

# Mandala School Newsletter

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This week we learned *pahoehoe* and *aa*. Those are two kinds of lava. We made volcanoes in art. We used black paper, paint and water and popsicle sticks. And for the very finishing thing, food coloring to look like a **HUGE EXPLODING VOLCANO!** And that's all. By Juniper



For Valentine's Day we decorated paper bags to put our valentines in. We passed out valentines, and got to do some activities. I did smoothies and Jeopardy, and the other options were cookies and card making.

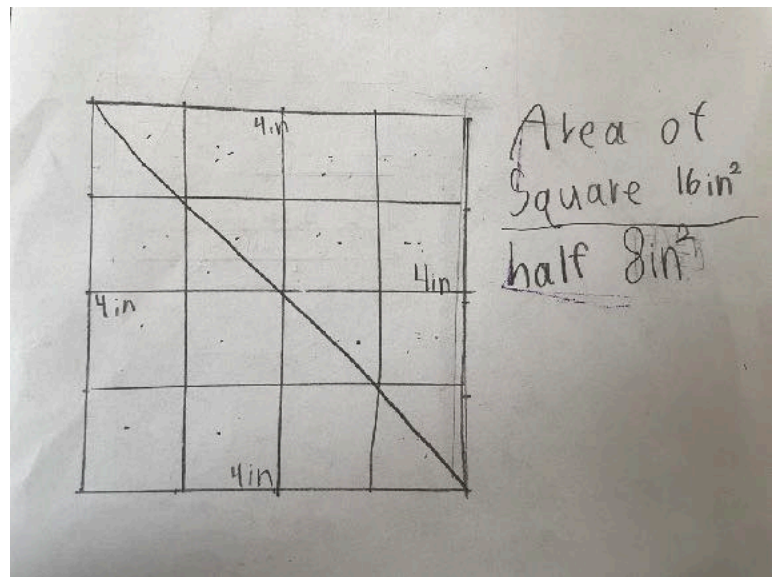


We celebrated quite a few holidays this week! Tuesday was Mardi Gras, which translated to English means, "fat Tuesday." Ms. Jeannet came and made us these delicious, thin pancakes. In dutch they're called "flems."





We drew a square that was 4 x 4 inches. Then we drew a line across each inch. And then we did the same thing the other way. And then we made it into two triangles by drawing a diagonal. To find the area we counted each square. If you didn't have the squares you could just do  $4 \times 4$ . The area of the square was  $16 \text{ in}^2$  and the area of one of the triangles is  $8 \text{ in}^2$ . Which is 16 split in half. By Vienna



## MIRA!



Mira is 11 years old. In her spare time and likes to draw and climb trees with no shoes on. Mira doesn't have many regrets but one she does have is getting teeth expanders.

Other students think of Mira as kind, caring, and hardworking. Mira has been at Mandala for three years and joined because her brother was going here. Her favorite classes are writing and math.

A few years ago Mira went to Disney World with her cousins. That was her favorite trip she's ever been on.

Mira looks up to Zendaya and her brother. If Mira could make something vanish it would be pollution. Mira would also like to bring Anne Frank back from the dead so she can live her life. As you can see, Mira is a very kind and considerate person.

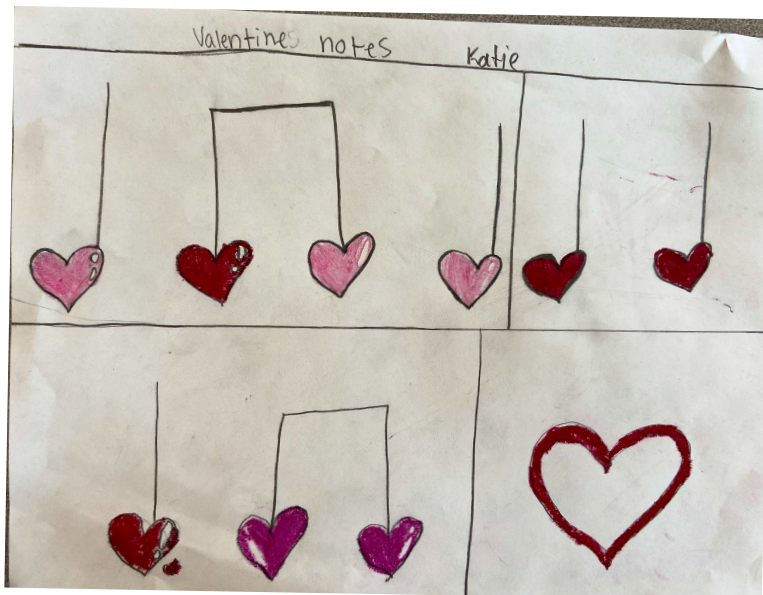
Interview by Finn & Johnny

In music class we are all doing different things. For example, the older group has been practicing instruments. Farrah, Sarah, and I are all doing the recorder while Zachary, Kody, and Johnny are doing the guitar. We also read an article about music and the brain. It talks about how music can be healthy for relaxing your mind and engaging specific parts of the brain. Studies show that having music ability is often related to a higher level of reading and socio-emotional awareness. By Julia

In art class this week we all finished up our winter-escape paintings. We are now going to start making shadow puppets for the full eclipse. Some of us are making up a story for what different cultures think about the eclipse and others are studying what real cultures do think. We have to make a black shadow puppet with two moving parts. Some of us have partners and others are working alone. You have to cut shapes in the paper so the light shines through to make a cool shadow.



*I chose "Winter Shadows" by Peter Campbell as a reference for my winter snow piece. The reason I chose this artwork is because I felt it speaking to me. It was begging to be recreated and sculpted into a new form. One of the things I love about this piece is the way the tree shadows curve with the ups and downs of the snow caps and the small plants too eager for spring to arrive. I used acrylic paint for my art and water helped to blend. By Kody*



Today in music we went over the music notes and made music heart notes (left). After that we got a choice to play musical Uno where we either had to put down either the same note or color and the rest of the kids did musical Twister. Then we did ukulele and recorder, and at the end we listened to classical music for the rest of the time. By Katie



Slide Game Math  
By Clara & Sachin

The rules are that you can slide one space or jump one marker of the other color. The goal is to get all the markers to switch sides. We wondered what the fewest number of moves would solve the puzzle.

Clara and Sachin recorded the moves in three different ways. The first showed the position of every piece, the second showed the type of move, and the third showed the moves geometrically.

Then we tried to find the formula to predict the least number of moves for different-sized games such as a 9-square game with 8 markers. We discovered that half of the markers plus 1 squared minus 1 worked.  $(M/2+1)^2 - 1 = N$  where M is the number of markers and N is the number of moves.

For a 7-square game with 6 markers, it can be done in 15 moves:  $(6/2 + 1)^2 - 1 = 15$  With a 9-square game with 8 markers:  $(8/2 + 1)^2 - 1 = 24$

Then we put it in a spreadsheet. We discovered that the markers have to be an even number so we did not end up with .5 moves. The formula in the spreadsheet looks like this:  $((A1/2)+1)^2 - 1 = \text{moves}$ . A1 means go get the number of markers in column A.

■ = Green    □ = Yellow

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