

Mandala School Newsletter

Volume XII Issue VII
October 25, 2019



Penn Dixie: On Tuesday we went to Penn Dixie!!! It was all really fun! Except for the pouring rain but besides that it was... great!!! We found all sorts of fossils! Like Horn Corals and Trilobites and more. It used to be a shallow warm sea. - Jackson M.



The younger students are sitting within a classroom-long chain which they built on Wednesday



Playing with fraction blocks led to discoveries of fraction principles.
More play led to an invented game about a business.



During the Open House I was asked about our curriculum, a question that always makes me defensive. People who ask seem to want a clear map stretching far into the future, perhaps to Harvard.

We don't have a curriculum, not in the traditional sense. A traditional curriculum details a list of content and skills linked to certain grade levels. They are usually arbitrary and without connections to child development.

At Mandala we follow what is called an "emergent curriculum". Our lessons, experiences, and discussions *emerge* from the interests, skills, and interactions of the children and teachers. Often the children clarify what they want to study then teachers plan accordingly. Sometimes teachers suggest ideas and the children choose what they want to learn about.

By observing and interacting closely with children, we find what they know, what they are learning, and what skills they are developing. This allows us to build on the foundations within the child. The Mandala emergent curriculum encourages children to be their own directors while also being good citizens within the community.

From this approach children learn to read, write, think logically, present their projects, and get excited about learning.

By Dr. John

Cell Research: On Wednesday the students presented cell projects. Topics included exo- and endocytosis in the cell membrane, protein synthesis, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, cell reproduction, and the Mitochondria energy system. From comic strips and posters, to slideshows and skits, the Mandalians truly excelled with their presentations! - Miss Leah



This week we continued to make cell art. We all used different materials and techniques. I finished my "firework" cell. - Devin
See them hanging in the foyer at school.

REMINDERS:

~PICTURE DAY IS THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 7TH

IF YOU DID NOT GET AN ORDER
FORM, PLEASE CONTACT KELSEY

~THERE IS NO SCHOOL MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 11TH

~BOOK REPORTS ARE DUE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH



Kyle, Jackson, Graham, Sachin, & Sia
looking at an *I SPY* book