

Mandala School Newsletter

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Today we sang a song called Los Peces En El Rio. It is about fish that go up the surface to see baby Jesus. I enjoyed singing it. By: Zachary

Spanish this week was different. I liked it a lot, we learned a song called Los Peces en el Rio. We had to sing it all in Spanish which was kind of hard. On Thursday we had to stand in front of a green screen, and sing Feliz Navidad and Los Peces en el Rio. It's an easy and pretty song. The music video is of fish blessing a baby. I don't really get it but it's funny and eventful. By: Kate C.



Drawing by Juan

This week we made holiday cards for businesses on Main Street. We each chose a store to make a card for. We tried to make them related to christmas but also kind of to the store we were making it for. I chose the bike shop. By Sarah



Left: Sarah helps Starlight with her poster on zebra sharks.
Right: Emilia & Nolan work on Millie's nurse shark poster.





Student of the Week: Mira

Mira is an 8 year old girl. She loves red pandas because they're cute. She has done research on animals that hunt red pandas. She feels strongly about water pollution. It is sad because the poor fish can't survive in the water. They get suffocated and can't stand the pollution. Some of them jump out of the water and then die. She thinks we should try to rescue the fish and stop water pollution. She is extremely against climate change.

Mira wants to be an organic farmer when she grows up. On her farm she would grow corn, potatoes, mangos, and technically every fruit and vegetable. If she opened a restaurant she would serve pasta, salad, steak, cake, pie, and ice cream sundaes.

She will be sort of glad when 2020 is over because she doesn't want to wear a mask anymore. Her favorite colors are purple and orange. Her favorite books are the Harry Potter novel series. She did not like online school. She has two siblings, a baby Sage eight months old, and her brother, Devin, 12 years old. Mira loves gardening, catching critters, and making art.



Thank you Dr. John and Claudia for supplying all the supplies to make graham cracker houses! We had so much fun!

I remember hearing about Covid in January and thinking it would only happen in China. I think China couldn't get their borders closed down in time and the virus began to spread. Cases in Italy, the United States and other countries began to pop up. The United States became a hot spot. We didn't really know how to protect from it so it spread really quickly. There was a toilet paper crisis. Really, the United States never had a shortage of toilet paper, only Australia because 90% of their toilet paper is produced in China. There were a lot of false cures, like camel urine, specific toothpaste, or kissing a spiritual statue. Another one was eating a fruit that looked like the virus. None of them were real. We are testing vaccines that will be ready by the beginning of next year. The vaccine is going to be produced in an unknown location because they don't want it to be stolen or destroyed. They don't want the public to know where it is.

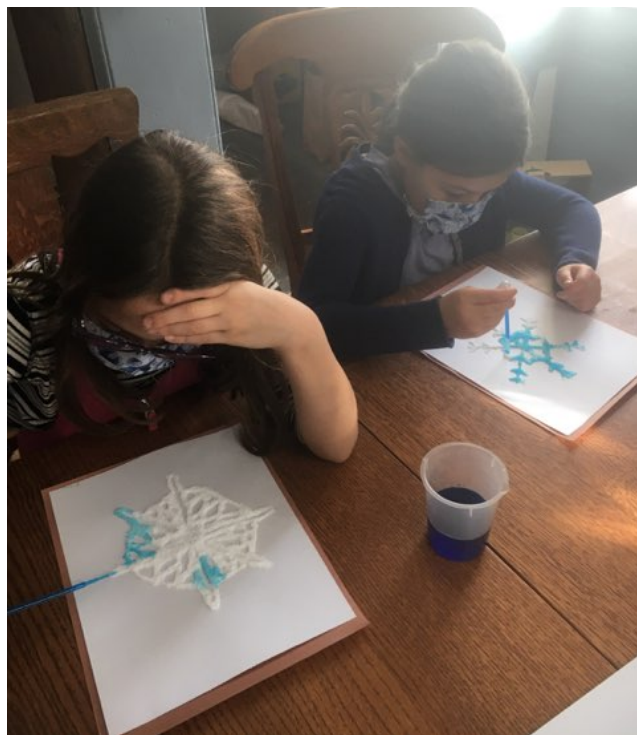
In March we went virtual. It was pretty crazy and lasted until summer. We all had to stay inside and it was really hard getting to classes. I didn't like it. We did get to sleep in though, which was fun. Summer was kind of mostly boring. I did a week of Mandala summer camp which was fun. There were a lot of kids I didn't know there. It was extremely hot. My birthday was limited to just a couple of my friends.

There was a presidential election in November. The democratic candidate was Joe Biden against Republican incumbent, Donald Trump. Joe Biden won the election. A lot of people didn't like how long it took to count the votes. There were mail-in ballots because of Covid, which made things slower. Leading up to the election, there were lots of protests and parades. When Biden won, there were church bells ringing in France and fireworks in other places in Europe. I think other countries were happy because they didn't like Trump, for different reasons.

The BLM movement took off in 2020 after the killing of George Floyd. There were also no-mask and anti-vaccine protests. There was also a conspiracy that 5G towers were causing the virus. A lot of misconceptions about the virus were around. Climate change weather events were extreme this year. There were a lot of forest fires all around the world. Since everyone was trapped in their houses for Covid, the Earth did start to heal a bit. Less people were driving to work and burning less gas. We came back to school in the fall which was good. There were some days we couldn't come back but we were mostly in-person. The virus has really impacted society and has killed more United States citizens than in the Vietnam war. Hopefully the virus is cured soon and 2021 will be a better year overall... unless the black death comes back.

By Nolan

Despite the challenges, frustration, and uncertainty of this year, one thing has remained the same, Mandala! Our little schoolhouse has been a refuge, a place of warm understanding. A place where cooperation and flexibility have overcome the obstacles and restrictions, to find meaningful solutions. A place where listening comes first, even when hatred and division surround us. It is with genuine admiration that I reflect on the past year and the respect I have for Mandala: the hard work and dedication of our teachers, the support of our families, and of course the creativity and kindness of our students. I am confident that no matter the circumstances, Mandala will continue advocating for *the way learning should be!* - Ms. Leah



Snowflakes have six points and are symmetrical. They are made of water that went from vapor straight to ice. Water is made up of two Hydrogens and one Oxygen. We drew snowflakes on paper and then traced it with glue. Then we sprinkled salt on the glue and let it dry. The next day we used pipettes to drop colored water on the snowflake. It was really fun. - Katie