

Wider Horizons School

STEM activities continue

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

Kendra creates her autumn tree.



PRIMARY STUDENTS USE TEAMWORK TO BUILD DURING TECHNOLOGY DAY

Students had lots of different activities to try various skills.

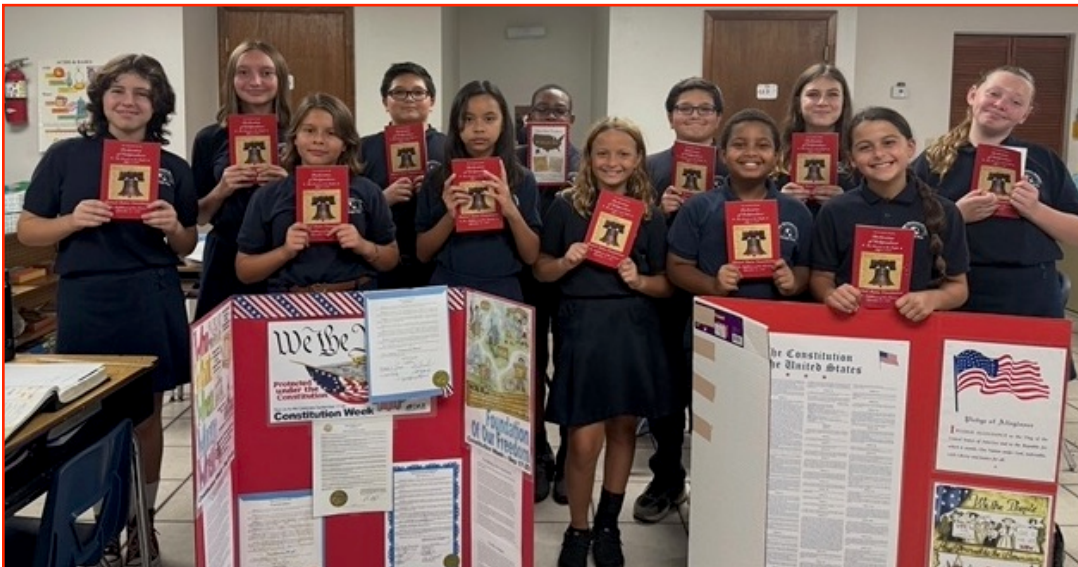


ELECTRONICALLY CONNECTED RESULTS IN SPIRITUAL AND INTELLECTUAL ATROPHY

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD
Traditional Realist

Modern adults and children are plugged into their electronic devices throughout the day. Children are on their smart phones socializing, playing games, listening to music, exploring their favorite social media sites and sending messages, photos and memes to their friends. Their parents are just as electronically immersed and addicted to searching the internet, socializing, working from home, networking and getting their dose of news from social media. Even when they are supposedly interacting with their child at some event, instead of focusing on the child's activity many parents take out their cell phones forgetting the purpose of the event.

Students in upper elementary show off their copies of the Constitution for Constitution Day. The Daughters of the American Revolution chapter donated the constitutions for each student to keep and lent the classroom the beautiful and informative constitution posters.



The process of being connected to electronic devices has grown exponentially in the past decade. With most mothers now in the workforce, 'latchkey' children have become the norm. Children are no longer able, trained, or trusted to play in the neighborhood with their peers. Children are isolated in their homes with their devices that have become their means of entertainment and way of socializing with others. Youngsters at home can play video games alone or with their online acquaintances. Cyber space has become young people's keyhole to view and interact with the world outside their home.

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PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Tejeda

As the month ends, we start a new month with new beginnings. We celebrated Piper and Henley's birthday with our traditional birthday walk. We also started learning new fall songs and nursery rhymes.

In Math, students learn to count 1-5 and 1-10 with a stamp lesson. Then they learned how to add using the number rods and numbers. We also introduced the zero game, where they learn the concept of zero.

In Language, the students are learning new spelling words. They are also learning how to use the sandpaper letters to spell simple words. Students continue to practice pink work and blue work. The first graders are learning blending sounds like cl, gl, sl, and fl, along with green sentence and story work.

In Sensorial Materials, students worked with Knob-less cylinders to develop visual discrimination of diameter and height, which they will use later in math lessons.

We would like to remind parents that our field trip to Safety Town is next Wednesday, October 8th. Please make sure to pack a brown paper bag lunch with items that do not need to come back home (no tupperware please). Please also put names on your child's brown bag and plastic water bottles. Have a great weekend!

We hope everyone smiled for picture day. Have a great weekend!

PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

This week in Primary, we continued to talk about fall and the changes that are occurring. The days are getting shorter, meaning less daylight and longer nights. We also talked about apples and pumpkins after reading more fall themed books.

In language, we continue to reinforce alphabetizing, sounds, and blends. Students have been introduced to our language cards, which require the student to fill in the missing letter

based on the picture next to the word. We are starting with initial sounds to help aid students when reading.

In math, all students are working on place value. This is a fundamental concept for all higher-level mathematics. It provides the building to understanding the base-ten number system and even enables accurate reading and writing. Place value also helps children understand regrouping when adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. Students are also working on 3-part application problems.

In science, we classified animals based on skin type; scales, fur, or feathers. We are enjoying listening to the animals that the students know and having them think about how these animals look.

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LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek, Mr. Garrand, and Mrs. Morpew

The students had a great time during Technology Day last week, completing a variety of hands-on STEM activities. Each table had a different STEM challenge, including building catapults out of popsicle sticks, experimenting with "walking colors", constructing airplanes from straws and paper, and doing the ivory soap experiment.

Congratulations to Avéa, Vann, Kota, and Yvnicka for having a perfect reading sheet this week. Congratulations to Annabelle, Juliet, Jacob, Frank, Rocco, Rylee, Jaxson, Benaiah, and Emme for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Gabriel and Elise for mastering their subtraction facts 1-10. Congratulations to Juliet and Bella for mastering their subtraction facts

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

11-20. Congratulations to Nathan for mastering his addition facts 11-20.

In history, the students continue to work on different regions of Native America. They have also been learning about Christopher Columbus. They are working on learning a Columbus Day song and completing a craft.

In spelling this week, the students wrote all their spelling words on stars, rolled the dice, and used stamps. They also completed a spelling worksheet.

In language, the students continued to learn about punctuation. In math, the students are continuing to work on their booklets, word problems, and geometry cards. They also had a lesson about pennies, and finished up their lesson about clocks (quarter til, half past, and quarter after).

In science, the students learned about lady bugs. They drew and colored their life cycle stages. They also continued working on vertebrae animals. In geography, the students are working on learning the solar system and information about each planet.

Theia Celebrates Her Birthday



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, Mrs. Russell

Although no compositions or book reports are required in October, Upper Elementary should be working hard on continuing to collect information for their research paper. The rough draft is due on October 17th; please check the calendar for important due dates for the Biography Fair.

Fourth graders are working on identifying direct objects and subject complements within a sentence. This is building upon what we've learned about identifying subjects and predicates. In math, students are learning how to create an array using columns and rows. Fourth graders are working on creating a calendar for the year 2026 in Spanish class.

In fifth grade, we are reviewing action verbs. Students continue to identify the local fauna of the school in Botany. In geography, students are learning about tectonic plates as well as volcanoes. In Spanish, students are learning how to conjugate verbs.

Sixth graders are learning how the atomic model has changed over time. They are also exploring the structure of the atom and learning all about its subatomic particles and their charges. In language, students are learning personal pronouns, as well as pronoun-antecedent agreement to ensure a sentence agrees with its antecedent in number. In Spanish, sixth graders are learning how to conjugate verbs.

HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

The students have been progressing in their various subjects in the junior and senior high school classroom. In 7th grade Earth Science, we have been discussing which resources fall under which category and why. In 8th grade Geography, the students completed a unit on Europe and Russia. In 9th grade American History, we are entering the chapters that discuss the Revolutionary War and the most formative years for our country. The 10th grade World History students are studying Greece and its cultural impact on the rest of the world.

All math binders are due Wednesday, October 8th. All students are expected to hand in a neat and organized binder. Students have the opportunity to earn an extra two points added to their final grade.

Biography fair proposals have all been received. Looking ahead, the Works Cited page component of their required research will be due on October 10th. Our new 7th grade students, as well as our 8th grade students, have been practicing various citation methods. While we expect them to still have some questions, they should have the tools they need to get started on their citations this weekend.

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

AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Miss Wallace

This week during circle time, we read a book called "An Octopus is Amazing". The children were very surprised when they heard that there are more than 150 types of octopuses. An octopus has a soft, bag-shaped body and eight rubbery arms, which are lined with suckers. Every octopus also lives alone.

We also read a book named "Explore And Learn". Every day we discussed a different country, their customs, language, food, etc. Before we discussed a new country, we played a game to see how well the students remembered the details from the last country. The students seemed to remember a lot about each country.

On the playground, some children were playing inside the sandbox making cakes and using sticks for candles (just imagination), while the rest used the playground equipment. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework, while the rest played or worked with any activity of their choice.

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Parents are in a similar fix as their employment requires hours at the job or on the computer at home. Most professional positions require work being done after normal business hours. Husbands and wives often juggle their schedules to cover each other's job obligations while the other monitors the home. This usually means little time to spend with their children, relatives, friends and even spouse.

The unity and closeness among family has diminished. Most people are in their own virtual world without support and ability to share with significant others. Being isolated from others prevents individuals from gaining insight and wisdom from them.

Without having trusted individuals and the time to share feelings and thoughts, people are isolated in a fast paced and confusing world. There is little opportunity to learn the pros and cons of one's own ideas from others. A life excluding close and caring human interactions results in a self-indulgent, narrow, robotic person or a total phony.

Youngsters have to be taught to be aware of unusual situations and how to overcome obstacles and challenges. The absence of this training leaves children unable to think for themselves. These individuals usually remain limited to their own beliefs without exploring other possibilities. It takes time and opportunity to review one's thoughts on an issue to logically and critically develop thinking skills. We all need reflective time to integrate life lessons.

In this modern electronic age information is bombarding us at a furious pace. We often do not take the time to research information to find out what is fake or true. We should verify it so we can learn from reality. The more correct knowledge we have the better we can put together life's puzzle to see the whole picture.

Integrating information, observing, developing intuition and common sense are becoming lost abilities of the electronic overload of citizens. What a person says verbally, through their facial expressions and body language are important nuances that help us obtain a clearer picture of what they mean rather than what they say. This rarely happens even in electronic video conferencing.

Online "friends" project what they want others to think they are rather than who they really are. Cyber contacts are mostly superficial acquaintances. Who most people would be cautious about sharing their deepest feelings and experiences. The person sharing the most conflicting thoughts and feelings is dangerous. Healthy people should share personal information carefully online before revealing anything that could come back to haunt or harm them and should shy away from putting themselves in this jeopardy.

An exclusively electronic lifestyle leaves a person in a sterile social environment. This interpersonal vacuum leaves little opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to become more aware of the world of reality. It does not allow the electronically addicted persons to develop their full intellectual and spiritual capacities.

Humans need significant intimate relationships to assist them to gain wisdom and to learn how to comprehend the often-confusing life events. These intimate human interactions would help them better perceive and interpret the earthly and spiritual world. We need to be grounded in reality with personal, loving relationships with others to develop into a fulfilled and stable person, not spend our time online trying to impress people we do not even know.

Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers, 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.