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

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Wider Horizons School

Annual Veteran Tribute



DATES TO REMEMBER:

11/16-20 Parent Visits in Classrooms from 8:00-8:30 AM
11/20 Student Thanksgiving Luncheon
11/23-30 Thanksgiving Break

It may be a sign of the times but some students in the lower classrooms are coming to school smelling like smoke- not cigarette. When they get to school it takes them an hour or so to be able to work as the arrive in a stupor. Please read the accompanying article if you partake.



WHS students with Mr. Garrand our Resident veteran and teacher.



Students sing patriotic songs.

Wider Horizons School Veteran's Tribute

Amber with her family and veteran dad.



Jax and his veteran dad.



Key Health Perils for Children from Second Hand Marijuana Smoke

Brain and Cognitive Development: Exposure transfers cannabinoids into children's developing systems, which can interfere with brain development, executive function, memory, attention, learning, and potentially lower IQ scores.

Respiratory Issues: Inhaling the smoke irritates the lungs, triggers coughing, worsens or causes asthma attacks, and increases the risk of bronchitis, bronchiolitis, and viral respiratory infections.

Acute Toxicity and Psychoactive Symptoms: Because young children and infants breathe faster relative to their body size and have underdeveloped systems, they absorb more toxins. Exposure can cause dizziness, fatigue, extreme sleepiness, altered mental status, rapid heart rate, and accidental "contact high" symptoms.

Behavioral and Psychological Risks: Studies suggest that children exposed to secondhand cannabis smoke may face an increased risk of externalizing and general

PRIMARY
Ms. Wallace and Mrs. Gustafson

This week we had our annual Veteran's Day song fest and we hope everyone enjoyed it. We also celebrated Noor's birthday with a traditional Montessori birthday walk.

In math, we have students continuing to practice counting, addition and now multiplication. As some students are learning the 45 layout, we have others practicing their numbers with tracing and writing.
In practical life, students were introduced to three new lessons. One is a pouring lesson where students pour water then return it back to the original container using an eye dropper. The next is pouring and straining items out of the water. The third is taking a container of rice and using a small scoop to put the rice into a funnel and into a cup. The purpose of these lessons is to form foundations for other learning, independence, and continued growth.

In language, students continue to read Bob Books. Students have been practicing self expression through naming objects, emotions, and materials in the classroom. We have students using the moveable alphabet before reading and others are tracing and sounding out letters. We do this because children compose words by listening to sounds and repeating them.
In art, students made their own version of Indian corn with cotton ball painting.
In culture studies, students learned about a turkey and its different parts. They also had three part matching lessons on the parts of a turtle and on Thanksgiving and why we celebrate it.

LOWER ELEMENTARY 1 and 2
Mrs. Urbanek, Ms. Skiff, Ms. Tejeda, Ms. Finnerty and Mr. Garrand

This week in science, students were given a lesson with material that included vertebrates: animals with backbones and invertebrates: animals without backbones. Students interacted in an activity that categorized animals into the two different categories.
They participated in an activity where they matched three stage nomenclature cards from raw materials to the final product. Students were also given a lesson on different types of birds and the different types of beaks.
In language, students learned about the creation of new words with the addition of prefixes. When students were finished creating new words, they wrote them down and filed them in their language folders.
On Tuesday, Lower Elementary joined students of all grades to sing to our veterans. Practice of the songs during the weeks before showed during their performance. Attendees seemed pleased and appreciated the effort that was put into making them feel special. Students were able to take pictures with their family veteran member.

Lower elementary celebrated Oliver this week, singing and wishing him a happy birthday. We hope everyone enjoyed the day off in the middle of the week. Please remember that 1st graders need to complete addition facts and 2nd and 3rd grade will need to complete multiplication. All grades need to bring the facts to school on Monday. Please communicate with the office if you do not understand the assignment.

UPPER ELEMENTARY
Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Ms. Russell

On Tuesday, our students proudly participated in the Veterans Day Tribute, singing patriotic songs and presenting heartfelt letters of appreciation to honor the brave men and women who have served our country. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who attended, especially our veterans, for allowing us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate their service and sacrifice.
The excitement continued on Friday as Upper Elementary students traveled to Dade Battlefield for a fascinating Journey Back in Time! During this educational field trip, students stepped into the past and gained a firsthand glimpse of pioneer life. They explored how early settlers lived, worked, and overcame the challenges of life on the frontier. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring history to life.
This week fourth graders started a unit on early people in Florida where they learned about how different Florida's shape and climate was before the glaciers melted resulting in the flooding of Florida's coasts.
They are also learning about Pre-Columbian Florida natives, their culture and how they lived. Students also learned how to read and use the map in U.S Geography.
This week fifth graders are focusing and exploring different leaf shapes. They created booklets that define the different leaf shapes, and are learning that not all leaves are the same and how to distinguish their unique shapes.

Fifth graders were challenged to a scavenger hunt to find a sample of each leaf shape in their environment. In civics, students shared their own Constitution and Bill of Rights.
The fifth graders are continuing working on their math facts. Some are right where they want to be, however, some of them need to do at least two math sets a day so they do not not fall behind. In botany, the fifth graders are rooting cuban oregano and possibly other herbs. In geography they are continuing working in their Map Skills book and learning about submergent and emergent coastlines.
This week, sixth graders completed their language unit on possessive and adjectival pronouns. Following their mastery test, students will move on to a new unit focusing on adjectives and adverbs next week. In Geography, students are beginning the exploration of the diverse biomes of North and South America. They will research the characteristics of each biome and create maps illustrating their locations throughout the two continents. These projects will provide students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the geography and cultures of the Americas. Due to Friday's field trip, the spelling and vocabulary tests have been rescheduled for Monday, November 16th. Students should use the extra time to review and prepare. Additionally, the composition titled The Mystery of the Missing Pie, along with the next book report, will be due on Monday, November 16th. Please encourage students to complete their assignments and come prepared for their assessments.

HIGH SCHOOL
Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we are looking forward to one of our favorite school traditions: our annual Thanksgiving luncheon! On November 20th, students and staff from every classroom will come together to enjoy a special meal and celebrate the spirit of gratitude and togetherness. Each classroom has been assigned a dish to contribute, and our Junior and Senior High classroom will once again be responsible for providing stuffing. We will be asking students and families who are willing and able to prepare a pan of stuffing to share with the school. This wonderful tradition would not be possible without the generosity and support of our school families, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who helps make this celebration a success.

We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who attended our Veterans Day program on November 10th. Our students spent time practicing and preparing for this meaningful event, and it was wonderful to see their efforts come together in such a memorable performance. The event provided an opportunity for our school community to reflect on the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We are especially grateful to the veterans and their families whose service has helped protect the freedoms we enjoy today. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this occasion so special!

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

Finally, we are excited to recognize Hadley Rey for successfully completing the Saxon Math 8/7 course! Hadley has reached an important milestone in her mathematical education and will now move forward into Pre-Algebra, where she will continue building upon the skills she has developed.

AFTER SCHOOL
Ms. Brewer and Ms. Russell

This week we discussed Veteran's Day and why we celebrate it. We talked bout how our country may have turned out differently if it wasn't for our brave men and women who protect our rights. This week we also discussed kindness and our emotions. It was explained that it is okay to speak about how you are feeling.
While enjoying our time on the playground, the children participated in group activities such as Simon Says and playing bus driver. Once they were back inside, older children had the chance to finish their homework while the rest played with activities of their choice.

Enjoy your weekend !

Student Editor:

Hayley DesLauriers

How to Protect Children

Maintain Smoke-Free Spaces: Never smoke or vape cannabis (or tobacco) inside homes, enclosed areas, or cars, even if children are not currently in the room.

Understand Lingering Residue: Toxic particles and thirdhand smoke stick to walls, furniture, hair, and clothing. Changing clothes or smoking near a window does not completely eliminate the risk to children.

Physical Presence in the Body: Research published via PubMed (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39847355/) indicates that in-home cannabis smoking significantly elevates the odds of finding detectable urinary THC equivalents in young children.

Sources provided upon request.