

Mandala School Newsletter

October 20, 2017



Thunder Rocks were really big. We climbed up them. That was fun and scary. There was moss on the rocks. We went to Bear Caves. They were scary because we went underground. It was worth going.
Keltrian



I went to Allegany State Park. I saw nature and I saw leaves and we roasted marshmallows and I climbed on the rocks at Thunder Rocks. It was fun all of my friends were there. Thank you for being my friends Emma, Jackson, Felix, Keltrian, Charlie, and Marty. We played in the water at the creek. I helped my friends catch fish in the lake. We played on the playground.
By Morgan



History Unit: European Immigration in the late 1800s - early 1900s

The students read *Immigrant Kids* by Russell Freedman, a nonfiction book with real photography from the first cameras, and first-hand accounts of immigrants leaving Europe and coming to America. They then made their own identification cards which they used for passage to America (below).

Then, this week we took a virtual tour of Ellis Island, passing through 10 stops and finding answers to questions. We also began reading *Letters from Rifka* by Karen Hesse.



Two immigrant girls on the steamship.
Final destination: Ellis Island



Welcome to America!



Left: Immigrant Patrick James Carey (Brick), from Ireland getting a medical exam at Ellis Island by chief medical examiner, Doctor John.
Below: groups taking a virtual tour of Ellis Island

Our Trip To Ellis Island

One day all the students sat down and got their photo taken. Then they made their own immigrant names and filled out an ID card with information about their immigrant. Date of birth, parent's names and more like that. Then, a day later Officer Kelsey let us on the ship and we even made friends with other immigrants. If you had extra money you could go on the deck. The people on the deck could exit first. Then you were ready to face Ellis Island. You lined up and you had to memorize your information. Officer Kelsey questioned the immigrants and if they passed her questions they moved to wait for the medical exam. Then Doctor John looked them over to see if they had any medical issues they were bringing into America. If they passed they were free to start a new life in America. If they didn't you got locked in the detaining room. After a while you were let out of the detaining room for further questioning. Then you started the process all over. Eventually we all made it happily to America. And we are working here now.

-Written 1908 by Cologero Benfanti.
(Charlie)





A T-rex came and took a tree down. It is a giant remote control it has a claw with a saw, it can take a giant branch down. It is on a truck, it is super tall and loud. We all came out and watched it. It was cool. It was amazing as it sawed the tree and put it on the ground like a lego. The T-rex had a long arm to reach the tree and saw it down.

By Jackson M.

Brick's take on Math

Math class is my favorite subject it can be challenging at times but I enjoy it. Over the summer we got a "Summer Math Challenge" it was full of challenging questions that we would need to know throughout the year.

At the beginning of the school year we have just been reviewing up to now. Now we're doing multiplication sheets and being timed along with algebra which is very challenging but we're making progress. Now in algebra we're solving algebraic equation and the four steps are:

1. Write what you know
2. Set up an algebraic equation
3. Combine like terms
4. Get the variable alone

I have always hated school until I came to Mandala, and now I love it. I have met amazing people like Joy, and learned a lot. I love that I get a lot of choice in



what I'm learning. For example, I wanted to learn about World War Two and Hitler, so I am. One time Joy and I wanted to make brownies, so we went to CVS and got brownie mix (and a Coke for Joy). In public school I was being told what to do all the time, I could not think for myself. At Mandala, I can!

by Kai

Student of the Week: Charlie!

- A: What world problem do you wish to solve?
 C: our current president
 A: Where do you live?
 C: Orchard Park
 A: What do you want to be when you grow up?
 C: A paleontologist
 A: How would you describe yourself?
 C: geek, history nerd
 A: What is your favorite video game?
 C: Disney Infinity and Rocket League
 A: If you could go anywhere, where would it be?
 C: Hogwarts
 A: What do you like to do?
 C: play outside
 A: What is your favorite song?
 C: Non-stop Hamilton!
 A: What is your favorite movie?
 C: Lion King

Interview by Alex



Mini Field Trip to Dirt Rich Farm and Knox Farm State Park. Our volunteer, Dianna, daughter's farm is in East Aurora. We went to see ducks, baby goats, turkeys, and the impressive gardens. Then we went to Knox for lunch, to play "Oh Deer" and take a walk to see how glaciers formed the land. "Oh deer" (pictures in the middle) show how deer survive off the environment and different factors deplete their environment, allowing only a certain population to thrive.



FRENCH By Marty

In advanced French class we doing reflexive verbs, conjugating verbs, making dialogues and translating. Examples are "se lever" which means to get up "se laver" which means to wash yourself "la gare s'il vous plait" is the subway please.



What We Are Doing In Art By: Emma Culkowski

We are currently drawing people in art. We are also drawing geometrical shapes. The people we drew can be anything we wanted to. Brick did a softball player, Emma did a winged wolf on a rooftop, Charlie did a man saving a drowning person, Kyra did a person diving step by step, Kai drew a jumping horse and Joy drew a ballerina inside of an eye. So that is what we are doing in in Art!

If students wish to dress up on Halloween (next Tuesday) we will have a small halloween party. They can wear their costumes to school or bring it with them and change into it here.