

# Wider Horizons School

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



## WHS Father's Day- in March

Fathers and Students Celebrate our Special Appreciation for Father's Day on Friday



Ashley Szoke gives her father his special composition and decoupage pencil holder



Preschooler, Elizabeth Gallimore, reads to her father during Father's Day  
Below: Jonathan Chase enjoys time with his dad.



## Don't Put Pressure on My Child:

He has a College Fund

by Domenick J. Mglia PhD

Too many Americans think life is all about money. They believe they can purchase anything they want. This includes health, happiness and even successful completion of a university degree.

Faith in the magical power of money has led many adults to delay marriage until they reach a certain elevated economic level. Living together or recently married, the couple must pay homage to the money god by both partners working even after children enter their lives. As long as their standard of living is sufficiently high they can afford to buy a college fund and presto, the child's college education is insured.

The problem with this materialistic formula is when the child's grows into adulthood he may lack skills, habits and motivation that are necessary to become productive. These college-funded students are by no means insured graduation. They still need to complete all necessary requirements.

Modern parents are, or claim to be, too involved with their employment obligations to do many traditional activities of a parent. There is limited time and energy for obedience, potty training, speech, emotional, responsibility and empathy training. These skills and habits that are the foundation of the character of the child are left to daycare workers. Any persistent childhood issues that are left to correct are addressed by medically sanctioned specialists who clean up the mess by individually re-parenting or labeling and drugging the child.  
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## News from the office

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 8 -12 - Start of Iowa Tests
- March 18- Report Cards
- March 19- Professional Day - no school
- March 24- applications for Student Treasure Books
- March 25- Class Pictures

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**Teachers are personal fitness trainers for the minds of their students.**

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**Medical science has found no cure for spring fever. Spring break will have to do.**

## PRESCHOOL

Ms. Thornton, and  
Mrs. Cornelius

This week in Pre-K students have been learning all about the polar region. The students have been working with polar animal 3 part matching cards. Also, children have enjoyed working with a polar region manipulative scene.

At the art table students have been working to make a gift for their fathers.

In language children have been working a great deal with the moveable alphabet. This work provides the students lots of ways to practice making new words. It has been a fun and busy week!

Thanks to all the Dads for coming on Friday morning for Father's Day.

## PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Korthas

Well, we're arrived in California ready to dig for gold. The trip was grueling; crossing the mountains and rivers. Many children and adults did not survive the trip. Ask the kids about the early settlers in this country and how difficult their life was.

Despite all my efforts to have Monday off, most of you found my error - Friday the 19th there is no school.

Parents, are your children able to read their sight words? Maybe they need a little encouragement to practice just 3 words a night. It will make reading so much more enjoyable for them.

Thank you to all the Dads who came for coffee and cake with their child. The children couldn't wait to give their dads their cards and gifts.

Enjoy your time together this weekend.

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

School starts each morning at 8:30. Our day starts with taking attendance and instructions for the day's work. Often a brief lesson is given. We have several children who arrive late each day. Some arrive fifteen minutes late to class. These children miss the morning lesson and their late arrival is disruptive to the rest of the class. Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time.

The highlight of the week was the celebration of the dads. The children were excited to give the gifts they had made to their fathers. They also enjoyed serving brownies.

In math, all third grade students are working on geometric definitions for volume, area, and perimeter. Soon they will be solving correlating word problems. Second grade students have been introduced to fractions.

Congratulations to Adam and Daniel S. for advancing in learning the times tables. At this point ninety-three percent of the students in our class have learned up to the twelve times tables. Great job!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Reminder: The next book report is due on March 15th.

## NEWSLETTER

### STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Student Editor: Ji Hye (Grace)  
Yang

[Julian Valentin and his dad spend time at Father's Day.](#)



[Taylor Johnson shows her grandfather some math work.](#)



[Matthew and Steven Mannino spend time with their dad at Father's Day.](#)



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

Our calendars for March have been distributed amongst our students. Please watch for important dates, test dates and assignment due dates. We ended our week with our Fathers joining us for a snack in our classroom. All of our students were very happy to be able to share this time with their dads.

In history, fourth graders role played a Senate hearing, fifth graders are learning the Gettysburg Address, and the sixth graders completed their studies on Florida's government and are moving on to Florida's cities.

In culture, we are learning about the parts of Egyptian temples and are completing our research on Egyptian gods and goddesses.

This week we had many students reaching their milestones. Basima completed Saxon math book 6/5 and is testing in Saxon math book 7/6. Alexandria and Joseph joined the Junior High School math class after they completed Saxon math 7/6. Keep up the hard work!

Our next book report will be due on March 15th, but fifth and sixth graders will complete theirs in class.

## JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

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

It is hard to believe the fourth quarter will begin in two weeks. The fourth quarter is full of extra curricular things such as : Easter break, the play, end of the year picnic and graduation. I am sure there are more things to list, but that is enough along with our daily work.

We want every student to finish this third quarter strong. Parents can help make next week successful by helping us with a few instructions. First of all, we need all students to be here because there are end of the quarter tests along with the junior high's IOWA tests. We suggest that each student get a good night's sleep, as well as a good breakfast. This will help your student have the best possible scores they can achieve.

Thank you for your understanding about our concerns for next week. We would like to acknowledge Brenna Rowland for completing Algebra 1 and moving into Algebra 2. Success stories happen everyday!

## PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs Wagner

With the March winds blowing, we spent time discussing kites and gliders and how they fly. We worked together to make a kite. We learned about kite contests and Japanese kite flying. We took kites outside and had contests to see who could keep their team's kite in the air the longest. We made foam gliders in crafts and experimented flying them.

We got a new 48 piece dinosaur floor puzzle for indoor play. Many children had fun putting this puzzle together.

## UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

This week in after school the children seem to have found an interest in the sport of football. Julian has become quite the leader in the game. Other games that were played included hide and seek, tag, basketball, relay races and kickball.

In art the children worked on making Father's day gifts and cards. We hope all the dads enjoyed their gifts.

During Circle the children discussed why their fathers are special. Some children said it as because of the fun things they get to do with their dads, while others said it was because their fathers love them. Regardless of the reason, all the children agreed that dads are special.

For cooking this week the children prepared spaghetti and sauce. The children also learned the proper way to set a table for dinner.

Have a great weekend.

Many well-intentioned parents, instead of looking at their child's total development, only focus on the happiness and brightness. Special trips, events and buying the child nearly everything he wants are ways modern parents are attempting to make the child blissful.

The stimulating of the child's intellectual development often means planting the infant in front of a Baby Einstein video then following up with toddler computer games and reading to them at night. As the preschooler enlarges his vocabulary, the parents relax their efforts, especially if the child is absorbed in a special interest such as dinosaurs, rocks or space. The children are empowered to blab to anyone about their interests. Now they feel the child is on automatic pilot to do well in academic pursuits.

Once the foundation of verbal skills is achieved and monthly college fund payments are met, the mission is complete for too many parents. These parents become upset anytime a teacher pressures their child to meet classroom expectations. From the parent's perspective, there is no need to push their child academically. They know their child is bright and they certainly do not want to make their child anxious or less blissful since they are college bound.

The hoax of how well the child will do is perpetuated by the school. Grade inflation is deceiving parents as to the educational skill and habit development of their child. The majority of students in elementary school, more than 70 percent in many school districts, receive recognition of being on the honor roll. For many it is unearned. At this stage, teachers are hand-feeding the information to the students. As long as students follow the teacher's instructions and avoid sticking out as discipline problems, the child is probably on the honor roll. This lack of academic standards further blurs the truth.

The knowledge, skill and habit deficits usually surface during middle school when the child is required to work on his own, especially in subject areas where he has no interest. Many of the activities that turn students off are tedious assignments such as grammar, penmanship, memorizing facts and formulas as well as showing all the details needed to complete an assignment excellently.

Even with these gaps many students can obtain a high GPA in high schools devoid of grade integrity. Eventually there is a reality check with the SAT and other college entrance exams. The picture becomes crystal clear in the university when the student is required to take remedial courses or drop out of college.

The prepaid college fund, without the careful guidance of the child's overall development, can be delusional. There is no substitute for parent involvement with all aspects of assisting their child's overall character development. Parent involvement is priceless. A fully paid college fund or all the

money in the world cannot replace or measure up to the molding that a parent must do to create a well-rounded child. Successful students are those who have developed the inner discipline to accurately complete assignments, like it or not. These students are blessed with parents that require their children to do all the required tasks at home, like it or not. These parents maintain high expectations and standards and demand that the children reach them. These parents put effort into all facets of the child's life, not just the cognitive areas. Parents actually doing things with the child such as cooking, gardening, working or playing together rather than allowing the child to be self-absorbed with the computer, no matter how educational the program, is much more important to the child's future.

The love of the parent exhibited daily by assisting the child to learn inner discipline, skills and habits enables the youngster to do well throughout his life. The child will easily meet the prerequisites necessary to earn scholarship money to pay for his education. This student will have the additional dividend of knowing the education will be his own.

He will not be prone to carelessly blow the opportunity to earn a college degree. The responsibility of attending classes and being conscientious in his studies are habits and skills his parents have already given him. His gratitude will be focused where it should be, on his blessing of having great role models who helped him.

The training of the child is the legacy a parent gives him, not impersonal money or inheritance.