

# Wider Horizons



## WHS RECEIVES NIPSA RE-ACCREDITATION

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 5/2-5/6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/11 World Culture Day
- 5/24 Field Day
- 5/27 Student Recognition and Graduation

Mother's Day is coming up. Students are working on Mother's Day crafts to give to their mothers.



### WIDER HORIZONS SCHOOL RE-ACCREDITATION



Wider Horizons School thanks everyone who makes our school so effective and a pleasant place to be.

Thank you to all the parents who came in to speak with the representatives of NIPSA and showed their support for our school.

Thank you to the students who also spoke to the NIPSA reps and described their supportive education here.

The teachers were interviewed by the NIPSA reps and spoke about the support they receive from the administration and their ability to be creative in their teaching.

We thank you all for your support of Wider Horizons School. That is what makes WHS possible, viable and successful.

New preschooler ,Kyle, is learning to put the numbers in order.



### INFLATED SELF ESTEEM WILL END IN FAILURE

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Our culture in the United States is obsessed with high self-esteem equity. Everyone should feel positive about everything they do, in order to make as many individuals feel good about any amount of effort. According to this philosophy, everyone needs to receive an equal reward so no person will suffer the pain of being less than someone else.

In our government schools many of the school boards are finding ways to minimize differences between student's ranking in class. Some schools do not allow student grades to be written on the board. Spelling, math, or other bees of any kind are not allowed so no one will feel inferior. The top academic student in the class is not publicly announced since it might arouse envy in some and smugness in others. Due to the precipitous drop in the testing scores in the USA compared with other nations, some academic subjects have been deemphasized or eliminated altogether. For example, the writing section of the SAT exam has been eliminated while many colleges are not even requiring these standardized tests for entrance qualification.

The concept of equity: that everyone should be raised to the same level regardless of whether they earned it or not, is being implemented in many of our government schools. This artificially creates a world that appears to be equal in all things and in all groups. This allows all individuals to appear to be equal in every way except it is not true since everyone is unique even so-called identical twins.

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## PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Bermudez

This week in the preschool, we went over the life cycle of a butterfly and frogs. We also learned about the structure of a ladybug. Students then did an art project including all three animals. The children punched out the outline of a butterfly with a thumb tack to help improve their fine motor skills. Then the students' hands were painted to mimic a ladybug and frog.

Congratulations to Aria and Bella who are now working with the multiplication board. Congratulations to Rocco, Brock, Avea, Skylar, Kota, and Haven for starting to work with the addition board. Our students are continuing with an array of differing materials, based on their own individual levels.

In practical life there are new items for tying shoes, zipping jackets, and folding different items. In sensorial there are new fabrics that children can learn the names of and match the material.

During circle time, we read a book called "World Landmarks". During this book students learned about Rome's Colosseum, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, and more. The students are also learning about a variety of places around the world and about different cultures. Students have a cultural puzzle based on differing children from an array of locations.

In science this week, students are working with three part matching, on differing insects' body parts. There are interactive puzzles that review the life cycle of both a butterfly and frog.

Please keep voting for Mrs. Bermudez for best Preschool teacher in Hernando County, FL. You can cast your votes daily until May 4th, on: Hernando Sun Newspaper or by scanning the QR code.



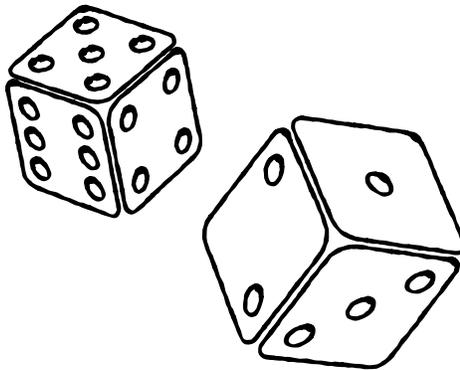
## PRIMARY

Mrs. Youse and Ms. Finnerty

This week in Primary, the children worked nicely in all areas of the classroom. They continue to show us how much they have learned and are continuing to learn each day.

The children worked on a myriad of activities this week. They went on a nature walk/rainbow scavenger hunt in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day. They drew beautiful pictures of what they saw on our journey around Wider Horizons' campus and we talked about the importance of making mindful choices in regards to how even little actions build up and can lead to big consequences.

In language the children received a review lesson on writing stories using the "Roll a Story" dice. We talked about how a story is different from writing sentences and how they should come together to form a cohesive story.



In science, we continue to discuss and learn about nutrition. Students received a lesson on the distinction of the food groups and the importance of each when it comes to building a balanced plate. We encourage them to make thoughtful choices and want them to understand why healthy choices are important and promote strength, immunity, and rapid cellular repair.

Primary also created a tree "snackivity" for Arbor Day, using pretzel sticks and green apples. We enjoyed seeing their creativity and excitement during this activity.

Congratulations to Alexander for completing the Bob books, and moving up in reading. Nova and Brentley moved up to level 3 in Spelling, and Thomas memorized the subtraction facts to ten and began working on memorizing multiplication facts.

Have a great weekend!

STUDENT EDITOR

ZARAH SORENSEN

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Siyanna for moving up to mixed times tables.

Congratulations to Bianca and Jax for having a perfect reading sheet last week.

This week the students had a lesson on different food groups and healthy ways of eating.

In math, the students continue to work in booklets and extension math. Last week the students had a lesson on place value where they rolled the dice and place them in the proper spot according to the color of the place value.

In spelling the students worked from packets, rolled the dice, drew pictures, and used a chalk board.

In geography the students had their last states test, but they need to continue to study them for the competition next month against the upper grades. The students continue to learn new facts about each state.

In science the students had a lesson on diagrams of the vertebrae. They match the labels on the vertebrae and self check. Then, they can label and color the paper.

In language the students are working on finishing up the tower and working on extension work on our shelves.

In history the students are finishing up Native American culture.

Last week, we played the dictionary game, which the students really enjoyed. They were split up into groups to find a word in the dictionary the quickest. The team that found the word first would get a point.

Have a nice weekend!

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms. Hilgenburg

It's official! We have two new class pets. On Wednesday Upper Elementary welcomed two adorable bunnies to our classroom. We voted on their names, and we all agreed on Sunflower and Honey Bun. We would like to give a special thank you to Avery and Kennedy for donating the bunnies.

In fourth grade we talked about how to summarize and cite newspaper articles. The students had to look through a newspaper and cite an article of their choice. Students also finished their spelling books and will now have new vocabulary packets. These words may be more challenging, but students who study should have no issues. Students also learned about the internal and external parts of a rabbit, in congruence with our new class pets.



Sunflower and Honey Bun (shown above) are the two new classroom pets for Upper Elementary.

In fifth grade, we will be working on composition rewrites for Mother's Day and an activity to go along with it. Fifth graders are completing roots and prefix packets to conclude the year. In geography, students are continuing to learn about land and water forms.

Sixth graders welcomed Helen to our classroom this week. She is from the Ukraine and is learning English. Sixth graders are continuing to work in their "Composition Section" of their language textbook. The last science test was especially difficult, but that did not stop Gia and William from earning a perfect score of a hundred percent. Great job, guys! We would also like to congratulate Krish for being the latest sixth grader to join the junior high school math class. Everyone presented their European project this week, and we will be displaying them in the hallway so everyone can see. Next destination is Asia. Each student will pick four countries in Asia and will create five riddles for each country to try and stump their classmates.

## JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Ms. Doman, Ms. Sanchez

Next week our class will be taking a field trip to Pueblo Viejo, a Mexican restaurant with Mrs. Bermudez! They have been looking at the restaurant's menu and practicing how to give their order politely to their servers. They also are looking at prices so that they know the amount of money they will be bringing with them.

This week our class also did another Earth Day project. During art all of the students were given the supplies to make their very own paper mache globe. They were given balloons, glue and newspaper strips to begin with. Once they had added all of the newspaper they needed they chose green and blue tissue paper to form their contents and oceans.

Physical Science, in ninth grade, this week finished up their chapter on magnetism. They were given many different types and sizes of magnets to investigate and observe.

Life Science, in eighth grade, has begun to explore the human body. The first part of the body they will be learning about are the body systems. Examples being the nervous system, the endocrine system, the digestive system etc. Their understanding of these concepts will help them greatly when they take Biology in high school!

Finally, If your student would like to attend our two week summer program please make sure to sign up on the front door by the office. Hope you have a wonderful weekend!



Two of the seventh graders, Janae and Julie, participated in making earth day projects out of paper mache for art class.

IN CASE OF A STORM OR STATE OF EMERGENCY WHERE THERE IS NO POWER - SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

## AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

This week, during circle, we had many lessons on using manners. We discussed the importance of the power of using 'please' and 'thank you'. It shows that you have respect for your fellow classmates. We also discussed the difference between 'Can I?' and 'May I?'. One asks you about your ability, and the other is asking for permission.

On the playground the children participated in games such as Hide and Seek Tag, Kickball, Four Square, and Relay Races. On Friday, the children enjoyed a free play day.

Have a great weekend!

## PRESCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer

During our time inside, we read a book called "Wonders of the Rain Forest". We were all wondering what mysterious the warm, wet forest held. The rain forest is filled with various different species of both plants and animals. We also read a book about Zebras. Zebras are members of the horse family, and even though the zebras have black and white stripes, the strips on every zebra are different. People and other zebras can differentiate each other by their stripe placement or pattern. They can also see and hear very well. They most eat grass.

On the playground some children played in the sand box while others were either using the playground equipment or playing hide and seek. Once inside, the children worked with board games, legos, puzzles, and whatever other game they wanted to work with.

Have a safe and fun filled weekend!

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The USA Department of Education's new objective as a social change agency has sacrificed its past merit-based mission. This change in focus is undermining the quality of our education. Instead of attempting to raise every racial and ethnic group in public school, it is lowering it for everyone. By changing the standard for each subgroup, an artificial equitable result may be achieved. This is being done to satisfy Marxist political concerns instead of increasing our students' academic ability as compared to students worldwide.

There always have been people with inflated egos who think they are better than most others. These blowhards are increasing in number and are often hard to take seriously. The people exaggerate or directly lie about their accomplishments and life history. It does not matter if their parents, friends, or other significant person was a role model for exaggerating, the individual had the choice of imitating this lifestyle or not. These people may make a wonderful first impression, but it does not mean their reputation will not change with more exposure. The label for a person living a fraudulent existence by taking liberties with the truth is a phony.

Yet, the USA with their glorious past educational system chose to lower the academic educational standards to force equity mediocrity. These decisions are eroding the moral fabric of our nation. In the recent past students were judged on their ability. They had to learn and demonstrate their knowledge through vigorous testing. When students who excel were honored by other students and teachers who admired them as role models. Their excellence and advancement motivated everyone to compete at their optimal level. This is called the merit system.

Replacing merit with inflated grades results in the reduction of what must be learned to not overwhelm the student. These lower academic standards, along with less motivated and dedicated teachers is a formula for a third-world nation with diluted institutions, weakened morals and work ethic. People in the equity culture will expect more material wealth than they will receive as they lack the necessary skills and work ethic.

Many of these students with inflated esteem believe they can do anything they are assigned. Since most have no knowledge of cursive writing, higher math, or history they will eventually be made aware that they cannot do the job in the real work world with their meager education.

In this reality the students will fail because their inflated grades led to insufficient learning and retaining academic skills and knowledge. The more students put into their education, the more they get out of it, which opens greater opportunities for future advancement.

The focus on getting all students to be at the same point in the same grade is hurting our nation's ability to compete in the world. Some students are not allowed to advance while the poorer level students are pushed ahead to keep everyone at the same level. This political approach will end in harsh failure. Inflated egos are worthless when the person is unprepared for the reality of the judgmental and competitive economic society.

*Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers and blogs, an author of several books and owner/director of Wider Horizons School, a college prep program. Dr. Maglio is an author of weekly newspaper articles, INVASION WITHIN and the latest book entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at [www.drmaglioblogspot.com](http://www.drmaglioblogspot.com).*

