

Mandala School Newsletter

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A Seder

by Ella

On Wednesday we had a Seder. We ate some food like parsley dipped twice in salt water. The parsley represented growth and change and the saltwater stood for tears so they would always remember their past. We also ate matzah, which was a bread type cracker and it was created when the Jews had to flee Egypt but they didn't have enough time to let their bread rise, so they cooked it in the desert sun where it came out flat like a cracker. We also had charoset, which is chopped up hazelnuts and apples to represent the mortar of the bricks they used to build their structures and buildings. We had eggs, we're not really sure what the reason is and why they're there, but they were really good.

We left an open seat for someone called Elijah, and we gave Elijah food and left the chair empty. It was kind of like a spirit and as you were eating he would help you if you needed help. We also had grape juice to represent wine, and horseradish, a bitter herb to represent that we'll all have things in life we don't like. No one really liked the horseradish and poor Graham ate the whole scoop not knowing it was spicy. He said "it tasted like a pound of spice." The reason why we had a seder was because many of the students are going to be reading *The Devil's Arithmetic*. In the beginning of the story they go to a Seder." Overall it was a very interesting experience and I got to try some new foods.

In art class we are making macrame. It's like a kind of knot. After I made enough knots it made a design and it twists. The older kids are making hanging plant pots for Dr. John. Six kids are leaving the school and leaving these plant pots. By Mira



In Art Class, we started making macrame for hanging plant pots. It is made by making a loop with one string, and then doing an over-under motion with the other. It is simple and addictive. We are making these for our tribute to Mandala. By Amelia



A happy crowd in Morning Meeting the day we came back from spring break

 **Tree Project** 
by Sachin & Johnny

Recently we voted to do a research project on trees. In this project we would each choose a question, topic, and tree. For example a question we had was, “How did the connection between trees and mushrooms start?” Sachin and Johnny are going to be researching the symbiotic relationship between trees and fungi. These fungi are called mycorrhizal fungi. For example, the tree gives the fungi sugar and the fungi gives the tree nutrients. This helps both of them survive. Johnny picked the cherry blossom tree and Sachin picked the Dead vlei Trees.



Measuring the circumference of trees!

the countdown
8
days until
Earth Day
14
days until
field trip
UB Center for
the Arts:
Cinderella!
Miss Erin is playing
in the show!

15
days until
WNY Girls in
Sports

30
days until
New York City

58
days until
Ithaca!



Student of the Week: Katelyn

Interviewed By Ria and Elena

Everyone loves being around Katelyn and they describe her as hardworking, kind, and enthusiastic. She would love to travel to Italy to see the sights and try new foods. Katelyn's big wish would be to get a golden retriever or to meet Taylor Swift.

One of her favorite meals is chicken salad with balsamic dressing drizzled on top. While she is trying to perfect her math, her favorite subject is writing. Her dream job would be an author of young adult fiction novels. Her favorite books are *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* as well as the *Hunger Games* series. One of her goals is to improve on her patience and she loves to run.

In her free time Katelyn can be found going for walks around town or watching TV. She loves spending time with her friends, family, and her four-year-old cat. Her favorite color is blue and the most relaxing day of the week for her is

Saturday. If she was the mayor of East Aurora she would want to add a gazebo or splash pad to Hamlin Park. To care for the Earth Katelyn uses compostable bags and reusable containers in her lunch. She also walks where she can instead of driving. The animals that scare Katelyn the most are alligators, crocodiles, and pythons. Everybody wants to hang out with her and they love her spirit. Katelyn is a true Mandalian. We are going to miss her so much next year!

