

Wider Horizons School

Happy Thanksgiving to All

DATES TO REMEMBER:

11/23-12/1 *Thanksgiving Vacation*
 12/2 *Return to school*
 12/11 *Gifts for Foster Children*
 12/19 *Christmas Caroling at school*
 12/19 **REPORT CARDS**
 12/22-1/5 *Christmas Vacation*
 1/6 *Return to School*

Students in Upper Elementary went to the Dade Battlefield in Dade City to attend a program called "The Road Back in Time".

Students below learned how hard it is to clean clothes using the old fashioned washboard.



Students in every class worked on making food for the Thanksgiving lunch for everyone.



The entire upper elementary class worked on peeling potatoes for the Thanksgiving lunch.



BEING DUTIFUL IS THE CORNERSTONE OF ANY CIVILIZATION

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

We are living in a period of time where too many people are self-absorbed. The possibilities are endless in this electronic age. People play on their cell phones instead of conversing with family and friends who are right next to them. They choose to live a virtual existence on their Facebook pages rather than solving difficulties and enjoying real life. We have become the "me generation" on steroids.

Modern parents are devoted to making money. Their duty of raising their family and caring for their parents and relatives has taken a back seat. The elderly parents of their adult offspring are put in nursing homes. Most modern parents use daycare, school and afterschool programs to teach and train their children. These parents are "givers of things" to win their children's favor. Even children's family obligations such as chores have been abandoned or are paid for with substantial allowances for assisting with the simplest activity. Modern children are unconsciously being taught to be slackers/takers not producers/givers.

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PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejeda

Hello everyone! We have had an exciting week. Congratulations to Emmanuel and Tyler for celebrating their birthdays with our traditional birthday walk this week. We also had our annual Thanksgiving luncheon.

In math, students are working hard practicing their addition, subtraction, and multiplication. We have introduced matching quantities and numbers, which ties into the decimal system they have been learning about.

In language, students continue to read their Bob Books. Some students learned how to match objects with letters of the alphabet. The students wrote five things they are thankful for in a poem. They are also continuing to learn how to blend sounds together in blue lessons.

In science and culture, students learned about different types of turkeys and the sounds they make. They are also learning about the different foods you can eat on Thanksgiving. All of the students got to participate in baking cornbread this week for our Thanksgiving lunch.

In art, the students got to create their own turkeys with paint, along with turkey puppets.

We hope you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. We will see you next month!

PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

This week in primary, we have learned about Thanksgiving, why we celebrate Thanksgiving, and the pilgrims and Indians. During art, students made a paper plate turkey with rainbow feathers.

In math, students learned dynamic addition “carrying” and greater than, less than. They enjoy thinking of the symbol as an alligator who is hungry. Students

were also working on their addition and subtraction facts 1-10. It is very important for students to memorize these foundational facts, as it makes math much easier as they get older.

In language, we introduced new beginning sound work and introduced some of the students to new blends and the vowel team “ea”. Some primary children wrote and illustrated a Thanksgiving poem to take home.

In geography, students continue to practice identifying and naming the continents. In circle, we talked about what we are thankful for and shared traditions. Primary enjoyed preparing the green beans for the school Thanksgiving luncheon.

Congratulations to Finn for completing the Bob Book series!

Happy Thanksgiving break!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek, Mr. Garrand, and Mrs. Morphew

We had a great Thanksgiving lunch; we would like to thank the parents that cooked and brought in our turkeys. We would also like to wish everyone a safe Thanksgiving break. Classes resume on December 2nd.

Congratulations to Yvnicka and Grace for mastering their subtraction facts 11-20. Congratulations to Nathan and Emily for having a perfect reading sheet this week.

Congratulations to Amianna, Yvnicka, Rylee, Ashley, Jaxson, and Juliet for moving up to the next time tables.

This week in spelling, the students had Thanksgiving themed words. In language, students worked from the tower and learned about verbs and linking verbs.

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

In math, the students worked on geometry cards, applications (story problems). They also had a lesson on bar graphs and how to read them.

In art, the students are working on Thanksgiving crafts.

In history, the students are working on finishing the different regions they had lessons on.

In geography, some students are finishing the solar system and learning about new states. They are still working on different maps of states, they should have the first 10 states in their homework folder.

In science, the students are working on completing the external parts of vertebrates.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Axl celebrates his birthday.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

This week our class participated in our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. Upper Elementary was responsible for preparing the mashed potatoes for the whole school. Everyone worked hard to make the luncheon a success. After the festivities we cleaned up and played chess at the end of the day. We hope that everyone has a fun and safe Thanksgiving break.

The information for our Christmas Families this year has been disseminated to every grade in Upper Elementary. Donations are due by December 10th.

Students have been assigned their book reports. They are due on December 2nd.

This week fourth graders handed in their book report and chose a new book of their choice to read over the Thanksgiving break. They continue to learn more spelling words and master the parts of speech via the language tower. Students learned about the history of Thanksgiving.

This week fifth graders reviewed different root systems in Botany. In Civics, they are reviewing the causes and events leading up to the American Revolution and will be tested after returning from Thanksgiving break. Students were given their instructions for the next book report and assigned mystery as their genre.

For Geography sixth graders are working on creating maps of Africa. They will soon be able to present to their classmates. Sixth graders also completed their unit on characteristics of chemical reactions. This unit focused on chemical equations, types of chemical reactions and rates of chemical reactions.

HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

This Friday, our school gathered to celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving luncheon. A heartfelt thank you to all the families who generously provided trays of delicious stuffing to share. It truly added a special touch to the meal and brought our community closer together.

As we head into the Thanksgiving break, we want to wish everyone a safe, restful, and joy-filled holiday. May your time with family and friends be filled with gratitude and warmth.

We want to remind students that this is an important time to stay focused and committed to their learning. With the end of the quarter approaching, every assignment, assessment, and class moment counts. Whether students are working to raise their grades or maintain the strong progress they've already made, the goal is to finish confidently and not allow their hard work to slip. Let's come back refreshed, motivated, and ready to give our best effort all the way to the finish line.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday the 2nd, ready for the exciting weeks ahead! Happy Thanksgiving!

AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

During circle time this week, the topic was Thanksgiving. The children told us what they are most thankful for. Many of the children said that they are thankful for their parents and family, while others were most thankful for the food. As thanksgiving break begins, we want to wish everyone a safe and restful holiday. Thanksgiving commemorates a harvest festival and is a gathering to give thanks

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

and express our gratitude for those in our lives.

On the playground, some children were collecting pine cones to paint orange to bring home for Thanksgiving. Other children were building sand castles, while the rest were busy using the playground equipment. Once inside, most of the children worked on puzzles and/or any activity of their choice.

Tyler and Emanuel celebrate their birthdays.



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It is little wonder new generations are less likely to pitch in when they see a person in need. Although many people look the other way when they see people in need there are some who rush in to do the right thing. There are incidents where a small child is locked in a hot car and is seen by a stranger. The person informs the officials and proceeds to break the window to save the child's life. Other heroes put themselves in danger by rushing into a burning building or car to save someone. Some people are willing to do the right thing to help others regardless of the consequences to themselves but are becoming progressively rare.

It should be the duty of every human being to help each other. There is no way any government regardless of the number of employees can substitute for people doing their duty. The most good intentioned government employee is restricted by time and bureaucratic red tape to spontaneously decide on their own to assist the person in need. They have a heavy predetermined caseload to manage.

Great civilizations such as the Incas, the Roman Empire and Chinese dynasties understood the need for citizens to do their duty. The emperor, great military strategists and philosopher of the Roman Empire, Marcus Aurelius, understood the importance of citizens internalizing the concept of duty. Decadence and disorder arose when people became self-absorbed. As the leader of the most powerful civilization of the world he instituted a campaign to help people understand their duty, acceptance of one's faith and well being of all the people. It revitalized the empire.

Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher codified and taught to establish and maintain social order people had to be responsible to each other. Leaders should lead by positive virtues rather than by force. Confucius stressed superiors should set good examples for inferiors while inferiors owed loyalty and obedience to their superiors. He found these plus other moral values of honesty, hard work and concern for others in highly functioning societies. Confucius's ideas spread throughout the world.

Our founding fathers realized government could not legislate morality. They understood the importance of the belief in God and relying on God in everyday life of citizens. These educated men learned from studying history that men needed moral and ethical values generally communicated by religion to do the right thing when no one was there to look over their shoulders.

Wise leaders intuitively realize that when citizens lose the interconnectedness to others the glue of the society disintegrates. The self-centeredness of citizens of developed nations has weakened the family and the social order of the nation. The citizens of these nations expect the government to care for them instead of caring for each other. This entitlement mentality has dissolved the social fabric of these societies and has led to dissention, the breakdown of law and order as well as random acts of violence.

As President John F. Kennedy said in his inaugural speech, "It is not what your country can do for you, it is what you can do for your country." Current advanced nations need to reassess their out-of-control welfare policies. Government robbing productive citizens through confiscating their assets only alienates them from the non-productive people who are receiving handouts provided by those who produce.

This divides people by eliminating the ability of doers to willingly assist welfare recipients. The all-powerful state divides the doers from the takers robbing the doers' assets by taxation making it financially impossible to do their duty to the less fortunate.

For any civilization to thrive people need to support and help others to become self-sufficient and self-reliant. It starts in the most powerful social unit in a society: the family. The revitalizing of the family will result in citizens doing their duty in all facets of life. This makes society function smoothly, effectively and efficiently.

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