

## Headlines

WHAT MANDALA HAS BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR



MEET JENNA  
OUR NEW TEACHER ASSISTANT



MANDALA HAS GONE GREEN!



IT'S SYRUP TIME  
TAPPING AND EVAPORATING

# NEWSLETTER



## What Has Mandala Been Up To?

- We've grown to 15 students!
- Spring field trip will be to New York City June 1-5
- Planning a Mandala Primary
- Enjoying the nice weather!

Allie and Gianna  
check in at Sinking  
Ponds Wildlife  
Sanctuary

## Sword Making

At Mandala one of the many things we do here is woodworking. Right now we are making swords. Our teacher, Dr. John, took home the wood that we picked out and got the basic shape of the handle. Then we carved it out with a drawknife. The swords turned out well. The people who made a sword or a dagger are Liam, Joseph, Thailer, Kolbe, and Xishun. Charlie plans on making one as well.

## Going Green!



Mandala is going green in all different ways. For example, our gas comes from landfills which produce methane. Also, for electric we use mostly wind power and some from solar. The company that we get our energy from is American Power and Gas.

To be more efficient, we got new LED lightbulbs and a new refrigerator that is miniature and much more efficient. We have added insulation to our heating pipes and the furnace is 90% efficient.

We do composting and lots of gardening as well.

How can you make your home more efficient and green?  
by Allie

## Mandala and WNY Homeschooling Group Co-op



Every Wednesday, Mandalians and families from the WNY Homeschool Group participate in cooperative classes taught by Mandala teachers and parents in the homeschooling group. "Co-op" days include poetry, science, art, computer programming, herbalism, and cooking.



## Meet Jenna

Jenna Ferrara is the new teacher assistant at Mandala School. Jenna graduated from Canisius College with her Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education in 2012. She is going for her Master’s Degree at St. Bonaventure University for Differentiated Instruction and Students with Disabilities. Jenna has past teaching experience; she was a teacher in the West Seneca School District.

Jenna grew up in Buffalo and currently lives in West Seneca. She is married and has a daughter named Angelina who is 21 months old. Jenna is interested in History and physical fitness.

*By Ruby*

## Syrup Making is Underway

Our yearly sap is pouring in fast. We got 4, 5 gallon buckets and we have 4 maple trees so we put 3 taps in each tree and we connected rubber tubes to each tap and all the the tube would connect to the bucket so the sap would run into the bucket. Every day we go outside and get the sap in the buckets and bring it in so we can boil it.

We have to check the boiling sap usually every 20 minutes, and if the sap gets low we have to add sap to the boiling sap on the stove.

*By Jason*



## Ski Club

During winter kids from Mandala have the opportunity to go skiing at Buffalo Ski Club. When you first start, there are lessons. Then when lessons are over you get to go down the hills by yourself. Also, when lessons are over you can go on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Those are all the days you can go!

From not knowing how to ski to knowing how to ski is awesome. It does get a bit tricky sometimes but you catch on fast.

I find it really fun to be skiing on Thursdays.

*By Gianna*

## Community Lunches

We've had so many community lunches we can't even count. We've had themed lunches like Greek Day and Restaurant, but also just "Let's make pizza on Friday!" lunches.



The Gods of Olympus descending on Mandala

Sometimes a few students plan the whole thing and sometimes everyone helps out. We either have a list of things we need and everyone signs up for something and sometimes we all bring in money and one person gets everything. We also have vegetarian and gluten free dishes. Community lunches show kids how to cook and bake and also how to organize gatherings. The best part is the **FOOD!!!!!!**

*By Lizzy and Jordan*

## Minecraft Math

In math, we're doing adding fractions and taking a mixed number and making it an improper fraction. So on March 11th, we watched a Minecraft video that incorporated math in Minecraft. Jenna, Charlie, Liam, and I made a list of topics that we can use in Minecraft.

example:  $1 \frac{2}{4}$

So multiply 4 (denominator) x 1 (whole number) = 4. This means the whole number was changed into 4/4. Then  $\frac{4}{4} + \frac{2}{4} = \frac{6}{4}$ , an improper fraction. Yaaay!!!!!!

*By Kolbe*



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