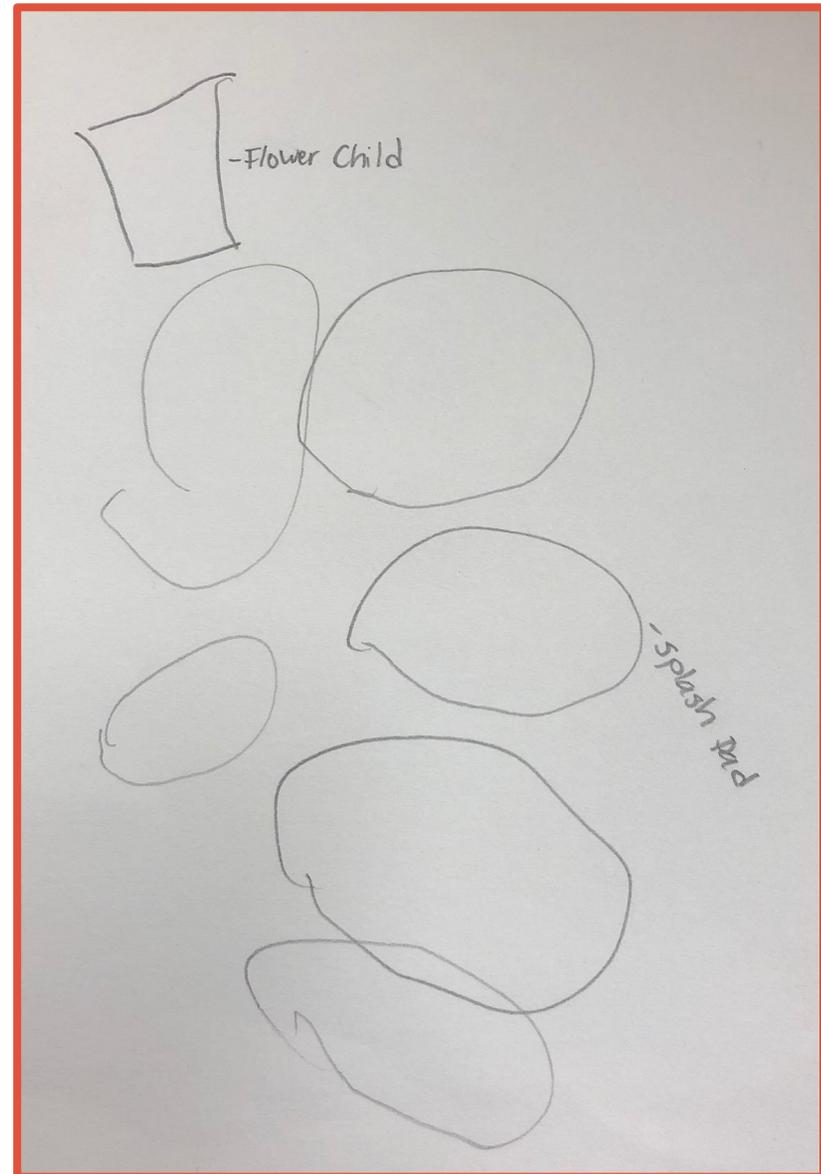


“You can splash and get
water all over you.”
- Michelle (age 4)

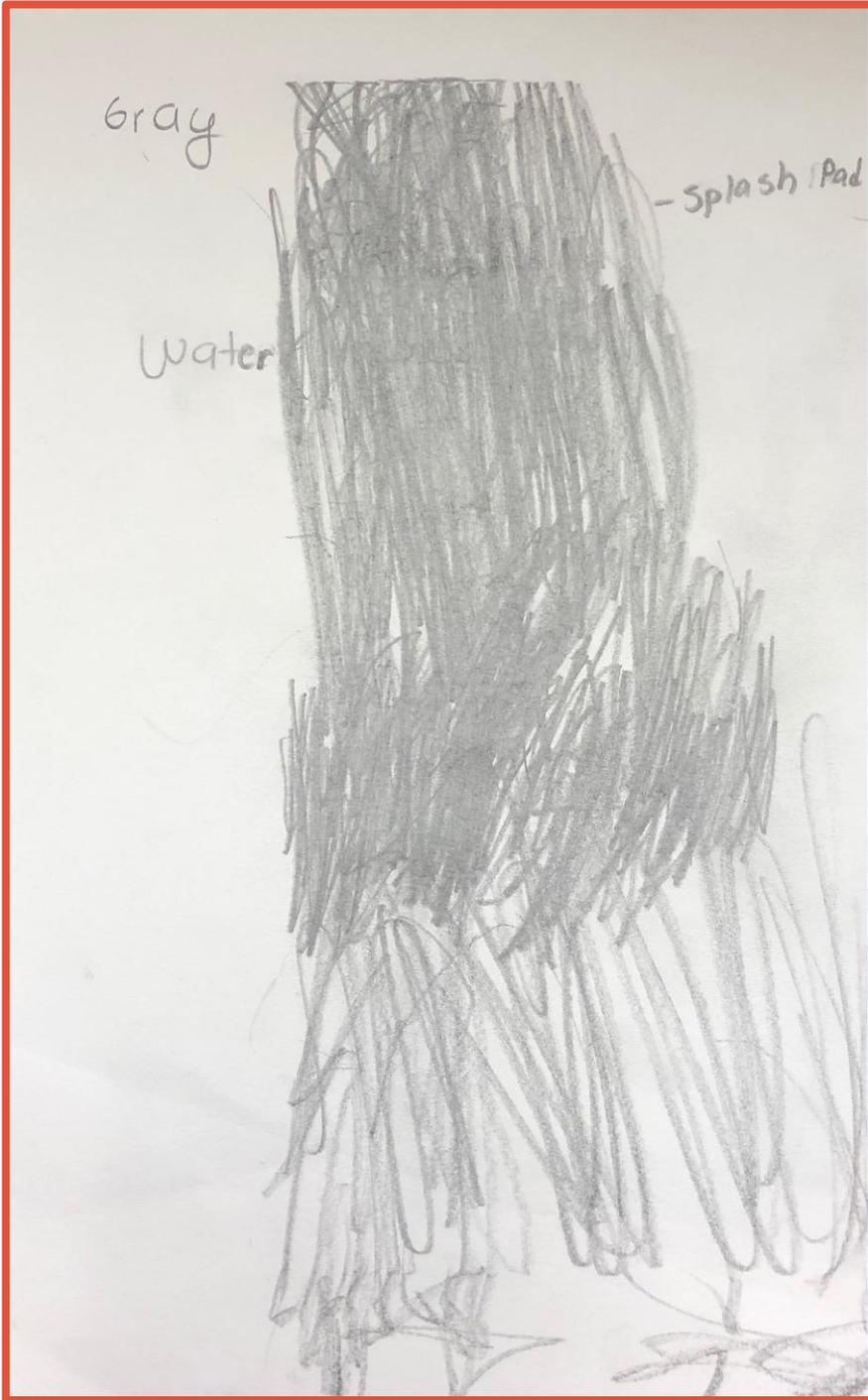


“You can go to the splash pad
and then eat at Flower Child.”

- Sophia (age 4)



Splash Pad



“The splash pad has water for you to play. You get all wet.”
- Gray (age 4)

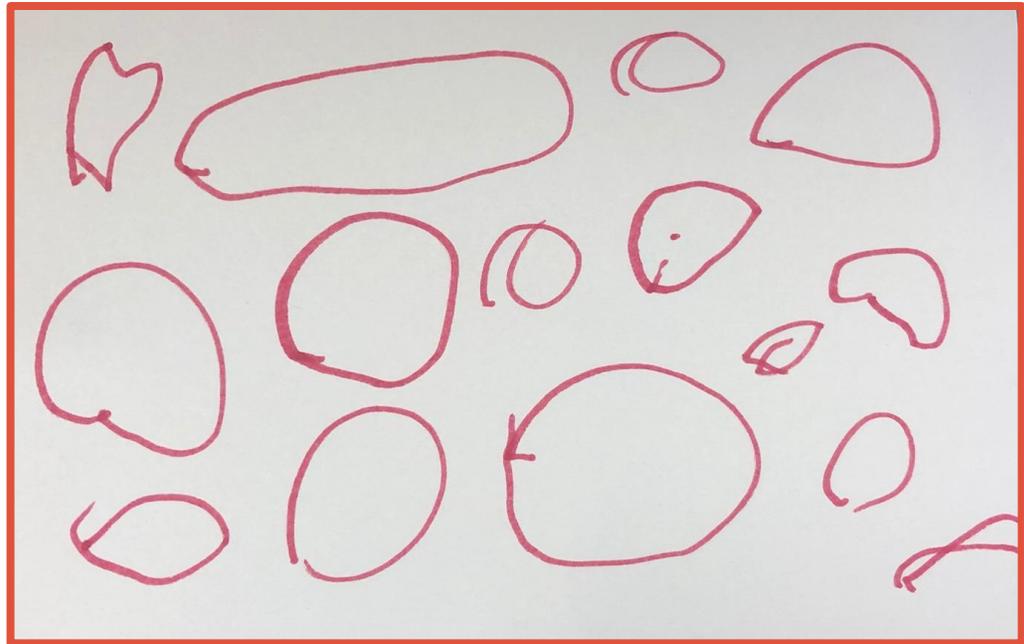


“The dots are where the water comes out.
I like to run in the water.”
- Jonathan (age 4)





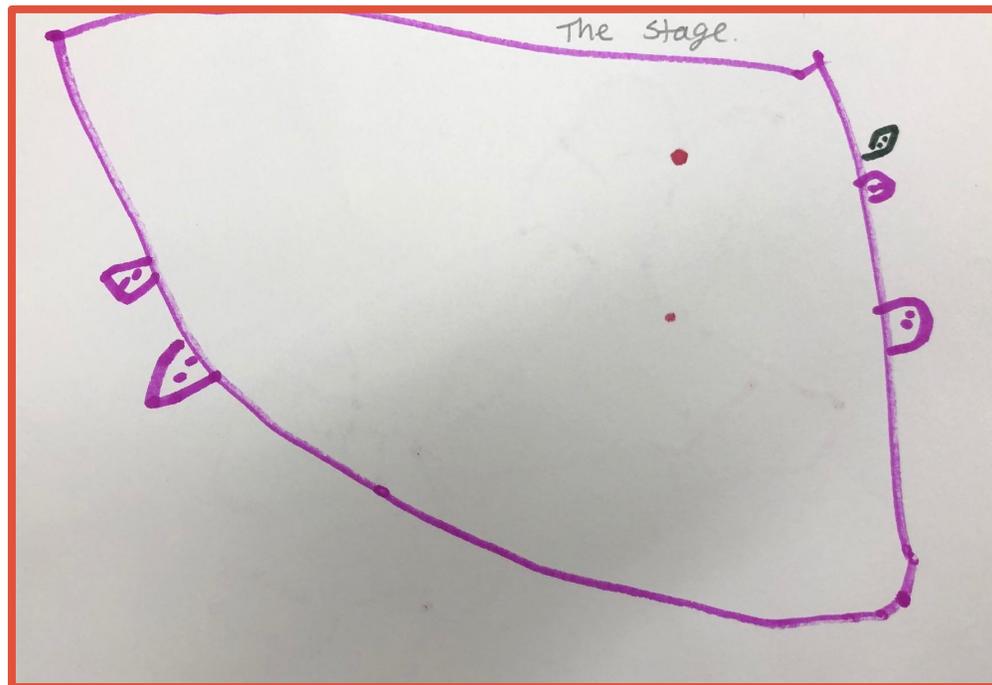
“You can walk on
the splash pads.”
– Welles (age 4)

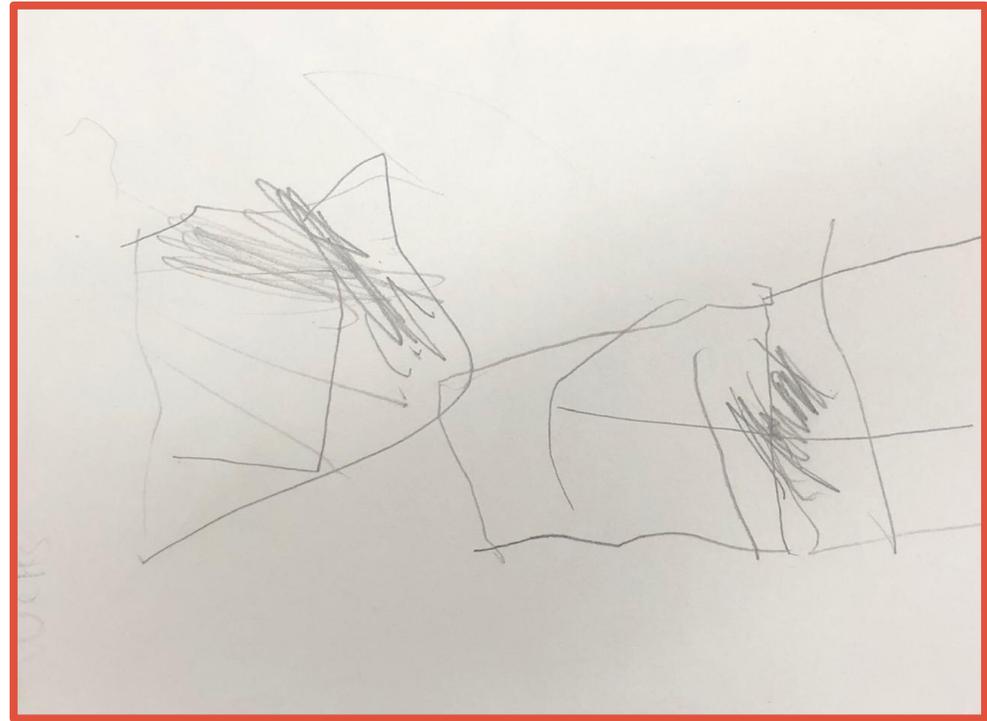


Outside Amphitheater with Grass Lawn

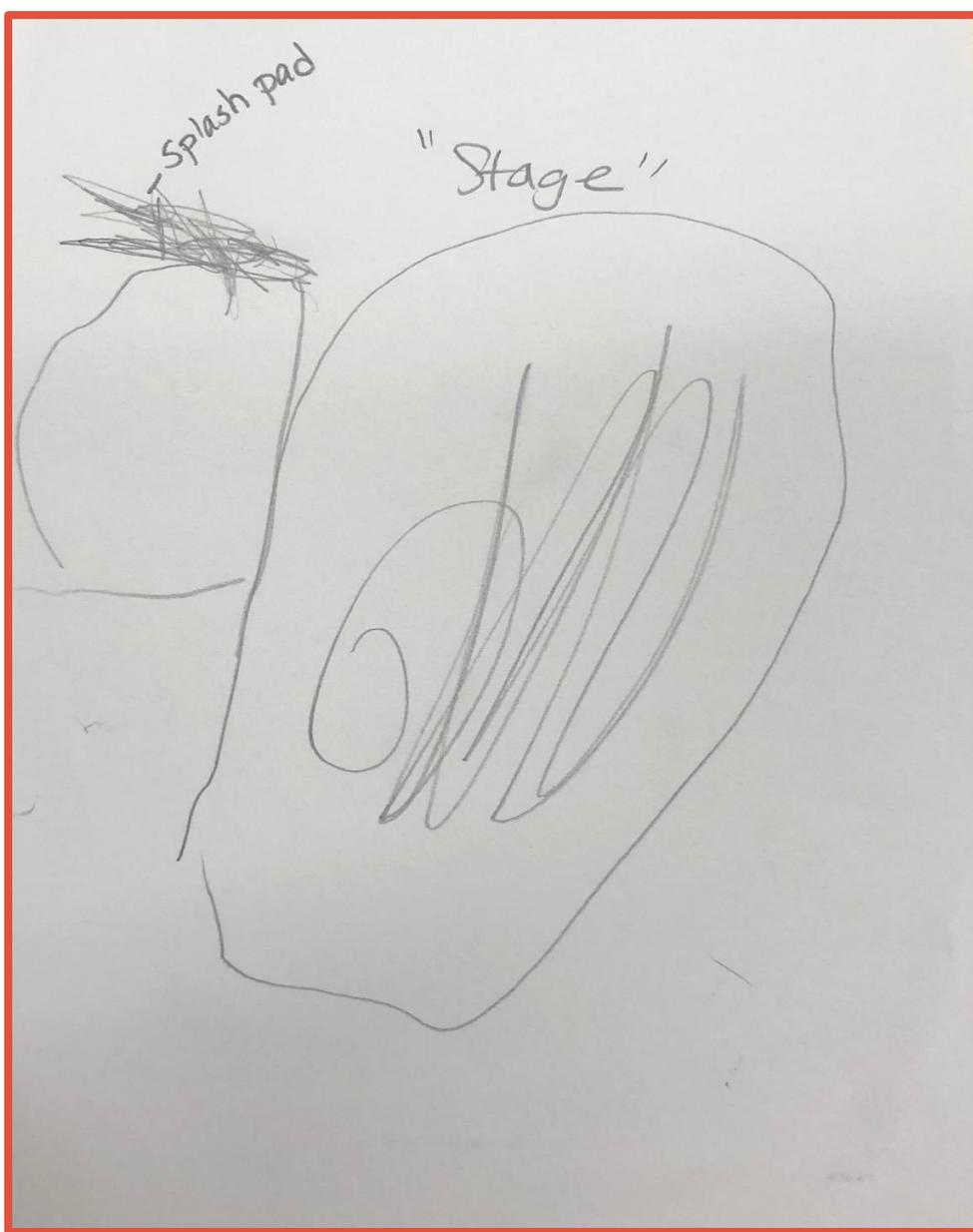


“I like to run on the stage.” – Sayward (age 4)



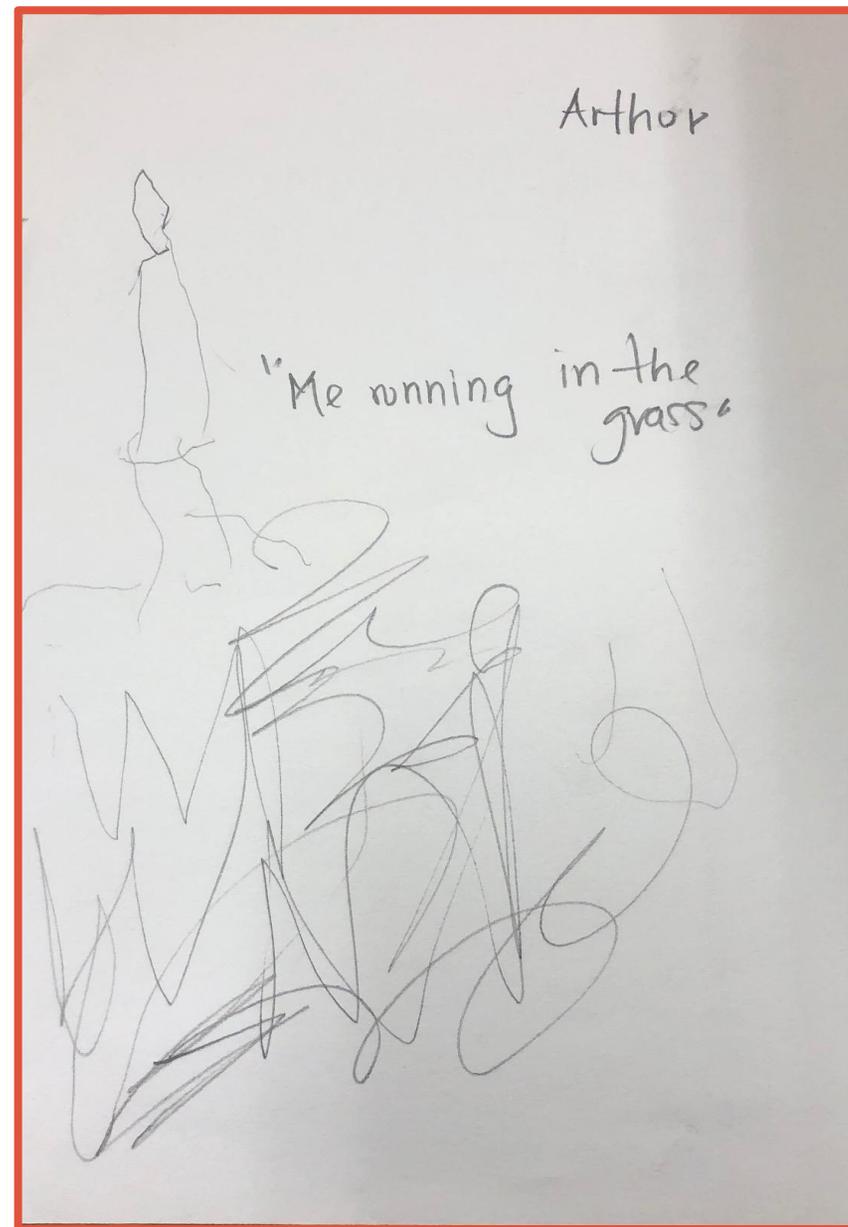


“I like playing
on the stage.”
- Welles (age 3)

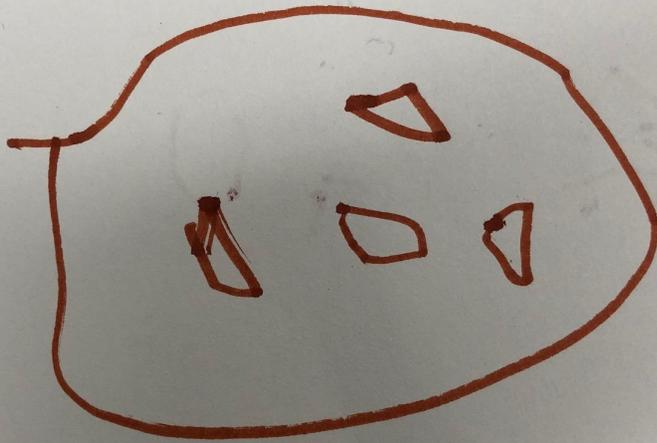


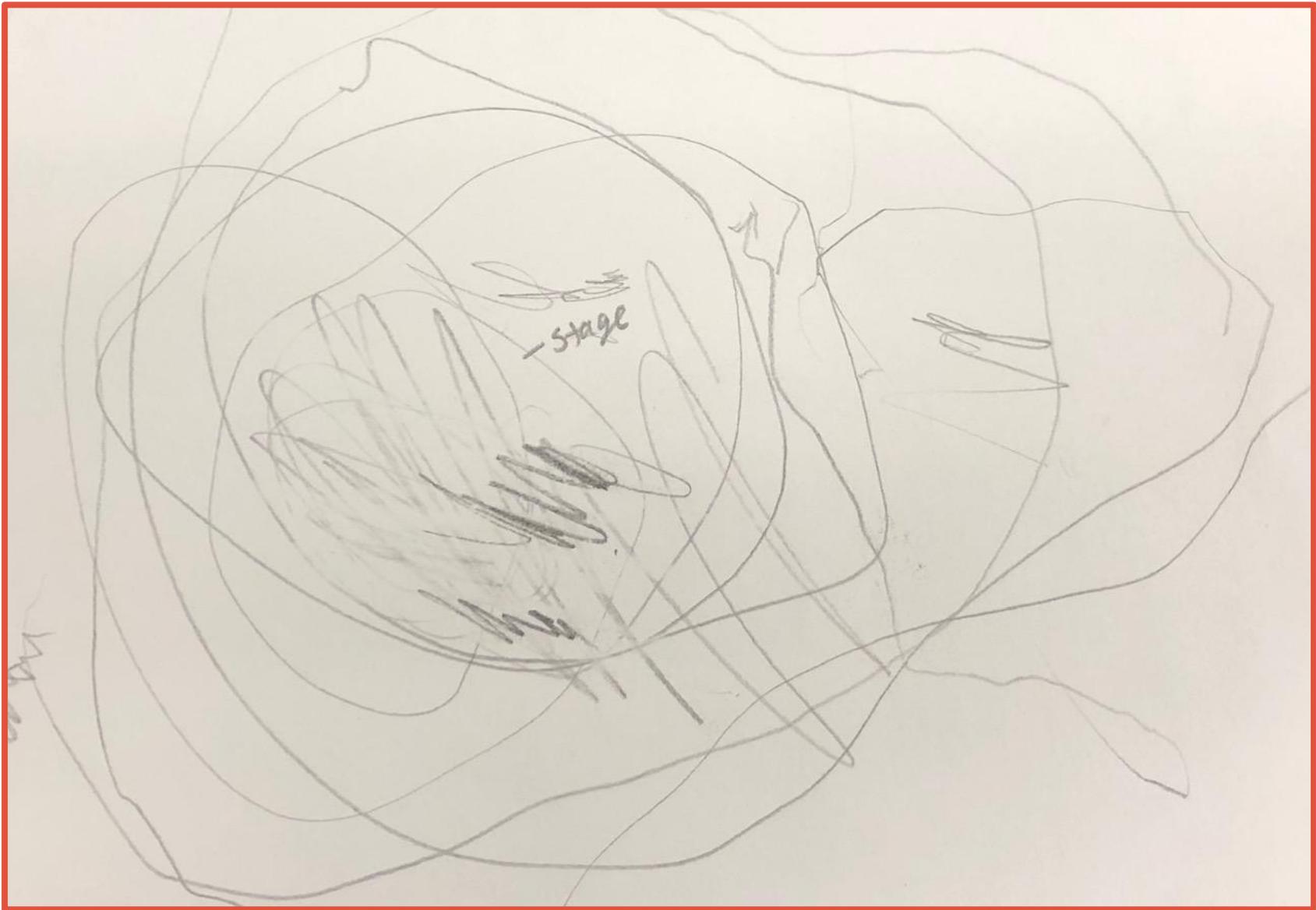
“The splash pad is near the stage.”
– Michelle (age 4)

“Me, running in the grass.”
– Arthur (age 3)



“The lights on top light the bottom.
There is a light on the bottom to light the top up.”
- Henry (age 4)

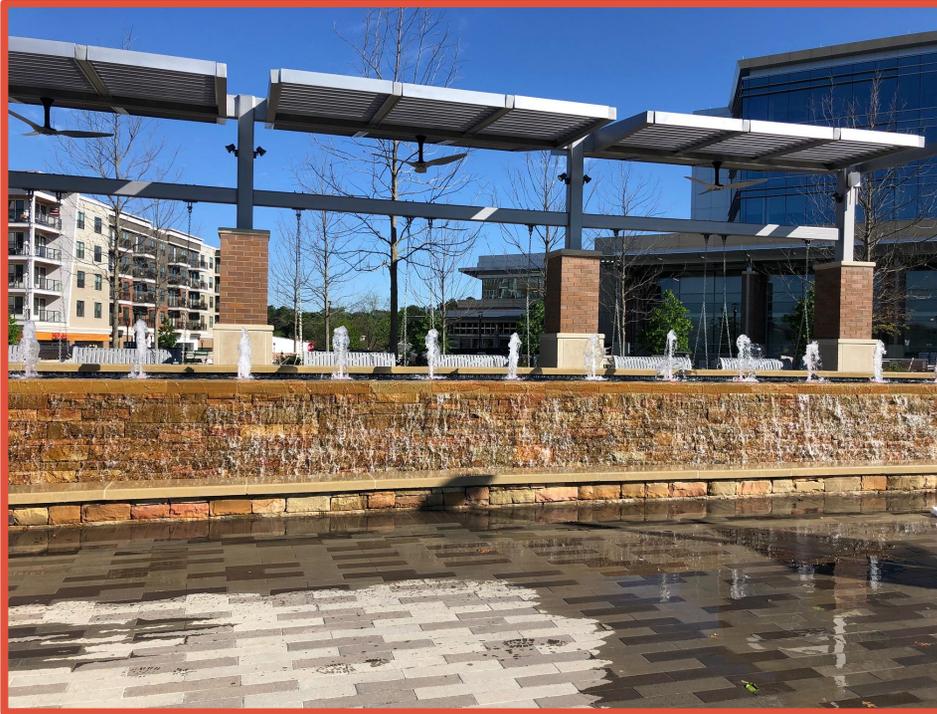




“People can dance,
laugh, and play on there.”
- Lizzie (age 3)



Water Fountains and Swinging Benches



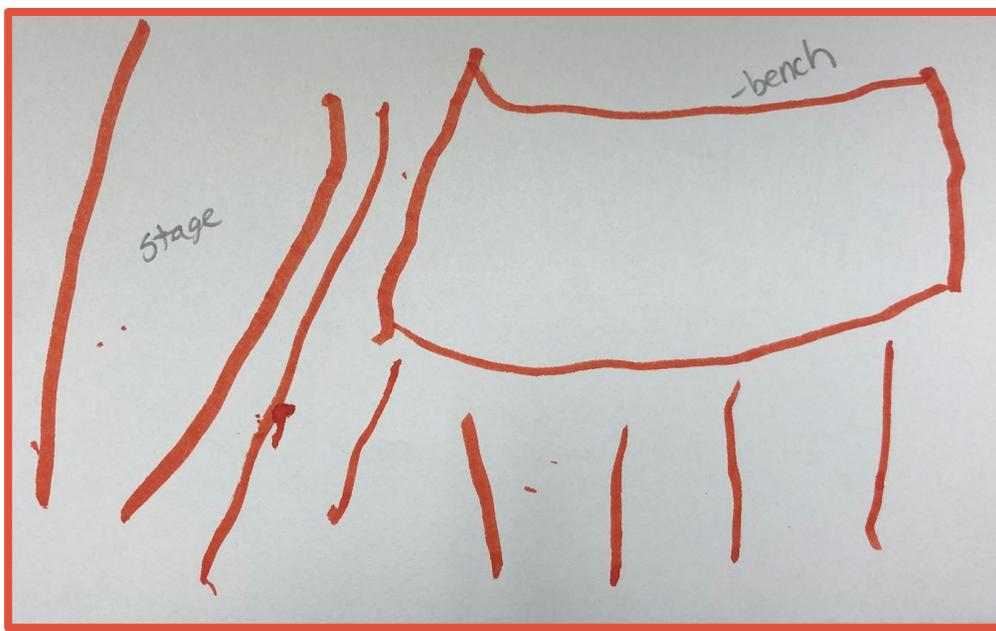
“There are fountains by the splash pad.” – Wyatt (age 4)





“You can watch the water fountain
when you swing on the benches.”

- Ellie (age 4)



“You can swing on the bench and look at the stage.”
- Lizzie (age 3)





PK3, Mount Vernon Presbyterian School
Mrs. Shann Acevedo and Mrs. Molly Collier





John Ripley Forbes: Big Trees Preserve

Sandy Springs, Georgia



The JOHN RIPLEY FORBES BIG TREES FOREST PRESERVE is a beautiful and unique 30-acre Fulton County Tree, Plant, and Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Forest is preserved and protected in a cooperative partnership with The John Ripley Forbes Big Trees Forest Preserve, Inc., the City of Sandy Springs, State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Southeast Land Preservation Trust.



Children are Citizens!

The involvement of children, as part of the community and users of services, can make sure agencies and organizations are relevant to them. Their participation ensures what is provided is what is needed, and children are more likely to support the outcome if they have been involved in developing it.

What the kids will learn from getting involved in their community?

- *Responsible Actions*
- *Leadership Skills*
- *Innovative Thinking*



How can we help our environment?

Our friends have become passionate about our planet and how we can make a difference.

We have been talking about ways to protect our environment: at school, at home and around our community!

We decided to find out from the experts at the tree preserve.



We can help our environment by learning and understanding the world around us. Let's start where we live, right here in Sandy Springs. First we must love and respect our environment by learning about how trees grow and thrive in nature. Our friends are learning about how they can help from day to day.



We can **USE LESS WATER AND ENERGY!**



How can we help protect our trees and our environment?

Teaching children to care for the environment is a learning experience that is an important part of growing up. It gives them skills in respect, empathy, patience, responsibility, and teaches them about consequences. But it also teaches them valuable lessons about sustainability and how we want to leave the world for future generations.

Showing children how to recycle properly is like passing the baton to them for a cleaner and brighter future.



(photo taken by student)





We can **RECYCLE!**



What did you learn from Mr. Tom and our trip to the preserve about taking care of our environment?

Margie (age 4): “By making sure our trash goes in the trash can and not on the ground.”

Davis (age 4): “Recycling will protect our trees.”

Nathan (age 4): “You can use the bags to clean up after your dogs.”

Barrett (age 4): “You can plant seeds and grow more trees and plants.”



Our Responsibility as Citizens is to educate our friends and families about the beautiful world around us.

We are encouraging others to visit the Tree Preserve to learn more and take action in protecting our environment!





PK3, Mount Vernon Presbyterian School
Ms. Ashlee Mirabella and Mrs. Tammy Navarre





Morgan Falls Overlook Park

Sandy Springs, Georgia



Morgan Falls Overlook Park

There is so much to do at Morgan Falls Overlook Park. The 30-acre riverside park includes picnic pavilions, a playground, restrooms, boat dock, hiking trail, fire pit, porch swings, and scenic views. Our favorite things were the shaded playground, the hiking trail, and the lake where we learned to fish.





“You could sit here and watch the sunset.”
- Liam (age 5)



Historical Chimney Remains





“You can get burnt wood from the fire pit and draw on the sidewalk.”
- Piper (age 4)

A Shady Playground



“I like the horn. You say something in it and then the words go places to the other horn.”
– David (age 5)

“I love climbing the spider web.” – Wesley (age 5)





“I liked climbing.” – Asher (age 5)



“I liked swinging on the swings.”
– Wesley (age 5)



A Hiking Trail

“I liked how the water changed. It was blue first, then it turned to brown.”
- Claire (age 5)



“I liked sitting on the bench, you could see the water.”
- Asher (age 5)





“The perfect length hike.”
- Paige (age 5)





“The thing I liked about our hike was there were so many trees
– like a forest, and I was like the Big Bad Wolf.”
– Oliver (age 5)



“I liked the hike
we went on.”
– Stella (age 5)

(This was to get to the shoreline where we fished.)



Fishing at Morgan Falls Overlook



“I caught
zero fish.”
-Liam (age 5)



“I loved that Alex and Asher caught so many fish, and Stella.” - Claire (age 5)



“I liked catching 2 fish.” – Asher (age 5)





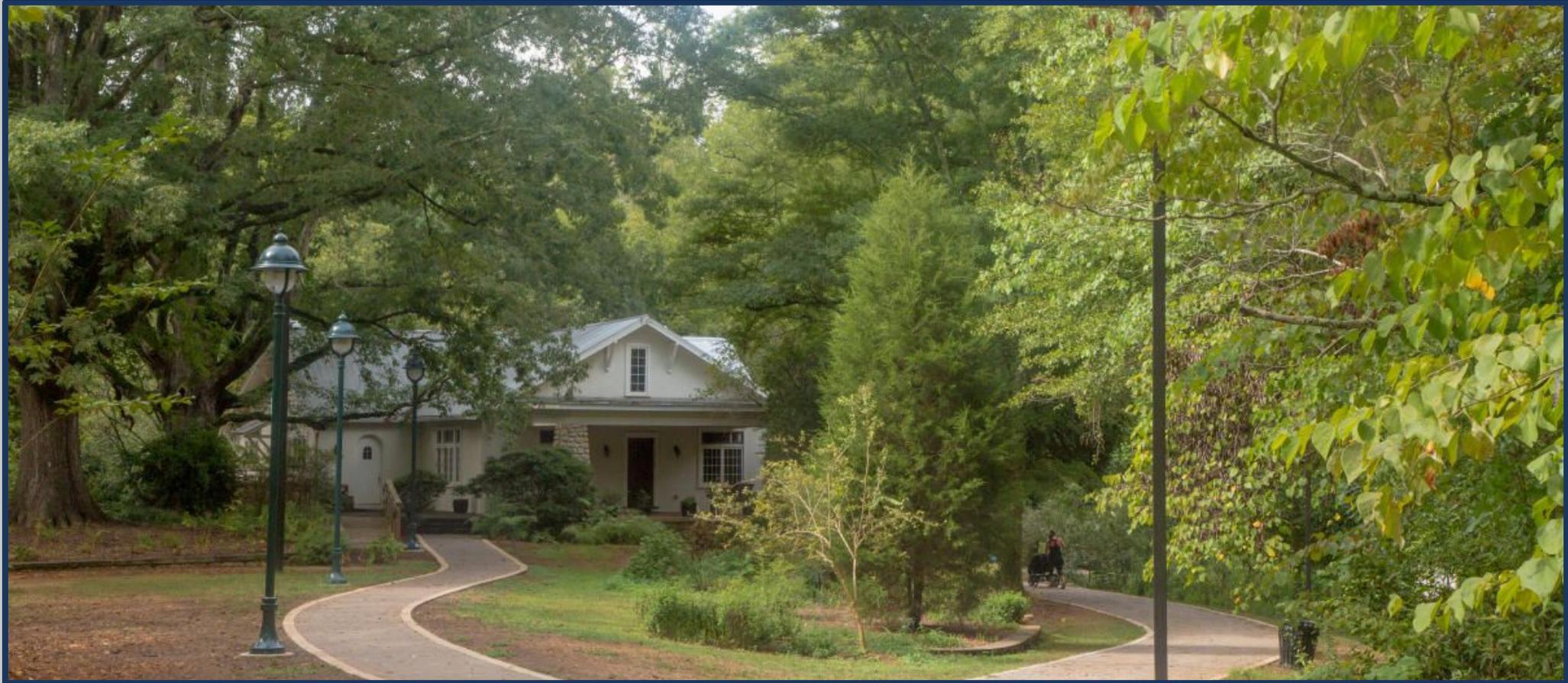
“I love fishing.” – Oliver (age 5)





PK4, Mount Vernon Presbyterian School
Mrs. Debbie Markland and Mrs. Elizabeth Jones





Lost Corner Preserve

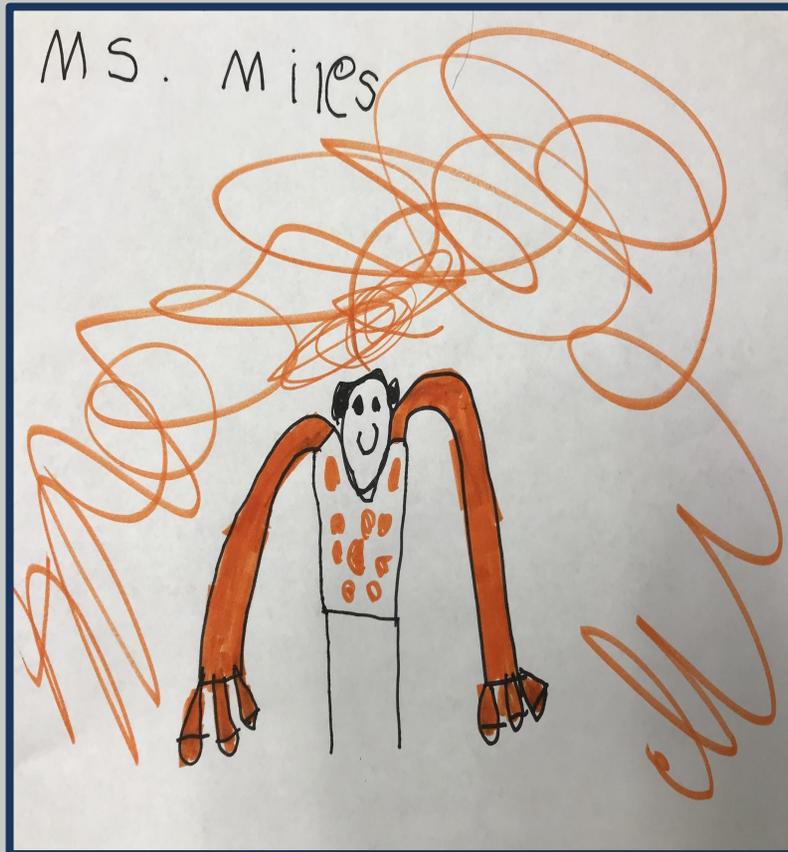
Sandy Springs, Georgia

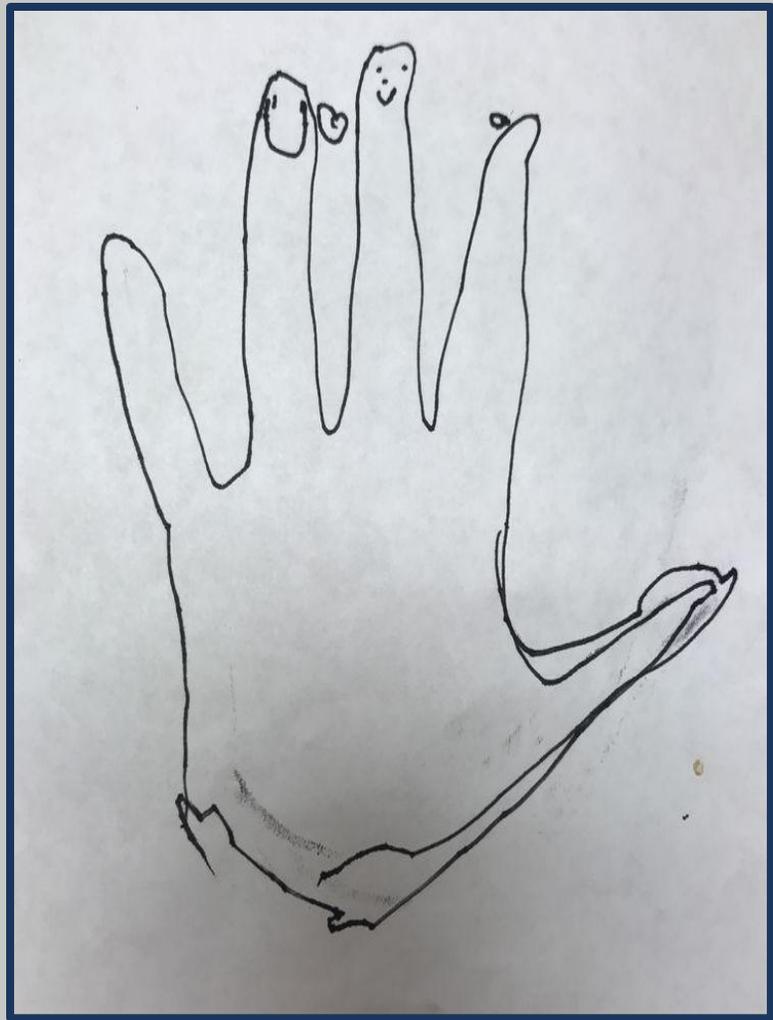


Ms. Miles



"She died and she wanted to keep her house built because she loved children. I think the house is really cool! It's really old! I like its pond."
- Hazel (age 5)



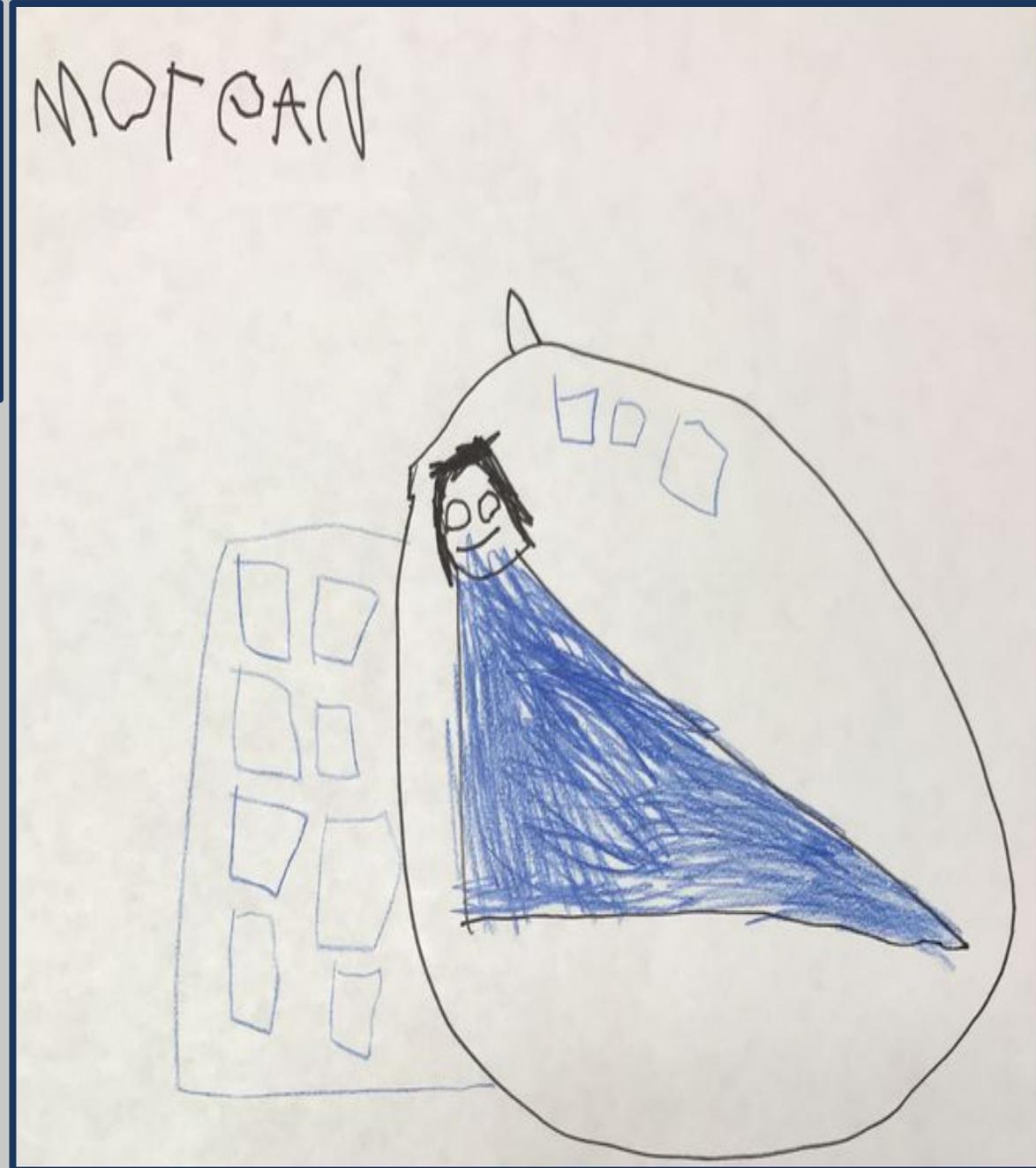


“I like the handprint because my hand fits in it. It’s under the stairs.”
– Elea (age 5)

The Cottage

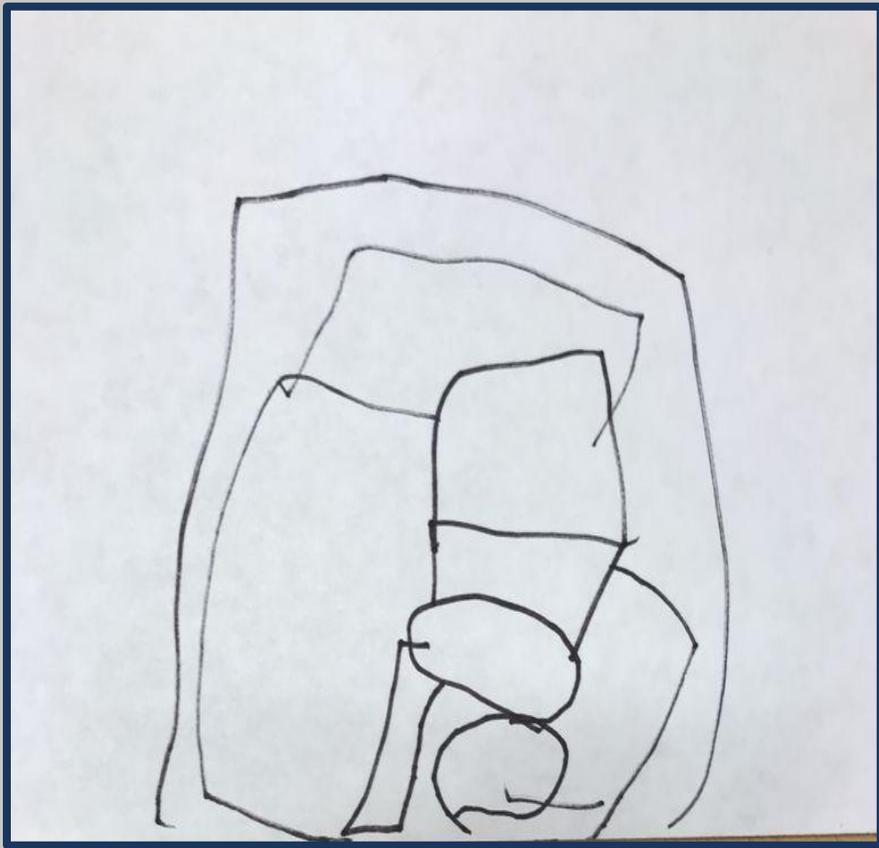


“A long time ago someone
lived in this house.
I like the adventure.”
- Morgan (age 4)





“There’s a birdbath
close to the cottage.
The house has a
swing!”
- Liam (age 4)



“That’s where they used to
keep their milk.”

– Sam (age 5)

(referring to the ruins of the old stone ice house)



FR PLS



“You can go in the house.
There is a fireplace - they used
to cook in their fireplace.
It's BIG!!”
- Callie (age 5)



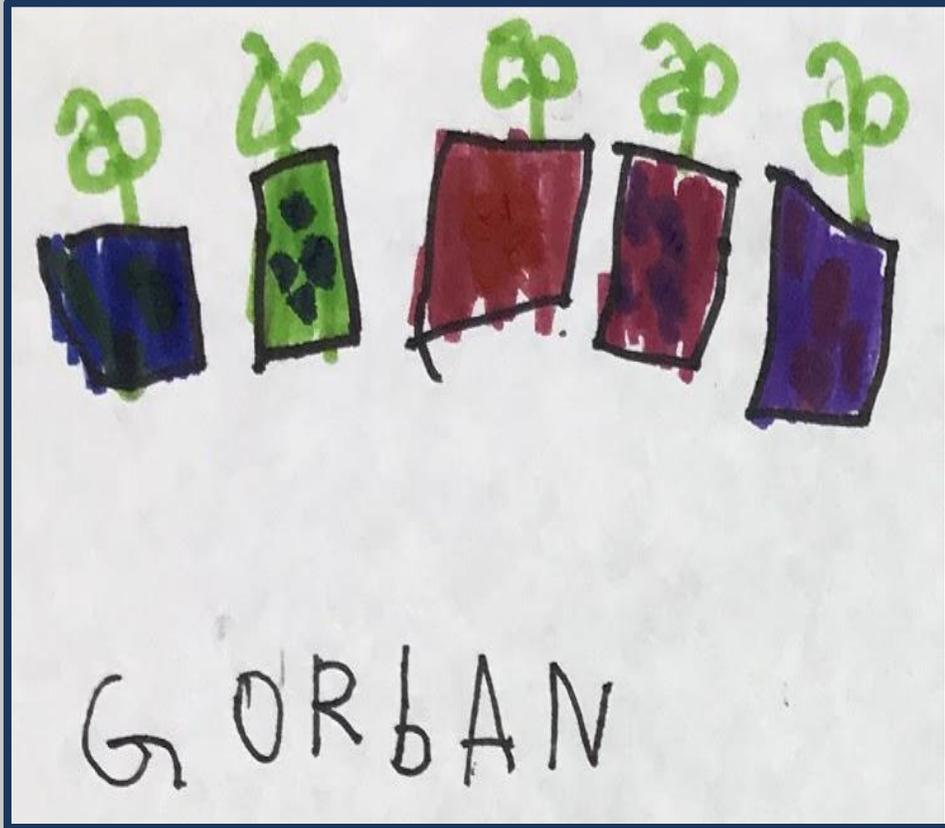
Community Garden

“You can eat one of the flowers so that’s why I put the flowers into the boxes. I didn’t try one but my friends did. I like the pond and the place where you can stand on it.”
-Merritt (age 5)





“I like the garden.”
- Gauransh (age 5)



“I drew each bed in the garden. It’s my whole family’s. For mine I did lavender. Merritt’s is bananas, Will and Elea have grapes and oranges. For Pumpkin’s (my princess) I did watermelon. Hazel has blueberries.”
- Eleanor (age 5)





“We got to eat green leaves in the garden.
They taste like spinach. It’s an eating garden.”
– Callie (age 5)

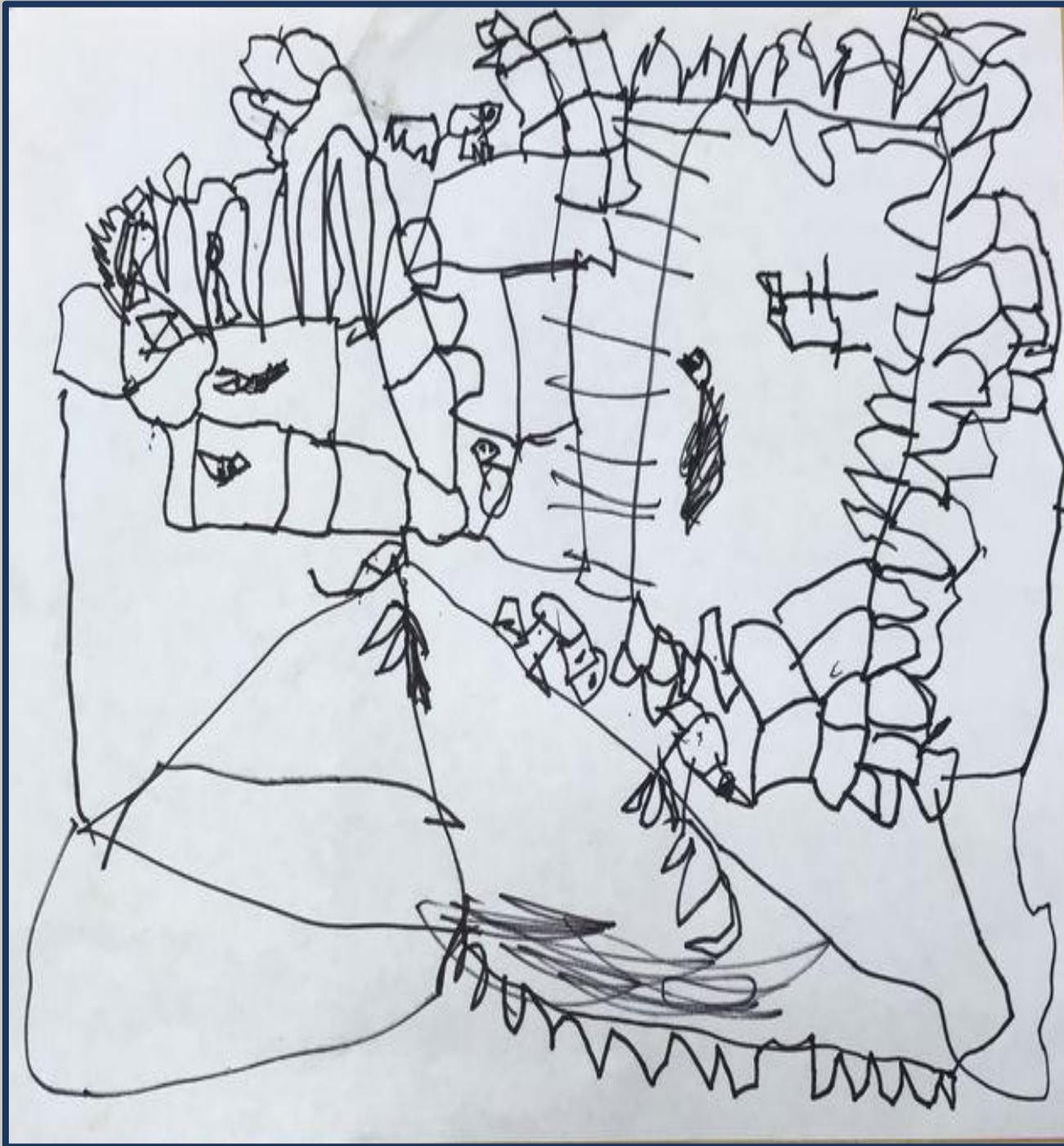


The Pond



“I like the whole pond because there are so many frogs.”
- Gauransh (age 5)





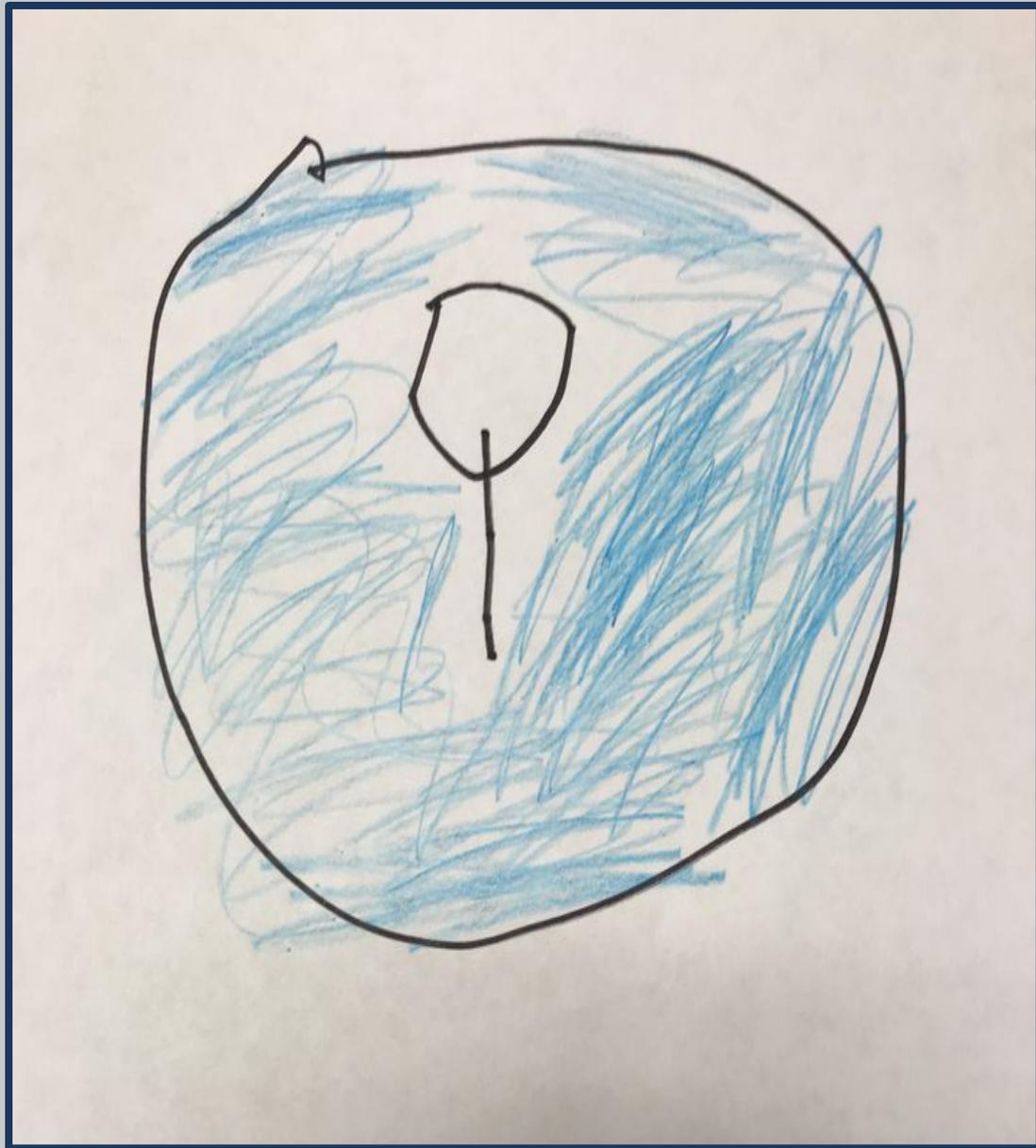
“There were 3 frogs and the tadpoles must have been the frog’s babies. You can see tadpoles in a pond with frogs.

The two ponds are stuck together. The two white areas are the dry land. I drew a tadpole turning into a frog.”

- Cade (age 5)







“I saw one baby tadpole in the dirty pond!
Not the one with rocks.”
– Alex (age 5)



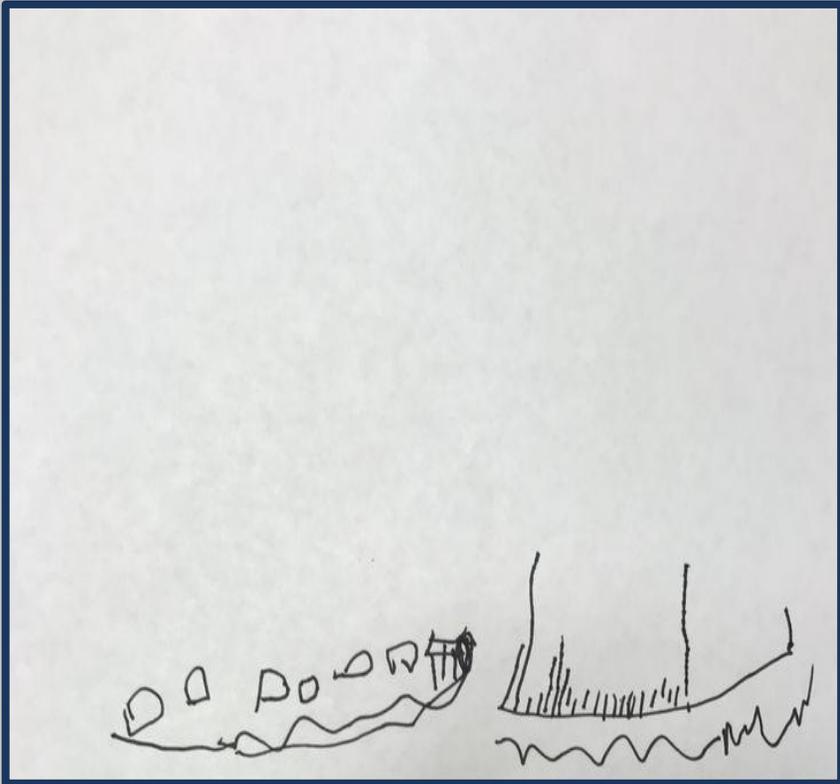
The Nature Preserve



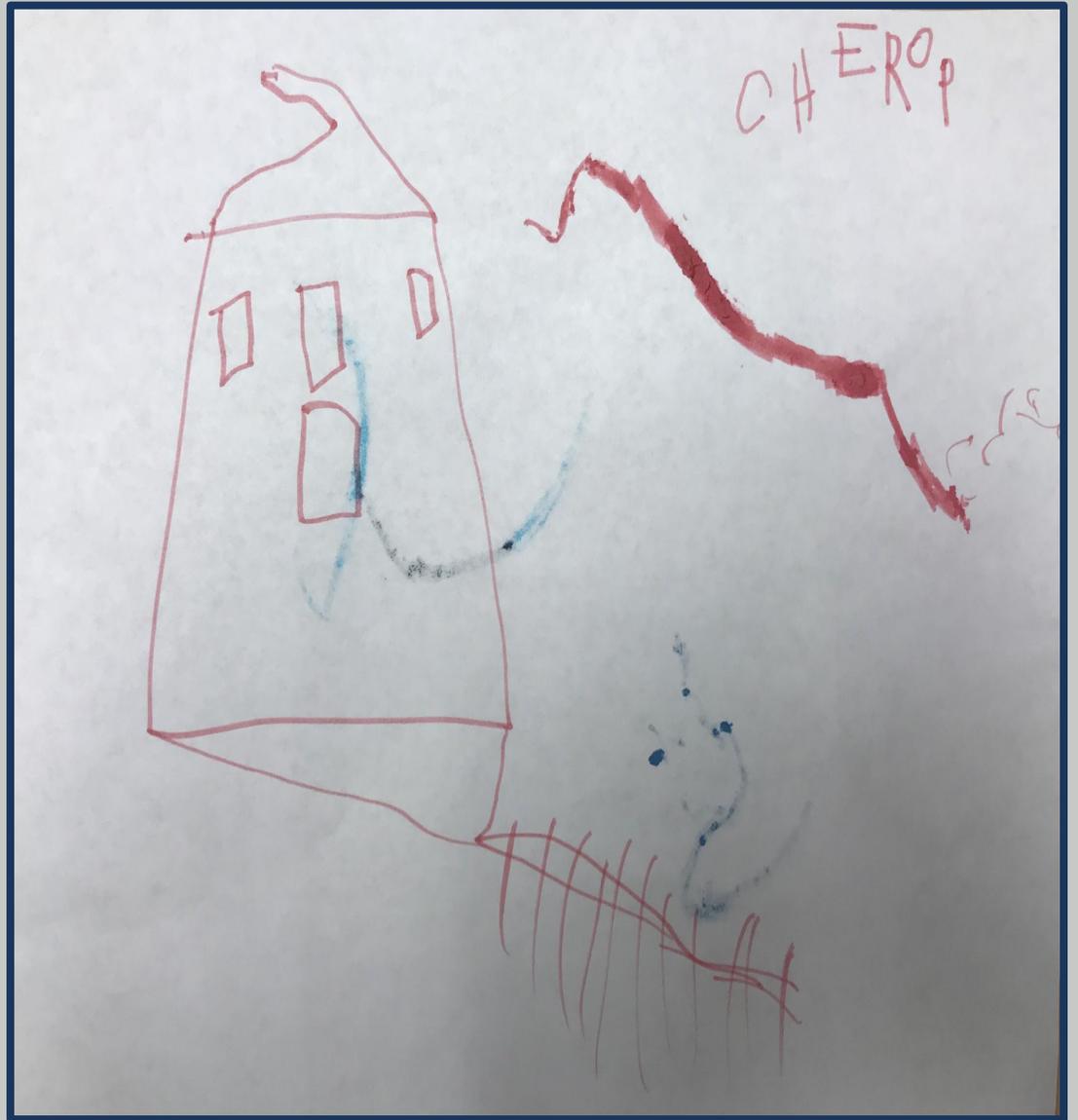
“You can build something out of nature. This is what me and my mommy made out of nature, and now the dragonflies are there.”

– Eva (age 5)

“You take a rock path.
You go past the house and
then see the trees.
Then it’s the bridge.”
- Nate (age 5)







“You can go for a walk and see nature like strawberries and blueberries.”
- Cherop (age 5)



Nature Scavenger Hunt

Lost Corner Preserve

PreK 4 worked together studiously to gather data and document the things they were able to see and experience. They made you a Scavenger Hunt in hopes that you too will be able to experience the magic at Lost Corner Preserve.

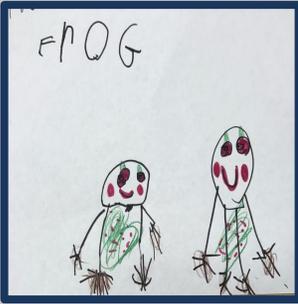




Dragonfly



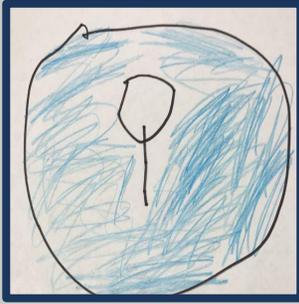
Old Tire



Frog



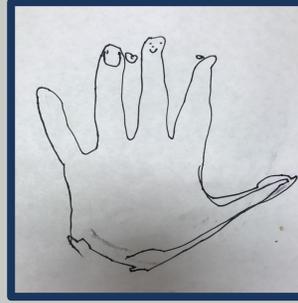
Turtle



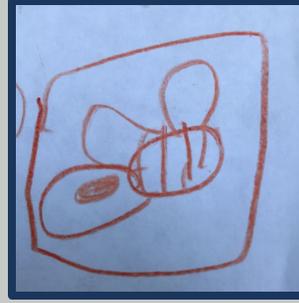
Tadpole



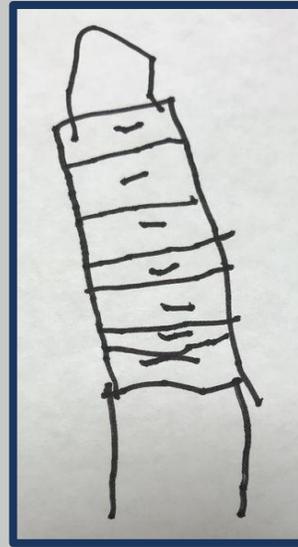
Roly-Poly Bug



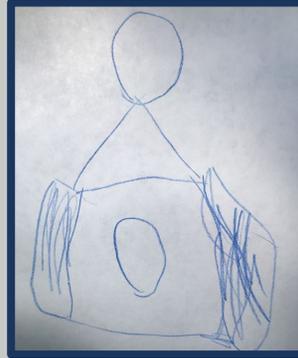
Cement Handprint



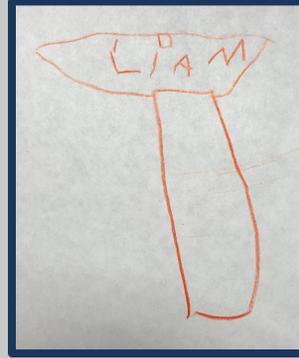
Bumblebee



Bee Apiary



Birdhouse



Birdbath



PK4, Mount Vernon Presbyterian School
Mrs. Kate Canady and Ms. Anne Riley



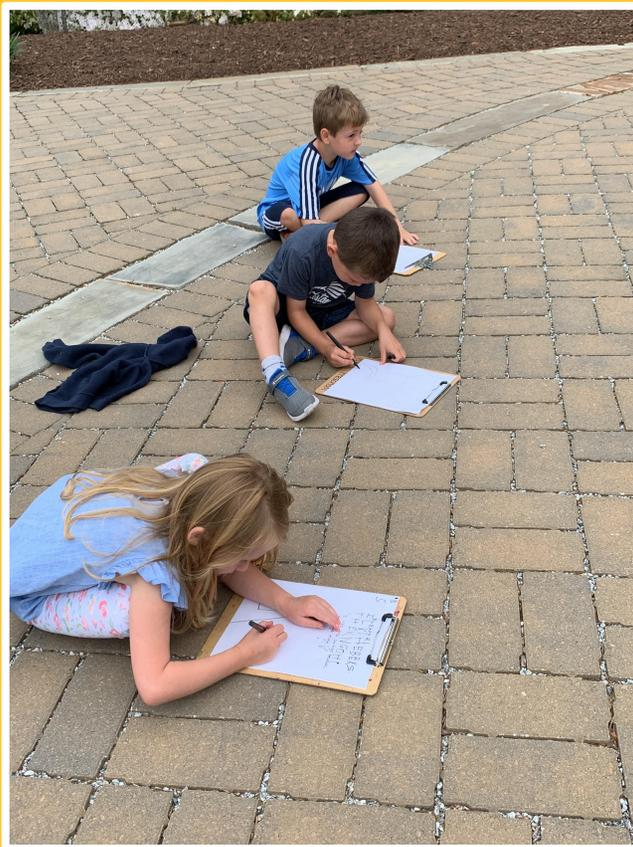


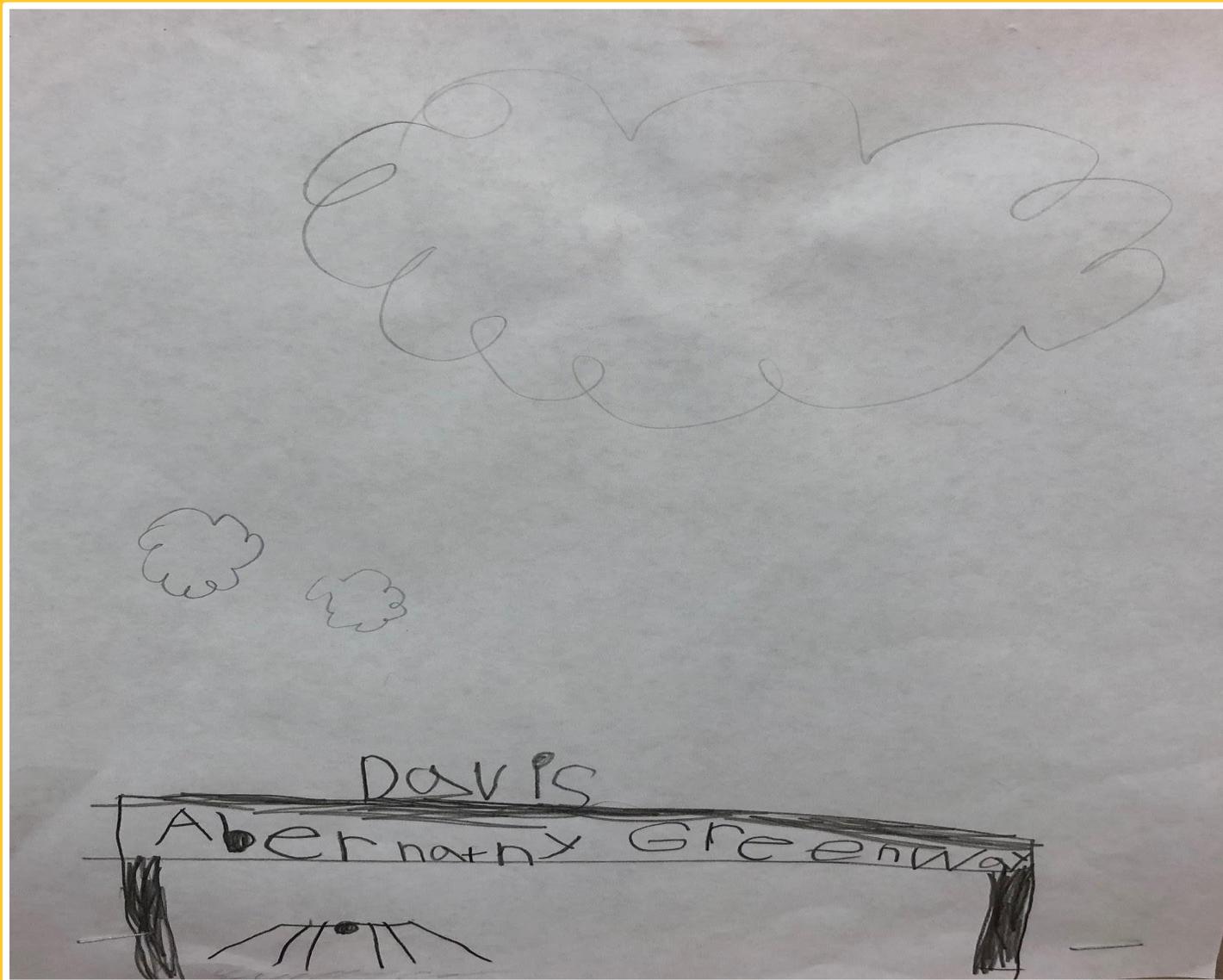
Abernathy Greenway Park

Sandy Springs, Georgia



The Young Fives visited Abernathy Greenway Park. This park consists of six sections in which to play, as well as a field. We all got to play in each section, then we talked about the highlights. We also did observational drawings of each section.





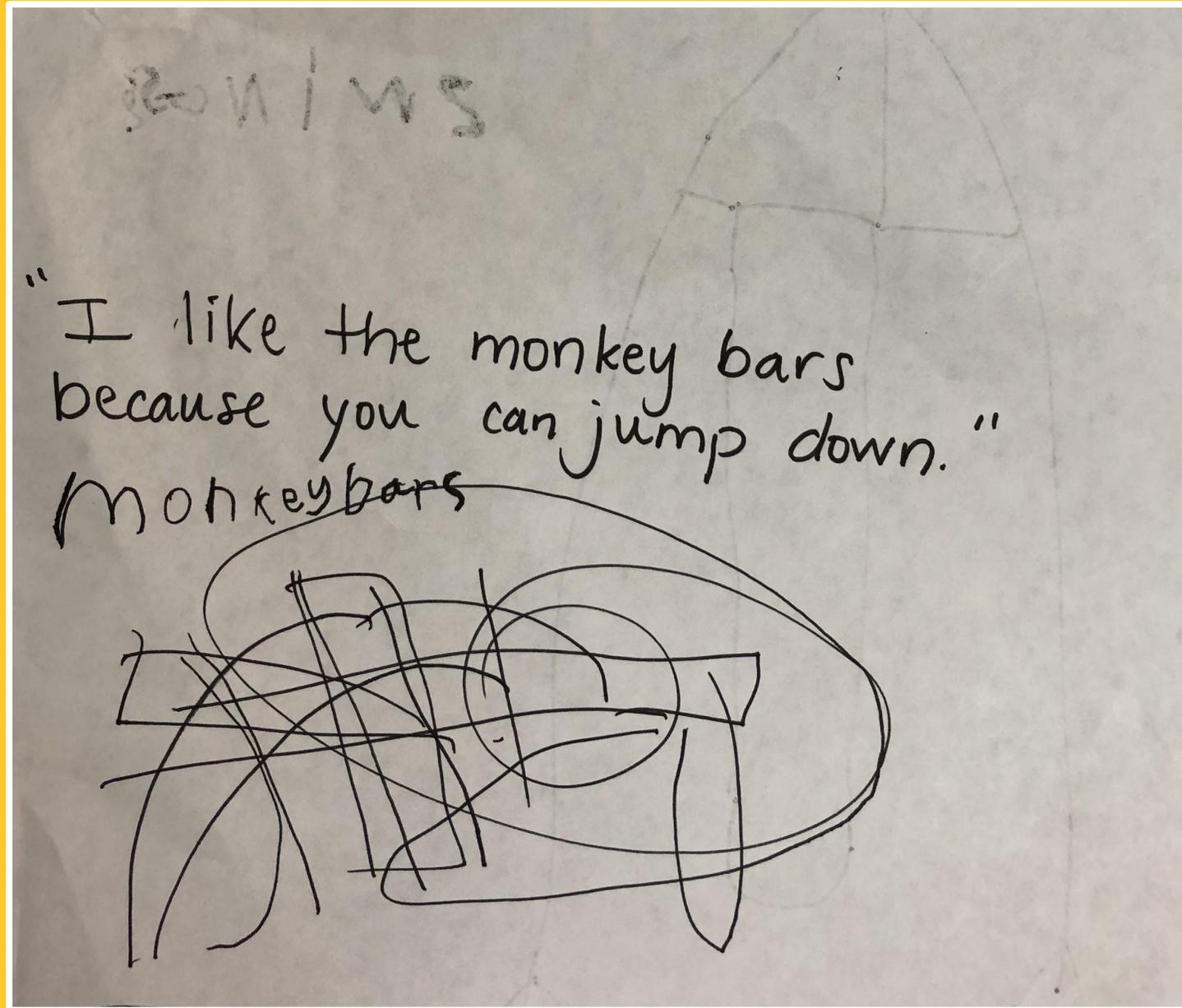
“Everything looks really cool.
There are a lot of things to play on.”
- Davis (age 5)



“Twist and Shout”

by Beth Nybeck, Kansas City, MO

The monkey bars were popular. We spent a lot of time climbing on them and seeing what we could do.





“I can flip over a bar with my feet.”
- Ella (age 6)



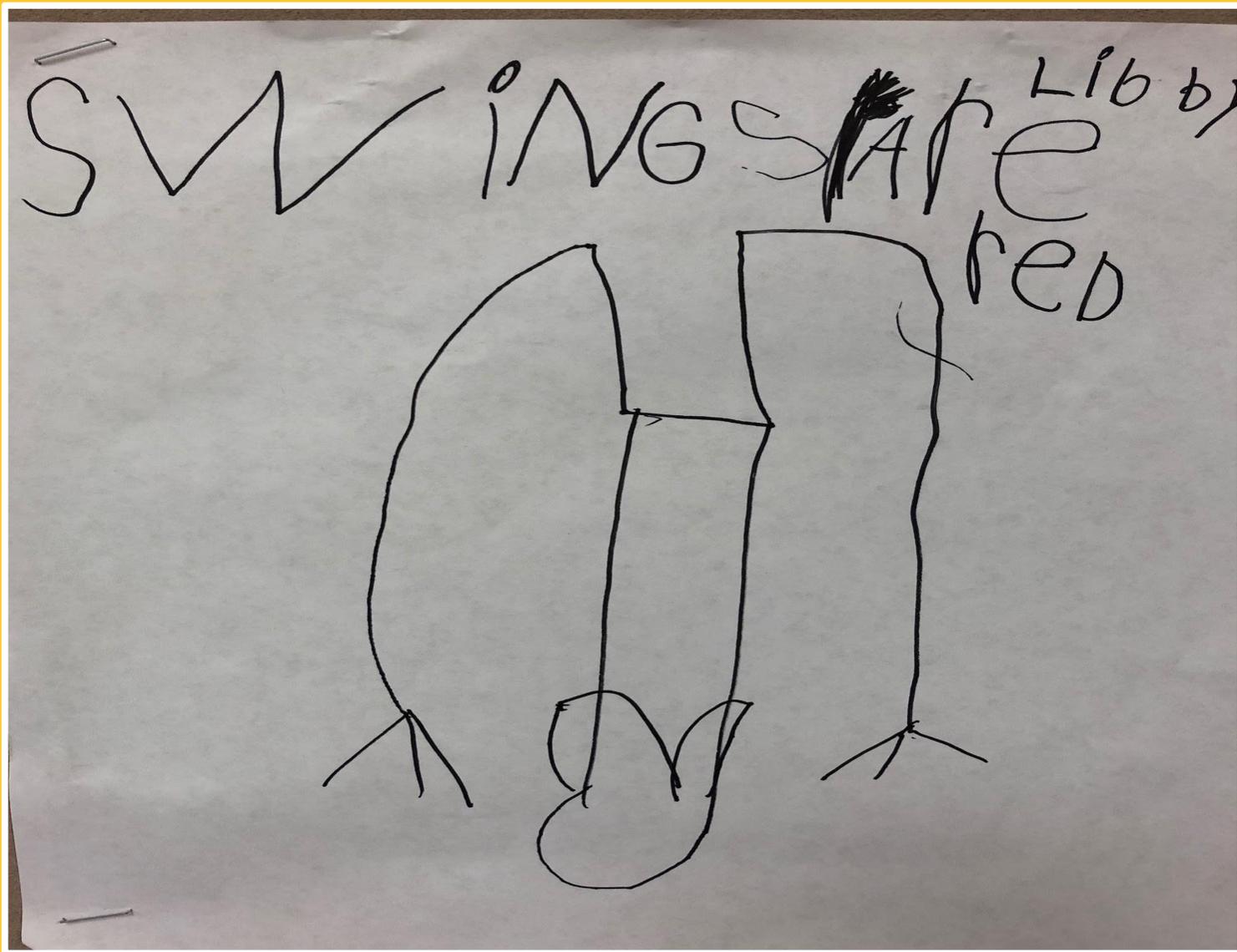
“The Big Imagine”

by Jeff Hackney, Hillsborough, NC

There are about 7 swings
in a big row.

There is also a safety swing in
case someone can't sit in a swing.





“It seems like if I use my manners,
Libby’s mom pushes me higher.”

- Avery (age 5)

“Wonder Wall”

by Reham Aarti, Boise, ID

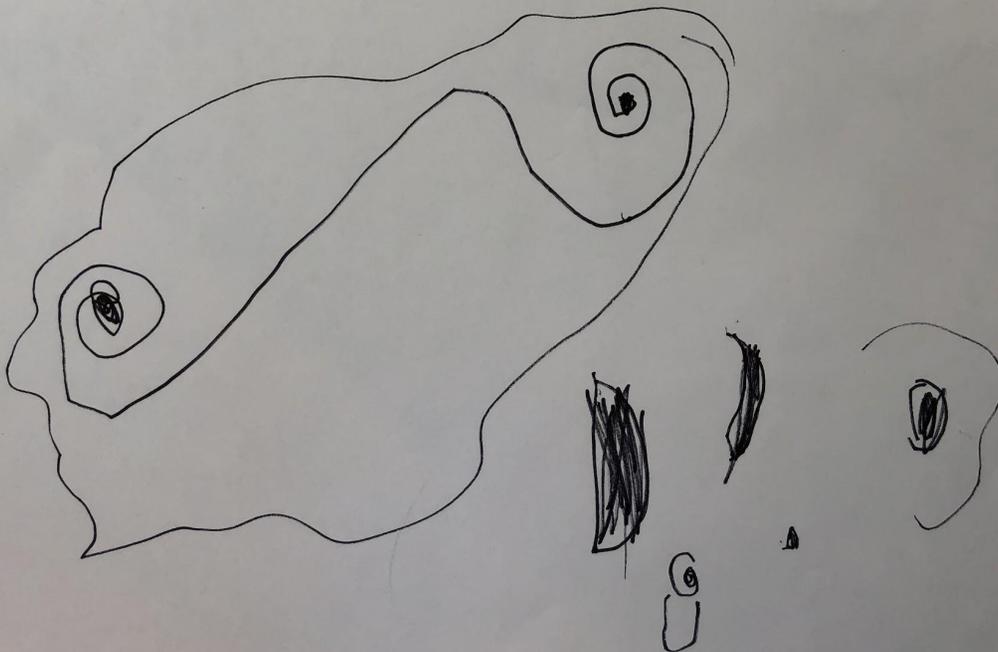


We named this one the Dino-Dragon. We liked climbing on it and putting our heads through the holes.



WALL

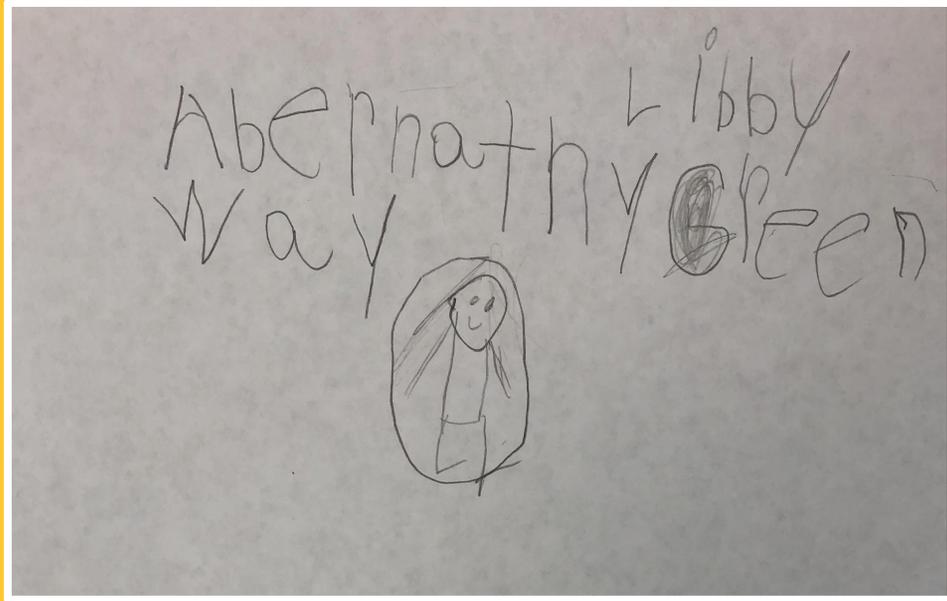
MACEJONE



“I jumped on the
dragon head.
It was really fun!”
- Durham (age 6)

“It’s You & Me, Kid”

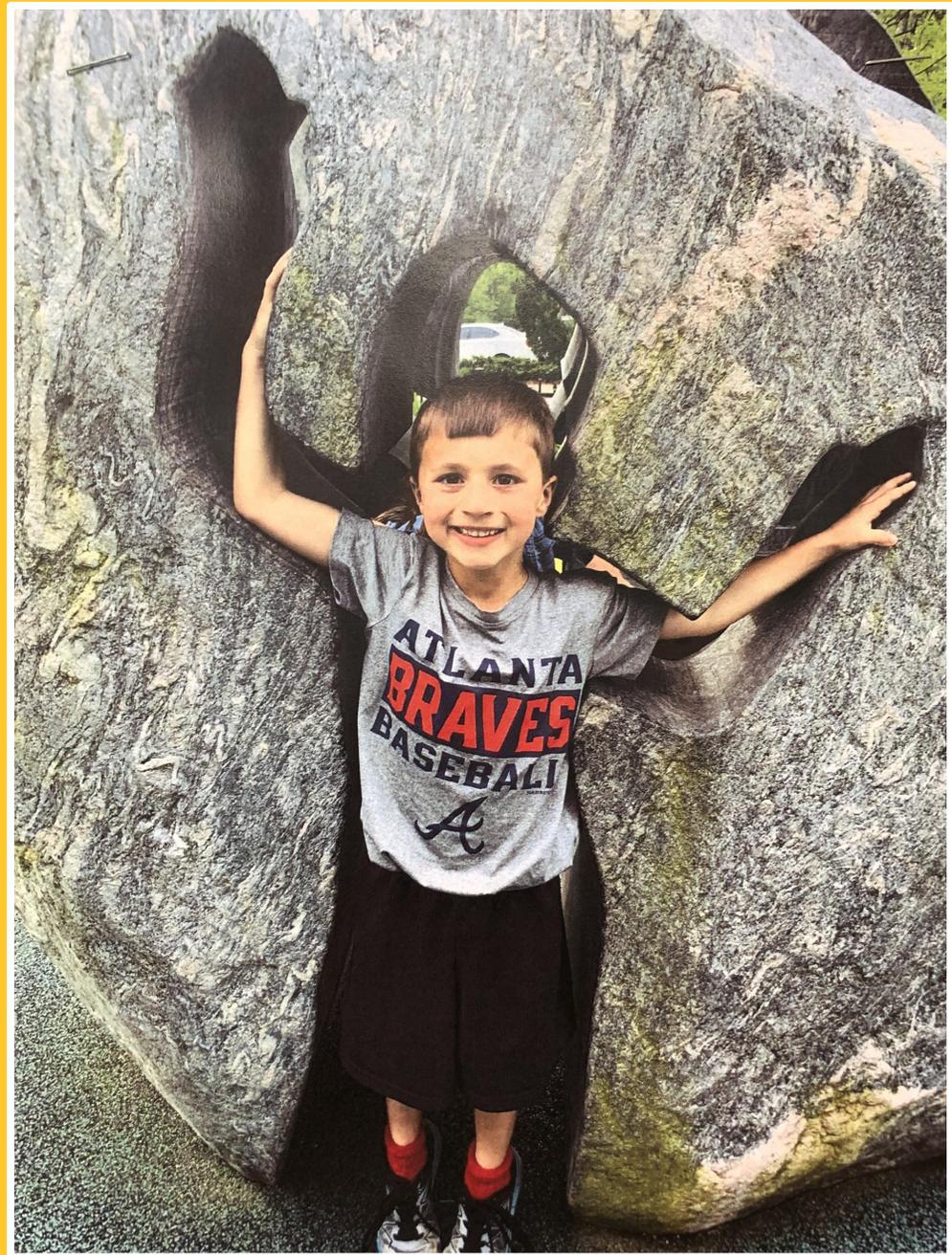
by Frank Swanson, Littleton, CO



The rock structures were really neat because they were cut out like the shape of a person.

We also noticed that the cut-out person fit inside the big rocks.



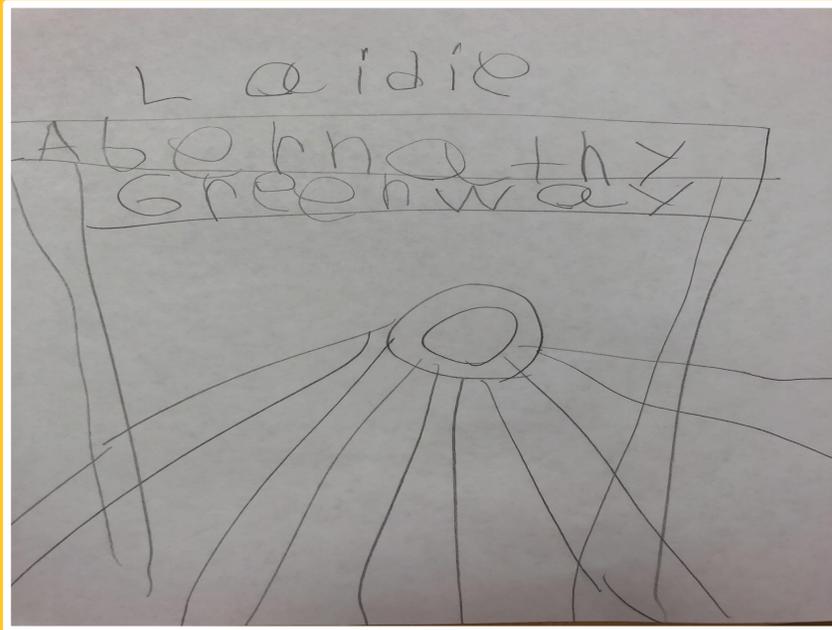


“I liked that you could go through the rocks.”
- Eleanor (age 5)



“Spider Walk”

by Phil Proctor, Atlanta, GA



We named this structure “the spider” because it looks like a spider.

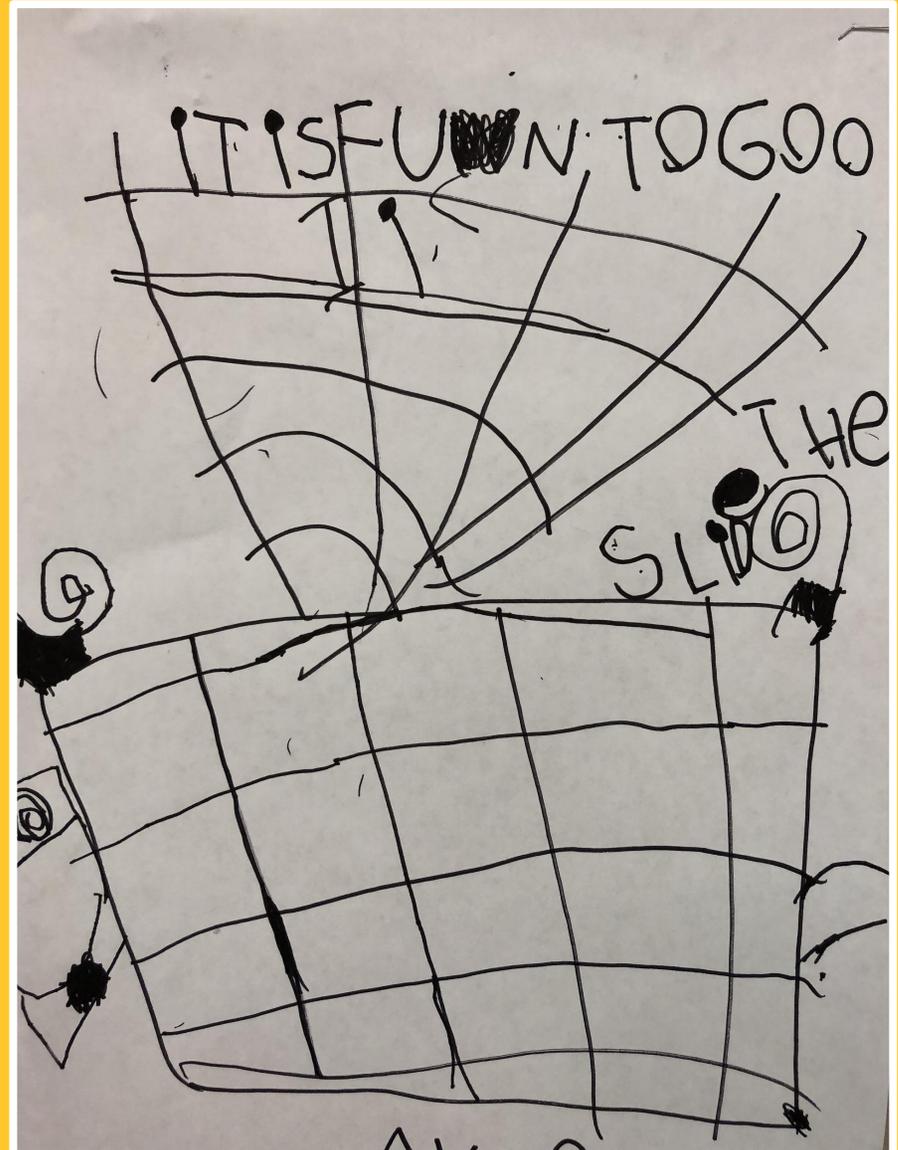
It was a huge hit!



“Dragonfly”

by Alexis Gregg and Tanner Coleman, Tupelo, MS

The structure with the slides had a fun rope ladder and “stained glass” windows. It had a lot for us to do.





“The slide is so fast!”
– Will (age 5)





PK5, Mount Vernon Presbyterian School
Mrs. Liz Aull and Mrs. Stacey Whalen

