

# Mandala School Newsletter

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## Memoirs of an Old Man Juan By Young Boy Juan

Those couple of years were quite different. It began in 2019, that was a year that went down in history. The year that changed the world. I remember my reaction to the first outbreak in China. It was far away, unimportant, and I regarded it as so. At my school, it was business as usual, but then it spread, and suddenly, we were stuck inside, with nothing to do. Life had changed drastically.

Being at home was leisurely, at least for a while. I enjoyed not having to wake up early, rush to school, and eat breakfast at the quickest pace possible. Though these periods of momentary bliss were nice, there were also moments of dreadful boredom. Times in which you sat on the couch, utterly lost.

*I've already built an extensive track for my toy cars. I just took down the action figure zipline. Oh, what to do, what to do?* I would say to myself.

Then again, Covid had some perks. Some of the places that *were* open were empty. No lines and no waits. When I took my trip to Washington D.C. the museums didn't have very many people, which was nice. We could walk through freely.

School started up again, but we still stayed home. Everything was online. That was difficult. We only had brief periods of school in which everyone glitched and lagged.

Covid was unlike anything ever seen before. It spread at such a velocity that scientists rushed for a vaccine. It came quickly, but, nonetheless, 50% of the US population refused to take it. This allowed for variants of the virus to propagate. So, we went in and out of lockdowns.

By late 2020 we started to ease into a sense of normality, but it was nothing like "Normal" had been before. In school, everything was outdoors, and everyone had to wear masks. Anywhere you went, there were long wait times due to limited capacity orders.

Everything was in a constant state of fluctuation, and I don't know if that will ever change.

## Student of the Week: Katelyn



Katelyn is intelligent, funny, and a great person to be around. She describes herself as pleasant, kind, sensitive, empathetic, and "spunky".

In school she enjoys reading, social studies and history. In fact, if she could go anywhere in the world for one week, She would visit Salem, Massachusetts, because of the witch trials and the history.

In her free time likes to go on walks around East Aurora and visit its shops and stores, mainly Vidler's. She also likes lacrosse, baseball, volleyball, and to spend time with friends and family. In addition she watches Gilmore Girls and iCarly.

She loves all animals, particularly dolphins, giraffes, sloths, and pandas.

If she could do anything she would find the cure to cancer.

This week we made apple crisp and we helped cut and peel the apples. We got ice cream to go with the apple crisp. After we cut the apple crisp everyone got a piece and a little ice cream. It was very good. By Elena

### Apple Crisp Recipe:

Treats a dozen or so

8 cups pared & sliced tart apples (~8 apples)

1  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup brown sugar (packed)

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup oats

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon cinnamon

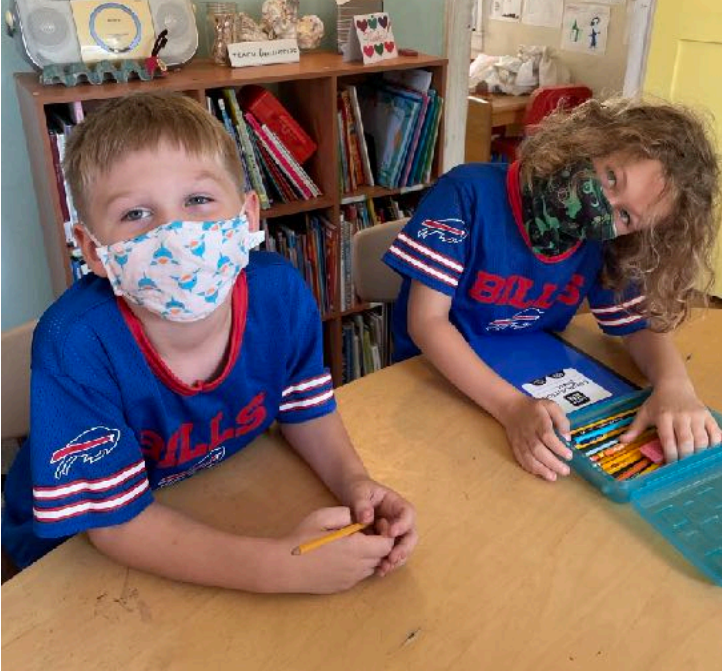
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon nutmeg

$\frac{2}{3}$  cup butter (softened but not melted)

Heat oven to 375 degrees, grease 9x13 or 10x14 pan, place apple slices in pan, mix remaining ingredients thoroughly & sprinkle over apples. Bake 30 minutes or until apples are tender and topping is golden brown.







*Boys & Bills!*

## Isopod habitat by Finn

I created a habitat for a couple of creatures called isopods. Isopods are those pill bugs and sal bugs that you find when you flip over a rock. I found that they will eat waste from other animals. I plan to farm a couple of them to use for my future animal habitats. They can also be a snack for carnivores.

I had to keep saving them during the rainstorms. I thank myself 9,000,000 times for putting a plant in their habitat as they can climb on the plant when their tank is flooded. I hope I can use them for the other animals I keep.



*Older students reading to younger students*



Next week:

- Tuesday is picture day! Rain date is Wednesday. Please return forms & payment Tuesday morning.
- Friday is our field trip to the Genesee Country Village & Museum. We are still looking for volunteer drivers and chaperones to spend the day with us! Please email John or Kelsey if you are able to join. Thank you!