

# Wider Horizons School

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



## SCIENCE JAMBOREE IS GREAT FUN AND LEARNING

News from the office

### IMPORTANT DATES:

2/13-2/17 Spirit Week

2/20 **President's Day - no school- SIGN UP FOR DAYCARE ASAP!**

2/27-3/2 Montessori Education Week

3/19-3/23 **Spring Break**

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### SPIRIT WEEK FEBRUARY 13-17

**MONDAY- MIX/MATCH DAY  
TUESDAY WEAR RED DAY  
WEDNESDAY PJ/HAT DAY  
THURSDAY DRESS UP DAY  
FRIDAY SPIRIT T-SHIRT DAY  
FUN FAIR IN THE AFTERNOON**

**DECORATE YOUR  
CAR FOR WHS  
SPIRIT WEEK OR  
STUDENTS WILL DO  
IT FOR YOU ON  
MONDAY**

### STUDENTS SHARE THEIR SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE WITH EVERYONE



Fourth grader, Zachary Peters demonstrates how a Tsunami happens as his classmates listen.



Fifth grader, Naynika Juvvadi demonstrates her project on what makes a volcano.



Second grader, Evan Thomas discusses the difference between tap water and pond water.

### LAZINESS HAS LOST ITS STIGMA

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD

The American people have remained silent while laziness has taken firm root in our society. This acceptance of laziness is contrary to the established "American Dream." Our citizens are given an opportunity to reach their goals through diligent effort, not by being lazy and demanding entitlements. We Americans have worked our way up the ladder saving a significant portion of our wages for investment in our own future.

Laziness is permeating the American way. Citizens of the USA are becoming numb to half-hearted efforts by our children, public servants and even small business people. We have lowered our standards of what makes an honest effort. Whenever a person says he is going to do something in a specific time period and fails to do it, too many of us are neglecting our duty by looking the other way. Many of us are learning to use a pathetic excuse to weasel out of these commitments with few or no consequences.

The epidemic of laziness has to have an enabler. In the early years it is usually the modern parent. The child who receives poor grades because he has not tried is told to try harder next time even though the parents know their child could easily do the assignments. Instead of getting on the child to finish his meager responsibilities at home and at school the parent's laziness passes the buck onto the spouse or the teacher. The lack of a challenging assignment by the teacher is called into question, not the child's irresponsibility to get their work in on time.

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## PRE-SCHOOL

Mrs. Bermudez and Mrs. Bozek

This week in Preschool, we continued working with Valentine's Day themed work. During circle, the class enjoyed listening and learning new Valentine songs and stories. On the art table, the children are making lots of Valentine crafts. Parents, if you want your child to bring Valentine cards to share with their friends on Valentine's Day (February 14), please send 15 cards with only your child's name on it. Thank you.

In math, some children had a lesson on the Zero activity which helps demonstrate the meaning of zero. We also have other children working with combining the Decimal System Bead material and Number Cards. The purpose of this material is to reinforce the relationship between the concrete (quantity) and the abstract (written) decimal system. We have also added new sound material and three part matching work to the shelves.

Have a great weekend!

## PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Youse

Well, we finally reached the shores of Sunny California, but in Mid-June (when our pictures are taken) it's not so sunny or warm on the Northern coast of the United States. We have noticed the beaches are not at all like ours here in Florida. Nobody was swimming, Where was all the sand to play in? How about all those rocky cliffs jutting right onto the beaches.

It was 1 or 2 in the afternoon before anyone warmed up. We hiked for quite awhile until we found the sand, blown away inland due to the constant wind. Once there we did enjoy riding the large Dune Buggy up and down the very steep sand dunes.

We will be moving north next week through Oregon and Washington, finally getting to see the giant Redwoods and Sequoias.

Thank you to all the parents who supported your children in preparation for the Science Fair.

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

The Science Jamboree was a great success. The children did a wonderful job explaining their projects and we saw some interesting demonstrations. After the presentations were completed, the students were able to walk around the room and look closely at the boards. The children were eager to answer questions posed by their classmates. Several children said they would duplicate some of these projects at home. On Friday, the students wrote compositions about what they had learned at the Science Jamboree. We thank the judges for participation and feedback.

In music this week, students practiced the song, "Sourwood Mountain," and learned more of the verses from, "Oh What a Beautiful Morning." They are really beginning to sound great. These are the two songs they will be singing at Friday Night Live.

Valentine's Day was the theme for Friday's art work. It was a great way to cap off a very busy week.

Have a great weekend.

Reminder: The next book report is due February, 29th.

## NEWSLETTER

Student Editor- Sabrina Valentin  
Student photographer-Andrew Patel

First grader, Shashank Aremanda shows off his drawing and story.



Kindergartner Layla Dickerson has lots of information on tornados to share with her class.



Korean exchange student Jason Yang presents his science fair project on building a polar meter.



## **UPPER ELEMENTARY**

Mrs. Gutierrez, Mr. Lozano, Mrs. Hudson, and Ms. Thornton

There are many exciting events going on this February. As we all know, the Science Jamboree was the first on the list of major events for this month. On Thursday, our students had the privilege of presenting their projects in front of the judges. We had an array of topics ranging from the physical sciences to Christopher's voluntary and involuntary responses, and we even had Taylor give us some insight on animal behavior. Although presenting for the judges was a great learning experience, especially in public speaking, many of our students really enjoyed it when parents visited our classrooms and demonstrated interest in their projects. Thanks to all the judges and parents who took the time to celebrate science with us!

Next week begins our School Spirit Week! Reminders were sent home on Tuesday, so please check them, for each day has a special theme. Valentine's Day is Friendship Day in the Upper Elementary classroom. After lunch, we will prepare special treats to enjoy with our classmates.

We have also begun to write notes of kindness to each other. Parents please remember when sending treats in for Valentine's Day to include everyone in the classroom. There are 21 students in both upper elementary classrooms.

Our next book report will be due on Wednesday, February 29th.

## **JR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Bravo, Ms. Ramirez

Many experiments, demonstrations, and inventions were done at our annual Science Jamboree on Thursday. We learned about: How Magnets Affect Plant Growth, Charles Law, Gravity and the Space Time Continuum, to Designing a Windmill. Many lessons were learned in various areas of study. The students did a very good job in explaining their projects. Thank you to all the judges that participated in our room.

The seventh grade students are reading a new novel, the Prince and the Pauper. We will have a reading list as to what chapters need to be completed and by when. Work sheets will be given out and a test will be taken at the end of the book. The eighth grade students will be completing their novel on February 13th. We have discussed major themes such as naturalism, survival of the fittest, and romanticism. We spoke about how many people felt White Fang was critically acclaimed as a powerful though not so

great a book as The Call of the Wild. We have read both of these Jack London novels, and each novel carries its own unique message. The eighth grade students will be reading Flags of Our Fathers after completing a test on White Fang.

Everyone is excited for Spirit Week beginning this Monday. Your student should have brought a note home saying what each day was going to be about, and about what they could wear. Monday is Mix and Match day. Once again we would like to reiterate that classes will all be the same until next Friday, so work will be due as usual.

We would like to congratulate Josephine Miller for completing Algebra I and beginning Algebra II. Great job!

Progress reports have been sent home with some students. Please discuss these reports with your student and then sign and return them to their teacher.

Have a wonderful weekend!

## **PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL**

Mrs. Wagner

This week, the children played a game of freeze tag during outdoor playtime. We also spent some time on the big playground. Several children can go all the way across the monkey bars now.

In crafts, we made funny animals out of paper hearts. The girls used tissue paper to make colorful flowers and we made pins from wooden hearts.

## **UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL**

Ms. Bennett

This week in art, the children began working on valentine crafts. they made paper heart baskets and a heart garden.

On the playground, the children participated in games such as tag, hide and seek, and relay races. During Wednesday's kickball game, the team captains were Sabrina and her brother Julian. Both teams wanted to win, but in the end Sabrina's team won 12-7.

During homework time, the children were busy practicing for the Science Jamboree, as well as trying to complete their daily homework.

On Friday, to wind down from a busy week, the children enjoyed popcorn and a movie.

Have a nice weekend.

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Laziness is a form of lying to oneself and others. "I'll do it later" turns into "I had no time to do it." Procrastinating is waiting until the last minute and usually rushing to get it done often in a shoddy way. The person who waits until the last minute is either overextended or does not take his commitments seriously.

Parents are not the only ones lowering their expectations of reasonable effort. The American consumer is doing the same. The waiter who does not bring the correct order or is lackadaisical in getting the food on the table in a timely manner receives the full tip without hearing any criticism. "Customer service" is a concept of the past or better put, an oxymoron.

Government workers on the local, state and federal levels feel they are entitled to more pay, more status and more benefits than their private sector counterparts performing the same job. Our public servants refuse to take a reasonable reduction in astronomical benefit packages or refuse to reduce their workforce through attrition to balance state and local budgets. They threaten to strike with other union allies to frighten older dependent citizens into submitting to unfair demands.

Just a decade ago it would be hard to imagine self-employed workers acting arrogantly enough not to do everything necessary to nail down a job. Even during this "Great Recession" most often the American worker does not call back about a potential job or show up after making an appointment to give an estimate for a service. The work ethic of many small businessmen has gone from go-getter to "I'll do you a favor by doing the job at an exorbitant wage."

All of us, especially parents, need to start forcefully showing our children that laziness will no longer be a valid excuse for failing to get the job done. Parents should provide sufficient negative consequences to their children to improve their effort in school, sports, work or any other endeavor. They should support their children's teachers not undercut their authority. Parents should support each other increasing expectations for their children instead of putting down the parent who sets high standards by saying "you are too hard on your kids." They should stress that success comes through hard-nosed perseverance.

We must start with our children and expand to the general public. We need to show our children that a poor effort by a hired worker or anyone will not be tolerated. Our vigilance as buyers and employers is important in conveying the message to our children that laziness is not an acceptable behavior. We need to raise the bar of doing a conscientious job on every level of society.

Customers should tell any worker who does not fulfill his expectations exactly how his performance is inadequate. It is important to the delinquent workers to be put on notice to give them an opportunity to learn a lesson and get back on the right track.

Laziness must have a severe stigma attached on all levels of society or it will destroy both our economy and society from within. We will all suffer the consequences of a world where we pay for and expect one thing and get disappointed and frustrated by receiving terrible service and inferior goods.

Our nation will rise or fall on the contributions of all of us. When too many people are parasites, taking and not giving, we will cease to exist as a prosperous, viable nation. Only when the vast majority of us start punishing the lazy thus incentivizing them to become significant doers will we flourish.

You can visit Dr. Maglio at [www.drmaglio.com](http://www.drmaglio.com).