

# Wider Horizons School

## Chinsegut Nature Center Visit

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

Lower Elementary went to Chinsegut Nature Center on Wednesday. Their topic of study was Junior Naturalist Study.

They found various items in the woods to look at under a microscope. They listened for and identified the birds that were singing.



Parker demonstrates the way Montessori materials should be set out- very neatly!



### THE ARROGANCE OF IGNORANCE

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Too many Americans are ignoring what is happening around them. Some people do not want to listen to the news as it often points out some negative issues that are surrounding us. The old adages, "Ignorance is bliss," "no news is good news," "put your head in the sand" often mean to block out harmful events that will keep you up at night.

Ignoring the world around us creates ignorance. Many Americans are doing this. Too many of us do not want to hear what is happening around us and to us no less what is taking place in hotspots around the world. Most Americans rather watch comedies, fantasies, or sports rather than learn what is happening with our own government's decisions on domestic and foreign policies. Some of these decisions directly affect our lives but much of the population does not know about it. Many of us are ignorant of government actions as we do not want to think, decide, or have to worry. It is much easier to ignore the world around us than to take a stand.

In the past parents wanted to know from teachers, neighbors, and family members how their children acted when not in their house, especially if they acted inappropriately. The parents understood that most children acted better when the parents were nearby then when they were unsupervised in the community. Formerly parents were concerned about keeping their children on the straight and narrow path. They were aware that there were many temptations outside the home.

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## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejeda

Welcome back everyone! We hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving break.

In math, students are learning to use the addition chart. This helps them build their memorization skills. Other students are learning to subtract with the small number rods. They have been practicing solving subtraction equations for minuends of 10 or less.

In language, students are learning new spelling words. They also learned how to blend the “ab” and “ad” sounds and create words. Some are working with Mrs. Tejeda on memorizing sight words.

In sensorial, students learned about different patterns. We also did a review on shapes because they will be using them to create holiday crafts.

In science, students are learning about the turtle and the snail. They will be learning three-part matching about reptile anatomy.

In culture, we started talking about the holidays that are upon us. We started discussing Hanukkah and the eight days of celebration. We also talked about Christmas. The students are learning different three-part matching that explains these holidays.

In art, students are becoming very creative. They are using their cutting, drawing, and coloring skills to create holiday fun.

We want to remind everyone that next Friday, December 12 is our annual PJ Party. We hope to see all of our students there.

Have a great weekend!

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving and week off. Students and teachers

are happy to be back and working hard before our next break. It is hard to believe that we only have three weeks left. The students have begun creating Christmas crafts and gifts for their parents, as well as ornaments to decorate their trees with. We have also begun learning traditional Christmas songs for our school-wide caroling.

In language, students are working on identifying and writing beginning blends, while others are working on identifying pictures and labeling them with the appropriate CVC word. Each word has a different vowel. This is advanced work and the next step in our pink language work. Students also completed poems about December. They enjoy thinking of all of the special times and things they see during this month.

In math, students are continuing to practice their math facts and replicating lessons they have received. All across the classroom, students are using themed work. This is very exciting as they get to use Christmas/Holiday items in their everyday work.

Students are excited about the pajama party next Friday. We hope to see everyone there.

Have a wonderful weekend!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

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

We welcome the students, parents, and staff back. We hope everyone had a restful and happy Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to Juliet, Grace, and Ashley for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Grace, Gabriel, Bella, and Kota for having a perfect reading sheet this week.

This week in spelling, the students wrote their spelling words, created a word search, completed a

## STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

worksheet, and did verbal definitions.

In language, the students are working from the language tower. In math, the students worked in their math booklets, did applications, and learned about bar graphing.

In art, the students have started creating crafts for Christmas, which they will be working on over the next few weeks. In history, the students are working on finishing the different regions they had lessons on.

In geography, some students are finishing learning about the solar system, while other students started learning about states. They have added states, capitals, and abbreviations to their homework folder that they need to continue to memorize.

The students had a wonderful time during the field trip at Chinsegut. They learned how to use binoculars, field books (to find types of birds), temperature gauges to test wind speeds, and how to look through a microscope. They learned to be Jr. Naturalists. They took a short hike, collected nature items, and created an art craft on the table.



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

We are all counting down the days until the Christmas break and everyone seems to be very excited about the upcoming holidays. There are many important dates coming up next week. The gifts for the Christmas Angels Gift Drive should be in by Friday morning, December 10th. Please remember to label each present of the highlighted child.

Each child has randomly picked a name from the class and will be presented with a handmade gift from their Secret Santa on the last day before Christmas break, December 19th. Students will be allowed to bring in board games to play with their classmates on this date. The entire school will also gather on the 19th at 2:00 P.M. to sing Christmas carols with families and friends, so please join us.

The fourth graders are enjoying reading the articles found in our Scholastic Magazine. This has helped them to think critically about what they are reading by asking questions before they read and discussing the articles after we have read them.

Fourth graders were assigned realistic fiction for their book report due on December 15th. Students also reviewed ways to identify simple and complete subjects and predicates. In math, we reviewed place value with regards to decimal numbers and how to write them as fractions. In zoology, they continued to learn about the external and internal parts of the Cnidaria.

Fifth graders are currently studying latitude and longitude in Geography. In Botany, they are learning about root systems. In preparation of our language unit test, students are reviewing previously covered material such as sentences and paragraphs.

Learning to distinguish descriptive and subject complements adjectives in sentences was the focus in language this week. After the unit is completed, sixth graders will end the chapter with a test to demonstrate their mastery of adjectives. Instead of reading a novel for our next book report, we will be reading a shortened version of Homer's epics The Iliad and The Odyssey together in class. As we read, we will discuss the literary elements found throughout these stories. When we finish, students will have the opportunity to act out scenes for the fourth and fifth graders. This should be a fun and engaging way to end the quarter!

Parents, please be advised that all Upper Elementary students are expected to complete and submit a math set each day.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

We were glad to see everybody back happy and healthy after what we hope was an enjoyable Thanksgiving break for all of you. We are now approaching the end of the second quarter, and it seems like it has flown by!

Students have received their Secret Santa questionnaires to fill out. They were asked to put effort into completing these so that the student who draws their name has plenty of options when selecting their gift. We ask that all gifts be appropriate for opening at school.

Donated gifts for the foster children our classroom has been paired with are due at school by the 10th of December. We thank everyone who chooses to join us in ensuring that these children will receive gifts for the holidays.

This week, the seventh graders have begun studying weathering and how it affects the Earth's geography. The eighth graders are continuing their map creation projects. The ninth

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

graders took a test on Carbon Chemistry, completing their chapter on this subject. The tenth graders are learning about the Middle Ages and what took place during that time. We would like to congratulate Gia Betz for completing the Algebra 2 course. She will now progress to geometry.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

During circle time, we read a book about a young boy named Paul whose family moved to a new town. For his birthday, he only wanted a soccer ball. As soon as he got the soccer ball, he realized that he was bad at kicking it with his feet, and it was not much fun playing by himself. He decided to ask his mom to play with him because they were new in town, and Paul did not have any friends yet. His mom told him to go outside. Poor Paul asked six different boys and girls to play with him and they all told Paul "no". Paul was getting discouraged when all of a sudden someone offered to play with him. Paul now has a friend. He was so excited that he went and invited all the boys and girls that told him "no" to join the game. The children were happy to hear that Paul finally had not just one but lots of friends. Friendship and teamwork is very important.

On the playground, some of the children were playing the game "Red Light, Green Light". Others were very busy trying to catch baby grasshoppers (it was very funny watching them run all over the playground) or using the playground equipment. Once inside, the older students were given ample time to complete their homework, while the rest of the children enjoyed playing a multitude of games of their choice.

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Today some parents are incredibly naïve and lazy. They are not aware, or they do not want to think that their children can be influenced by others. They may not want to know that children can create devastatingly horrible lies and do other negative behaviors that their children can imitate or even initiate. Many modern parents want to believe they are such good role models and perceptive individuals that their children could not hide any negative actions from them.

When these parents learn about any negative behavior from their children's friends, they cannot fathom that their own children might be inclined to participate in this behavior. The parents first reaction is to blame the adult in charge for allowing the inappropriate behavior or blame the other students but never their own children for bringing some obnoxious behavior to the group.

Many Americans have both parents working in full time professions. These parents can hire nannies and put their children in private schools. Their children are often dressed well, are polite, and have good manners. They have learned the art of hiding any misbehavior. Their sneakiness deserves high grades. When these children are caught doing something inappropriate, they are experts at stringing a reasonable story to get them out of any significant consequences.

These families with all their affluence realize their children are arrogant and ignorant of their subject matter. They have been dishonest about how well they were learning and doing. The report cards and notes inform the parents that the student is not applying as great an effort in their academic studies as they say they are doing.

The parent must accept their child is being dishonest with them and that the parents were not being honest with themselves. The parent finally realizes they were too blind to accept other professional's observation and appraisal of their children. They have to admit even at home they let many inappropriate behaviors slide to the point the children become professional liars to others and to themselves.

Ignoring one's own children's statements, actions, and other authority figure's assessments is not a good policy to raise outstanding young people. Parental ignorance of their children behavior leads to a false arrogance that eventually may end with a less than happy ending.

What modern parents need to do in our world today is to return to verifying their child's word by looking over their assignments and tests. This verification process will keep the adolescent on an optimal pace to produce a higher quality of work every time. Honesty of one's performance makes the individual better able to improve resulting in more learning and in better grades.

Knowledge is power especially in keeping teenagers motivated. When loved ones know the accurate level of their child's achievements and/or failures it keeps the person humble and hungry to do even better. The honesty of performance keeps youngsters focused on improving in every way. This results in heightened focus and better performance.

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