

Mandala School Newsletter

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Student of the Week: Millie

Interviewed by Ama, Frankie, and Inti

“Did you know, being kind is healthy” - Millie

Millie’s favorite place to go camping is Allegany. It’s fun. When Millie grows up she wants to be a vet so she can help the animals and make them better. She would be a vet for all the animals in the world and she would have it at her house. Her favorite wild animal is a baby cheetah.

The best thing Millie has ever done is when she fell into her aunt’s pool. She was cleaning the pool and fell right in!

Her favorite pizza is cheese and pepperoni. Millie’s favorite people are everyone in the whole entire school and her family.

Millie said it was fun to make bread yesterday (see photo). We dumped out the dough, cut it in half, and then shaped it into loaves. Millie loves school and baking. Millie’s favorite part of school is science. She likes learning about the ocean and narwhals.

When Millie is at home her favorite things are playing with her dog, Daisy, going in the hot tub, watching the deer, drawing, and listening to the birds.



Left: Millie looking at starfish and sea urchins.

We learned about whales this week. Millie is learning about narwhals. Narwhals grow their tusk, its a tooth. Their nickname is the Unicorn of the sea. They use their tusks to talk to other narwhals. Some have a tusk and some don't.

1. Frankie gathered the ingredients. “We got salt, sugar, yeast, oil, and flour”
2. Then Graham and Ms. Kelsey mixed the ingredients and kneaded the dough.
3. Millie shaped the loaves.
4. EVERYBODY ate warm, delicious bread.

On Thursday we interviewed Guangyu Tan, an education professor and department chair at Fredonia who emigrated from China. We learned about Chinese culture and being an immigrant. The most surprising thing we learned was how much school Chinese kids have. They have classes from 7:30am to lunch time. Then a small break and then back to school until 6:00pm. Then they have extracurricular activities and hours of homework. When she was a child in China, about forty years ago, there were food rations for families. Resources were limited. You could only get new clothes once a year, when it was the lunar New Year. On her way to school her dad had to push her onto the city bus because it was so packed. She has seen pandas! If you have had enough money you could adopt one. You didn't really take it, you could just name it and take care of it.

She decided to come to the United States to get an education in 2001. It took years to get her citizenship. She was so nervous during the interview that she messed up a question, but thankfully the officer gave her a second chance. She got her masters and her doctorate degree! She even wrote a book about small children psychology in different countries. She wanted to follow her American dream. She feels liberated.

She likes the United States because it is more fun. She is a long distance runner and yoga instructor. Her favorite running distance is 10K, but she has run marathons! Before Covid she would travel back to see her family once a year. She decided to come to the Great Lakes area and now lives in Hamburg. She misses her family and the food most. One difference between China and the United States is respect for teachers. In China teachers are not questioned and are treated as professionals. Parents and students trust that the teachers know what they are doing. The interview was fun, interesting, and eye-opening.

Written by Charlotte, Sachin, Finn, Kyle, Zachary, and Graham



Older students are learning about character development in writing class. We cut out pictures from magazines that we liked and that was supposed to build up a character for a writing assignment. By Sarah



The middle group presented their projects on immigration this week. Graham learned about the Statue of Liberty, Katie learned about Ellis Island, and Zachary learned about the Irish Potato Famine.



WE HAD A VERY SPECIAL AND UNEXPECTED VISITOR THIS WEEK: ECLIPSE THE LLAMA! THANK YOU TO HER OWNER, DIEGO, FOR MAKING A TRIP TO MANDALA!

Newt's French Bread (recipe from Dr. John's dad)

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups water (warm not hot)
- 1T yeast
- 1 T sugar
- 1 T salt
- 2 T oil
- 6-8 cups bread flour (we used 1-2 cups of whole wheat)

Directions

- Mix yeast & water. Then add sugar, salt, and oil. Mix.
- Add 1 cup of flour and mix.
- Continue to add flour and mixing until dough is thick but still gooey.
- Slowly add more flour and mix until dough comes away from side of bowl. When it is not too sticky, pour it out on a lightly-floured surface.
- Knead for 10 minutes and gradually add more flour. The dough should be soft, stretchy, and just past tacky when you stop.
- Put a few drops of oil in bottom of bowl.
- Make a ball with dough with a smooth, stretched top. Place in bowl good side down to cover with oil then flip over.
- Cover bowl with tea towel.
- Let rise to double in size, about 45 minutes.
- Sprinkle cookie sheet with corn meal, use parchment paper, or grease it.
- Shape into 2 loaves about as long as a cookie sheet. Let rise about 45 min.
- Put in pizza stone if you have one. Preheat oven to 450°. Start at least 15 minutes before baking time.
- **If you want a better crust, put an iron skillet on the bottom rack of the oven. Just as you put the bread in, pour about 2 cups of boiling water into the skillet.
- Put bread in oven and set timer for 20 minutes. Bake 450° 20-25 minutes until crust is brown. Enjoy!

Announcements

- 📌 Our next book report will be due Monday, May 2nd! For this report, the genre will be **mystery**.
- 📌 With the weather changing we will be spending more time outside. Walking shoes, water bottles, and weather-appropriate gear are recommended. Happy Spring!