

# Wider Horizons School

## Annual Early Childhood Picnic



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 5/1 Friday Night Live 7pm
- 5/4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/8 Mother's Day visit 8-8:30am
- 5/19 Field Day

Lower elementary students playing at recess



# Seven Days until Friday Night Live

### TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

By Sunny Day Maglio Talbert, B.A., M.Ed., AMS 3-12

A new buzz work in educational circles is “transitional kindergarten.” This term is for a class in traditional education that is above preschool level but not quite up to the kindergarten level, targeting children four to five years old. Transitional kindergarten is a new phenomenon, but this idea of meeting children where they are has been inherent in Montessori 3-6 classrooms for more than a century.

Montessori is an educational pedagogy with concrete, sequential materials and lessons utilized in multi-aged classrooms. Montessori has multi- age classrooms for children aged 3-6 or even 7 years of age. The classroom is full of different areas to develop academic and social skills through a curriculum where each child progresses through curricula as they are ready for the next sequential lesson.

Annually primary and Lower elementary classes have a picnic together.



Transitional kindergarten seems to have borrowed five tenets from Montessori pedagogy to form their core components. These components are social-emotional learning, pre-literacy and literacy, pre math concepts, physical development and inquiry- based learning.

The areas of a Montessori preschool classroom include Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math and Culture. Practical Life lessons develop a multitude of different skills from developing concentration, coordination, independence and order.

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## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejada

Hello everyone! As we journey into our last few weeks of school, I wanted to say how proud we are of all of the students. This week, we had our annual picnic on the hill with Miss Finnerty's and Mrs. Urbanek's classes. The kids had so much fun.

In language, we are welcoming Harlan as he starts his journey of reading Bob Books. We would also like to congratulate Avalon for finishing all of her Bob Books. Students wrote a nice poem about how to save the earth for Earth Day.

In math, students were assessed on their math skills in addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Small groups of students practiced their addition skills together, and the students were also introduced to fractions.

In science, students continue to learn about different flowers. They also learned how to grow a seed in a bag. This will be observed in the classroom.

In culture, we are traveling to Antarctica. The students will learn about how cold the climate is, along with what animals enjoy the cold weather. Students will get to learn how to make a post card explaining Antarctica. In art, students created earth stamps with balloons.

We hope you have a great weekend. Keep practicing for Friday Night Live.

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

This week, Primary 2 celebrated Earth Day! We read books about taking care of our planet, made a craft, and worked in the garden with Primary 1. Students also participated in our annual picnic lunch with Lower Elementary. The children had a wonderful time eating and playing with all of their friends.

Every day this week, we have been practicing for Friday Night Live, which is next Friday, May 1st. We expect to see all of our students' families there, cheering them on.

In language, students are learning more blends and digraphs. We are repeating some previous lessons that have been forgotten in hopes of increasing retention. Repetition is very important as it helps us to master concepts that are new or challenging. Older students were introduced to five senses poems and got to describe something of their choice. In math, students worked on ordering numbers in both ascending and descending order.

In science, students are beginning their study of birds. In geography, we have departed Africa and have landed in South America. We are crafting toucans as we introduce the rainforests.

Have a great weekend!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff

This week, the students have been clearing out our garden and planting new flowers.

The students had a great picnic with both of the primary classes. They got to play soccer in the big field, play on the playground, and play dodgeball in the court. They were able to reminisce with other classmates.

This week, the students have been working on what needs to be completed for the school year and doing review work.

Some students are learning the importance of being organized.

They have one final book report due on May 3rd. The date was changed due to Friday Night Live, since we will be spending most of Friday morning practicing at Springstead Theater.

The students have been working very hard on their dance and song. Since we are practicing in the morning and afternoon, it is very important that the students are in class every day. Students have partners, so it makes it hard to practice the dance when someone is absent.

Have a safe weekend!

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

With only one week remaining until the main event, Friday Night Live, our mornings have been devoted to practicing skits, songs, and dances for the performance. Dress rehearsals will begin next week. Students have been asked to bring their clothing in a garment bag or on a hanger covered with a plastic bag to keep their clothing neat and organized. Smaller accessories and other items may be stored in a tote bag. All clothing should be labeled. Only water will be allowed in the dressing room.

Fourth graders took the time they had in between preparing for Friday Night Live to catch up on the language tower, which they will finish in fifth grade. We also resumed spelling and vocabulary tests this week. In Zoology, students were assigned a project to find and research a now-extinct species.

Fifth graders are reviewing singular and plural pronouns. In Civics, our student congress voted on their bills and are drafting them to be signed by the “president” next week.

Although we had a busy week preparing for the play, the sixth graders concluded their unit on energy conversions with an assessment on Friday, demonstrating their understanding of how kinetic energy changes to potential energy and then back to kinetic energy. Students also continued to strengthen their vocabulary and spelling skills as we resumed our regular class schedule.

Upper Elementary’s next book report will be due on Thursday, April 30th.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

Get ready to be entertained! Our students have been working hard and showing off their talents in preparation for Friday Night Live, our annual student variety show happening next Friday evening. Practice sessions have been running smoothly, and the energy and excitement are through the roof. You won’t want to miss this fun, family-friendly night of music, comedy, and creativity.

Even with the excitement of Friday Night Live, our students continue to stay focused in the classroom. We are proud to report strong academic performance across all grades. Their dedication, resilience, and passion for learning truly shine every day.

As we plan ahead, don’t forget that details for our summer academic program were recently sent home. This is a great opportunity to keep your child engaged and growing academically over the summer. This will be especially beneficial for students who want to continue progressing in their math books. Be sure to sign your student up soon if you haven’t already.

A big congratulations goes out to Barrett Fromhart and Beatrice Maglio, who have successfully completed Algebra 2 and are now moving on to Geometry. This accomplishment reflects their hard work and determination. Well done!

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

## AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer and Ms. Russell

This week during circle time, we reviewed several important topics that we have leaned throughout the year. Some examples include: sharing, not being greedy, behaving, being kind and polite, never going swimming alone, never taking anything from a stranger, and being helpful and respectful towards our family, friends, and neighbors. The children were also given a friendly reminder of the rules inside the classroom as well as on the playground. All of the students had a chance to express their opinions and feelings toward each subject that was discussed.

On the playground, most of the children enjoyed picking up dried, small branches that had fallen into the play area. The rest of them were playing Red Light, Green Light and singing “The Wheels on the Bus.”

Once inside, some children did artwork of a jungle. They did a great job! The rest had a chance to work or play with any activity of their choice.

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. Practical Life lessons are also presented to the children from left to right which is an indirect link to pre-reading and writing. These activities include what a child might do at home such as sorting, pouring, zipping, scooping, cutting and folding. The development of these skills is integral for success in all areas of the classroom. One purpose of these activities is to physically strengthen and develop fine motor skills of the hand. As the muscles of the hand develop from these activities, the child is able to correctly hold a pencil and form letters correctly.

The sensorial area of the classroom brings the child's senses to the foreground which includes visual discrimination of length, size, volume, and color matching and color gradients. The children experience geometric plane and solid figures which leads into math and geometry. There are many materials targeting the different senses such as sound cylinders to discriminate sound to mystery bags to match items only by feel.

In Montessori education the multiage classroom allows many advantages. One is the freedom of movement to help a child develop concentration. Work can be done on a rug on the floor as well as at a table. Older students' develop leadership skills as they help younger students in their learning. This naturally develops social-emotional learning.

A main task of Montessori teachers is to observe the students and follow their academic interests by preparing the environment to meet their interests. In the classroom children complete one activity as it has been presented, put it away and choose another equally challenging activity in another area of interest. This allows the develop of academic inquiry.

The Montessori classroom is the answer to the "Transitional Kindergarten." The child moves through the curriculum as they master concepts. The classroom environment helps a child develop the focus they need to succeed socially, emotionally as well as academically.