

# Wider Horizons School

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

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



WHAT A GREAT YEAR IT HAS BEEN-  
SO MANY SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AS WELL  
AS GREAT LEARNING FOR EACH  
STUDENT

Solar Day- lots of fun and learning for all.



National Education Week when parents and  
grandparents come and spend time.



Biography Fair which everyone loves. We all  
learn a lot.



Our great Indian Potlatch



Field trips for outside learning



**THANK YOU TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS  
WHO HELPED MAKE CHRISTMAS MERRY  
FOR LESS FORTUNATE FAMILIES**



### STUDENT EVACUATIONS WORRY PARENTS

**Friday, November 20, 2009 Hernando Today  
by Jeff Schmucker**

Spring Hill: At least five times this school year, pupils at Suncoast Elementary School stopped their school work and evacuated their classrooms.

Not as a drill but for their own safety- to avoid broken desk pieces, paper weights and other items thrown across the classroom by a fellow student who reportedly has anger issues.

For the most part, pupils have avoided being struck by items during the violent outbursts, according to school records obtained by Hernando Today. Only when they didn't and became injured were parents notified.

They're called "fresh air drills" or "fresh air learning" at Suncoast Elementary, although other schools have different names. They're names for when teachers evacuate a classroom to contain a student who acts violently.

Brian and Catherine Vredevelde whose 8-year-old son was injured during one tirade, said they didn't know about the classroom evacuations until their son was hit by a piece of broken desk. When they asked why they weren't told about the incidents before, Catherine Vredevelde said they were told they didn't have a right to know.

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### News from the office

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

*December 21-January 4 Christmas*

*Vacation*

January 5 Back to School

#### Quote of the Week:

Reading furnishes the mind  
only with material for knowledge;  
it is thinking that makes what we  
read ours.

*John Locke*

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There are not moments of failure;  
only moments of learning.

## PRESCHOOL

Ms. Thornton, and  
Mrs. Cornelius

The Pre-k students are continuing to learn holiday songs. They are also learning about the winter season.

Students are still busy completing special gifts for their families. The children were very creative. We are continuing to work hard on these gifts.

At this point many students are now writing numbers and letters without tracing. A number of students are doing simple addition.

This week we have added new language boxes, as well as new 2 part matching work. A number of students are progressing in the more advanced 2 part matching work.

Enjoy your holiday break!

## PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Korthas

We have had such a busy week! Kindergarten children, Amber, Mariam, and Brandon are working nicely on Dynamic Math and making sentences. First grade children, Grace, Haaris, Kobe, and Stacie are working on Dynamic Division.

We have several children who made great improvement in their work skills so far this year- James, Taylor, Hamza, Giles, and Kazandra have worked hard to sharpen their skills. 1st graders Dominic and Sarah continue their consistent good work in all areas of the class. Caden, Davitt, and Ceina in kindergarten completed all their work on time and all have improved permanently.

Happy Holidays everyone. We can not wait to see you again in 2010!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

Congratulations to Adam, Alexa, Cameron, Christian, Kera, Keeley, Nisanth, and Zachary. These students have advanced a level in knowing the times tables based on the mad math test results. All third grade students have started fraction work. They are adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. They are also finishing the compound multiplication books and continue to work on long division. Second grade students are working with dynamic division.

Thank you for all the gifts sent in for our adopted family. Surely you have made their holiday a happier one. Mrs. Musselman and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy your time together and we will see you in January.

Reminder: The science fair will be held on February 4th.

## NEWSLETTER

### STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Editor: [Kingsley Barte](#)

[Sebastian Thomas and Angie Thomas \(no relation\) work on culture studies in the preschool.](#)



[Katherine Ringo completes a math quantity activity in prek.](#)



[Students visit Chinsegut Nature Center](#)



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

We had a busy week, completing our gifts and practicing caroling while still continuing to work in all subject areas. Sean was even able to complete Saxon math book 6/5 and will begin the new year in Saxon math book 7/6. We had a special treat on Thursday when our very own Mrs. Zack, along with her quartet sang Christmas carols for us. On Friday, we organized our desks, tidied the classroom, decorated gingerbread men and enjoyed hot chocolate. Later in the afternoon, we all convened with the entire school next to the gazebo to sing Christmas carols.

Although, our Science Jamboree is not scheduled until February, we are urging our students to begin their research as soon as possible. Remember, certain projects will require a greater time period.

We are not requiring a book report during the winter break but there will be one due on the 15th of January.  
Have a safe and happy holiday season!

## JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

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

This year has come to a very quick finish. It is amazing how fast it went by, but also amazing how much subject matter your child has learned.

We are very proud to congratulate Pranav Lokin, Kingsley Barte, Conor Zhang, and Tylor Hubbard for completing the highest academic standard for their high school curriculum. All four young men will be attending PHCC full time to complete their AA degree upon graduating high school in 2011.

Ariana Bond was visiting class today and shared her latest achievements. Ariana will be graduating with her AA degree this May, along with Aarish Hasan.

It has been a year of many successes, a year of much learning, and a year for new resolutions and goals to be made and achieved. We look forward to seeing everyone

back in 2010 ready to learn more. We also wish the best of luck to all our PHCC students. You may be gone, but not forgotten. Come back monthly to let us know your progress.

Our Christmas party/ game night will begin at 6:00. Please pick your student up by 9:00.

Congratulations to Kingsley, Conor, and Tylor for finishing their Advanced Math books. Congratulations to Mariel for finishing Algebra II and moving on to Advanced Math. Also, congratulations to Eesha for finishing her Algebra 1/2 book, and moving on to Algebra I.

## PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs Wagner

Spirits are high as the children look forward to the holidays and school vacation. We have enjoyed the beautiful warm weather for outside games and races. A newly donated box of building blocks has provided a popular activity for the children. In crafts, some children finished their jigsaw puzzle tree ornaments. Others made scented popourri ornaments. We made a jolly red Santa from stuffed paper bags. I wish everyone a joyful and safe holiday season.

## UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

The children have been putting the finishing touches on the gifts and ornaments that they are making for their loved ones.

On the playground the children participated in games such as dodge ball, basket ball, SPUD, free play, and foot ball 500.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

“Their reasoning is that we didn’t have a right to know because of the privacy rights of the other child.” Vredeveld said.

“Vredeveld said, “But what about our right for our child to go to school in a safe environment?”

According to school records, there have been five classroom evacuations of “fresh air learning” incidents since Aug. 24 at Suncoast Elementary. Two students were referred to the school clinic because of them.

However, in an email to Hernando Today the Vredevels claim that in October four children were struck during a student’s fit-one with a paperweight in the head and others with pieces of a table that the child had broken.

After complaining to Principal Jean Ferris about the evacuation drills and bullying issues involving another student the Vredevels claim Ferris told

they should send their child to another school. The Vredevels live in another district and send their child to Suncoast by choice.

Despite several calls to her office, Ferris could not be reached for comment.

The Vredevels have since retained a lawyer and filed a complaint against Ferris. They allege she failed to complete an accident investigation form, tried to intimidate them after they complained about the fresh air drills and failed to keep their child from being bullied by another student.

Although he could not discuss the complaint, Jim Knight, director of student services, said school officials can’t legally disclose a special needs child is in a classroom, even to parents whose child is injured during a tirade.

“Due to privacy rights, we can’t go into details,” Knight said. “There are times when we can let parents know that classroom evacuations occurred, but that’s about it. We legally can’t go into detail.”

while there isn’t a policy concerning the matter, Knight said teachers will evacuate a classroom for the students’ safety while the student acting out is calmed down or, in some cases, restrained.

Meanwhile, Vredeveld said school administrators moved both problem students to another classroom. However, she said that doesn’t solve anything.

“But that’s the thing. When there is a problem, their solution is to just move the students somewhere else,” Vredeveld said. “Now they’re someone else’s problem.”