

# Wider Horizons School

*Every new challenge widens my horizons, strengthens my self-competence and heightens my enjoyment of discovery.*

## Enjoy Your Labor Day Rest



### News from the office

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

September 7 *Labor Day no school*  
 September 16 Solar Celebration  
 September 18 Grandparents Visit  
 October 12 *Columbus Day*  
*no school*  
 October 29 Biography Fair

#### PLEASE WEAR PROPER UNIFORMS:

Socks: white, navy or black should be worn.

Jean cut pants, capris are not uniforms for girls.

Cargo pants are not uniforms for boys or girls.

### SOLAR POWER DAY 9/16

We will be celebrating Wider Horizons School's move to solar power on 9/16 beginning at noon. Each class will be doing some activity from lecturing to experiments to art activities.

You are invited to come and share in the festivities. The activities will probably be over by 1:30 PM.

### YOUNGSTERS OUTGROW DYSLEXIA, STUDY SAYS

Controversial research hints that dyslexia can be mild or severe and can change.

BOSTON (AP)- Contrary to widely held belief, most youngsters diagnosed with dyslexia in kindergarten soon outgrow severe reading problems according to a controversial study.

The research suggests that rather than being a specific, all-or-nothing condition, dyslexia ranges from mild to severe and changes over time.

"Our data indicate that dyslexia is part of a continuum of normal reading ability," said Sally E. Shaywitz of Yale Medical School, who directed the study.

An estimated 5% to 10% of Americans are considered to be dyslexic. Even though common, the condition is difficult to define and often misunderstood.

The widely held idea that victims see words and letters reversed is not a necessary part of dyslexia. The smarter the youngster, the better they read, and the latest study views dyslexia as simply reading below one's IQ level.

The study suggests that dyslectics are not lumped together as extremely poor readers. Instead, the disorder occurs in degrees, and there is no clear cutoff between those who have it and those who do not.

If true, the findings may have important implications for how schools identify and treat youngsters with reading problems.

Whether dyslexia is a distinct entity or simply part of the normal range of reading ability has been controversial for several years.

This is a part of a continuing debate that will keep people going back to the lab to look again. There are still some answered questions. This is not a faulty article bit it is not the last

word," said James F. Kavanaugh of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, was based on 414 children who entered kindergarten in 12 Connecticut towns in 1983. The researchers tested them annually as they went through school.

Using standard criteria, they found that only 28% of the youngsters classified as having dyslexia in first grade still had it in third grade. By sixth grade, just 17% were still considered dyslexic.

"There is a great deal of normal variability in reading ability over time," said Shaywitz.

Jeanette Fleishner, a learning disabilities expert at Columbia University Teachers College, questioned whether the pupils who seemed to outgrow dyslexia ever actually had it.

### BIOGRAPHY FAIR CHOICES

Every year around this time, information goes home about the Biography Fair. This fair was originally begun to help students bring history to life. By meeting many very important people who affected the history of the world, students get a chance to put historical events in perspective. Each year each student learns about a new historical person and learns from hearing their classmate's presentations as well.

Please choose significant historical personages, not celebrities.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

*The beginning is the most important part of any work, especially in the case of a young and tender thing; for that is the time at which character is being formed and the desired impression is more readily taken.*

*Plato*

## PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Colon and Mrs. Felts

The preschool room has been counting, singing, tracing, cutting, and reading. New lessons are given daily. We are counting our school days and saying the Pledge of Allegiance every morning.

Elizabeth read Bob Book 3 to the class. She loves to read and is practicing speaking up when reading to the group.

We are practicing a bumblebee and the Ants on the Apple song to sing to our grandparents when they come in this month. The children are excited!

We also had a practice fire drill on Tuesday. We had to line up quickly and, quietly, then we had to take giant steps up the hill behind the playground. Brendan instructed everyone to stay in line. He likes a good line!

On Wednesday, we will be learning about the sun. We already started an experiment to see how the sun can fade the color in construction paper. We put objects on paper and placed them in the sunshine. We saw the paper fade around the shapes.

We are writing our names on an erasable plexiglass in the class. Soon some of the students will start to write their names on the paper instead of on the plexiglass and then they will be sent home.

We are also learning the letters and their sounds. The "Ants On the Apple" song helps them.

Parents, enjoy your long weekend.

\*Parents we love your snacks but we are getting too much for one class. We need enough for 19 students. (ex. 1 Box crackers instead of 3 or 4.)

## PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Korthas

We have a few important news flashes this week. First graders Daniel and Kobe have whizzed through their

dynamic addition review and are now working on dynamic subtraction. Good

job! Kindergartner, Brandon is working on the Blue series in language and is already making sentences. Amber, Mariam, and Brandon have completed their first addition math lessons and have moved up to working in their first math booklet.

Parents- please read last week's news-letter to catch up on items and issues discussed on Parent Orientation.

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

This week we started our study of Native Americans. Students were reminded of the land bridge that formed during the Ice Age. They learned how people crossed over the ice into North America to follow their food source. As the climate warmed, the land bridge disappeared. They learned that the first groups of Native Americans to live in North America were the Inuit and the Anasazi. Ask your child to compare the very different lifestyles of these two groups.

In science we reviewed the characteristics of mammals. Students also learned about the types of mammals. We talked about monotremes, marsupials, and placental mammals. They learned that the slowest mammal is the sloth and the fastest mammal is the cheetah.

Mrs. Colon will be teaching our class Spanish on Wednesdays and Fridays. She started classes last week with a review of colors and animals. Mrs. Zack will be returning as our music teacher after Labor Day.

Have a great holiday weekend.

## NEWSLETTER

### STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Editors: Eleventh grade boys

#### Primary gets a lesson in math



Amber, Faris and Ammar plant the hydrangea plant they grew from a cutting.



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Mrs. Graham,  
Mrs. Petters, Mr. DeVore

All upper elementary students have selected their books for their second book report. Both reports are due September 15<sup>th</sup> and will be written at home. A format sheet has been sent home with each student. The format must be followed on a separate sheet of paper.

Biography Fair proposals and guides have gone home. Please return the papers as soon as possible for approval. Students must choose a person of historical significance to portray. Parents please make sure that there is an ample amount of information on this person at your child's comprehension level.

Sixth graders completed an outline of chapter I in their history book. They will use this outline to study and prepare for their first test on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Bravo, Mrs. Ramirez,  
Mr. DeVore

We have a sequential order to all of our subjects. This week we will speak about our geography courses.

The seventh grade students are in Western Geography and they are completing their chapter on the physical geography of Earth, including the planet's structure, climate and vegetation. The eighth grade students are moving along quickly in Eastern Geography. They are completing their chapter on the culture of the world and the things that make up culture, and the ways in which cultures change. The ninth grade World Geography students are completing their chapter in climates, and ecosystems. The chapter points out that climate and vegetation are characteristics that define formal regions. They found out a region climate helps determine its ecosystem.

We hope we have another successful art project completed next week. It will be interesting to see.

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend, and we will see you back on Tuesday.

## PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs Wagner

The after school class spent some time in games on the big playground this week. Several children are strengthening their muscles trying the overhead monkey bars or turning somersaults over the lower parallel bars. In circle, we talked about ants and made pictures of the underground ants and tunnels. We also made stuffed paper bag puppets and sock puppets. We practiced using the puppets to tell stories.

## UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

During circle time, we discussed the different types of occupations that people have such as our parents, friends, and other family members. The children also discussed what they think they may want to be or do when they grow up. We also discussed the importance of doing their school work and homework assignments because that is their job now.

On the playground the children participated in games such as Mother May I, Football, Simon Says, and Freeze tag. On Friday the children had a sit-up challenge, the results will be in next weeks news letter. Last week Jonathan Chase won the chin-up challenge. He completed 13 Chin ups. Good Job Jonathan!

In art the children painted abstract pictures and made book marks using craft sticks, stickers and strings.

In science we discussed the primary colors and used them to make the secondary colors.

For cooking, the children made edible dirt cups with worms, by crushing cookies, making chocolate pudding and adding gummy worms.

Have a great weekend and enjoy your Labor Day.

See everyone back on Tuesday.

