

Wider Horizons School

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

Individual Photos on Tuesday



LEARNING TO BECOME A GOOD LEARNER

The Montessori materials help the children to learn on their own. The materials are presented first in a group lesson. Some children understand how to use the material properly with just a group lesson.

Through observation the teacher learns which children will need a second lesson to be able to use the material properly. The teacher gives a second lesson to that small group of students.

The teacher continues to observe the students and see who now is able to do the lesson with no assistance. Occasionally there is a student who still has not grasped how the activity should be done. That student will have an individual lesson from the teacher or another student until the lesson is mastered.

Mastery of the fundamentals of education is the goal of the early years in school. The Montessori materials make this possible through their specific lessons and particular ways of using the materials. The observations of the teacher is the other element in making sure the student has mastered the material before going on to the next lesson.

YEAR ROUND SCHOOL
NOT A PANACEA
by Domenick J. Maglio, PhD.

The longer school year debate is back. President Barack Obama said that American children need to spend more time in school. The argument rests on the fact some other countries spend on the average 25 to 30 percent more time in school.

An unmentioned fact is children in several Asian nations consistently score higher on math and science tests but spend less time in school than children in the U.S. American children spend 1,146 hours in school while children in Singapore spend 903 hours. Taiwan spends 1,050, Japan 1,003 and Hong Kong 1,013.

The number of hours a person spends on any activity does not ensure the quality of the job. Every parent, teacher and employer admits this reality. The incredible increase in money spent during the past 20 years on American education has not produced better results nor will increasing the number of hours spent in school.

Our Founders were self-educated, worldly men who often received the "gentleman's C grade" in formal education. The education they received at home, working with others and their own involvement in reading, made them well-rounded, well-educated citizens. The culture understood the importance of being educated. Many of those who were unable to attend a school educated themselves through reading and discussion.

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News from the office

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 20 Individual Photos

October 29 Biography Fair

November 11 ***Veteran's Day***
no school

November 24 Thanksgiving feast for students

November 25-29 ***Thanksgiving Break***
no school

Individual Picture day is Tuesday, October 20th. If you haven't ordered, you can bring in the form on Monday. The pictures are PREPAID, so please include your payment with the form.

Quote of the Week:

A book is a garden; a book is an orchard; a book is a storehouse; a book is a party. It is a company by the way; it is a counselor; it is a multitude of counselors.

Henry Ward Beechey

You cannot change yesterday

But you can ruin today

worrying about

tomorrow

PRESCHOOL

Ms. Thornton and Mrs. Iannone

This week the class has been very busy with rhyming words. We have even heard stories about rhyming words. The art table has been all a buzz with our trees as we learn about fall.

We are learning how to say several words in spanish. For example, hola and Octubre! We even learned a song in spanish which I am sure you will hear.

We are also focusing on how we treat our neighbor and following directions. The children are making steady progress at this. Please ask your child what they learned each day. They will love sharing and who knows, you just might learn something too.

PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Korthas

This week we continued our journey to Asia. Now we know that the Philippines are infamous for their typhoons and Japan for earthquakes.

The children are working hard on adding and subtracting, multiplying and dividing, spelling and making up sentences.

This week we spoke alot about manners, respect and how to be polite. The children decided that they are going to be in charge of themselves and all their school work. Way to go!

We also started practicing our Biography Fair presentations. Our goal is to make it a fun and enjoyable experience for everybody. We want children to feel confident about their presentations, so if you have any questions or are in need of age appropriate materials, please let us know.

Enjoy your time together this weekend.

P.S. The picture day is going to be on Tues. Oct 20th

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

This week we began practicing for the Biography Fair. A few students, having already memorized their scripts, were able to present their information without referring to their written reports. Most read directly from their papers. There are less than two weeks to the Biography Fair. While we will continue to practice a little each day, it is important that your child work on the memorization at home. On the day of the Fair they are not allowed to read from their papers. Please practice with your child at home so they will be able to approach the event with confidence.

This past quarter we have enjoyed having teaching assistance from Cassandra Hamilton. She is one of our 12th grade students. Cassandra has successfully worked with small groups of students on understanding money, time, and measurements. Thank you very much Cassandra. We appreciate all your hard work.

Reminder: The next book report will be due on November 16th.

NEWSLETTER

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Editor: [Kingsley Barte](#)

Preschoolers have science and geography work. Sebastian Thomas tries to find what is magnetic. Angie Thomas (no relation) does a continent puzzle.



Christopher Felts and Taylor Hinton work on the 4th grade language cabinet.



Upper elementary students, Sanjay Kumar and Mateo Anooos quiz each other in preparation for a history test.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

In Language, our students are getting very good at finding the details in a paragraph and are beginning to identify topic sentences within the paragraph. Spelling words are also being used as vocabulary words which have created a challenge for the students. We are encouraging our students to use these words in sentences in their correct context.

The fourth graders are very excited about beginning their keyboarding classes.

Those students who intend to type their report should be aware of the following guidelines: Use font style Time New Roman and font size should not exceed 14. The report should be double spaced, indented at paragraphs and two spaces must be added between each sentence. Margins should be set at 1" at the top and bottom and 1.25" for the left and right margins.

Our next book report will be due on November 16th.

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

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

The high school students completed their PSAT test this week. They are anxiously waiting for their test scores.

The entire junior high and high school students have completed their first quarterly tests. The first quarter is ended. The students have been working hard.

Report cards will go out next Friday.

Enjoy your weekend.

PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs Wagner

This week our focus has been on spiders. In circle we talked about how spiders spin webs and catch insects. We played a game where we tossed a ball of yarn, holding onto the thread. We wove an enormous "web". For crafts we wove yarn around a paper plate, then added a pompom spider. We heard stories about Anansi, a very mischievous spider in African folk lore. We also had some Halloween fun making pompom pumpkin witches.

UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

During our playground time the children ran races, played frisbee, participated in games such as kickball, dodgeball and hide and seek.

In art the children made autumn wreaths and a scare crow plant stake. The children were very creative in the way they designed them.

This week in cooking the children prepared jello gelatin jigglers and used halloween cookies cutters to cut them in to halloween shapes. They enjoyed this spooky snack.

Have a great weekend.

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These men understood the schooling of the populous should be handled on a local level. The people of the community have a better feel and knowledge of what should be taught and how to evaluate it. Competition between local schools would be the best method of keeping our education vibrant. In our Constitution education was explicitly left to the states rather than to the federal government which could use it as a propaganda tool.

Currently, our Constitution is not being followed. The federal government runs Amtrak, IRS, Head Start, the Postal Service, Medicare and Medicaid and a host of others. The quality of these federal services has been a running joke with Americans. Yet the feds have just nationalized the financial, insurance and auto industries. The federal hand is attempting to grab everything in its reach.

Education is no longer under the control of the states. The federal government has wormed itself into the core of education with rotten results. "No Child Left Behind" with billions of wasted dollars has made the teachers' jobs harder, not easier. More charter schools are becoming unionized, undermining a major concept of choice. Students are being left just as far behind as ever.

The present push by Washington is to make schools a year-round torture. When you cannot teach children in a seven-hour day, 180 days per year school schedule, then the answer lies in what and how knowledge is being taught. Making the school day longer and extending it for the entire year may be a good alternative for some students, although doing this across the board would speed up the demise of the family.

Decentralization of our educational system and approaches, not federal engineering from Washington, D.C., is a better answer. There are underprivileged pockets where increasing the school year and day could be beneficial. Many of these children do not have functioning parents who value education. They do not read to their children nor teach them academic skills or even feed or put them to bed on a regular schedule. This segment of a local community would do well with a yearlong school program. Instead of replacing the family it would augment the dysfunctional ones in certain locales.

A one-size-fits-all approach will not work well in our nation of many choices. Our family lifestyles should not be dictated by Washington but should be respected. Our local schools from the grassroots level should meet the needs of the particular community. Whatever the decision of these school boards, parents have alternatives in private, parochial or choosing to educate their children at home.

Do not forget, that President Obama's daughters, Sasha and Malia, as well as most other president's and a significant portion of public school teacher's children are in private, not public school. They want to pick the best situation for their own children. No one can blame them. Parents should have the same right to choose an appropriate school environment for their children.

Functioning parents are a key factor in children's academic success. These parents are often the best teachers for their children. They have studied their children and are willing to use their best resources to assist them. These parents enjoy sharing their knowledge with their children on summer adventures. The parents have the most to gain if their children become educated with good character.

Parents who are unable or unwilling to spend the necessary time with their children should have the opportunity to choose year-round school. Competent parents should also have the right to spend their summer with their children.

The federal government should encourage parental involvement, not limit the time parents and children can spend together. The forcing of year-round school on every child and parent would be limiting our freedom unnecessarily.

In a free society, freedom of choice should increase, not be snuffed out by being enslaved in poorly run government schools.
