

Wider Horizons

ROAD BACK IN TIME FIELD TRIP SCIENCE EXPO

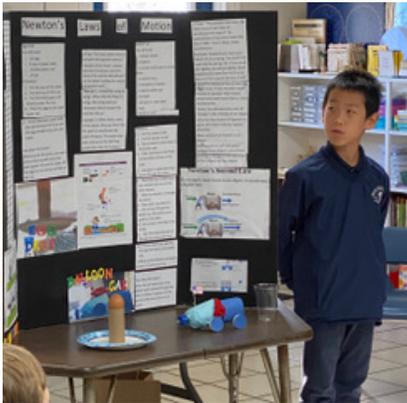


DATES TO REMEMBER:

2/14-2/18 Spirit Week
2/21 **President's day- no school**
3/11 Report Cards- 3rd quarter
3/12-20 **Spring Break- no school**
Return to school March 21st

SCIENCE EXPO 2022

Students from preschool through high school created different science presentations to share with their class.



Matthew, a fifth grader, discusses Newton's Law using models he made to demonstrate the law.

Daphne, a second grader, gives a very good discussion on how to hatch the butterflies she grew in the butterfly cage.



UPPER LEVEL STUDENTS TRAVELED "BACK IN TIME" AT THE DADE BATTLEFIELD IN BUSHNELL

Occasionally we are able to attend this event in Bushnell. This event is hosted by the Dade Battlefield where there are lots of different people who come to share old time type activities. The students enjoy it and learn a lot.



Students try to learn to walk on the old type of stilts.

Julie sees how hard it is to make candles when they need to be dipped again and again.



BEING "SMART" IS OVERRATED By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Our present government-school culture is infatuated with a student's mental quickness on standardized tests. These students are highly valued and placed in advanced classes and often given the "gifted" label. Any label can have a positive or negative impact on an individual student even being "gifted." A gifted student is not above average in every area and might not have good common sense which limits them.

Children with unique attributes, talents or characteristics are often overlooked as they do not score highly on achievement tests. Too often some of these children are seen as deficient instead of noting their special attributes. Being empathetic, sensitive to the needs of others, resilient, kind, artistic, or insightful are sometimes disregarded but would be wonderful traits in an adult.

In many cookie-cutter schools these skills and characteristics are not important in our educational programs. Whatever is keeping a student from thriving, often is identified, and labeled. This labeling process can become an albatross around the neck of a student keeping them from overcoming the deficit. A label is rarely removed even when it has been corrected.

Often attention-deficit, explosive-behavior, anti-social and many other behaviors can become the school's major concern for the child. Inevitably a new label will further confuse the process by not looking at the student's positive potential to do an excellent job in other academic areas. This label remains as the government school's excuse for their ineffectiveness and parent's inability to socialize their children well.

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PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Bermudez

This week in Preschool, we continued working with Valentine's Day themed work. During circle time the class enjoyed listening and learning new Valentine's Day songs and stories. On the art table, the children painted hearts on a paper bag and completed their igloos from last week.

During Science the children had a lesson with the different animals from around the world and where they come from and the Solar System.

For Language we continue reviewing and practicing everyday. We introduced new sound work for those that are still learning sounds, and we introduced two-part matching sentences for those that are reading. During circle time the children had a lesson on how to make phrases using the Movable Alphabet. We also added a book with sight words, which some children are required to print.

In the Math area, the children had a lesson again on Formation of Quantities 11 to 99 with the Bead Material. The purpose is to teach children the numbers from 11 to 99 using the Bead Material. Some students also had a lesson on multiplying with the decimal system and the multiplying board. Congratulations to Aryana for completing a mixed addition and subtraction book, and congratulations to Bella for completing an addition book.

We continue to encourage each child to do their best and challenge themselves to do more everyday. In a Montessori classroom, children are developing a positive attitude toward school, assisting each child in building the habit of concentration, developing habits of initiative and persistence, fostering inner security and a sense of order, helping develop sensory motor skills, sharpening the ability to discriminate and judge the materials, helping the child develop socially, helping the child develop creative intelligence and imagination, and the most important being independent. Being independent is an essential part of life. Here are some ideas that parents can use.

For example, parents can help by letting them dress themselves, eat on their own, pick up their own mess, and let them walk in by themselves from the front door at school.

REMINDER: Parents, if you want your child to bring Valentine cards to share with their friends on Valentine's Day (February 14), please send 24 cards with only your child's name on it. NO CUPCAKES or COOKIES please. Thank you.

PRIMARY

Mrs. Youse and Ms. Finnerty

We practiced for the Science Expo all week. We have talked about public speaking and the etiquette of it; being prepared, speaking clearly, eye contact, and smiling. We discussed if they forgot the next step or skipped a line, that they should always move onto the next thing they remember. The most important part was to have fun presenting. They all did a fantastic job, especially since this Science Expo was a first for most of our students. There is always room for more improvement next year.

Our focus this week was Valentine's Day. The children made a Valentine's Day card, a picture frame designed with hearts and confetti, a language Valentine's Day poem with their own drawings, and a hand print drawing.

Next week is Spirit Week! Each day is different. Please make sure the children are dressed comfortably and appropriately. We still go outside and play.

Congratulations to Nova for memorizing the addition facts to ten, and congratulations to Hely for moving up another level in the multiplication levels.



Alexander, 1st grade, gives presentation to the judges with Kenneth holding his board for him.

STUDENT EDITOR

ZARAH SORENSEN



Clare, 4th grade, presented for the first time here at WHS.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

This week the students worked hard on their Science expo projects., Each student had several opportunities to stand in front of their classmates to demonstrate, along with talking about the project they have created. We would like to thank the judges that came into our classroom to judge the students. The Science Expo was a great success! It was interesting to see their creative minds shine.

In spelling the students had a test on Thursday. They created different ways to use their spelling words.

For math class the students practiced rounding to the nearest 1000, doing applications, and working on booklets.

Language this week was extension work and work from the language tower.

For science class the students continued to work on vertebrates and extension work.

In history the students continued to work on different regions of Native Americans.

For geography the students continue to work on states and learn about different state facts.

We would like to congratulate the students on how hard they worked on memorizing their states, capitals, and abbreviations. We continued to have competitions inside and outside of the classroom.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms. Hilgemburg

The afternoons this week were mainly spent in preparation of our school's annual Science Expo. There were so many great projects this year. William's fire tornado was a hit with all of the boys; while Robert's sustainability project was also very impressive. Parents and friends were invited to visit our classroom today and many commented on our projects. We would like to thank the judges for their participation.

Fourth graders continued with more advanced forms of parts of speech. They began to learn about finite and non-finite verb clauses, as well as gerunds, infinitives, and participles. It was emphasized that these verbs are formed from verbs but are never used alone as action words in sentences. Students also were introduced to more parts of a map that they may see including the grid, compass rose, the map inset, and a legend or key. In math students were given a lesson on the measurement of capacity. Since there was no spelling or vocabulary tests this week on account of the Science Expo, students will be tested on Monday.

This week the fifth grade students practiced their punctuation in language. For geography they continued with their volcano collages. In Botany students are almost finished with their leaf and stem boxes.

This week sixth graders began the unit on capitalization. In this unit they will learn to apply the rules of capitalization to their writing. These rules should be applied to all writing assignments. In Physical Science they explored the topic of fluid pressure. Not only did this chapter address Archimedes' principle and why things float or sink, but they also learned about Bernoulli's principle which is used to explain flight.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Ms. Doman, Ms. Sanchez

This week has been jam packed! Our students went on their field trip to the "Road Back in Time" on Thursday, February 10th. We went to the Dade Battlefield Historic State Park. Learning about settlements in the 1830's, they toured homes of Seminoles, settlers, and soldiers. Students had the opportunity to milk cows and make candles.

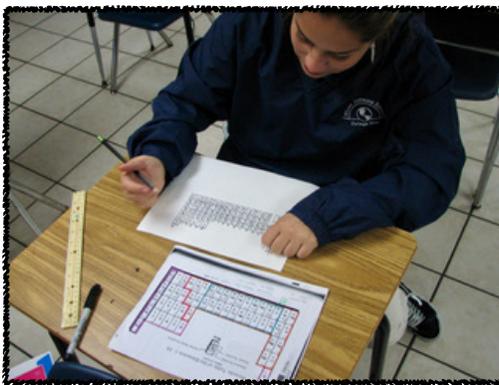
Seventh graders, in Earth Science, have been studying the Earth's oceans. 8th graders, in Life Science, have completed their chapters on invertebrates. They each drew a diagram showcasing complete or incomplete metamorphosis. Ninth graders, in Physical Science, created personal periodic tables to help them with their upcoming lessons.

In math, we had the pleasure of welcoming 6th grader, Sophia Howes to start Math 8/7. Congratulations, Sophia!

Students participated in the Science Expo today. Each student presented for the judges, teachers, and their classmates. We had varying topics in Physical Science, Earth Science, and Life Science.

As a reminder, Spirit Week is next week. We cannot wait to see our students dressed for school spirit!

If there are any questions you have concerning your student's work or progress, please call the front office for a meeting.



Amanda, a 9th grader, is working on her periodic table.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

On the Playground this week, the children participated in games such Gaga Ball, Pin down, Spud, Hide and Seek tag, and on our rainy Tuesday, they played the game Hello Judge. The children enjoyed disguising their voices in an effort to trick the judge in the game.

During inside time the children had fun using the various building activities and board games. We also introduced a new puzzle activity to the shelf. On Wednesday's Mind Lab the children participated in an exciting game of Hangman.

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

In art the children made a Valentine basket and wrote letters of kindness to their friends.

For cooking the children prepared Jello fruit cups.

PRESCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer

This week during circle time, we had a lesson on recycling. Most of the children already knew about recycling and why we do it. All of the children were given a page full of different objects, and they had to try and circle all of the items that they thought could be recycled. They all tried very hard and did a great job. We also read a book about gorillas and their behavior. Some act very similar to humans! They are intelligent and like to take naps when their tummy is full. The children also learned that they could be gentle and that baby gorillas loved to play.

Since we discussed about giraffes last week, the children had a chance to paint a giraffe using paper plates this week. They had a lot of fun doing so!

While outdoors, some children were playing the game "Red Light, Green Light". The other children were very busy in the sand box. The rest were enjoying the playground equipment.



Madison, an 8th grader, is working on her portrait in art class!

Continued from front page...

The label often hinders a child's potential to become an excellent student. A student can take on a different persona when excited about a new subject or activity. This focus may fade quickly or be overtaken by other interests. Student interests are not static but constantly evolving when one activity leads them to another. Positive grades and reports from a teacher can rekindle the spirit of the student's belief in himself. This can lift the student's progress in all endeavors. Students like all of us do not remain static.

Being successful as an adult is multi-faceted. Higher IQ does not always transfer into success in the rough and tumble world of adulthood. You can graduate from college with a high academic GPA or impressive credentials, but success depends on many variables like determination, resilience, and successfully confronting challenges and overcoming them. When a boss assigns a difficult task that the person has no idea how to solve, they need to take initiative, think, and search for sensible ideas to solve a specific problem.

Time management is essential to be successful in life. In almost every situation the supervisor assigns an objective to a subordinate and wants it done as soon as possible. Excuses eventually prove the employee is incapable of getting the assignment done in a timely manner. Regardless of how smart a person thinks he is, not getting an assignment done on time is a liability that can end opportunities and advancement.

In life there are personal issues that happen such as illnesses, death of a loved one, divorce, accidents and physical or mental health traumas. These issues must be dealt with while the person still maintains focus on professional obligations. Success requires resilience to deal with many aspects of life simultaneously.

Modern life requires adults keeping "many balls in the air," making instant decisions to accomplish all these tasks. The need to be flexible to adjust one's routine is essential. Many social skills are needed to deal with co-workers, friends, and family members. These people are not only focused on how bright a person is but how well they can be a team player. Interpersonal skills can often outshine cognitive abilities.

In this world of "Siri" children can appear "brilliant" by obtaining answers to any question with a cellphone. Many parents are impressed with their children's apparent intelligence. The reality is modern children have many electronic tools to retrieve and memorize information that was unavailable to children in the past, however many do not listen to adult instructions. Often children today are not reaching the milestones of appropriate maturity at the expected age.

Too many people carry an inflated opinion of themselves because of parent's low expectations. When a child physically matures and enters the adult world adults expect the adolescent to have many competencies. Being confident is only one of these competencies that gives value to their position.

Parents, schools, and adults in our culture must evaluate the whole child not just their verbal "cuteness." Apparent intelligence is only one of many attributes that make up a functional adult.

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 a recent book entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at www.drmaglioblogspot.com.