

# Wider Horizons School

## PRIMARY TRIP TO SAFETY TOWN

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/13 Columbus Day (No School)  
10/17 Report cards go home  
10/31 Bio Fair (Early Release)



Learning to cross the street when it is safe and making sure to look both ways was one of the many lessons learned at Safety Town.

Students work at putting out the “fire” on the board with a real water hose. Discussing what to do in case of fire was a big part of the visit to safety town.



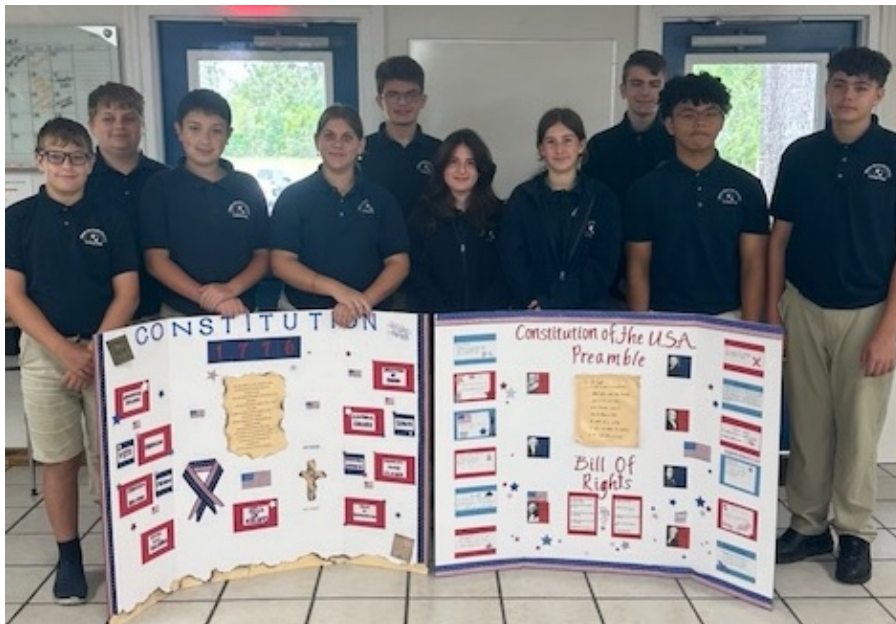
### BEING “SMART” IS OVERRATED

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.  
Traditional Realist

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.

Upper level students show off their Constitution Day posters made for their classroom.



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.

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## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Tejeda

We have had a busy week! We took a field trip to Safety Town on Wednesday, and also celebrated Layla's birthday with our traditional birthday walk. We have been leaning about Christopher Columbus and how he sailed the sea.

In language, students are writing poems about Christopher Columbus. The students are practicing writing new vocabulary words and continue to read our Bob Books Congratulations to Yvan, Zoha, Remington, Avalon, and Claire for moving up in their Bob Books. First grade students are being challenged with sentence building, as others are learning blending sounds.

In math, our newer students learned the Zero Game, as others are challenging themselves in addition and subtraction.

In science, we are talking about how a tree grows and learning about all the parts of the tree, along with a three-part lesson about the roots of a tree.

In art, the students made the three ships that sailed with Christopher Columbus and a Christopher Columbus hat.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy weekend. We will see you on Tuesday!

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

What a fun week for both primary classrooms! Our field trip to Safety Town was a huge hit, students learned how to be safe in various situations that included hands-on role-playing.

This week we also started learning about Christopher Columbus in preparation for next week's holiday. During circle, we read a book about his excursion, his three ships, and why we recognize him in our country.

In language, students were introduced to nouns and verbs. They also are working on classifying nouns into "person", "place", or "thing". Some students are exercising their new found reading skills by matching pictures to sentence fragments. This is a great stepping stone as students become more confident and begin reading longer sentences and books.

In math, primary students were reintroduced to the snake game. This time, instead of focusing on the commutative property; students are creating long equations and are learning how to exchange once ten is reached. We are very excited to see the fun the students are having while learning math.

In science, the children are learning the parts of a frog and its life cycle. They will be completing books as well to take home.

This week is Fire Safety Week, and we completed fireman puppets after discussing these important real-life heroes. Have a great weekend!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek, Mr. Garrand, and Mrs. Morpheus

This week, the students had a great time learning about Christopher Columbus, exploring U.S. history and the 10 amendments, and engaging in geography activities.

Congratulations to Bella, Elsie, Annabelle, Ashley, Wendy, Juliet, and Payton for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Jaxson and Jacob for mastering their subtraction facts 11-20. Congratulations to Bryan, Joedaniel, and Ashley for mastering their subtraction facts 1-10. Congratulations to Kota for mastering his addition facts 1-10. Congratulations to Benaiah for mastering his addition facts 11-20. Congratulations to Grace, Emily, and Vann for having perfect reading sheets this week. Congratulations to Jacob and Rocco for moving up to mixed facts.

## STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

In history, the students continue to work on different regions of Native America. They have completed a Christopher Columbus worksheet and learned a Columbus Day song. They also have been memorizing the 10 amendments.

In spelling this week, the students wrote their spelling words on chalkboards, completed spelling worksheets, created their own word searches, and wrote their spelling words five times each.

In language, the students continued to learn about punctuation and capitalization.

In math, students had a lesson on nickels. They are also continuing to work on their booklets, story problems, geometry cards, and improving their clock reading skills. They reviewed the penny.

In science, they are continuing to work on their science cards on animals and vertebrates.

In geography, they have been completing worksheets that illustrate the major cities and landmarks in each state. So far, they have completed Washington, Oregon, and California. The students are also continuing to work on the solar system.

Layla celebrates her birthday.





## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, Mrs. Russell

Although no compositions or book reports are required for the month of October, Upper Elementary students are expected to be working hard on continuing to collect information for their research paper. On Tuesday, the introduction and facts for Step three were submitted. Facts were returned by Friday. Once all of the facts are collected, Upper Elementary students should number their facts in a chronological order. Facts should be turned into sentences and sentences should be grouped together to form paragraphs. Step four or the rough draft is due on October 17th; please refer to the guidelines or the calendar for important due dates for the Biography Fair.

Fourth graders learned how to identify the difference between compound sentences and run-on sentences. In math, they are learning about square numbers and how to solve the square root of a number. In geography they learned about intermediate directions, political, and physical maps. Fourth graders also had their first lesson in typing class this week, focusing on how to position their hands on the home keys.

This week fifth graders had lessons in language extension materials where they have to identify and label parts of a sentence such as the direct object, the indirect object, and the adverbial phrases. Students also were given tips on how to search for information for their Biography Fair and how to write their introduction.

Sixth graders continue to learn about pronouns. This week, they explored special pronouns and learned to distinguish between reflexive and intensive pronouns, as well as how to identify them within sentences. In Geography, students are working on a special project in which each student has been assigned a different cultural group from around the world to research. They will create a poster to share what they have learned with their classmates. Sixth graders are also making a 2026 calendar for Spanish.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

It's been a busy and productive week in our Montessori Jr. and Sr. High classrooms! As we wrap up the first quarter, we're proud of the focus, effort, and curiosity our students have shown across all subjects.

Our 7th and 8th graders have begun reading *Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley. The discussions so far have been thoughtful and mature, as students explore themes of courage, history, and perspective during wartime. Meanwhile, our 9th and 10th graders are diving into the mystery and atmosphere of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Students are sharpening their skills in inference and analysis while tracking clues alongside Sherlock Holmes.

This week marked the due date for Math Binders on Wednesday. We were so impressed with the effort students put into keeping their work complete and well-organized! All students who turned in a complete and organized binder earned 2 bonus points added to their quarter math grade — a well-deserved reward for responsibility and neatness.

The first quarter officially ended on Friday, October 10. Report cards will go home on Friday, October 17, so please take some time next week to review your student's progress and celebrate their hard work.

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

We would like to congratulate Janie Padilla on finishing Math 8/7! She is the first student in our 7th grade class to do so this year, and this means she will now be able to start Algebra ½. We are very proud of her hard work.

Please note that there will be no school on Monday, October 13. We hope everyone enjoys the long weekend and comes back refreshed and ready to begin Quarter 2!

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Miss Wallace

This week, we read a book called "Different Climates of the World". The children wanted to know what the word "climate" meant. Well, the pattern of weather recorded in any one place is called "the climate". For example, the climate in mountainous areas are usually cold and windy. In the tropics, the climate is hot and wet, and in some areas it rains all year-round. We also have dry climates, cold climates, and desert climates, etc. In a wet climate, you can find aquatic plants that flow in ponds to perennials that like soggy, wet areas. In a hot climate, you can find flowers like lantanas, marigolds, daylilies, etc.

On the playground, some children were walking like soldiers, and others were busy playing in the sandbox. Once inside, some children worked on their homework, while the rest enjoyed working or playing with all kinds of activities.

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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.

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 electronic world, 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*. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at [www.drmaglioblogspot.com](http://www.drmaglioblogspot.com).