

Mandala School Newsletter

Vol XIV • Issue XI
December 3, 2021

Upcoming Events

Skating

Tuesday, December 7, 10:30

Our Adventuresome Student-of-the-Week: Ria



Would you jump out of a boat into the cold Humboldt current off the coast of Ecuador? How about if that meant you had to keep moving so little sharks wouldn't nibble on you? *Kind of stressful*, says Ria.

If you weren't paying attention you might come up from the water right next to a sea lion. They could scare you but they weren't dangerous.

A lack of Spanish *could* be dangerous. While ordering from the kids' menu, Ria chose something with "beef" in the name even after the waiter kept saying, *Do you know what that is?* Turned out to be tripe, *really slimy and strange*, says Ria. The best part was seeing cool animals like iguanas climbing the hotel walls, crabs scurrying along the beach along with sea turtles and tortoises wandering around. No wonder Ria wants to be a rainforest biologist.

She has also visited her grandparents in India, a place with

monkeys everywhere and wild cows wandering around. They even had a wild lizard in their apartment!

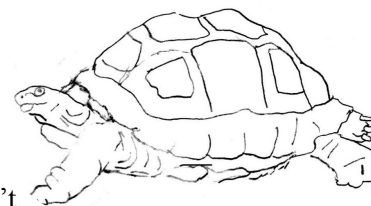
Eating meant going to the market and soaking the food in salt water to kill germs. Indian food is spicy but you could always have bread and butter. A warm mango smoothie was not as good as the cold kind here.

Traffic was crazy there with people *just making a run through it* to cross the street. She saw people riding on top of sacks piled up on a truck and five people on one motorcycle.

One of the coolest places was *an underground well with carved pictures all over. It was really old and built before there were machines, all hand work. Some people would sleep there.*

When asked if she has any advice, Ria said, *Don't give up. Keep trying. Don't let*

something you don't understand get in the way. Don't let other people make you give up on something. You are going to get it eventually. Trust yourself.



Grandma Donna Taylor left this world suddenly and we miss her very much. She made 100s of masks for us, brought us goodies, and always had kind words for us. We are planning a special remembrance.

By Dr. John

History of Thanksgiving By Nolan

Thanksgiving is one of the most celebrated holidays in the United States. Many people know the general idea but not the entire history. Today I will be taking on that challenge.

Our story begins in 1621 Pilgrims had a terrible harvest season and half of their population had died.

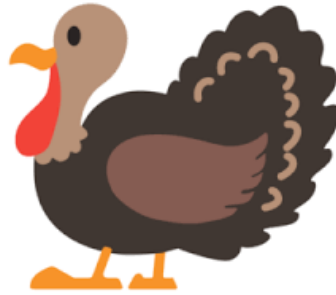
They struck up with a treaty with the Native Americans and to celebrate this they had a big feast known as the first

Thanksgiving. Fun fact: they didn't actually eat turkey, most likely they ate goose.

In 1777 The 13 colonies decreed that a Thanksgiving feast would be held to celebrate their victory at Saratoga. After that the holiday began to die out until a newspaper manager Sarah Hale ranted about how Thanksgiving could be used as a time of peace due to the tensions arising between the South and the North. She first mentioned the idea in her 1827 novel. Eventually the holiday was declared by Abraham Lincoln and they celebrated it on the 25th of November.

Many other cultures celebrate Thanksgiving such as China. They have the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Harvest Moon. During this time, they eat moon cake and celebrate with ornate lights.

Thanksgiving is the second most popular non-religious holiday. By the way, the time I'm writing this it's December. Have a happy holidays and I hope you had a good thanksgiving.



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Winter Activities

This winter we are going to have tons of fun! We are going ice skating December 7th at 10:30 A.M., that is on a Tuesday, at the East Aurora rink. It should be tons of fun! If you don't have ice skates you can rent skates there for \$4.

More things we could do this winter are sledding, skiing and lots of other exciting things. Parents are welcome to come ice skating. I hope to see you all there!

By Katelyn

Science Class

Recently, the older group has started a unit on geology. We finished up our research on glaciers and the impact they have on nearby geography. There are two processes that occur when a glacier moves: erosive and depositional.

Before we get into those, we should mention what a glacier is. Glaciers are giant hunks of ice and snow (along with the other junk they pick up along the way) that slowly move around, lubricated by the meltwater below them. At some point, they melt more than they accumulate, in what is called the ablation zone. This process of melting can also affect the terrain surrounding a glacier. To put it simply think of glaciers as rivers of ice.

Erosion is when the glacier moves and picks up dirt, rocks, cobble, and sometimes boulders. Glaciers can pick up rocks and take them thousands of miles. This

assortment of rocks, dirt and many other things is called till. This leads us to the other process, deposition.

This occurs when the glacier deposits the sediment it has picked up along its journey. This forms piles of sediment called moraines.



Katelyn peering through sedimentation jars

By Juan & Jackson

The Mandala addition...

...Started in May 2021 with teachers & students tearing down the back of the school, tearing siding, pulling nails out of boards, and we even found some old newspapers in the wall from 1918.

On June 15, 2021 the school got a building permit. We started the foundation in the second week of August.

Now the addition has two floors, a basement, a roof, five skylights, and we might have a see through wall. You would see a little bit of the second floor from the first floor. There were pictures of this in one of our previous newsletters (October 29, 2021). In this edition, Graham mentioned he saw wood, ladders, drills, and squares of wood.

In the new addition I saw wood, parts of the fireplace, and painted wood. Dr. John thinks the addition will be done towards the middle of spring.



By: Ella Nappa



Older students read the poem below then wrote about daydreaming.

To make a prairie (1755)
Emily Dickinson - 1830-1886

To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,
One clover, and a bee.
And revery.
The revery alone will do,
If bees are few.

Daydreaming

By Nolan

We've all done it. During a boring conversation or boring class, we've all zoned out into another plane of existence once or twice.

I think when you're daydreaming it is very hard to be disturbed. Some of the only noise you hear is the noise of your own breath.

I've never seen someone experience a day nightmare. Most likely because this isn't really a dream; it's more of a silence. There's an expression "I can't hear myself think." I think when you're daydreaming you can hear yourself and I think your thinking becomes quite loud, almost yelling but also calm and collective.

When you're daydreaming your worries seem to float away. People daydream about many different things. I particularly daydream about ideologies and historical events. But I have multiple friends who daydream about sleeping.

I'd say If life is a prison, daydreaming is the key. But the key doesn't last forever. You only get to go out of the cage for a small amount of time. For example, everything in the modern day goes very quickly but daydreaming makes it slow. Thank you for listening to me ramble on about daydreaming!

We love to read at Mandala!

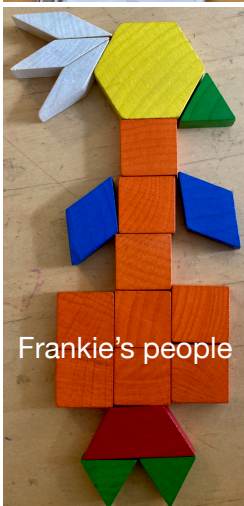


The book *Holes* was good and had a lot of details. There were lots of people like Zero, Stanley, Squid, X-Ray, the warden, Mr. Sir, Mr. Pendanski and Kate Barlow. The kids were all there because they had gotten in trouble. They were at Camp Greenlake but the lake had dried up so it was ugly. Every day each kid had to dig a five-foot deep hole. You have to read the book to find out what happened.

Although we did not finish the movie yet, we have learned a lot. The movie is a lot like the book. Stanley is the main character and his best friend is Zero. Most kids are normal size but Zero is small. They thought Zero had nothing going on so that was why he got his name. Stanley thought he was smart so he started calling him by his real name.

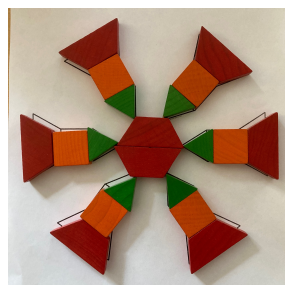
We recommend this book for people eight and up.

By Graham & Katie



Frankie's people

Pattern block
snowflake making



Observing Classes By Sarah and Kate

On Tuesday and Wednesday we spent a few minutes in every class.

WRITING:

The middle kids are working on a writing piece about a red sled. Omi

was writing about going really fast on the sled. Her characters' names are Charlotte, Kyle, and Megan.

Older kids ART: The two older kid groups started a project to honor Starlight's grandmother. Ria said she thinks this idea is very special, but she did say that she will have some difficulties. Zachary thinks it is a fun idea, but the start of it was complicated.

Little kids Math: The younger kids are weighing themselves and items they found around the classroom. They say that they enjoy math and they think it's fun.

The little kids in FRENCH class were practicing their animals. They would all name two animals and act them out for everyone else.



Organizing a
Fable project