

KidsPost



Today is Flag Day. It celebrates the adoption of the United States flag on this date in 1777.

FRAZZ



JEF MALLETT



TODAY: Mostly sunny and nice

HIGH 78 **LOW** 60

ILLUSTRATION BY ROHAN PATEL, 8, GREAT FALLS

Drawn together for the World Children's Festival

You wouldn't think Fabian Pineda, 10, and Irine Fibih, 13, would have much in common. Fabian, whose parents came to Washington from El Salvador, is in fourth grade at Martin Luther King Elementary School in Southeast Washington. Irine is in eighth grade in Vorkuta, Russia, north of the Arctic Circle.

But the two are being brought together by the International Child Art Foundation's World Children's Festival, taking place this weekend on the Mall. Held every four years, the festival lets children of different cultures share experiences.

Irine and Fabian are representing their cities at the festival after both were chosen as winners in the Fourth Arts Olympiad, an international art contest held over three years. To highlight the importance of having creative minds and healthy bodies, kids were asked to create artwork showing their favorite sport. Fabian drew a beach volleyball scene. Irine painted a speedskater on silk. About 140 winners were chosen worldwide and invited to the festival.

The 19 Arts Olympiad winners from Washington were asked to be ambassadors for the festival and exchange e-mails with international winners. Fabian exchanged e-mails with Irine, and while they talked about the differences in the weather in their home towns, they discovered they share a love of art and math. Kids with different lives can have similar interests!



Meet Irine Fibih

Siblings: None.

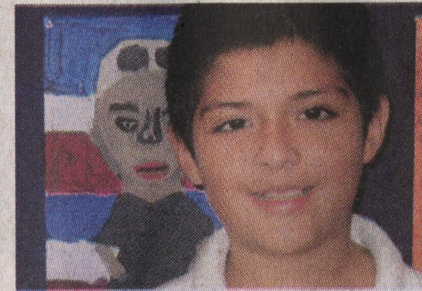
Pets: A parakeet named Snow.

About her life: Vorkuta has winter for 10 months and the temperature can reach 60 degrees below zero Fahrenheit! But Irine says kids don't just sit at home. "We [are] sledding, skiing and skating. We are very happy." In the winter there is only two hours of daylight, too! In summer it can still snow and the highest temperature is about 60 degrees!

What she likes to eat: Pancakes and anything made with potatoes.

When she grows up: "I want to become a professional artist and designer to design clothes."

Things she'd like to do in America: Irine can't wait to see the Capitol, the White House and the impressionist paintings at the National Gallery — and she is hoping to see the president! She also will visit New York, where she wants to see the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Niagara Falls.



Meet Fabian Pineda

Siblings: Older brother is 21 and just graduated from college.

Pets: A German pointer-husky-mix puppy named Luie.

About his life: After finishing his homework, Fabian likes to run around the back yard with Luie. He also likes skateboarding, swimming, playing his Sony PlayStation, watching Tom & Jerry cartoons and drawing. "I always liked art, since I was little."

What he likes to eat: His mother's Salvadoran food.

When he grows up: "I want to be maybe an engineer or an artist," he said.

Activity he would like to try: Snowboarding. "My brother tried it at college and said it's really fun," Fabian said. "He's going to take me."

—Margaret Webb Pressler
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PHOTO BY BRYAN HILL

Above, Washington fourth-grader Fabian Pineda's art from the World Children's Festival.

Left, Irine Fibih's entry in the festival, which is Friday-Sunday on the Mall.

If you go

The World Children's Festival will feature activities, workshops and performances over three days, mostly aimed at school-age kids. The event is free.

Where: The Mall between Fourth and Seventh streets.

When: Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Don't miss: On Sunday at 2:30, Irine will participate in a silk-painting workshop in the Mural Tent, close to Fourth Street.

For more information:
www.worldchildrensfestival.org



PHOTO BY SERGEY GAGAUOV

A quirky art collection moves to the big city