

# Mandala School Newsletter

Volume XII

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Issue XIII



On Wednesday, Jackson and I read an article in *National Geographic* about using nature to our benefit. Inventors and scientists are using nature to make new inventions. They are taking adaptations from plants and animals to help solve problems.

One example is a robot that takes mechanics from a gecko to locate people during search and rescue emergencies. Another one is a train based off of a bird. The modified shape of the beak helps the Kingfisher glide into the water. This shape is being used on the front of bullet trains to make them go faster and use less fuel. by Nolan

## The Penguins have Arrived!

We are reading about penguins and yesterday the penguins arrived! They came in a box from Antarctica. We don't know who sent them.

The father penguin is Paulie and the baby is Rubie. They are Emperor penguins. Emperor penguins like to eat fish, squids, and krill. Krill is like a type of shrimp (see photo).

These two penguins got separated from their colony. We just finished building a habitat for them. We put in snow, ice, and water. We drew glaciers on top of mountains. The penguins live in the flat parts not in the mountains.

During mating season they lay an egg and the dad takes care of it by putting the egg on his feet. When it hatches, the mother comes back from the ocean and feeds it. Rubie's mother did not come back so Rubie stayed with her father. By this time her colony had left so we ended up with them. Charlotte thinks Rubie's mother was eaten by one of their predators. The predators are leopard seals and Petrels, big birds.

"It's pretty cool getting them," says Nolan. "It's the happiest thing," says Charlotte.

By Charlotte & Nolan



# Student of the Week: Kate



Kate is an energetic, happy and helpful eleven-year-old Mandalian! She loves creating art, especially when she has a choice of what to make. In one art project she drew a pig which is her favorite animal.

This year, Kate hopes to stop biting her nails, to get more flexible, and to become a better reader. In school, she is reading *The War that Saved my Life* and really enjoying it. So far it is her favorite book. She likes following the relationships between the characters, especially Miss Smith and Ada. Writing is also one of Kate's preferred classes. She says, "I like that at Mandala there are no desks. It is more comfortable to sit on the couch and makes it easier to think and write stories."

When asked what her biggest fears are, Kate replied, "Spiders, bees, being kidnapped, and snakes." We think Kate is very brave and strong though, so she could handle anything!

If she could choose a place to visit it would be Texas. She used to live there and still has lots of friends down south.

This week, Kate went to the Sabres game and got on the Jumbotron! Hockey is her favorite winter sport and she loves going to the games. Kate hopes that there will be more girls her age that come to the school. Until then, she is enjoying each day and eager to learn more!

By Katelyn & Ria (right)



Left: Dr. John teaches Nolan, Sachin, Finn how to find the area of a circle.

*So first you get a circle, you cut it up into pieces, like a pie. Then you line up so it makes a rectangle (see picture) then you find the area of the rectangle. -Sachin*

Marc Chagall has painted this picture, that sometimes also is called: *A Mid Summer Night's Dream*.

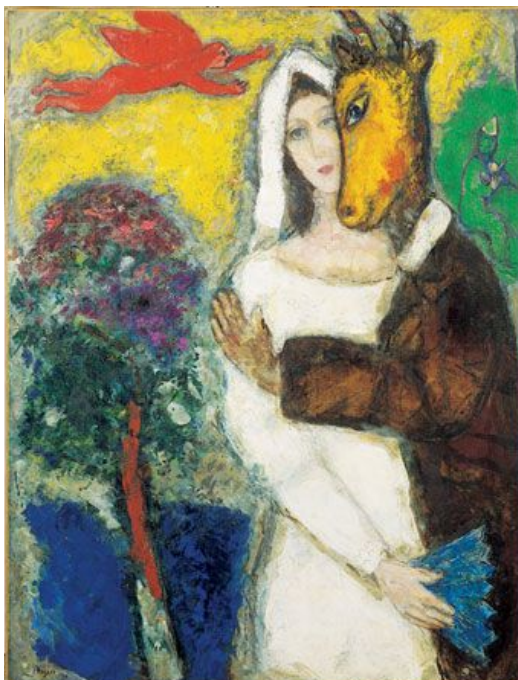
It is so cool, that centuries apart, the same visuals pop up. Chagall also liked theatre and designed for *Magie Flute*, sets and costumes

as well as the set and costumes for *The Fire bird* and *Strawinsky*,

The oldest group is working on Chagall and how people cope with tragedies and escape: as dreaming.

The Middle group works on "me and my dream buddies" real or surreal.

The Youngest group can dream up lots of fun creatures, real or/ and surreal.



Marc Chagall was Jewish and born in Russia. His whole family would step on his art because they thought you should be a lawyer or a doctor. His wife died and he couldn't do art for a whole year. He hired a cleaning lady and later married her. (That seems weird to fall in love with your cleaning lady.)

His art is surrealistic. That means part is real but part is unreal. In one, people were riding a chicken. There were cows flying. There was a fiddler sitting on top of house. You could tell that the flying cow with the umbrella was sad because his head was blue.

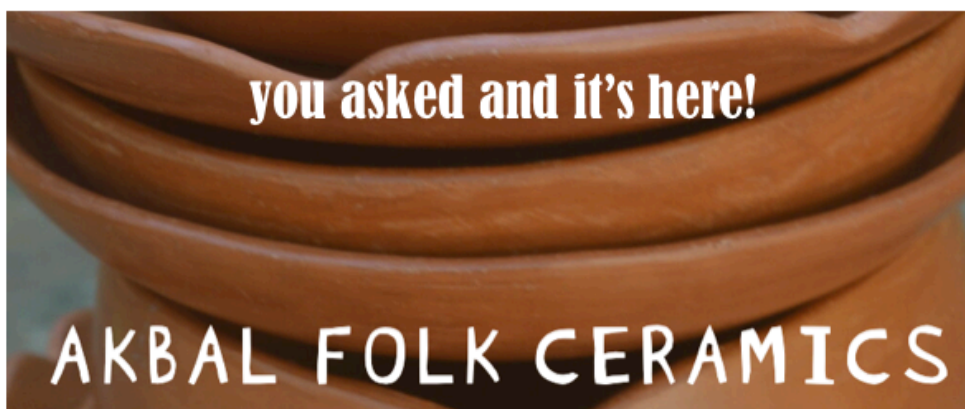
We like his art and find it interesting.

Written by the students in advanced art:  
Kate, Juan, Katelyn, & Ria

**Reminders:**  
No school Monday Jan. 20th  
No community French classes Jan. 20th

To reserve a spot for the ceramics workshop e-mail:  
[info@mandalaschool.org](mailto:info@mandalaschool.org)

Morena is encouraging you to register for both classes to spend more time with your work. There will be \$5 discount for anyone who registers for both.



**workshop for adults**



**Save the Date:**  
**Wednesday,**  
**March 11, 2020**  
**7 - 10 P.M.**  
**more info to come!**

- ✦ An introduction to handmade ceramics by renowned Argentinian potter, Morena Pez
  - ✦ Choose either Tuesday, Jan 28, or Thursday, Jan 30, from 6:30-8:30 P.M. Participants on Tuesday may wish to continue their projects on Thursday.
  - ✦ Cost: \$25 per class
  - ✦ Limit: 10 people
- If there is a strong interest, a series will be set up in March.