

Wider Horizons School

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

Finally, A Warm Up



Icicles hanging in our garden.

News from the office

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 18 *MLK Day - no school*
 February 4 Science Fair
 February 15 Presidents Day- *no school*
 February 18 Chinese New Year lunch

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs for making us new cushions for our little couch. Everyone loves how they look.

Quote of the Week:

THE GREATEST THING IN THIS WORLD IS NOT SO MUCH WHERE WE ARE, BUT IN WHAT DIRECTION WE ARE MOVING.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

SCIENCE FAIR/JAMBOREE COMING UP

On Thursday, February 4th Wider Horizons will hold our annual Science Day. We have moved from having merely experiments using the scientific method to having scientific experiments, scientific demonstrations or scientific inventions.

The presentations need to be appropriate for the grade level and will be judged accordingly. The higher grades have more difficulty finding experiments that are of a high enough level to be considered appropriate for our secondary students. Unfortunately many of the students look on the Internet to find science experiments for high school but they are often not what we would consider high school material.

Apparently these high expectations are why our students are scoring so wonderfully high at Pasco -Hernando Community College and on the SAT and ACT tests. We aim high and have high expectations for our students. It works!

HOORAY FOR ARIANA BOND

WHS senior, Ariana Bond, has scored a perfect score in writing on her recent American College Testing assessment test (ACT).

Ariana thanked everyone here at WHS who has helped her become so proficient in her writing skill.



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GEOGRAPHY
 BEE WINNERS 2009-9010**
5TH GRADER ASRA SAMI- FIRST
6TH GRADER SANJAY KUMAR- SECOND
6TH GRADER JOSEPH PEDI- THIRD

FORMAL EDUCATION DOES NOT MAKE A VIBRANT NATION

by Domenick J. Maglio PhD

From the beginning, America's vitality was not produced by the formal education of its citizens. The greatness of America has come from the freedom to seek opportunity without regulation and restriction by the government.

As recently as the 1960s, renowned scientists, engineers, lawyers, corporate managers and financiers started at the bottom and competed hard to reach the top of their field. Our professionals were self-made men in a competitive, free enterprise system. They were not modern lapdog students jumping through the hoops of an idealistic professor often with limited practical experience. These professionals of the past might have had a high school diploma or even less but rarely had more formal education.

These self-made men gained their expertise in on-the-job training. Their superiors gave them difficult assignments that pushed them beyond their academic scope of knowledge. They had to learn technical skills one way or another. This motivated them to learn self-reliance in order to survive. It was a form of apprenticeship.

The boss told them to "get it done" and when they did they would climb the ladder a little higher. If they failed they were either demoted or replaced. The energy of the workforce came from understanding the world of hard knocks. There was no safety net for the lazy and the incompetent; they were weeded out. Failure had serious and almost certain harsh consequences. It kept everyone on his toes. Failure was not the end; it was a lesson to do better next time.

PRESCHOOL

Ms. Thornton, and
Mrs. Cornelius

This week the Pre-K learned a few nursery rhymes. We acted them out and had a lot of fun.

In math we are learning all about units, tens, hundreds, and thousands.

The students have begun placing the quantity by the correct numeral.

We are learning our colors in spanish and we also learned how to say cold.

We had a science experiment where we saw which was going to evaporate faster, water with salt, or water without salt. Ask your child to tell you about it.

Have a great weekend.

PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Korthas

We have been working on improving our language skills this week, concentrating on reading and spelling words with 2 or more letters we cannot hear. It takes practice, practice and more practice.

We have been reviewing in math, dynamic addition, subtraction and simple multiplication.

We have new materials on the shelves for Science and Geography and these have sparked a renewed interest in those areas.

Parents please let us know if you are having difficulty choosing a project for the Science Jamboree.

Remember to keep the project age appropriate. No splitting the atom! Keep that for 2nd grade.

The children had the opportunity to make music with many of the instruments we have been learning about. They enjoyed the wind and percussion instruments and were able to create their own marching band.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

Science Jamboree topics have been submitted and approved. The fair promises to be exciting and informative. Please encourage your child to work as independently as possible. This is a great opportunity for a child to build confidence and self esteem by completing a project on his/her own. In addition, the students who are best prepared to present their projects to the class are those who did most of the work themselves.

Congratulations to Kera and Nisanth who passed the timed multiplication test. Soon they will join the 21 students who have already mastered up to the 12x table. Also this week, 8 students moved up a level in spelling based on their results in the spelling placement test. This test is given at the end of each quarter. Congratulations to Daniel S., Zachary, Cameron, Andrei, Lauren, Beenish, Kera, and Alexa.

We continued our study of the Plains Indians and focused on the Blackfoot and the Cheyenne. The tepee was completed and work has begun on the travois. In science, we reviewed the characteristics of mammals, birds, and reptiles and introduced the study of insects. The children did a great job on the review. We also read a book about Martin Luther King and discussed his accomplishments.

Enjoy your long weekend.

NEWSLETTER STUDENT NEWSLETTER

[Fourth through eighth graders try to answer the Geography Bee Questions correctly.](#)



[String of ice beads](#)



[Kera Hinton is preparing apples for the apple butter at the cannery.](#)



UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

The 4th and 5th graders are really coming along in their writing group. We would like to acknowledge Shannon Goode for an excellent job in using time order words in her spelling sentences this week. Way to go Shannon! Sixth graders are completing the section on principal parts of verbs and the proper usage of problem verbs. This week we discussed using vivid verbs (walk=shuffle) and precise nouns (people=joggers). Using vivid verbs and precise nouns helps create a mental image and different moods for the reader.

We would also like to congratulate the five finalists (Asra, Alexandra, Joseph, Sanjay and Sean) in the National Geographic Geography Bee. Asra Sami came in first place, Sanjay Kumar was 2nd runner-up and Joseph Pedi was 3rd runner-up. Great job guys!

Sixth graders completed their outlines in history and science this week and will use them as guides to study for their tests next Wednesday (science) and Thursday (history).

In art, Upper Elementary will be completing their four color overlay pictures this week. Fifth and sixth graders will need to be prepared for an in-class book report on January 19th.

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

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

Congratulations to Asra Sami for winning the Geography Bee! Sanjay Kumar won second place and Joseph Pedi came in third! Everyone who participated in the Bee did a great job! The following is an example of the Championship tiebreaker... Which small Asian country is home to eight of the ten highest mountain peaks in the world? The answer is : Nepal ! The winning question was : After the United States and France, which island country generates the most power from nuclear energy? Answer is : Japan. We hope everyone had a good time and learned a lot !

Our field trip to the Brooksville Raid brought history and geography alive as the Union and Confederate soldiers escorted us all around their camp. It sure was difficult living back in the day! The students then took a walk to see if they

could find the kettle corn and the homemade root beer. Then the students walked on to find many other items for sale from back in the 1800s. The students had a great time while learning about the Civil War. The Brooksville Raid will be going on this weekend and they encourage the public to attend.

All of the science fair projects should have been seen, if they have not, Tuesday will be the deadline in turning in a project. We need time to approve the topic.

Enjoy Martin Luther King Day off and see everyone back on Tuesday!

PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs Wagner

With the chilly air, the children had a shortened play time outside. We played enough races and brisk games to run off some energy. In circle we talked about the polar regions and arctic vs. antarctic animals. We made dioramas of polar regions using tissue boxes, batting, sugar cubes and animal pictures. In crafts we also painted plaster of paris ornaments.

UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

WOO HOO ! The boys and girls were so excited to be able to play outside this week. Although the temperature was cold it wasn't cold enough to keep us inside.

The children participated in games such as dodge ball, spud, football 500, relay races and bocce ball.

During our time indoors the children concentrated on doing their home work. The lower elementary children were testing each other on the States capitals, while the older students worked on math sets. Good job boys and girls.

In art the children drew winter scenes with chalk, and for cooking this week we made cookies and smores. We would like to thank Mrs. Geraci for giving us the cookie ingredients.

Have a wonderful weekend, see everyone on Tuesday.

continued from front page:

The successful, aggressive workers jumped at every new challenge. The reward was just as intense as was the failure. Each major accomplishment brought another promotion eventually reaching the status of a full-fledged professional. This title meant the person was viewed as competent in every aspect of the position.

The American dream is no longer reached through the work ethic, competition and merit, rather just by entering the front door of a university. This entitlement mentality is robbing graduates of the enthusiasm and dedication to be successful.

Today, young people, who are willing to delay entering the adult world, will sacrifice their parent's money or bet with their future earnings by taking out loans to live an "ivory tower" existence. This decision of even ill-prepared students to suspend taking on the responsibility of being an adult is supposed to assure success.

In America, higher education has reached its highest enrollment and at the same time is charging the highest tuition. The marketing of higher education hinges on a carefree lifestyle that eventually ends in the union card needed to enter a profession. Higher education regulates who will be able to hang a shingle professing the readiness to perform.

The problem with this magic formula is that it is not working for too many students. Their unrealistic expectations of starting at the top means the requirement of being able to do the job is the least of their concerns. Too many students do not have the will to learn the business reality and the art of their profession.

Presently, America has 25 percent too many doctoral degrees for our economy to absorb. Twenty percent of all college graduates are either unemployed or hold jobs that do not require their degrees.

There are many countries with high rates of university graduates such as Russia, Costa Rica, Argentina and Greece that have no actual positions for these graduates to fill. Graduates of many countries educational systems have been facing the fact that a degree on a resume does not provide a professional position.

The myth of obtaining a job is seen in the increase of people attending higher education during this economic downturn. Pell Grants this year are projected to have an \$18 billion short fall. This is placing a large strain on our economic recovery.

The university's ill-conceived, mediocre preparation and falsehood of insuring a position for every student is not questioned. Many of these students become disillusioned, angry adults who blame the capitalist system rather than the university hype or themselves.

A vibrant economy takes an innovative workforce. The employees have to be self-reliant thinkers not followers. These self-initiating people create more opportunities for people who share their dream. These entrepreneurs who have faced failure and have overcome are better than students who have happily and lazily wasted years pursuing a lie.

Americans have to realize that hibernating in college is not the best route to business and professional competency. Our economy should not be based on preparing our professionals in a false, idealized version of professional business.

The world of doing, not expecting, has made the U.S. an economic dynamo. Let us remember that becoming a professional is much more than obtaining a degree.