

# Wider Horizons School

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**1/19 ML King Day- no school**

1/28 Geography Bee

**1/30 Teacher in-Service Day- no school**

2/06 Science Expo- half day of school

2/09-13 SPIRIT WEEK

**2/16 President's Day- no school**

2/27 Class Photos

### STUDENTS BACK TO WORK

Fourth grade class is anxious to answer a question on their additional reading they receive every week. This class especially is practicing their reading skills to improve their reading.

Reading is the key to success in every subject so students are getting extra practice in many areas to make this happen.



Alexander Jorge's wrote an essay on Alexander Hamilton for the Biography Fair. He changed the essay to fit the Son's of the American Revolution essay contest. Alexander was just notified that his essay was selected from the surrounding counties, Pasco, Citrus and Hernando to be sent on to the state.

WHS is very proud of Alexander and the accomplishments he has made since coming to WHS.



### NO CONSEQUENCES IMPEDES SUCCESS

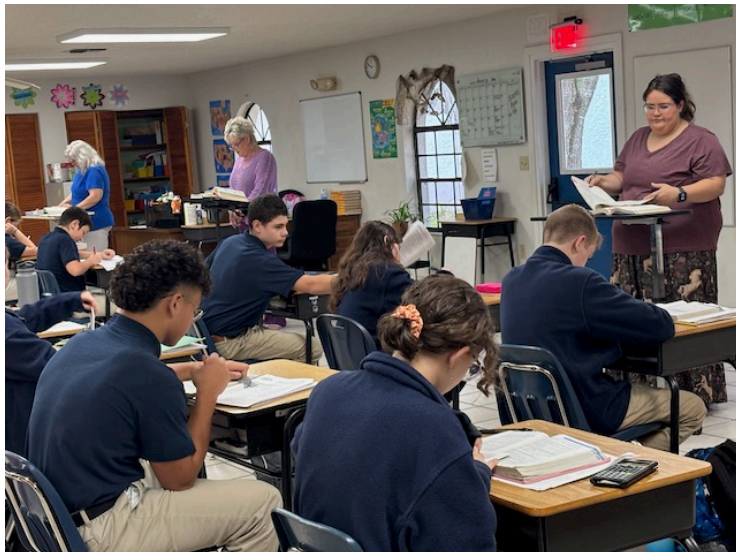
By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Many parents, teachers and other authority figures view consequences as cruel. They believe admonishing is harmful to a child's self esteem. These arbitrary rewards or punishments stigmatize a child who is not doing well. According to many modern parents and teachers' school should be fun not a fierce competition between students. All children are unique and should not be placed on the same scale to be measured on different academic and behavioral skills and abilities.

This anti-evaluating phenomenon is taking place in sports, the workplace and the classroom. It has resulted in delusional students and eventually delusional adults. Millennials have been conditioned to believe that their performance is much better than it actually is. These high "false self concepts" are understandable when you examine our modern culture. Many of them participate in equal playing time in activities even if they possessed no talent or desire to practice the skills necessary to improve. This anti training and anti competition by some authority figures does appease parents and students and works to avoid many unpleasant conflicts that arise from an honest assessment of a child's ability and actual performance. The avoidance of straightforward evaluation of positive and negative skills and behavior leads to delusional thinking in these students.

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Upper level students are back to work for their third quarter- the most important and often the most difficult quarter of the year.



PRIMARY 1  
Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejada

Happy New Year! We would like to welcome three new students to our classroom: Soren, Harlen, and Micheal.

This week, we also celebrated two birthdays with our traditional birthday walk. Happy Birthday Soren and Henry.

In math, students are learning the fundamentals of the Addition Strip Board. They are learning how to see the difference between the blue and red strips. Some are working with the Subtraction Strip Board. Seeing the difference between blue and red strips. Some are working with the subtraction strip board where the number that appears above and to the left of the blue strip is the difference.

In language, students are back to reading their Bob books. Congratulations to Remington for completing all the Bob books. They are also working on writing new spelling words. We are new spelling introducing to students consonant blends. As well as reading the blue booklets and word list. Students are also working on a poem about January and winter.

We are so happy to have everyone back. We hope you have a great weekend.

PRIMARY 2  
Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful winter break with family and friends. Primary was excited to be back and to start working again. Students enjoyed being back into their routines with their friends. In circle, we talked about the New Year and the fresh start it provides.

Students completed a New Years poem and received new spelling words. This week, all of the children worked on letters, letter sounds, and word recognition. In math, students reviewed lessons

from before break to ensure mastery before we progress on through the math curriculum.

In science, we are discussing winter and arctic animals. These topics coincide with the lessons they were being given about Antarctica and the Arctic. They enjoy learning about the cold and snow.

We have introduced an art table in the classroom that provides an outlet for each child to show off their creativity. This table has been a wonderful incentive for all of the children to get their work done.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY  
Mrs. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

We would like to welcome back all of the students. We hope everyone had a peaceful and restful Christmas break. We would also like to thank the parents and students for all of the wonderful gifts and food they brought in for teachers and staff.

Congratulations to Joedaniel, Yvnicka, Emily, and Elsie for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Silas for mastering his addition facts 11-20.

This week, the students are getting back into the swing of working. We have begun increasing their work loads in preparation for the next grade.

In math, the students are getting a new lesson on symmetry and will review what they learned for homework.

The students are starting to do two language assignments per day, so they get a better idea of the workload for next year. This week, we reviewed what an adjective is and went over the different parts of speech with the students. We have already reviewed nouns and verbs (past, present, and future tense).

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

We are cooking this quarter, and the students have volunteered to bring in certain items and ingredients. A notice went home today for our first cooking class; we are making tacos. We ask that you please bring the item in before or the day that it is due so we can prepare and cook on time. The students are still required to bring lunch in case there is something they do not like.



Soren  
and Henry  
celebrate their  
birthdays this  
week.





## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

Proposals for the Science Expo were sent out before winter break, so any students who were absent should be sure they have received their proposal packet. We are happy to report that many of our students are excited about the Science Expo and have already submitted their proposals. The Science Expo will be held on Friday, February 6th. Please note that topics are approved on a first-come, first-served basis, so students who have not yet submitted their proposals should do so as soon as possible.

This week, fourth graders were given a spelling test on some easily misspelled plural words. In language, they learned the word order of adjectives. Students also wrote a composition on their New Year's resolutions. In Zoology, they categorized vertebrates by whether they are warm-blooded or cold-blooded.

Fifth graders had a wonderful start to the third quarter. They worked diligently on their spelling and vocabulary. In math, students had a review on how to properly read a math lesson. This will be important as students come across new concepts. In science, students are learning about the taxonomy of mushrooms. They researched facts about various edible and toxic mushrooms. Next week, students will be given a lesson about the scientific method and a class experiment will follow all the steps as well.

Sixth graders settled into their daily routine quickly this week. In Language, they reviewed and were tested on the unit topic of adjectives. By the end of this chapter, students should be able to identify and classify adjectives as subject complements, predicate adjectives, and prepositional

adjectives. Sixth graders also worked in class on summaries of The Iliad and The Odyssey and illustrated their favorite parts of the stories. They especially enjoyed preparing and performing a short play for their classmates. As we enter the third quarter, we discussed the importance of demonstrating growth in their work. We agreed that correcting poor habits in the new year and applying all they have learned so far will help them successfully achieve this goal.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had a restful and joyous winter break. It is wonderful to see all of the students' smiling faces as we dive into the second half of the school year.

The Science Expo is just around the corner. Students should be making steady progress on their projects. Be sure to check in on their timelines and experiments as they continue to develop their ideas.

We are spicing things up in art class-literally. This semester, we are introducing culinary arts as a part of our curriculum. Occasionally, we will be cooking meals together, and each student will be responsible for bringing one ingredient for these projects. This hands-on activity is designed to foster teamwork, creativity, and practical life skills. Your student will be informed of which ingredient they are being asked to contribute so that there will be plenty of time to obtain it and bring it in.

As we progress further into our textbooks, the work will naturally become more challenging. We encourage all students to stay focused and committed. With determination and effort, we know they can rise to meet these challenges and achieve success.

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

We want to congratulate Alexander Jorge for having his essay accepted by the Sons of the American Revolution to be sent onto the state evaluation. Good luck, Alexander. We would like to give a special congratulations to William Wilkie for completing the Algebra 2 course. He will now proceed to the Geometry course.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

This week during circle time, we discussed the meaning of Christmas with the children. The first thing some children said was "we get presents". We explained to the children why that was true, but Christmas is not only about Christmas trees and exchanging gifts. It is much more than that. It is a time where we get together with our family and friends. We should also think of others who are less fortunate than us.

Before we went to the playground, the children were given a friendly reminder about the playground rules. Some children sang and danced to "Rocking Around The Christmas Tree!" and "Here comes Santa Claus", while other children were hopping around the playground like reindeers. Children were also making Christmas trees using sticks (great imaginations).

Once inside, some children had ample time to complete their homework. They also enjoyed playing with a multitude of board games, puzzles, and legos.

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In the work place many of these young adults are under many employment misconceptions derived from the over inflated evaluation in education and business. Self-important academic professors who do not have a clue about the world of business often foster the exaggerated self-appraisal. These academic “geniuses” think once a student is granted a degree they are ready to do a job better than a person who has been in that position for many years with first hand knowledge. These professors naïve arrogance is unfortunately passed on to the unsuspecting students. These students believe and expect to start at the top of their profession with inflated salaries.

It is understandable that parents who themselves went through this weak, non-existing evaluative process would think that their children should be handled in school in a more gentle, kinder egalitarian manner. They want more of the same inflated evaluation and even greater compassion than they were afforded. They feel and behave that their precious child should not experience the suffering of failure in any form or arena. Little do they realize that this will leave their child unprepared and unable to deal with real life experiences. The coddling of anyone leaves him or her less able to deal with the harshness of reality.

Modern parents seem to be oblivious to the reality that only when a person works hard to gain a skill or important knowledge does he experience a sense of accomplishment. This challenge and successful overcoming of obstacles enriches an individual's competence that increases the student's self worth and confidence.

Failure in anything is the first step in propelling a person to a higher level of effort that produces improvement and eventual mastery. The surmounting of adversity makes a person realize that as long as you focus on a problem long enough it can be solved. They realize they will arrive at the answer in their own unique way.

Parents, teachers, coaches and other authority figures are there to demonstrate, correct procedures of proceeding to do the project, motivate and inspire a person to continue to persist until they succeed. They point out little advances in a student's struggle to improve. They might reward them with praise by pointing out the incremental progress the student is making. At times when a student is stuck the authority figure might note that they are failing to do the best they could. They might gain their attention by punishing the student by giving the “cold shoulder” or not allowing them to participate in an activity that others have earned.

The pain of sitting on the sidelines, receiving a failing grade, being held back in a grade, or having to repeat a grade in the long run is often more compassionate than not telling the truth which enables a person to lie to himself. Shocking a person into action hurts in the short run but may be a great lesson to awaken a student to his destructive habits and delusional thinking.

All authority figures from parents to all forms of loving, caring people should realize deceiving or ignoring another is a mean act. Giving a person a true assessment of their behavior or performance is a very beneficial one. Everyone needs honest feedback to improve and learn where he stands in order to get a better grasp of where to put his energies to improve.

Consequences, especially natural ones, teach a person self-reliance. When an individual desires something, he needs to persevere through hard work until he earns it. This realization that striving to overcome obstacles enables a person to become the best he can be. It was the American Way and strong appropriate consequences will bring it back.

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