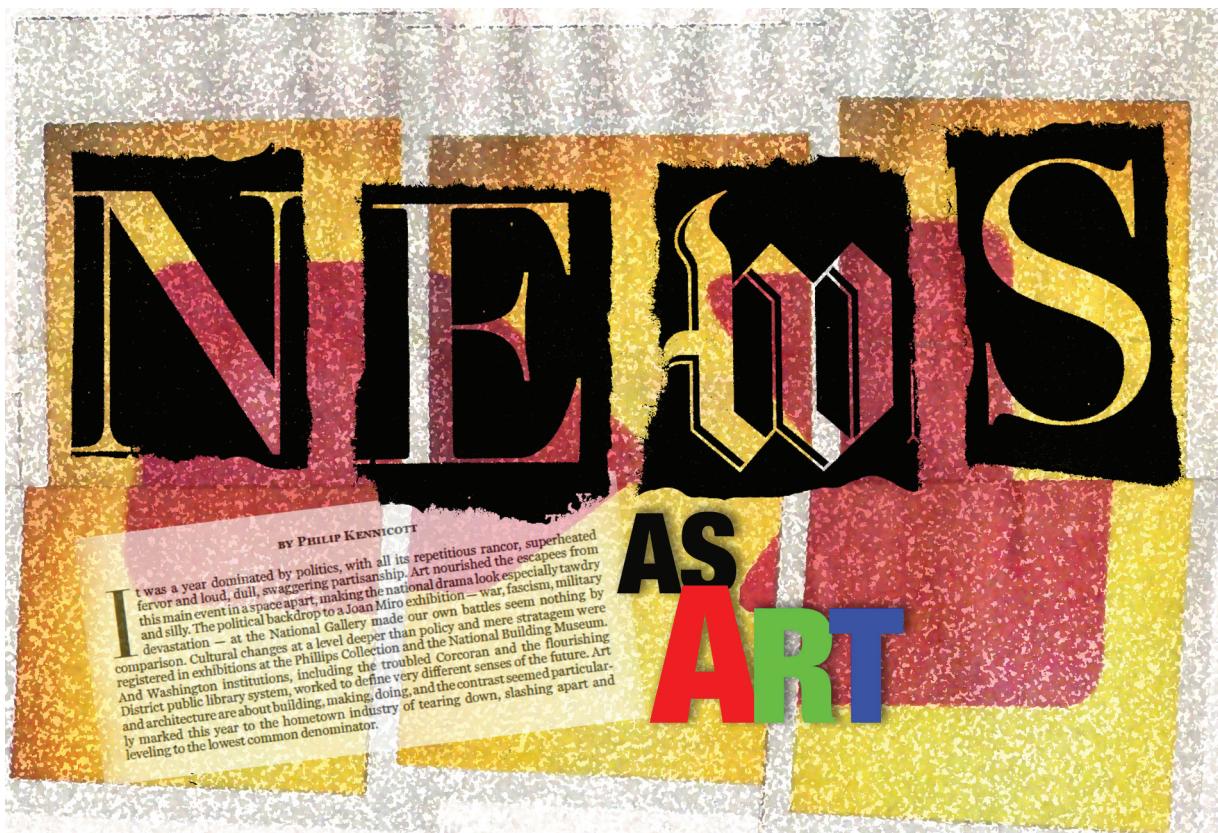


# News as Art How To

- The Self-Portrait
- The Collage
- The Papier-mâché
- The Weaving
- The Mural



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**T**he National Gallery of Art exhibit, *Shock of the News*, is the inspiration for the December 2012 Post NIE curriculum guide. The September 2012-January 2013 show exhibited works of artists who incorporated newspapers in their compositions — from Pablo Picasso's use in 1912 of a fragment of a newspaper through American and European works over the next 100 years.

Whether you are an art teacher, physical education or history educator, these projects give students in every discipline ways to express themselves, to communicate ideas and to demonstrate their knowledge of areas of study. Students of all ages can be instructed to do this work. All sections of the newspaper can stimulate thinking and provide the words and images to include.

Art is included from students under the supervision of Anne Nagy, Dranesville Elementary School, Herndon, Va.; Bonnie Moisan, Benjamin Stoddert Elementary School, Washington, D.C.; Debbie Sullivan, Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria, Va.; and Katie Broullire, The Katherine Thomas School, Rockville, Md.

Read *The Washington Post* then fold, cut, tear, paint over and weave it.



**Guitar, Sheet Music, and Glass**  
Pablo Picasso

**NOTE:** For additional student art projects, visit **NIE In The Classroom** at <http://nie.washingtonpost.com>.

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# The Self-Portrait

*Head with Beard*, 1949, (<http://arttattler.com/archiveshockofthenews.html>) by Ellsworth Kelly, is among the works in the National Gallery of Art Shock of the News exhibit that illustrate this assignment. Kelly formed a self-portrait by cutting a newspaper page. He rotated the newsprint so its columns are sideways.

If teachers want to use this activity as part of a larger unit on self exploration, the National Gallery of Art Classroom provides lesson plans, student activities and printable worksheets for “Who Am I?: Self-Portraits in Art and Writing.” Self-portraits in the NGA collection are used in the activities. These are found at [http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/self\\_portraits/](http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/self_portraits/).

## What you'll need

You will need pages from the weekly or Sunday *Washington Post* and the Post Sunday magazine; scissors and a glue stick. You can use the newspaper, construction paper, poster board or other material for the base.

## How to make it

Students begin this project by selecting a page from *The Washington Post* that best reflects their interests or personality. From that page create the self-portrait. This can be as simple as cutting the page to form the shape of the face. The newspaper page can be rotated or cut on the horizontal. Cut out shapes to form the facial features.

A more detailed self-portrait can be created by layering shapes on the “newspaper face” to form the self-portrait. When students are satisfied with the composition, they should glue the pieces in place. Be sure to give the self-portrait a title.



**The Man**

Bryan Paniagua Rivera

*“The paper made a huge mess, I could cut anything I wanted out and I loved to rip it all up. I like that your fingers got messy from the ink and you lost all your materials under the newspaper. It was cool.”*

**—Bryan Paniagua Rivera, fifth grade**  
Dranesville Elementary School  
Herndon, Virginia

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**Teacher's Suggestions**

*"Have students think about using the different values from light to dark, cut out different shapes instead of looking for an eye or a mouth, use layering and start looking for a background. Then cut the main shape and add layers to your artwork. I used glue sticks and the students loved to make a big mess before they really started working. I talked about ripping the paper instead of cutting. Students loved this project and I would do it again."*

**— Anne Nagy, Art Teacher**  
Dranesville Elementary School  
Herndon, Virginia



**The Greatest Prince**

Mohamed Mohamed Nour



**The Bobster**

Rinatt Montoya

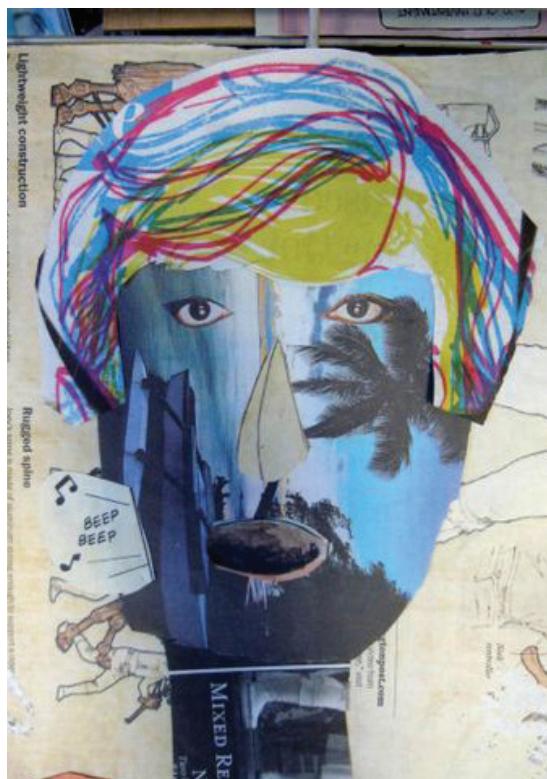
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## The Collage

News stories are found in all sections of the newspaper. For this project, ask students to turn their attention to the News and Metro, A and B, sections. What stories interest them? Cut out different stories. Students might be asked to emphasize:

- Top news stories of the week, creating a current events collage
- One topic/story told through news articles, editorials, commentary, photographs and editorial cartoons
- One issue covered in international, national, state and local news articles
- Headlines and lede paragraphs

Students can decide whether to maintain clean, torn or burnt edges. To use entire articles or particular paragraphs. Organize the items in chronological order, overlapping to emphasize certain words, or folded to give a third dimension. Teachers may assign this project to pairs or small groups in order for discussion of the pieces and topics to take place before they are placed in the final composition.



**Beep Beep**

Rosalva Garcia

### What you'll need

You will need a variety of paper (newspaper, construction paper, wallpaper, catalogues and magazines); scissors, a glue stick and poster board or other material as the base of your collage.

### How to make it

Pick an idea or theme — this season, a favorite sport, interesting places and people. Cut out shapes, letters and photographs. Arrange cutouts on the base to explain your idea. Work from the background to the top layer of your collage. Glue pieces in place when you are satisfied with the arrangement.

*"It was a fun project, I liked using different colors and tones. I never thought about using newspaper to make an artwork. It felt smooth."*

**—Rosalva Garcia, fifth grade**

Dranesville Elementary School  
Herndon, Virginia

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# Papier-mâché

Each day newspapers provide information, opinions, photographs, maps and other informational graphics. With some creativity and thought the paper upon which the news is printed can be transformed into a work of art. The French called it “papier-mâché,” chewed paper.



TIM NIGHSWANDER/IMAGING4ART

## C-E-L-I-N-E, Backwards

Claes Oldenburg

The inspiration for this project is Claes Oldenburg's *C-E-L-I-N-E, Backwards*, 1959. About this work, Oldenburg stated that newspaper page selection for the outside layer was not random. He carefully selected paper not for “what they said, but the fact that they had some forms on them, letter forms and so on, and photographs that would make [the piece] work.”

In addition to the light-dark contrast, typographic forms and shapes, students could consider the photographs and words that will appear on the outside layer of their collages. For example, in making a sports-themed collage, photographs of athletes playing the game or sitting on the bench, scoreboards and articles about a special game could help to relate an idea about a particular sport.

## What you'll need

You will need newspaper, water, flour, sugar; scissors, tape, paint brush and paint (optional). If you wish to build upon a form, you will need balloons, shoe boxes, paper cups, paper towel or toilet paper rolls, or egg cartons.

## How to make it

Decide on what your papier-mâché will be. Will you relate something you love to do, a dream or a nightmare? What size will it be? Life-size, to scale or one part emphasized? Sketch the project.

- Papier-mâché works are created by ripping paper into strips and soaking in an adhesive paste mixture so the paper will be pliable and adhere to each other.
- You may wish to form a base around a wad of newsprint, an inflated balloon or other material that has the basic shape (round, long, square) and dimensions (miniature, to scale or life size). You may also use wire to create a form upon which the strips will be pasted and built up.
- Prepare the paste. While the paste cools, put your form together.
- Select the images, articles and other items that you want on the outside layer. Set aside.
- Dip a strip of paper into the paste and pull the strip through your fingers to remove extra paste.
- Lay the strip on the form, and brush to smooth out wrinkles. Continue laying strips, overlapping slightly, until the form is covered. Let dry.
- The surface may be coated with Mod Podge or a clear acrylic (matte or gloss) to better preserve the work.

## Papier-mâché Paste

KidsPost suggests using a recipe from *Family Fun* magazine. Since it involves boiling water, adult supervision is recommended.

In a large saucepan, bring two cups of water to a boil.

Combine a half-cup of all-purpose flour with two cups of cold water in a bowl.

Add this mixture to the boiling water, and bring it to a boil again.

Remove from the heat, and stir in three tablespoons of sugar.

Let it cool.

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**Teacher's Suggestions**

*"Their task was to create a character (a person, animal, object) and write a story to go along with it. The fourth and fifth grade students constructed their characters out of newspaper and tape, making a papier-mâché of the characters with newspaper and glue, then painted and added additional detailing. Their creations were complete with imagination and self-expression.*

*The literacy and storytelling component added another dimension to the project, allowing their characters to become real. The students shared the characters and stories with the class, establishing a real sense of accomplishment for each individual.*

*It was a huge hit and success!*

— **Katie Broullire**

The Katherine Thomas School  
Washington, D.C.



**Self-portrait**

Josh Lang



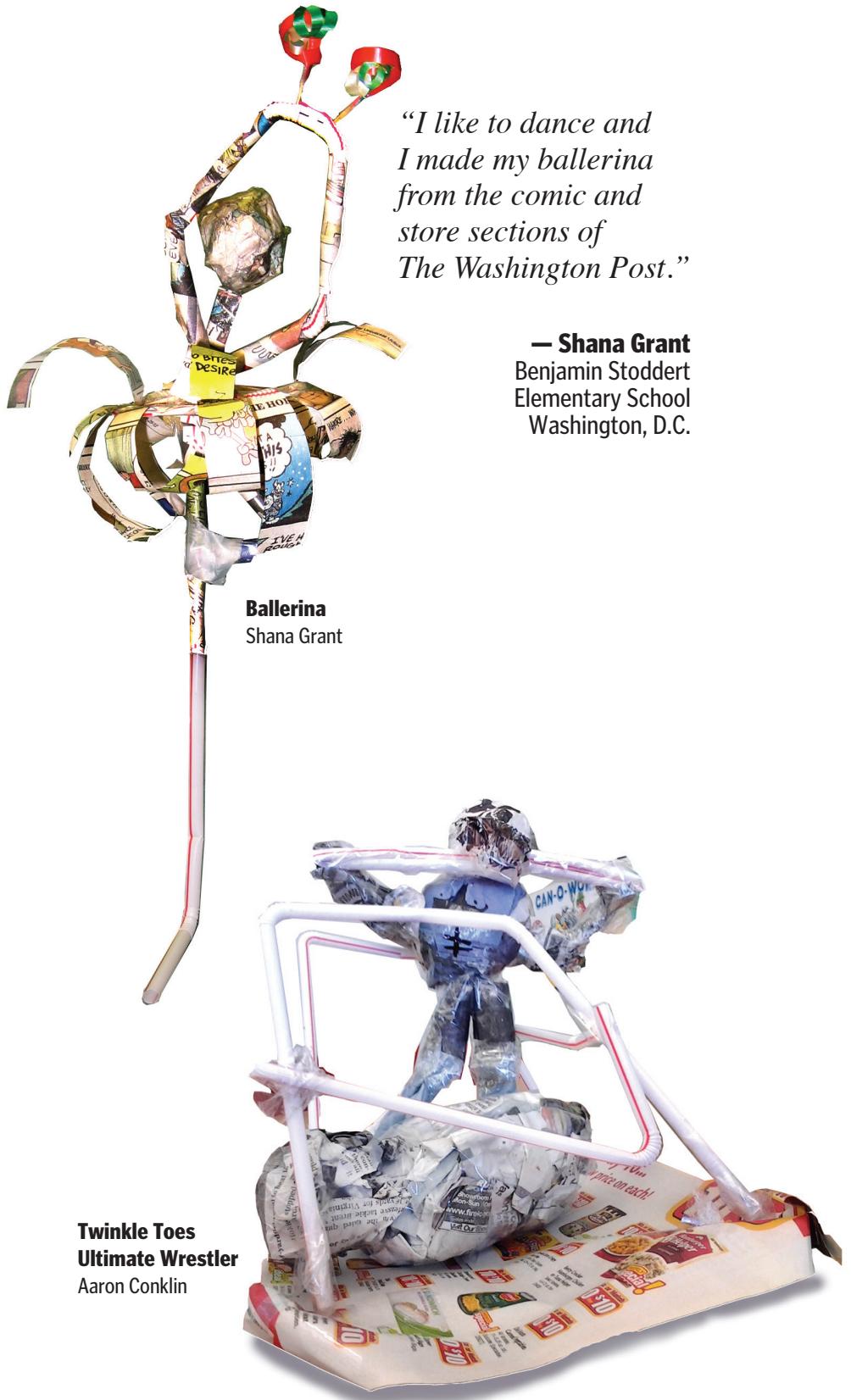
**The Flying Car**

Michael Lindsay, Jr.

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**Spikes to the Arm**  
Kate Slavnova



*"I like to dance and  
I made my ballerina  
from the comic and  
store sections of  
The Washington Post."*

**— Shana Grant**  
Benjamin Stoddert  
Elementary School  
Washington, D.C.

**Ballerina**  
Shana Grant

**Twinkle Toes  
Ultimate Wrestler**  
Aaron Conklin

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# The Weaving

Weaving is an old art form that has been reinterpreted by artists such as Laurie Anderson. Her cut paper collage *New York Times, Horizontal/China Times, Vertical, 1976* (<http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/artwork/119371>) comments on the relations of these two countries. View her work and discuss the effect that is gained with the light and dark areas.

Students could select the colored pages of the Sunday Comics to contrast with the black and white of the front page. They could select pages from News or Metro section to weave with strips from Health & Science (Tuesday), The World (A section) or the Sports (D section).

## What you'll need

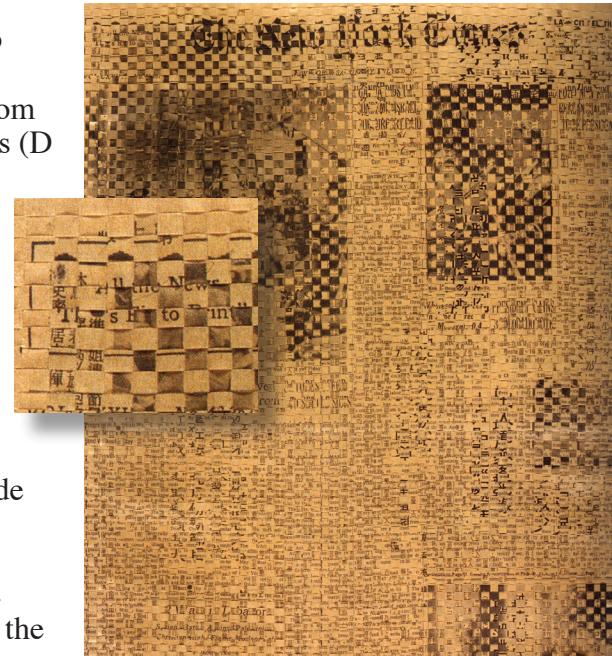
You will need two equal sheets of newspaper, ruler, pencil, scissors, paperclips, glue stick and tape.

## How to make it

Decide on the size of the woven artwork. The completed work could be done in miniatures with very thin strips or with two-inch wide strips of newsprint. Do the math to determine how wide each strip should be to achieve your desired effect.

KidsPost suggests you take one newspaper page and measure 32 even horizontal sections. Starting from the top, cut the page into the 32 horizontal strips. Lay them in a pile, top to bottom of the page. Keep the strips in place with a paperclip.

Take the other newspaper page and cut into 16 vertical strips after measuring 16 equal sections. Keep these in order so when you have finished you can place them in order from left to right. Carefully weave the first horizontal strip in place: the first one over, then under the second vertical strip. Glue these across the top to hold in place. Weave the remaining horizontal strips, alternating between over and under the vertical strips. Either tape or glue the left and right edges and bottom strip to hold in place.



MUSEUM ASSOCIATES/LACMA/ART RESOURCE

### New York Times, Horizontal/China Times, Vertical

Laurie Anderson



THE WASHINGTON POST

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# The Mural

*Stalingrad (Victory in the East)*, 1943-1944, ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/shock-of-the-news-explores-connection-between-art-and-newspapers/2012/09/20/c1ead700-0367-11e2-9b24-ff730c7f6312\\_gallery.html#photo=2](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/shock-of-the-news-explores-connection-between-art-and-newspapers/2012/09/20/c1ead700-0367-11e2-9b24-ff730c7f6312_gallery.html#photo=2)) by Hans Richter is a 16-foot long work. Richter incorporates newspaper accounts of battle from beginning to conclusion.

Students might work in groups to create murals that reflect themes in literature as expressed in today's newspapers. Physical education teachers might assign a mural that tells the story of a sport, safety concerns of athletes and health issues. Include news articles, maps (route to away games, for example), photographs, and student art. Social Studies and U.S. History teachers can use the mural to comment on different events (elections, military engagement, community celebrations), themes and individuals (entertainment stars, elected officials and celebrities) through news articles and features, photographs and cartoons, tickets, programs and other items.

## What you'll need

Murals take time to make so have a designated work area. Decide if the base of the mural will be lightweight wood, poster board, canvas or paper. Gather material and prepare the base to the desired

size of the finished mural. Assemble newspapers, clippings and all other materials. These could be photographs, maps and student artwork.

## How to make it

Murals take considerable planning. If being done by a group, you will need to discuss and agree upon the theme, subject and size of your mural. If being done by an individual, these first decisions need to take place, considering the options and the final product.

- What size will the mural be?
- What materials, in addition to newspaper pages, will be used?
- Who will do each aspect of the mural? Will students work together as they progress left to right, top to bottom? Will one person be in charge of news clippings, another to add photographs, another to add maps and original art?
- Sketch the mural, preferably in proportion to the finished mural.
- Assemble the materials you will need. If you have not found all the elements in your original design, modify the plan. Draw another sketch from which you will work.
- Clear the work area and prepare the base upon which you will make your mural.
- Work from the background of the mural to the front.
- Add details, always aware of the final work of art.



**Stalingrad (Victory in the East)**

Hans Richter

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## The Collage and Multi-Media



Having decided that "Fiscal Cliff" will be the theme of their Art in News project, Noah Mutterperl and Benjamin Exstein, left, ninth grade, begin reading *The Washington Post* for clippings. Sada Phatthanaphuti, right, tenth grade, who chose the White House as her theme, decided to use pages from the comics section. The three are World History students of Debbie Sullivan at Hayfield Secondary School.



**The White House**  
Sada Phatthanaphuti

### Student Artist Contributors

■ Dranesville Elementary School,  
Herndon, Va.  
Bryan Paniagua Rivera,  
Mohamed Mohamed Nour,  
Rinatt Montoya, Rosalva Garcia

■ Benjamin Stoddert  
Elementary School, D.C.  
Aaron Conklin, Shana Grant,  
Kate Slavnova

■ Hayfield Secondary School,  
Alexandria, Va.  
Sada Phatthanaphuti

■ The Katherine Thomas School,  
Rockville, Md.  
Josh Lang  
Michael Lindsay, Jr.

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