

Wider Horizons School

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

First Quarter Report Cards



News from the office

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 27 Lower Elem to Chinsegut

October 29 Biography Fair

1/2 day school

November 11 ***Veteran's Day***

no school

November 16-20 National Education Week

November 24 Thanksgiving feast for students

November 25-29 ***Thanksgiving***

Break no school

Individual Picture day was on Tuesday, October 20th. The Picture Make Up day for absentees and those who do not like their photos will be November 20, 2009.

Quote of the Week:

A good day is one in which it is impossible to tell where work ends and life begins.

Character is doing what is right when no one is looking.

J.C. Watts



“THE HAND TEACHES THE MIND”

Maria Montessori

Movement in Montessori Education

Maria Montessori was a genius in creating an educational system that has been relevant for more than 100 years. You can find Montessori schools around the world. The system seems to work in every culture.

One of the important aspects of the Montessori classroom is movement. Nearly every material in the classroom involves some movement. The photograph above shows students working with grammar cards. The language cabinets in elementary classrooms have many, many drawers. Each one specifically applies to a particular facet of grammar such as homonyms, synonyms, plurals, possessives, contractions and so on.

Even such esoteric leaning as grammar uses movement. The cards have to be put into a particular order to be correct.

Math materials have lots of movement as do materials in science, geography and every other part of the classroom.

We can understand what Maria Montessori means about the “hand teaching the mind” when someone shows us how to do something and we ask to do it ourselves so we can understand it better. The same goes for the children doing their daily work.

CULLING THE LIVING DOCUMENT *TO GET BACK TO THE CONSTITUTION*

By Domenick J. Maglio Ph.D.

America is on the brink of economic disaster. Our representatives are spending more money than we have. Like spending-addicts living above their means they think they can spend the way out of money problems. They do not want to tell us we must face the pain of withdrawing from government entitlements.

Over the years the representatives have circumvented Constitutional restrictions to buy votes to maintain their power. Trying to give everyone everything to win reelection has been a temptation going back to the founding fathers. Those superior thinkers were aware that deficit spending and redistribution of wealth to create a welfare state would eventually destroy any nation.

In 7000 words our Constitution explicitly tells our federal government what it can and cannot do. Our recent governments have ignored the Constitution by creating the notion that it has to be changed to address modern issues. By compromising our principles we are on the precipice of one world government.
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PRESCHOOL

Ms. Thornton and Mrs. Iannone

We have had a very creative week at the art table making scarecrows. Our circle time was also filled with stories of scarecrows, as we continue to learn about fall and harvest.

Several students are learning to add simple numbers and are doing very well. With letter sounds, we are participating in such activities as "the postman." Every child tells of the letter they received. Some students have also begun two part matching. This is an extra challenge to them and they love it. Outdoors, we are learning Simon says. This is a great game for following directions.

Picture day went very well. Thank you, Mrs. Ringo, for the special Halloween snacks. Everyone loved it.

PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Korthas

This week we took a break from our long journeys all over the world, and focused on practicing for the Biography Fair.

While practicing our presentations, we not only learned about a historical person, but also worked on our ability to listen.

Parents, have your child tell you the story of the person they are pretending to be for the Biography Fair. This makes it so much more enjoyable for them to learn about this person and it is more enjoyable for their classmates to listen and learn as well. Thank you for your support.

The children are really enthusiastic about the upcoming fair. They are asking questions and are eager to learn something new. A lot of topics were discussed this week starting with the Civil War, and ending with spiders. Wow!!!\

In language, Kindergarteners Giles Adlao and Amber Russo are working on sentences using three letter words. Great Job!!!

A lot of hard work has been done this week. Have a great time together this weekend!!!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

Congratulations to Adam, Anna Marie, Charlize, Dakayla, Daniel B., Keeley, Kera, Lauren, Madyson, and Zachary. Each of these students have advanced a level in knowing the times tables. Good Job! This week we continued practicing for the Biography Fair. The children are really coming to know the historical figures they represent. The class has had an opportunity to learn more about such people as Annie Oakley (she was sent to a poor farm as a child), Einstein (he did not like school), and George Washington (he and Martha never had any children). The Biography Fair is such a great learning experience on so many levels.

To augment our study of birds, mammals, and reptiles we have planned a field trip to Chinsegut for October 27th. While there, we will focus on Florida animals. Reminder: The next book report is due on November 16th.

NEWSLETTER

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Editor: Kingsley Barte

Lower elementary students are preparing for a special Native American event. Kera Hinton and Cameron Deam show off their costumes.



Keeley Gardner is making graphic Indian designs on her costume.



Daniel Bouchaib, Morgan Burbank, Savannah Gibbs work on their costumes.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

Practice, practice, practice has been the motto for this and next week. We were glad to see that most of our students are preparing for the Biography Fair, but some will have to continue to practice during the weekend. We are especially asking our students to focus on projecting their voices and to pause when appropriate during their speech. Display boards are optional for this fair and are not required. Index cards will be permitted but only for key points. As the Biography Fair draws near we will continue to practice during class. Due to the time needed we will not have a spelling test next week.

Please remember to be on time for the Biography Fair. Presentations will promptly begin at 8:30 A.M. Those students who plan to stay for aftercare should bring their lunch, uniforms and appropriate footwear.

A parade will follow the presentations at 11:00 A.M. We look forward to seeing all of our parents there!

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

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

Today report cards went home with our students. Our class would like to acknowledge some outstanding achievements. Seventh graders, Zara Sami and Declan Zhang have completed their math book and are moving into Pre-Algebra. Tenth Grader Melissa Holgado has completed our Advanced math program. Melissa has achieved this difficult task while always maintaining a straight A average. PHCC is not far off for Melissa. Eleventh grader Pranav Lokin has also completed our Advanced math program maintaining a straight A average. Pranav will be attending PHCC full time beginning in January. Congratulations to all of you!

All five of our seniors came back for picture day this week. They spoke to the class about their classes at PHCC. They all have different professors and basically they said the professors reiterated what the teachers here tell our class

daily. I think the seniors may have a little more affect on the class!

This weekend the students should complete their biography fair projects. We will practice a couple of days next week, but practicing at home is imperative. Have a great weekend. Remember next Thursday is a half day. The students may leave after the Biography Fair.

PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs Wagner

We had fun in circle practicing some pumpkin carols. We revised games to reflect fall and pumpkin themes. A few children who take gymnastics showed us their rolls, splits, and cartwheels. In crafts, we made trick or treat bags with cut out jack-o-lantern faces. We heard a story about a bat who got rescued by some baby birds. In time he learned that he was a bat and did things in a different way from the birds. We made black paper bats to hang. We also did some sponge paintings using a jack-o-lantern shape.

UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

The children have been enjoying the weather change. Now that it is cooler outside, the children are able to play for longer periods of time. This week the children enjoyed playing games such as Foot Ball 500, SPUD, Red Rover, and relay races. There was even a day when the children chose what they wanted to play.

During circle, the children discussed why the weather changes with the seasons. They learned that the angle of earth, as it rotates around the sun, determines the weather. For instance in the Autumn, the part of Earth we live on begins to turn away from the Sun. This means that the sun's rays are not as strong when it hits us and that is why the temperature begins to drop.

In cooking, the children learned how to bake sugar cookies in Halloween designs. In art the children made a fall collage.

Have a great weekend!!!

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The belief that the Constitution is unworkable and voters are ignorant is widely accepted in the elitist bubble that is Washington, DC. At their cocktail parties as well as self-promoting speeches in the halls of congress politically pompous elites reinforce the distrust of both. This elitist world has developed an arrogance that can be seen in the revising of our Constitution into a “living document.”

The sacred and magnificent document of our founding fathers has been dismissed by elite activists as no longer relevant even though it created the environment for our country to prosper. This disregard of our constitution is the reason we are in this mess. It is the core element of the rot in the federal government. Instead of following the precise and clearly worded Constitution, they point to volumes of Supreme Court contorted, legalistic rationalizations for diluting the protections inherent in it.

Many of the activist Supreme Court rulings are clear violations of our Constitution. The recent eminent domain case, Kelo vs. Connecticut, stripped citizen’s property rights by accepting developer’s confiscating the homeowner’s land to increase community revenue. The Roe vs. Wade decision condones the murder of infants to grant a new so-called right of women to their own bodies. Allowing the creation of the federal reserve and numerous other devious tactics that avoid following the Constitution such as the appointment of czars, nationalizing the financial and auto industries makes a mockery of our Constitution. Our government is suffering from a cancer and can only survive if we cull the rulings that are undermining the principles and spirit of the Constitution.

We The People must recognize and confront the cancerous, ever expanding monster federal government that is crushing our freedoms as it grows. This cancer is spread by officials employing the “living document” to avoid the limits on their power which is contained in the Constitution.

Our representatives continue to make unrealistic promises to get elected. They take our money through taxes and redistribute it to special interests. Then they have the temerity to turn around and say how important they are to bring “earmarks” back to the local district. They rob our money: Peter, to pay a special interest: Paul, and expect us to thank them.

We will no longer accept this stinking shell game that has bankrupted our nation’s treasury and moral values. The people need to pull in our belts and suffer the necessary pain to again become financially stable. We need to turn down the bribes by Washington, the pittance of a \$250 COLA increase to Social Security, the “cash for Clunkers,” the phony stimulus checks and stop the congress voting itself more and more raises to screw up the government.

The citizens of the Great Depression had to correct the abuses of the Roaring 20s. It was not accomplished by President Roosevelt’s spending spree, New Deal. Rather it was paid for through the sacrificing by the “Greatest Generation.” The entitlements ended when the war started and the people sacrificed through rationing, victory gardens and the ultimate sacrifice, their lives in WWII. Pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps meant to do whatever was needed to survive and succeed.

America does not have to go down this horrific road of war but we do have to suffer. We cannot just print more money and spend our way out of this unsustainable governance. We must stop asking our representatives to give us what is not theirs to give.

The medicine for saving America will be painful although the sooner we start to correct our anti-Constitutional habits the shorter time we will have to suffer.

This is what we have to do to regain our bearings:

Stop being politically correct: say what you mean and mean what you say but remain civil

Willingly sacrifice your time, energy and money by becoming politically active.

Attend local town hall meetings and demand your representatives answer your questions.

Read the Constitution and know the Constitutional responsibilities of elected officials and hold them accountable for their actions.

Teach civics and American history to our children.

It will be either the political hacks or the voters who elect them who influence our government representatives on the local, state and federal level. When citizens are not involved, government will repress freedom and prosperity.

Freedom is not free. Performing our duty as citizens is the only thing that separates us from tyranny. We are on the verge of losing for our children and grandchildren what we were given by our ancestors: American exceptionalism.
