

Mandala School Newsletter

The final edition newsletter of our 12th school year!

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June 5, 2020



At the very first moment of the very first Morning Meeting this year, Graham spoke up, to the astonishment of all. Wait! Has someone else inhabited the body of quiet Graham? From then on he was willing to share his ideas, questions, and stories.

The encouragement and interest in public speaking is powerful at Mandala. Remember Ama presenting to over 30 people when the Fredonia students visited? She was calm and fielded questions like a pro.

Just last week we witnessed the importance of having a public voice. Led by Kate, several students discussed the terrible events related to the killing of George Floyd. For 30 minutes they continued without a single teacher saying a word. Their independence and confidence was inspiring.

Civil discourse is alive and vibrant at Mandala.

*-John Newton, director
& teacher*

One of my favorite Mandala memories from this year is when the school took a field trip to the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. It was great, we heard a play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was a little hard to follow but overall I loved the play.

Another Mandala memory that I like is when the school went to the music teacher (named Bill)'s old college, the Villa Maria. There we heard an amazing African drum circle/ concert/ acrobatics show. It was very interactive to make it even more fun. And the main dancer who was doing the acrobatics tricks spoke Chinese, so I got to practice with him. At the end we were all so glad we got to go.

-Juan, age 11

One of my favorite memories was our field trip to the Science Museum.

-Aviva, 12

My favorite field trip we went on this year was the Niagara Falls Power Vista. The 4-D ride was really fun. We got water sprayed on our faces and the seats moved so crazy. Ama almost went flying forward. We got to go in it like four times!

For next year I'm excited to see my friends and also excited to see what it will be like going back!

-Kate, 10

Many of you have asked about Mandala School clothing, we will place an order during the summer so we have all of our new clothes and accessories in time for the new school year!

My fondest Mandala memory, again, was camping at Camp Allegany. The fresh air, the beginning of a new school year, watching the kids build relationships that they will share and cherish for years to come. Canoeing in Red House Lake, hiking, cooking meals together, and hearing the kids beg for S'mores as soon as they finish dinner. Spending this time with our extended Mandala family is such a special tradition that I will cherish forever. I can't help but to smile as I think about our next trip!

*-Kelsey Zimmermann
Assistant Director & teacher*

Fondest Mandala Memory

By: Devin, Sachin and Ria

June 4th, 2020

Our top two favorite memories from virtual Mandala were baking and the egg drop.

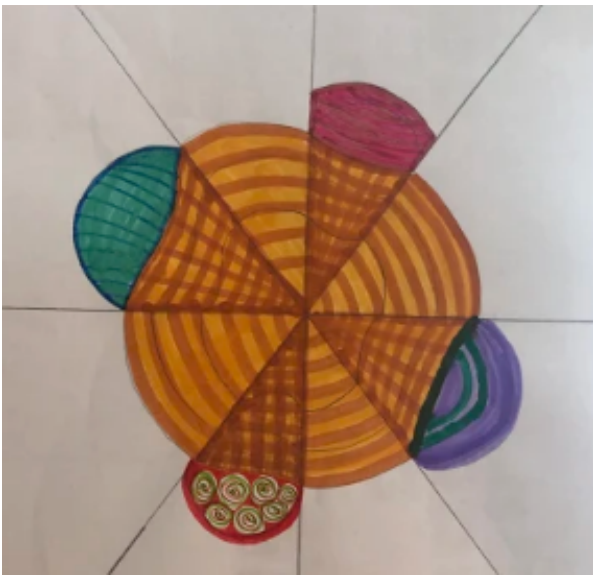
Baking was a good opportunity to practice math and science. We measured stuff like scientists. We got to practice fractions. We also got to use yeast which had a chemical reaction. When the yeast touches the water it “wakes up”. It gives off carbon dioxide which makes the bread rise. Yeast is a fungus. Ria said, “I like when we baked. My favorite one to make was probably the calzones. I liked how we got to put stuff inside, because then it was like a surprise!” Sachin added, “The bread baking was fun too! We got to mush the dough around with water. We shaped it too.”

For the Egg Drop we got to practice how to make a good structure. If you are in a car and it crashes there is an airbag, like that. We could think about the way to design something for protection. You had to think about where the egg would go and make sure the jolt wouldn't make the egg crack once it hit the ground. You had to think about the impact and protect your egg from the inside of your structure. So if our idea didn't work, we had to think about what went wrong and why. We could think of better solutions. Devin mentioned, “I had never done an egg drop before so it was a new experience for me. I like that we got to make something and make sure an egg didn't crack.”

Sachin really loved this activity! He added, “I like that we got to throw it off the roof! That was exciting! We hoped it wouldn't be cracked after we threw it out of the window or off the roof, and when you found it alive you could be like, “YES”! I loved the suspense.”

Ria said, “I liked constructing the box that the egg was in. I liked that two of the materials had to be natural things from outside. That made things more difficult.”

Next year, we hope to have more building and engineering projects. Sachin would like to do another egg drop. Ria suggested we do other things so that we don't already know how to do it. Devin also wants more science! He hopes to do experiments that involve chemical reactions. We all hope for more baking!



Top: Kate's ice cream cones

Middle: Ria's Oracle at Delphi project

Bottom: Sachin's ice cream cone

