

Mandala News

November 11, 2012



Power of Discourse

Remember those “discussions” in school when the teacher said something, a student responded, then the teacher said something, another student responded... They were a series of one-to-one interactions with ONE always being the teacher.

The core of our program is promoting respectful, deep discourse among the group. These are idea-led, not teacher-led.

On Tuesday I prefaced the meeting by saying that Lydia was studying philosophy and I thought it would be a valuable experience to practice philosophy like the ancient Greeks. I posed the question *What is the good life?*

They were into it immediately with lots of back-and-forth. Very impressive! Just like the Greeks, the conversation explored different aspects of “good” which evolved into the ideas of satisfaction and pride. Nothing quite so stimulating as a good Socratic discussion.

The week was filled with impressive discussions including the election of a chore captain, leadership and how to start an American Renaissance, and many science wonderings.

Dr. John

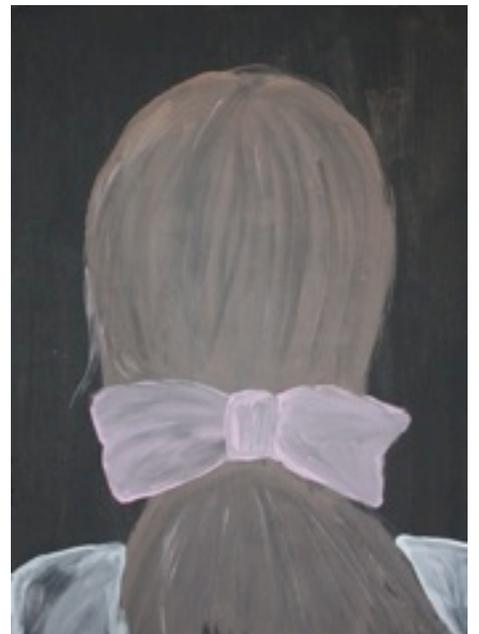


Knox Park

Sure it was chilly but we enjoyed being outside, tolerating a little talk about glacial geology, and chatting among ourselves. Sebastian visited the tree he adopted as an eight-year-old and Lydia took all the photos of the walk.

Getting plywood from Doug Parker let loose a flood of painting:







Nanowrimo

Please, can't we do more writing?

For 45-60 minutes almost every day Mandala is hushed as we hunch over our notebooks adding to our novels. It's National Novel Writing Month.

Some students work from a structure they have planned while others just write to see where the story goes. The poets find ways to work in their poetry and the sci-fi fans spin their fantasies. Look for publication in early December.

Visitors this week

Maisha came to discuss starting a high school in the city. Helga & Hermann and two of their grandchildren, Ashley & Zachary, stopped in to see what our school was like. Megan, a board trustee, discussed our plans for some professional events in the spring. Former Mandalians Sophie, Liz, and Kelsey caught us up on their lives. Several parents dropped in for a chat. Barb & I also met with Jesse to consider a Mandala Primary school. We welcome you all!

Some Charcoal drawing from art class



Kitchen Biology & Chemistry

Josie, Giacomo, and I energized some yeast which grew and respired inside bagel dough until it expired in the boiling water. Then they were baked. Yummy!

Tino, Colin, and I mixed up pretzel dough first with rice flour then wheat flour. Carrie, Josie, and I rolled dough and twisted pretzels for over an hour. When baked, we had a wonderful treat to finish off the week. *Dr. John*



New Course

Our cosmetology program has gotten off to a rough start but we expect to see improvement soon.
