

## Bi-weekly Adolescent Update XII

In the past two weeks the students finished up the astronomy unit with Ms. Louise, ending with final individual presentations about the planets. We began our new humanities unit on Polynesia, focusing on New Zealand and the Maori. Last week, we focused on the settlement of Polynesia and looked at the geography of the region. We have started every humanities session reading a traditional myth and reciting a Karakia, a traditional Maori chant. The students did an integrated geography and math exercise in which they had to make a scaled map of Polynesia using the latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates of the islands.



This past Monday and Tuesday, when the weather gave us a brief respite from the cold, the students enjoyed being back outside for recess, and proved that they could get some math work done while hanging out in a tree.

The students continue their yoga work with Ms. Kim, and their Krav Maga work with Ms. Sarah, both of which are going well.

For creative expression last week, the students did some drama games, beginning by trying to get themselves out of a human knot without letting go of their hands.



On Friday, the students started to make candles using the glass bottles that they have been collecting. With the help of Mr. Tom, who brought his glass saw to MANJ, the students first cut the bottles and sanded down the edges. Then, the students prepared the bottles, washing them and securing the wicks to the bottom of the glasses. They then began to pour the candles, trying out different scents and colors in the wax. This will be an ongoing project for the students, and is part of our fundraising efforts for the program. (See some pictures from this project on the next page!)

