

# Wider Horizons School

## Winter Arrives to Florida



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

1/28 Geography Bee  
**1/30 Teacher in-Service Day- no school**  
 2/06 Science Expo- early release 11:30 a.m.  
 2/09-13 SPIRIT WEEK  
**2/16 President's Day- no school**  
 2/27 Class Photos

The primary one students painted pinecones to look like snowy owls.



For their literature class, the sixth graders reenacted the Judgement of Paris from Homer's Iliad.



Next Friday, we will have a Teacher in-Service day. There will be no school on this day, but we will still be offering daycare. There will be no pizza on Friday.



DISCIPLINING A CHILD  
 REQUIRES EARLY DILIGENCE  
 By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

"He who spares a rod (of discipline) hates his son. But he who loves him disciplines him diligently and punishes him early. Proverb 1.3.24 AMP

The United States had moved very far away from Biblical wisdom. Modern child rearing is about maintaining an open communication with one's children. The child is supposed to be treated equally, often on the same level as the parent. Discipline of the child is supposed to come organically from the egalitarian and caring environment created at home.

The consequences of this permissive/materialistic approach to raising children have become evident after the general public has been adhering to them for five decades. Children are more outspoken, debating every safety and other directive given to them. They have difficulty following directions as they are rarely given any to follow. They have few if any chores required of them. These children's opportunity to learn from adults interacting among themselves is very limited. Most of the time children spontaneously join in any conversation they encounter and often dominate it. There are no boundaries enforced that even hint that children should "be seen and not heard." They are deprived of the skill of listening in order to learn. Simultaneously they are saturated with false esteem statements of how wonderful and smart they are. Children are in the middle of the mix spouting their naïve and nonsensical opinions as fact. While adults pretend to listen intently.

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## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejeda

Winter is here! We need to make sure all students stay bundled up with proper clothes and jackets.

In math, students learned about the Square Chain and were introduced to multiplication. Some students are also learning to use the short beads to help them learn subtraction.

In language, students continue to read their Bob Books. Congratulations to Yvan, Henley, and Avalon for moving forward in their reading. Students are learning to write, spell, and memorize words from their language lessons.

In science, we continue to talk about which animals go into hibernation, adapt, or migrate during the winter. We also read stories about polar bears and snow owls.

In art, students are creating their own polar bears and snow owls with cotton balls and pine cones.

We hope you enjoy your weekend!

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

We hope everyone had a great long weekend. This week, we continued our discussions on the Arctic Circle, Antarctica, and the animals that live there. In art, students drew hibernating bears in a winter scene.

Science expo topics have been chosen, and we will begin practicing in class next week. Students can bring in their speeches, so that we can best prepare them for their presentations in front of the judges on February 6th.

In math, all students received a lesson on money. We are beginning by identifying the United States coins; physically, by

name, and by the amount they represent. Once children have mastered the identification, they will begin practicing combining the coins to make different values.

In language, students copied a winter animal poem. They enjoy getting to draw the animals as well as practice their penmanship. We have been very impressed with the progression of each child's handwriting as they learn the D'Nealian handwriting.

In Spanish, students continue to learn the fundamentals. This week, Mrs. Nieves focused on the use of "yo" as "I" and reviewed numbers, as well as masculine and feminine words. We are enjoying all that Mrs. Nieves teaches and are very grateful for this extracurricular opportunity.

Have a great weekend!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

This week, the students are working hard to get all of their daily work done. They are working on rounding numbers. We keep repeating this, but we ask that you please do not help the students with their homework. You are not helping them, and when they have to do the same work in class, they struggle. Their homework is to help them remember what they have already completed in class. When the students make mistakes, it shows us where and how to help them.

Congratulations to Kota, Gabriel, Jacob, Bella, Wendy, and Nathan for having a perfect reading sheet this week. Congratulations to Joedaniel and Gabriel for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Frank for moving up to mixed time tables.

The students are working on Valentine's Day crafts. Second grade is learning about articles and how to symbolize their sentences. Third graders are

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

starting on suffixes and matching root words with a suffix. They have finished contractions, however, reviewing different parts of speech at home is important so that they do not forget.

The next book report is due on January 28th. The students will have many tests on that day, including states 1-20, definitions, spelling, reading sheets, and math (addition, subtraction, and multiplication).

In history, the students continue to work on Native Americans, the Southeast, and other regions they are learning about. In science, the students will continue to work on vertebrates.

In geography, they continue to work on states and learn about new ones. It is important that the students memorize the name, capital, and abbreviation of each state in their homework folder. The students should have 25 states, capitals, and abbreviations in their folders. Please keep the states in the prongs for further use and have them continue the planets if they have not finished.

The Science fair is coming up soon on February 6th. The students should have started to work on their projects for practice at home. The science fair is a half day.

Please remember that there are no classes on January 30th, because it is a teacher in service day. However, if you need daycare, there will be a sign-up sheet at the front office.

Have a great weekend!

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

We hope students enjoyed their day off in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In recognition of Dr. King, students created a watercolor background featuring a peace dove and added a cloud with the words "I Have a Dream," where they shared their own hopes and dreams.

The Science Expo worksheet guides have all been distributed; please use these guidelines and answer all steps on a separate piece of paper. This information can be displayed on the display board or in report form. It should be completed by the January 29th deadline. The materials list should be submitted with specific measurements. Students can choose to type or handwrite the information. Remember, a display board is mandatory for the Expo, and everyone should be ready to explain their projects by January 27th.

Fourth graders learned about homonyms and homophones this week, since their spelling words are some common homophones. Students also reviewed synonyms and antonyms for language. In math, fourth graders learned how to measure movements using degrees. Students are also encouraged to refer back to the lesson in case they need any help.

Fifth graders completed their third unit test in vocabulary. This was a culmination of five chapters. We are very proud of how well most of the fifth graders are doing on their vocabulary tests. Even the students who struggled at the beginning are earning good grades. Hopefully, they will continue this trend. In Botany fifth graders focused on the unique characteristics of the animal and the plant kingdoms.

In Language Arts, sixth graders learned how to identify and use the correct forms of troublesome verbs

in various types of sentences. They are also continuing to practice using different verb tenses. In Physical Science, sixth graders are exploring petroleum and the many ways it is used in our daily lives. They learned about fractional distillation and how different petroleum products are produced at different boiling points. Students were surprised to discover just how many everyday products are made from petroleum.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

This week marked an important milestone in our Science Fair journey. On Friday the 23rd, students proudly submitted their preliminary results and conclusions, demonstrating not only the progress of their experiments but also their growing confidence as independent researchers. These early findings represent hours of observation, analysis, and thoughtful reflection, and they set the stage for deeper inquiry as projects continue to develop. The focus on drawing evidence-based conclusions highlights the students' commitment to scientific thinking and perseverance through challenges.

In English, students stepped back from technology and leaned fully into their own skills and creativity. Compositions were written entirely in class using only their knowledge, careful thought, and dictionaries as references. This intentional limitation encouraged students to slow down, make purposeful word choices, and trust their own voices as writers. Meanwhile, in 9th grade Health, students explored emotional awareness through art, creating visual pieces inspired by a single emotion. These works offered powerful insight into self-expression, empathy, and the many ways emotions can be communicated beyond words.

Community and collaboration were on full display in Culinary Arts,

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

where the entire class came together to prepare tostadas. From planning and preparation to cooking and sharing the final product, students practiced teamwork, responsibility, and practical life skills in a joyful, hands-on setting. Moments like these reflect the heart of the Montessori environment, which is learning that is meaningful, shared, and rooted in real-world experiences. As a reminder, there will be no school on the 30th.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

This week during circle time, we decided to review a few different subjects. The first thing we reviewed was how to be kind, polite, helpful, and respectful. The children shared some information about themselves like their favorite food, color and games. Some even shared if they had siblings. It was great hearing the students' responses. We also discussed sportsmanship and how to behave during group activities. It doesn't matter if we win as long as everyone does their best.

While on the playground, the children participated in games like Red Light Green Light and Hide and Seek. Many also played in the sand box or collected acorns in the field. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework while the others worked on puzzles or another activity of their choice.

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Many children believe they are smarter and stronger willed than their parents. This observation is constantly being reinforced by the parents giving in to the children's demands while the children persist until the parents capitulate and the child is victorious. This scenario is allowed to happen time after time verifying this apparent truth that children do not have to listen to parents or any other authority figure such as a teacher.

To reverse this warped picture of modern families, parents need to make it clear it is their duty to be in charge. Children do not have the wherewithal to make an appropriate and wise decision for other family members and especially for themselves when they are in the early stages of life. The modern child is not as intelligent as he is led to believe, while the discipline of the parents is incredibly pathetic.

Establishing the power as parents requires them acting as parents instead of equals or friends to their children. They have to be in the family for sufficient periods of time to assert their authority. Quality time, not only quantity time is essential for ensuring the child that the parents will be at home enough to direct and protect them. When this happens children naturally become more comfortable that their parents can function as responsible leaders in the family.

This leadership starts with simple commands to their child. "Take this to your mother." "You need to eat this food to be healthy." "Please come to the table, now."

The child experiences that the parents know how to accomplish caring for them. The more the parents establish their authority, the more the child sees the parents as the head of the family. Any power conflict between parents becomes minimal when parents quickly use an authoritarian voice, manner and appropriate consequence when the child oversteps the boundaries.

Being a positive disciplinarian does take early intervention diligently performed during the child's formative years. The punishments should be just right for the offense. The consequences should be "just right" consequences that are explained to the child after being given. The explanation helps the child not resent the parent's punishment but understand they made the wrong decision and need to correct it.

When the child is ready to push his obstinance the parent may emphasize their resolve by moderate spanking to remind the child who is boss. This will not destroy the child's faith in mankind but will emphasize the parents' authority as head of the family.

This moderate spank, certainly not an abusive one, has been shown in studies not to have negative mental, emotional, social or any other detrimental effects on the child's development. It is wise to use moderate spanking early when a toddler shows defiance and is used as often as appropriate. It is necessary to show the child the parent's willingness to show the child right from wrong. Ignoring a child is often more destructive to his well being.

Learning to listen and follow wise and caring elder's advice guides a youngster to best navigate life's decisions. This loving act of disciplining the child puts the child on the straight and narrow path to healthy and successful development.

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