

# Wider Horizons School

## GREAT SCIENCE EXPO!



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

2/27 Class Photos

2/23-27 Montessori Week Visits- primary-  
lower elementary- by invitation

3/6 Father's Day Visit 8-8:0am

3/11 World Culture Day

3/13 REPORT CARDS

3/16-23 *SPRING BREAK- return 3/24*

Science Expo gives students a chance to present something of interest to them in the science field. Once again students have an opportunity to practice their speaking skills in front of a group.

We want to thank all of the judges for sharing their time with us. You are a very important part of our academic fairs. **THANK YOU!**

### STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES PRESENT PROJECTS



### PARENTS TAKING THE BLAME FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S MISBEHAVIOR

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD

Modern parental roles are unstable and complex. Often both parents are working online or outside the home. The parents might be working at their residence with their children in the confines of the home. A relative or nanny might have the primary responsibility of the children's welfare although the parents are often consulted as to what to do in a particular instance after the fact. This frequently produces guilt for both parents for not supervising the child directly.

This type of arrangement leaves the parents in a dilemma. They usually know what they should do, however, they do not have the time to execute it in a timely manner. Even if they are working away from home, they feel some responsibility for not being there personally to handle the problems that arise at home. Besides the guilt of a mother not handling the traditional role of caretaker, some realize the important lessons they are not teaching their children. They intuitively understand when their children do not use common sense it is because they were not there to teach essential lessons.

At home many fathers have become the primary parent while their wife is employed outside the home. This role of being a caregiver for very young toddlers is unnatural for males. Their tradition of being hunters in more primitive times and main bread winners before women entered the job market has not prepared them for this unnatural task of caring for young children.

### COOKING IN CLASSES for geography and culinary arts



## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejada

This week was Spirit Week. We enjoyed seeing the students participate in the different themes.

In language, students are learning to identify key phonograms in words and read them. Students also learned about identifying new phonograms with the same sound but different spellings. In reading this week, some students are moving up in their Bob Books. Congratulations to Parker, Ciel, and Avalon.

In math, students are learning to count to 100 in different ways. This will help them prepare for multiplication and skip counting.

In art, students have been very creative with celebrating Valentine's Day. They made love snail headbands, used q tips to paint hearts, made popsicle hearts, and more.

We hope you have a nice three day weekend! We will see you on Tuesday, February 17th.

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

A fun-filled week was had by all as we celebrated spirit week and Valentine's Day. The children enjoyed participating and dressing up differently each day. Everyone looked adorable, especially in their dress-up clothes.

Valentine's Day was oh, so sweet! The children shared Valentines amongst themselves. Each child took home a bag filled with Valentines from their classmates.

Math this week was filled with challenging lessons that kept students engaged in their

academics. Many students are working on both addition and subtraction now. Older students were introduced to dynamic subtraction after a quick review of dynamic addition.

In language, students received lessons on silent "e" and synonyms. They also copied and illustrated Valentine's Day poems.

Students also completed many Valentine's Day crafts and took turns using kind adjectives to describe their classmates as a kindness and language exercise.

Have a fun-filled and safe long weekend!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff

This week, we have introduced "where am I" riddles that have to do with the states the students are learning about. Penelope Peabody gets lost and is enjoying different areas of the United States. We would like to congratulate Nathan, Ashley, Annabelle, Rocco, Rylee, Jacob, and Joedaniel for guessing the correct state she was in.

Congratulations to Gabriel, Bryan, and Silas for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Amianna for mastering her addition facts 11-20.

The students are learning about subject and predicate in language arts. The second graders are also learning about matching adjective and nouns together. In math, they are currently learning about and having lessons on expanded form.

This week, the students have created a President's Day craft and learned about different facts that pertain to George

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

Washington and Abraham Lincoln. They created a puppet and wrote a small story to go with it, and some will share their story with the class.

Most students participated in spirit week, and it was great to see all the students dressed in different clothing for each themed day.

We had Valentine's Day themed spelling words. Their composition is due next Wednesday, and their next book report is due on February 27th.

We, as a class, have been working on learning about the living and nonliving things around us. The students enjoy these activities, since they get to explore the school yard to find living and nonliving things.

We would like to congratulate the students for how hard they are working on memorizing their states, capitals, and abbreviations. We continue to have competitions inside and outside of the classroom. The next states test will be on February 20th. The test will be on states 1-25.

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

The children greatly enjoyed the Science Expo last Friday, and they all did a wonderful job! We would like to commend Alexandra, Kinsley, Thomas, and Xavier for earning a perfect score of ten on their Science Expo projects.

For Valentine's Day, Upper Elementary students prepared and enjoyed spaghetti and meatballs for our Friendship Lunch. They shared their meal together in the classroom and exchanged friendship letters and cards.

Proposals for the World Culture Fair were distributed this week. Some students are very excited and have already begun requesting their countries. In the event that a proposal is lost, a note indicating the student's chosen country, along with a parent's signature, will be sufficient. A parent signature is required, as this fair involves parental assistance in preparing a dish on the day of the event.

Fourth graders are now more than halfway through the Language Tower materials. They are reviewing how to alphabetize words that begin with the same letter. Students were also assigned a classmate to whom they wrote a friendly letter, using a thesaurus to find synonyms. In math, students are learning how to determine which operation to complete first in two-step word problems and are reviewing measurement conversions. In Zoology, fourth graders are studying chordates, with a focus on birds.

Most fifth graders have nearly completed the Language Towers, and are learning how to revise rambling and run-on sentences. Fifth graders are currently on Lesson 20 in their spelling books, with five additional words added to

the original list. In Botany, students are working with the lichen and moss materials and will soon be planting peppers in their garden.

This week in Physical Science, sixth graders are continuing to explore friction, motion, inertia, and Newton's Laws of Motion. For Geography, a lesson was given on the Ring of Fire. Students worked with their Montessori materials and learned about the plate tectonics that make up the world. In Language, students reviewed and completed the unit on verbs. The test will be given next Tuesday, so sixth graders should use the weekend to review the sections they found challenging.

The President's Day research paper was due today, February 13th.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

This was another wonderful week in our Junior and Senior High School class! We've had a fantastic time learning and celebrating together, and we can't wait to share all the exciting details with you.

Last week was a whirlwind of creativity and celebration. Students worked diligently on maps in our Eastern and Western Geography classes. To add a sprinkle of joy, we enjoyed a delightful snack of cupcakes and banana bread that the students prepared themselves.

In our 9th grade Physical Science class, students began sketching their ideas for their Rube Goldberg Machine project. They are required to ideate and then craft a compound machine that has the goal of accomplishing a simple task.

We also had a blast dressing up for Spirit Week. Thank you to everyone who participated and proudly showcased their school spirit.

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

There will be no school on Monday, February 16th, in observance of Presidents Day. Enjoy the long weekend and stay safe!

As we move forward, please continue to stay engaged with your child's learning. Encourage them to share their projects and experiences at home—we love seeing their enthusiasm carry beyond the classroom.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

This week during circle time, we had a lesson on recycling. Most of the children already knew about recycling and why it is important. All of the children were given a page filled with different objects, and they had to circle the ones they thought could be recycled. They all tried their hardest and did a great job.

We also read a book about gorillas and their behaviors. Some are even almost as smart as human. They are extremely intelligent and like to take naps after eating a lot (just like humans). The children also learned that gorillas can be very gentle, and baby gorillas like to play.

While outside, some children pretended to be zoo keepers and had a hard time trying to catch a "monkey" that got away. The rest of the children were busy using the playground equipment. Once inside, some children tried to finish their homework, while the rest of them worked on or played with any activity of their choice.

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. Nor has their genetic pool over the centuries prepared them to be the nurturer. Too often the father or male companion attempts to imitate the traditional female responses toward the child's actions. They do not want to be considered abrupt or punitive. Their consequences for misbehavior are often explanations and suggestions rather than concrete punishing ones.

To either the female or male the part time caretaking role has not been particularly satisfying. Most women who work often have conflicts with need or desire to be a financially independent woman while functioning as the best mother they can be. These two goals force many women to face difficult challenges in attempting to deal with both.

The house husband also faces difficult challenges. Once diving into their new role, they realize it is going to be far from a picnic. From toddler to adolescent, female to male children present different unique problems that have to be handled as soon as possible. After an interval both comprehend that being a house husband or fulltime mother is more difficult than it first appeared.

The ultimate victim of this modern transformation of traditional childrearing roles are the children. Children are being allowed to develop horrendous games. The child "plays" the father by being cute and loving to him before and after misbehavior that neutralizes his displeasure. Mothers coming home after their demanding jobs have little patience, or energy to improve their child. Most mothers intuitively realize their child is developing inappropriate responses while not learning the long-term benefits of doing the right thing.

Modern child rearing is not working. There is an epidemic of young children being labeled for mental and physical disabilities. Too many of these children are being medicated with psychotropic drugs to change abnormal behaviors that should and could have easily been corrected earlier before becoming ingrained habits.

Mothers, and to a lesser extent, fathers when told of their child's inappropriateness blame themselves for the child's obnoxious behavior. The mother knows that when the child is exhibiting negative behavior such as breaking or destroying other people's possessions she could and should have intervened to eliminate this obnoxious behavior. The male realizes that using female interventions for them is ineffective for it is not authentic.

The guilt of missing these opportunities to correct their child transforms into taking the blame for their child's inappropriateness. Instead of encouraging the authority figure or joining with the authority, the parent deflects the punishment by fully taking the blame. This does not solve the child's misbehavior, just reinforces it.

The attempted reversal of male and female roles in most cases has not worked. Most couples even those working from home realize that raising children is a fulltime position that reaps incredible benefits when done wholeheartedly for the child and the family. There is no substitute for a dedicated mother who has the support of a productive male bread winner who is a positive role model for everyone in the family.

Parents taking the blame for their child's misbehavior is counterproductive and a misguided practice for the child's character development. Consistent love with appropriate in-charge discipline by the parents results in healthy, productive adults and proud parents.

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