

Wider Horizons School

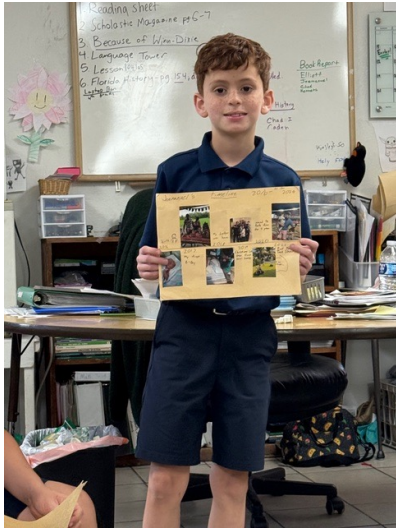
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE



DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

Joemanuel shows off a timeline of his life.



All students practiced this week for our performance on Friday. This year the theme is the 250th Birthday of the United States.

So many skills are learned by participating in Friday Night Live. The students learn to perform on stage in front of an audience. They learn teamwork when they are part of a larger group. They learn responsibility for knowing their lines, Getting dressed quickly, appearing for their part when needed, public speaking, singing and dancing. This is a very important part of the children's education that cannot be measured by academics.



All kinds of dancing, singing and practicing lines for all the various parts of the program took place this week.



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.

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

This week, students have been practicing very hard for Friday Night Live. We are also celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

In language, students continue to practice their spelling words. Congratulations to Henley, Layla, and Emmanuel for moving up another Bob Book. Students are also learning new GPS lessons. This week, we had our annual spelling bee. For kindergarten, our winner was Avalon, and the winner for first grade was Piper. Piper got the opportunity to compete with second graders; she came in second place.

In math, students are learning to multiply on the multiplication board. Other students are continuing to practice their addition and subtraction skills. The students were also introduced to the world of fractions.

In science, students learned about the stages of life for chickens. In culture, the students are learning about Antarctica and the animals that live there.

In art, students got to create their own penguin. They also got to make tissue paper chickens.

We would like to welcome Stephan to the classroom. We hope everyone has a great weekend!

PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

Wow! We have officially entered our last month of school. May will be a very quick but busy

month. The students are ready and excited for their performance this evening. Please make sure your child uses the bathroom located in the lobby prior to dropping them off. We hope to see everyone there!

Looking ahead, the children are very excited for their moms to visit the classroom and receive the gifts they crafted. They love their mothers so much!

Students are working on beginning blends, while older students are working on identifying and diagraming adjectives in sentences. In math, they are working on their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts.

As we explore South America, we are learning about their cultures and animals. The children are crafting color changing chameleons.

Congratulations to Cooper for completing the Bob Books and beginning the Big Series books.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff

Reminder that Friday Night Live is tonight. We look forward to seeing all of the parents enjoy the hard work the students have put into this performance. This type of performance is to help students improve their public speaking skills.

Congratulations to Bryan, Wendy, Amianna, Juliet, Emme, Jacob, Emily, and Bella for having a perfect reading sheet this week. Congratulations to Joedaniel,

Rylee, Silas, Emily, and Jaxson for moving up to the next time tables.

We will not have spelling until after Friday Night Live. However, new spelling words went out today; the test will be on Monday.

Their next book report is due Monday, May 4th. After this, we will not have any more book reports or compositions for the remainder of the school year. This will ensure that the students focus on other work in class. We ask that you help your children make sure that all of their books have been returned to the school.

Next week, students will do classroom work to help them either catch up or get ahead. Some students are completing their poetry books. This month will go by fast, and the students need to be ready for next year.

The date for the Mother's Day visit is May 8th. The students are looking forward to spending quality time with their mothers and giving them the gifts they made.

We had our annual spelling bee this week. We would like to congratulate Jacob for winning in second, third, and fourth grade.

Have a safe weekend!

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

After Friday Night Live has concluded, our focus shifts to the final weeks of the school year. Students who have not completed the math book are diligently working to complete their math books and prepare for the upcoming final exams. The final book report was due on Thursday, April 30th.

We also held our annual Spelling Bee this week and would like to congratulate second grader Jacob as the fourth grade champion, fifth grader Aryen for earning the title of this year's winners. Well done to each of them for their impressive achievement.

Fourth graders have moved past the Civil War and are learning about the aftermath. They are learning about Freedmen's Bureau, Reconstruction and sharecropping and have even completed this section. Students who owe an extra book report must read an adventure book. It is due on May 15th.

Fifth graders are learning to distinguish between action and linking verbs. They are also learning to identify verb phrases; referring back to the list of auxiliary verbs (blue box) in their textbook will help them master this skill. Fifth graders also revisited the concepts of direct and indirect objects and predicate nominatives. In Botany fifth graders are exploring different types of roots, and exploring their surroundings to see the different roots they could locate.

Sixth graders in Physical Science are exploring various heating systems and how they operate differently. In language they are applying their understanding of subject-verb agreement rules, constructing inverted, regular and

compound sentences, and identifying compound complements. They are also learning how subject-verb agreement changes when singular and plural pronouns are used in a sentence.

HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

We are excited for tonight's edition of our yearly Friday Night Live program! This is always one of the highlights of our school year, and we are truly looking forward to seeing the many families and community members who choose to spend their evening with us. Our students have put in a tremendous amount of time and effort preparing their skits, songs, and dances, and their hard work is evident in every part of the show. It promises to be an evening filled with creativity, laughter, and memorable moments, and we are grateful for the continued support that makes events like this so special.

In the classroom, learning has been just as engaging. Our Physical Science students have been studying electricity, focusing on how circuits work and how energy flows through different systems. Through thoughtful discussion, they are developing a strong understanding of concepts that connect directly to the world around them.

In addition, the entire classroom recently completed a series of in-class compositions designed to challenge their thinking. Students were given topics that encouraged critical analysis, creativity, and clear expression of ideas. It has been rewarding to see them stretch beyond simple responses and engage more deeply with their writing.

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

Students are also continuing to make steady progress in Math. With consistent practice and a focus on building strong foundational skills, they are growing in both confidence and accuracy. It is encouraging to see their perseverance as they work through new concepts and strengthen their understanding.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer and Ms. Russell

During circle time, we read a book called "The Language of Friendship." The story was about a giant tortoise and a young hippo. When the hippo was stranded on a coral reef and could not get back to shore, the 130 year old, grumpy tortoise came to rescue him. The tortoise tried hard to free the hippo and eventually succeeded. After this, they became friends, made a secret language, and shared meals.

While on the playground, some children sang "The Wheels in the Bus" and player Red Light, Green Light and Simon Says. The rest were busy using the playground equipment and collecting grasshoppers.

Once inside, some children had the opportunity to work on their homework, while the rest played with any games or activities 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.