



# Mandala School Newsletter

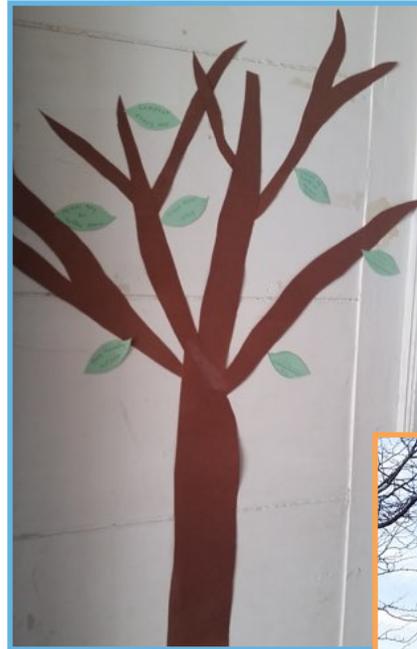
17 - 28 April 2017

## Earth Week!

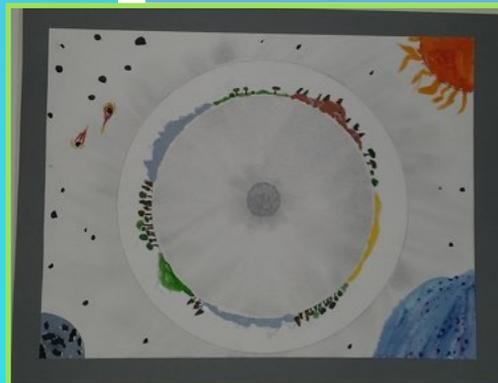
To celebrate and appreciate our Earth we have “planted” a tree in our school. Unfortunately, it only has a few leaves. When individuals do something “green,” or good for the Earth, they add leaf! Whether it’s reusing a bag, picking up litter, composting, or carpooling, it is helping our planet and bringing awareness to the students of how they can help. Hopefully our tree is full of leaves by the end of the year!

The middle group (Alex, Charlie, Brick, Felix, Quinn, Martin, and Leo) are learning more about the importance of science. They studied the scientific method and made maps of how they interpreted it.

The older group also learned about the scientific method and brainstormed ideas for the upcoming science fair! That’s right, **Mandala is holding its first ever Science Fair!** The students will apply the scientific method to a problem of their own. On **Thursday, May 25th**, students will bring their projects, experiments, and findings into school to show it off to their teachers and peers.



Left: the newest tree at Mandala. Below: Will’s art project, the letter “O” for mOther earth, glObe, Ozone, Outer space. Right: Kelsey representing Mandala, and just being proud to teach science, at the Science March in Buffalo. Last Saturday, Jordan, Calvin, Jake, Leo, and Kelsey all took part in a nationwide march to recognize the importance of science.



Marty, Charlie, Alex, Brick, Felix, and Quinn working together to put the steps of the scientific method in order



## *math*

Youngest: fractions...(see end of newsletter)  
Middle & oldest students continue to work in their individual math folders. Some topics we’ve been learning are: distributive property, circumference and area of circles, what is pi?, square & cubed number, simplifying expressions, solving proportions, graphing inequalities, radicals, and more! Lots of review this time of year.



Left to Right: Calvin, Charlie, Jake, and Alex working hard in French Class

En français:

Advanced: We are preparing the DELF A1- Certificate of French Level 1 - French Institute Practicing oral production & phonetics

Middle: Working in past tense, vocabulary related to the “leisure activities” & French numbers (They hear the number in French and they write it Roman Numerals)  
In the picture (left) the children are “en train de décoder l’énigme d’Einstein”!

Youngest: We are working the vocabulary related to the Spring, the kitchen & the notion of de “identité”

The “little ones” enjoying lunch together!



Claudia & Morgan spell out words that rhyme with “love” in shaving cream!

Looking to the Future

We have settled on a decision for our part-time Primary Program for 2017-2018 school year! The options are: 3 days a week, (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday), OR 5 days a week, half days from 8:30 to 11:30

We are excited to enroll a large group of primary students. However to keep Mandala School a successful, one-room-schoolhouse, we need to enroll more 10 to 13 year olds. (Six 8th graders graduate this year!) Please, help us find children who want personal, kind learning!

We are hosting one more **Open House on May 18, 6-8 P.M.**

Mandala School Community Lunch Menu

Vendredi le 28 avril 2017

- Mozzarella salad: mozzarella cheese, tomatoes, basil, balsamic vinegar
- Chicken Breast with mushrooms, coconut milk, & curry
- Basmati rice
- Roasted cauliflower
- Water
- Baguette
- Camembert
- Fresh Mandarins
- Chocolate Noir

Prepared by chef Liza

## What's between 0 and 1?

At Mandala math begins with problems using real objects. As relationships are understood and communicated, there is a gradual transition to traditional written math.

At the right you can see Claudia figuring out equivalents for fractions. We play a trading game that helps with this understanding: roll a die and get that many  $\frac{1}{12}$ s. Trade  $\frac{1}{12}$ s for equivalent amounts made of  $\frac{1}{3}$ s,  $\frac{1}{4}$ s,  $\frac{1}{6}$ s, or  $\frac{1}{2}$ s. With plenty of play they learn to recognize equivalents and develop a sense of how fractions work *before* seeing the paper and pencil.



This arrived in someone's lunch.

### What's wrong with this picture?

At \$2.99 3.2 ounces that's \$14.95 per pound.

*I would not pay \$15 a pound for that!*

The packaging is targeted at children advertising a clean, healthy lifestyle.

*12 g of sugar is 60% of the daily limit for a child. Not healthy!*

The package is not recyclable.

*One more contribution to our piles of waste.*

It may taste good and the natural sugars may seem healthy but the amount of sugar is BAD. The packaging is BAD because it 1) gives a misleading message 2) adds to the waste and 3) comes from petroleum which contributes to global warming.

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Mission Statement: *Mandala School shall endeavor to provide learning experiences that practice and promote democratic conduct, intrinsic motivation, acquisition of knowledge, community service, and environmental stewardship.*

This article was developed through a democratic discussion with interested students (intrinsic motivation) as a community service and to promote environmental stewardship. In the process we learned about source of plastics and the real costs of products like these. (acquisition of knowledge). We also want to promote healthy living and critical thinking.

### Decades Research & Testing

One more presentation on Monday then practice for an *opportunity* on Thursday to show what was learned.



Of course an occasional treat is also welcome, even if it has sugar!