

# Wider Horizons School

Great Turnout for Parent Orientation !!

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/12 Grandparents Songfest 9am  
9/17 Constitution Day  
9/22 First Day of Fall



Parents learn what the expectations are for the Lower Elementary class. As in every class there is LOTS of learning that will take place this year.



## STUDENTS WORK TO BEAUTIFY THE WHS CAMPUS

Students from lower elementary to high school worked in the garden moving mulch to enhance the beauty of the garden and protect the plants.



## DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT SELF RELIANT STUDENTS

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Ideally the process of independence should begin in infancy as soon as a child begins to explore his environment. The selection of objects is important for the child to examine and begin to manipulate and move around in the beginning explorations of the world. Touching objects hanging above his crib shows the infant that he can directly impact reality.

The process of the child's natural cooing and babbling is an important opportunity for parents to assist the child's speech development. Too many parents do not seem to comprehend the importance of facilitating their infant's development. Instead of requiring the child to repeat a word before giving him an object he desires they read the toddler's body language and respond to his needs or wants. On the other end of the spectrum many parents are oblivious to the child. In either case the language development is slowed or reaches a level of disability for the growing child.

## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Tejada

Welcome back everyone! We hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend. This week we are starting to learn about "Apples". Students will have different opportunities to learn where apples grow, the types of apples, and even count with them.

In Language, some of our students are practicing their spelling words. Others are learning their letters, vowels, and sounds to create words. Students are also learning the moveable alphabet that helps them recognize the object with the letter. Students continue to read their Bob Books. Congratulations to Yvan!! Keep up the good work.

In Math, our new students are learning to trace numbers from 1-5 this week. We also started learning the Montessori Snake Game that introduces addition and subtraction. We are also introducing the stamp counting math for beginner learners.

In Sensorial Materials, students are learning color tablets and texture matching, along with sound matching.

The students are getting to learn how to push-pin the shape of apples, along with owls, our school mascot.

We hope everyone has a great weekend!

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

This week in Primary 2, we have started learning about the Fish and its body parts. Students are enjoying our Fish lessons and have shown us all of the previous knowledge they have acquired.

Although it has been a short week, it was packed with a lot of activities. Students have been practicing the songs for Grandparents Day and are in the process of creating small gifts to give or send. They also created a fish craft.

Students who have been writing their spelling words took their first spelling test, and received new words. Younger students are continuing to practice letter sound and formation, while others are writing small stories in their journals.

In math, we reviewed teen numbers and sequencing. Students are also working on number formation through various activities.

We are continuing our study of our Global Address, the "Me on the Map" lessons teaches children their place in the world. We begin with the child, their home (address), and progress to their city, county, state, country, continent, and the planet. The goal is to help students grasp their relationship to the world from a bigger perspective. We also would like the children to memorize their address so that we can aid them in committing it to memory. Have a great weekend!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek, Mr. Garrand, and Mrs. Morphew

We want to welcome everyone back from the holiday weekend.

Congratulations Rocco, Frank, Wendy, Grace, Annabelle, Kota, Emme, Nathan, Bella, Ashley, Bryan, Jacob, and Payton for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations Rocco, Wendy, and Jacob for mastering their subtraction facts 1-10. Congratulations Annabelle, Juliet, Payton, Grace, and Emme for mastering their addition facts 11-20. Congratulations Frank for mastering their subtraction facts 11-20. Congratulations Joedaniel for having a perfect reading sheet this week.

This week in spelling, the students will be using the chalk board, word search, and word web. They will also verbally learn the meaning of each word. The students have been using the dictionary and looking up and writing definitions for their spelling words. This gives them the experience of learning how to use a dictionary.

## STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

This week in language arts, the second-grade students are still

working with matching animal sounds and groups of animals. The third graders are learning about homographs, homophones, and homonyms.

This week in math, the students will continue to work on applications and booklets. This week is a review to some, but to others it is learning how to tell time using an analog clock. They had a lesson this week on telling time by the hour.

During circle at the end of the day, the students enjoy playing a game with large dice, multiplying, adding, or subtracting the numbers. They also have a multiplication song they sing to help them not only remember their multiplication, but also help them learn the ones they do not know. They are currently up to the four-time tables.

This week in art, the students are finishing up a poem and working on a Grandparent's Day craft.

In geography, the students are continuing to work on their solar system.

In Native American History, the students worked on different regions of Native America.

In science, the students continue to work on the vertebrae animals.

Have a safe weekend!



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, Mrs. Russell

Proposals for the Biography Fair were sent out last week. Students are urged to research their intended choices thoroughly to make sure there are enough resources to support their research paper. Once the proposal is approved the next step will be to write down sources. For encyclopedias make sure to write down the name of the source, the volume number and page numbers. There should be at least three to four sources.

Fourth graders were given lessons on how to rewrite their compositions this week. In language, they learned the difference between a common and proper adjective. As a reminder, students are given scorecards each week that need to be promptly signed and returned. Thank you to those who have turned in their Biography Fair choices. If your child has not yet picked a historical figure or their options were taken, please bring your preferred choices as soon as possible.

Fifth grade students were shown different examples of outlines and brainstorming that can be done when planning a composition. Most of the students have taken at least one test in math and are working diligently in their Saxon math books. In geography, students are continuing to work on the mapping skills book for geography, and have prepared the Upper Elementary for gardening. They also had their first civics test last week.

Sixth graders learned to identify appositives and to determine

whether they are restrictive or non restrictive. They also categorized nouns and verbs in the first chapter. It is very important to remember as sixth graders review and learn new concepts in language they should begin to implement them into their assignments. This will help to improve their writing skills. In Physical Science, sixth graders explored the property of matter called inertia and also learned about the difference between weight and mass. Please remember sixth graders should complete reading their novel by Monday, September 15th; we have reviewed the format for the book report in class, and students can use this format for future book reports.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

We have successfully completed another week in the high school room! We have begun practicing songs for our annual Grandparents Day presentation. We will welcome all who are able to attend next Friday, September 12th at 9 A.M.

Looking ahead, Technology Day will take place on September 24th. Although this event is optional, we encourage all the students to participate. Their participation will equate to a grade in a class of their choice. Due to this, we expect effort and thought worthy of such.

All students completed exams this week. Please encourage students to study at home and quiz themselves with their friends and classmates. Repetition and consistency are key to academic success.

The 7th graders have been learning about minerals in Earth Science. They are being introduced to Moh's Hardness Scale, a concept that will be persistent throughout their scientific education. In Computers, 8th graders have been brushing up on their skills and learning how to navigate

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programs. In 9th grade Physical Science, students took an exam on physical properties of matter. They all did well and appear to grasp the foundational concepts. 10th grade students are learning about prepositional phrases and appositives in English.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Miss Wallace

This week during circle time, we decided to do story telling. We read a book called "See and Slide". The book contained a slide which covered an animal, and the children had a chance to guess the animal beforehand. All kinds of animals were included. Some children were trying to imitate the sounds that some animals made. We also discussed the life cycle of a caterpillar in detail and why we celebrate "Labor Day".

When we went outdoors, some children were playing the game "Red Light, Green Light", and others were singing the song "We're Going to Kentucky" while dancing to it. The rest of the children enjoyed the playground equipment.

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The modern child development approach is not to train the child for independence but to enjoy and extend his childhood. This approach delays development in most maturational areas, which can lead to future disabilities. It is as debilitating as forcing him to enter the adult world before he is ready.

This period of childhood is a time when children must develop in many areas such as emotional, physical, social, coping, communication, thinking, and time management as well as developing moral values, spirituality and a presence of God. This is only a partial list but emphasizes the importance of laying a strong foundation to assess the youngster's journey to independence.

Beginning school is the second opportunity for the child to fill in his foundation. The teacher's evaluation of the child compared to other children is often the first objective appraisal of the child's abilities and skills. The parents and teachers have to work together to help the child be successful as an adult. This is a difficult process.

Almost every parent, especially parents of a preschooler truly believe that their child is exceptionally bright. Usually there are preschoolers that have knowledge and interest in certain areas and deficits in others. When they enter preschool it is up to administrators and teachers to give an honest evaluation of the child to the parents. By starting with the strengths, which the parents clearly comprehend, it establishes a positive bond between the administration and the parent. Any problem area should be expressed to the parents but always with a plan of action to improve and correct these weaknesses. The parents usually are less aware of these problems than they are of the child's strengths. The child's liabilities are often overlooked or placed on the back burner.

The assistance of the school to help their child should be communicated as a wonderful team effort, not an assault on the parent's effectiveness. The parents and the school working together can create miracles. The working together between parents and school requires a long committed dialogue towards the development of a successful, solid student. Any sabotaging by the parents more often than not results in the regression of the student often ending in withdrawal from the program or school.

When an honest relationship between the parents and school is established the work begins in earnest to help the child become an independent learner. One of the first issues to be settled is how much assistance the parents should give to their child in completing schoolwork. Depending on the age of the student, the parental school involvement should decrease as the child advances into higher grades.

In preschool through the second grade, parents should establish a stable home schedule for eating, bedtime and waking. The parents should expect their child to do age appropriate chores well in a reasonable time. Reading to them and once the child begins reading; the child should read to the parents. Certainly the child should be corrected in speech, thinking, factual information and behavior and errors. Parents are instrumental in setting standards and expectation for facilitating their child's character, moral values and cultural foundation. Most importantly they should spend "quantity time" interacting with and loving their child.

Any rote memory activities in school the parents can and should participate in at home like spelling words, math facts, vocabulary definitions and reinforcement of basic knowledge. General knowledge development is further ground for strong parental involvement. In higher elementary grades, 3-6, parental involvement should proceed with caution. The student should assume most of the responsibility for his own assignments. The parents should expect the school to give the students review assignments that they have been prepared to complete on their own.

Encouraging the child to be independent can be difficult for many parents, especially those with only a single child. Too many parents are unaware of the short time they have to prepare the child to become a fully functioning, independent adult. With the help of the teachers and staff the parents realize they have a finite time to prepare their child to be a young adult and their attitude turns towards encouraging independence training for the child.

*Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers, an author of several books and owner/director of Wider Horizons School, a college prep program. Dr. Maglio is an author of weekly newspaper articles, INVASION WITHIN and IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can visit Dr. Maglio at [www.drmaglio.blogspot.com](http://www.drmaglio.blogspot.com).*