

Mandala News

for the week of September 10-14

FIRED UP!



Some of the younger students weighed wood, paper, and one match. The material weighed 4.4 ounces. Then we burned the material and weighed it again. It weighed .6 ounces.

The weight loss seemed too big to be just the smoke. Where do you think the weight went?

Alpha Centauri

This week we did some crazy work, including figuring out how far away the nearest star, called *alpha centauri*, is to planet Earth.

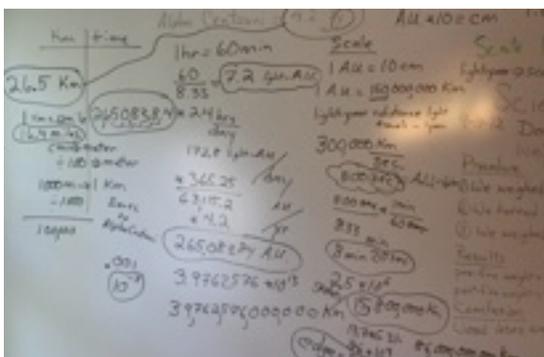
First we learned how to use the metric system and astronomical units (A.U.). One A.U. is the distance from the earth to the sun which is 150,000,000 kilometers. We found that Alpha Centauri is about 4.2 light-years away.

Light travels at a speed of 300,000 kilometers a second. We divided the 150,000,000 by 300,000 and got 500 seconds which is the amount of time it takes for light to travel from the sun to the Earth, one A.U.

We converted 500 seconds to 8 minutes and 20 seconds. That goes into an hour 7.2 times. We multiplied this by 24 hours to find that light travels 172.8 A.U. in a day. This was multiplied by 365.25 to get 63,115.24 A.U. in a year. This was multiplied by 4.2 (light-years to alpha centauri) to get 265,083 A.U.

Our scale model was 10 cm for every A.U. This meant on our model that alpha centauri would be 26.5 km away or somewhere in Buffalo.

Jake Roach



Some of our figuring about alpha centauri
The alpha centauri project started because Ms. Barb had a print-out with a scaled version of the solar system. When we saw that alpha centauri would be in Los Angeles, we thought, "Hmm... that doesn't seem right." As we checked with the students, we found that it was not right.



Giacomo's tractor



Elyse's Owl



Julia's impressionist tree

Various products from the week



Erin's cupcake



Lydia's tree

Mandala: A school of great kids, great teachers and most of all, great learning. It's a learning experience that can not be replaced by any other other school. It has the freedom of the students choice, from learning to the meal you eat.

Do I want to learn ahead or work at my own pace? Entirely my choice.

The main thing that is overshadowed in other schools I have gone to: the way the teachers approach the students way of learning. Here at Mandala I can learn the way I want to. I can choose to take the earth science ninth grade test and do thirty labs, or not to.

Mandala has the ability to make each and every student feel warm and welcome. Mandala helps the us get exercise by walking everywhere from Hamlin Park to Subway.

It has the freedom that I have always wanted in school. It reinforces the lessons of life through respect and responsibility, with the perfect amount of freedom and organization to fit my and every student's needs.



Tino at work

Jake Roach



Lydia's eye painting

Games we've played this week:

- Four square
- Capture the Flag
- Cops and Robbers
- Kickball
- Tennis