Margilon and Tandir Non

Margilon is a city known for its silk factories and beautiful Uzbek national fabric, adras. We returned to this Fergana Valley City for the first time since leaving our initial quarantine in Tashkent. We took the silk factory tour in Uzbek this time, and enjoyed our time strolling into and talking with locals. This included a personal tour of tandir bread making as shown below! From this visit, we learned that some of the most fun happens when there is no plan.

Bazaar workers we met in Margilon. We were gifted peanuts and qaymaq.

By the end of our Margilon adventure day, Green team members met us for more walking and dinner.

Tandir bread is a staple of Uzbek life. Each area of Uzbekistan does it a little bit differently. It was amazing to watch the bread stick to the walls and ceiling of the hot tandir.
Celebrations!

The beginning of May was riddled with celebrations. We celebrated our first wedding anniversary and both of our birthdays. Other teachers visited us in Namangan, we played lots of football, danced, ate cakes, and more.
Chust

We visited our friendly neighbor city, Chust, twice this month. Once for a visit to the park, and once to teach a workshop to 43 Chust English teachers. Chust is well known for its knives, market, park, and palov. We have enjoyed all of these things there and shared with our visitors! Below is a picture of us with Nurillo’s family at their house right next to the center of the market.

From top to bottom: Nurillo’s family at his house, man selling meat at the market, a knife maker, and the knives at the market.
Classroom Highlights

We are nearing the end of the semester for schools and universities. This allows us to see how much our students have grown as well as how much we have grown as teachers. On the right is one of Emily’s 8th grade students giving a presentation about family, and below is Jared’s engineering class after their presentations.

Student presentations for the end of the semester.

Uzbek Tili Tidbits

Mahalla - an Uzbek word for a tight neighborhood of people who live in a level of community, looking out for each other

Tug’ilgan kuni - birthday

Tandir - An outdoor oven where Uzbeks make non, samsa, and other foods

(Background picture) Walking through the neighborhood to our apartment in Namangan.