

# Mandala School Newsletter

Volume XI

February 8, 2019

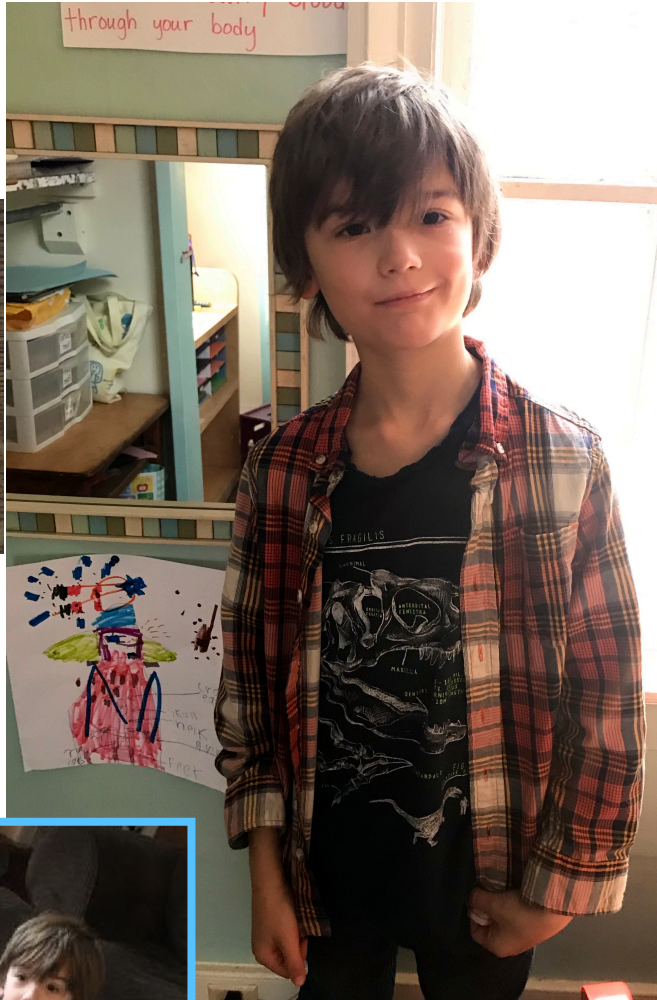
Issue XVIII



## Reminders:

- book reports are due Tuesday
- clothing orders are due Wednesday

## Student of the Week: Finn



My name is Finn, I am 7 years old. I am a rookie at Mandala. I live with my mom and dad. I have 2 turtles, 5 fish, 2 dogs, a toad, and a lizard, and a rock. If I had one wish I'd wish for a UFO that could suck up anything, including the sun. I would like to turn into an invisible fly. If I could have any job I would be a harmless hunter. My favorites:

food: Oreos

Country: Netherlands

Video game: Star Craft

activity: catching bugs

class: math

hobby: playing video games

animal: swan

dinosaur: Giganotosaurus

place: Texas

In math class we decided to find out how many Cheerios would fill the meeting room. After lots of work with area and volume, we found that about 20,000,000 Cheerios would fill it.

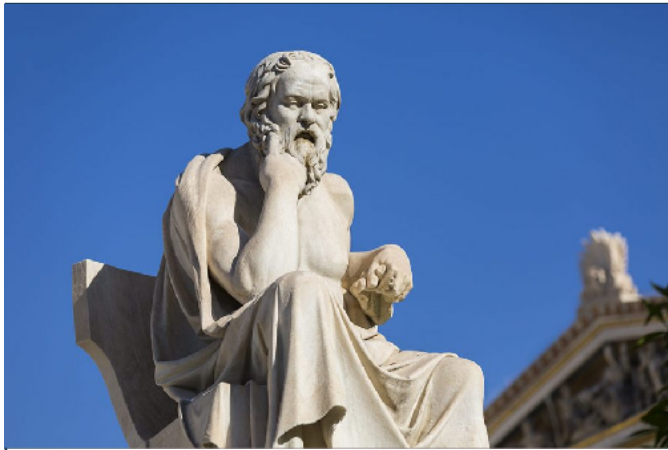


This is a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. It is an invasive species which means it is not supposed to be here.

On the back is a triangular shape called the *scutellum*. by Finn







## Philosophy discussions

*What is reality? How should scarce resources be distributed?* These were two topics of discussion led by Finn's dad, Doug, at morning meeting.

Our ideas of reality were explored using Plato's metaphor of only seeing shadows on the cave walls, never the outside world. *Would the cave dwellers' reality be real reality?*

Using the scenario of being shipwrecked on an island, we explored the idea of personal worth based on what somebody could contribute. *Should everybody receive the same amount of fish just because they are human or should it be based on resources or skills a person brings?* Luci suggested that she would be an entertainer, a valuable skill if stuck on a boring island.

On Thursday we held a "Socrates Cafe". After a brief introduction about philosophy being the practice of thinking about how to live one's life, we quickly became engaged. Ted mentioned his core moral principle as a *non-aggression pact* (NAP). This was expressed by some as *Don't bother others* and *Live and let live*.

Damon pointed out that in sports certain types of aggression are acceptable yet there are rules controlling it. We also explored responses to aggression such as responding with equal force or walking away.

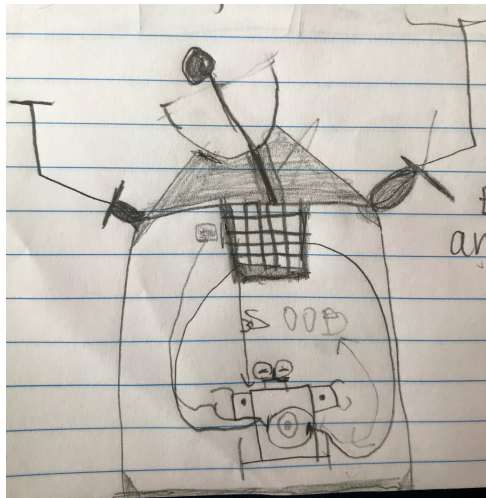
We questioned whether being trained to be aggressive such as in the military or police would make somebody more aggressive or more patient.

This was a successful Socrates Cafe with many ideas being considered, respectful exchange of ideas, and some new insights into how to live our lives. A major purpose of our morning meetings is to practice civil discourse and this was a fine example.

February 7, 2019

I built a robot house. I put some electrical cords in the walls I built a robot named Zobo. He is a working robot (right). He runs on sunlight. He has 3 wheels. I put airbags so he won't fall apart.

You can see what Zobo sees with special glasses. Zobo will be interesting and help me with my homework. I am going to program him to do knowledge, Earth Science, and technology.  
by Charlotte



Damon made a craft with the youngest group this week. He thought of this on his own & gathered all the materials too!

