

Mandala School Newsletter  
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January 10, 2025

happy  
new  
year!

Reading

This week we started literature groups! There are three different groups, each reading different books. My group is Miss Leah, Brooklyn, Julia, Bryce, and myself. We are reading *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. The other groups are reading *Trumpet of the Swan* and *Our Castle by the Sea*.

We were also assigned our next book report! We have to read a book about/from/during World War II. It is due on February 11th.

By Zachary



Upcoming field trips:

- ☀ January 16th Students (3rd - 8th grade) will visit an exhibit called, "The Secret Weapons of WWII" at the Keenan Center in Lockport. This features Dr. John's father, Carl Newton.
- ☀ January 21st: Ice Skating at the Healthy Zone Rink. Please bring ice skates and helmet or \$5 to rent skates.



In French class this week we were learning how to say body parts in French. A new activity that we're doing is taking limbs and body parts from a magazine and putting them together to make a Frankenstein collage. Then we label the parts in French. You can make it as weird as you want. Here is Zachary's, "Mademoiselle Orthadinetta du Conte de West Jambon."

By Vienna

Our top headline:

## The Buffalo Bills won the Super Bowl!

By Bryce

“Hi there, I’m Bryce Johnson for CBS news. Chaos has broken out here in the Super-dome in the Bills locker room. Do you want to know why? Because ... THE BILLS WON THE SUPER BOWL!

Let’s have a look at the replays of the game.”

“Josh under pressure, throws into the end zone, TOUCHDOWN, BUFFALO!”

“Saquon Barkley, going to the end zone, and no player to sto- and Barkley just falls down!”

“From the two yard line Allen.”

“Set, HUT!”

Allen, looking for Coleman, he caught it, “Get off of me I’m bigger than you!” says Coleman!

To make this a 17-10 game, the Eagles kicker kicks it up! And it’s blocked!

By Johnson! He is gone! Touchdown! Buffalo!

“The final score, 14-17, an absolute heartbreak for the Eagles. But for the first time, the Bills are world champions!”

“But New Orleans isn’t the only place that’s chaos, it’s also chaos in Buffalo!”

“I’m going to send you to Buffalo now with reporter Finn Kutach.”

## Student of the Week: Charlotte

Charlotte is a five-year-old girl. If she could be any animal it would be a cheetah because she thinks she can run faster than one! Something she likes to do every day is play with her sisters. She likes being the oldest of four girls, and she can’t wait for her new baby sister! Charlotte loves being a kid and likes to take care of her sisters.

One of her favorite memories is when she spent Christmas with her family. Her top colors are red, pink and purple. If she could describe herself in one word it would be cute! One of her favorite moments is when her mom paints her nails.

Charlotte is very smart and she is a great friend. She is a good reader and is very good at math. She loves doing tricky math problems! We are happy to have Charlotte join Mandala this year.

*Interviewed by Brooklyn & Juniper*



*A sunny afternoon at the bus stop*

## Lesson of the Week:

# Stand up and speak up for what you believe in!

Our mission statement:

Mandala School shall endeavor to provide learning experiences that practice and promote democratic conduct, intrinsic motivation, critical thinking, acquisition of knowledge, community service, and environmental stewardship.

It was a beautiful, bright Tuesday morning at the Mandala School. Math lessons were underway. Dr. John's group was learning about fractions, Miss Leah was teaching angles, and the youngest group was practicing telling time with Miss Kelsey. Suddenly, a knock on the door. We needed to move our cars. "You need to move your car Miss Kelsey!" said Jasper. Out the window the parade of big white trucks and bright orange cones were inching down East Main Street towards our school. *Don't they know our second school rule is, "Don't interfere with learning?"*

The sound of chainsaws and grinders lingered in the background as the day went on. At pick-up time the trucks parked right in front of our school! They didn't care that they were blocking the side walk, the place where all five buses

pick up, and taking up all of the parking spots for the families. Even after Miss Kelsey asked them to come back after school, they went on chopping. They didn't stop working the whole time. Branches fell as kids walked to their cars. Some kids even had to walk into Main Street and go behind the trucks to get on their buses. It wasn't safe. This made some of us really upset. Not only were they cutting down big branches and hurting trees, they didn't care about our safety.

That night Miss Kelsey thought of Juniper's last book report on, "*Speak Up*" by Miranda Paul. "I knew how upset this made me. I was so angry that they put my students in danger. I asked them to stop and they didn't. I knew I had to do something about it... I had to **speak up!** So I wrote a letter. I sent it to the mayor and the police chief, and the whole



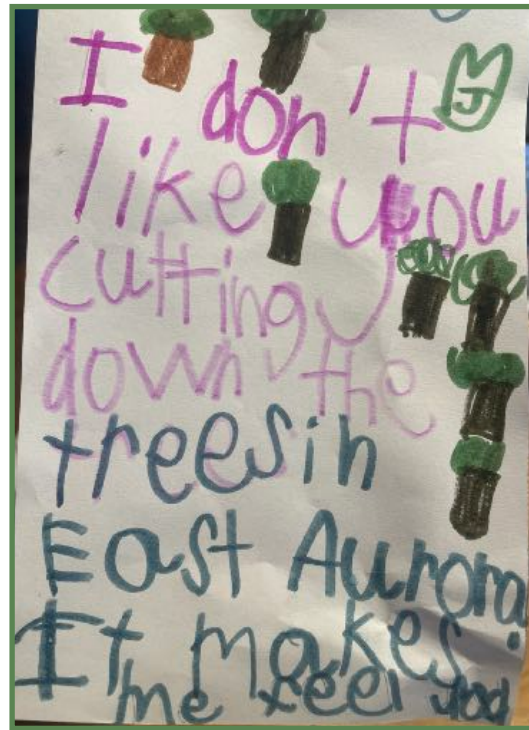
village and town board. I also sent it to some of the activists in East Aurora. Most of the time I am teaching my students, but sometimes they teach me. Juniper taught me that I should speak up when something isn't right."



*East Aurora Bus had to stop behind the trucks.*

Story continued on next page

The next day Dr. John got a phone call from an East Aurora woman named Holly. She said that a news reporter was coming to East Aurora to look at what is happening to our trees and asked if they could meet outside of Mandala. About an hour later they were here. And so was a crowd of people that were upset. Some people that live in East Aurora were interviewed by the news reporter. Zachary and Mira were interviewed, too! They talked about living in East Aurora, the trees, and their thoughts on the situation. Zachary made it on the news that night!



It is really terrible what they are doing to the trees. It makes us sad. The kindergarteners and first graders wanted to make signs and petitions to share how it made them feel. There was one emotion that came up with every single one: sadness.

Despite all these bad feelings we felt earlier in the week, we feel proud. We peacefully and honestly spoke up about how much this bothered us. We were involved with our community and we spoke up for ourselves and we spoke up for the trees. This was an important lesson for our school. We hope people will listen and do the right thing.



*Zachary & Mira being interviewed by Kristen Mirand of Channel 7 News*

There is a Town Board Meeting on Monday 1/16/25 at 6:30 PM for anyone who would like to come show their support for our trees and our safety.