

Wider Horizons School

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY

Wider Horizons Students have been practicing new songs to learn for the Grandparent's Day Songfest.

The students performed today for their grandparents, parents, and friends. Everyone enjoyed hearing the students as much as they enjoyed singing for you.

Thank you to all who attended and supported the students who want to share the Gift of song.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/17 Constitution Day

9/22 First Day of Fall

10/3 Individual Photos (uniform required)



There are lots of new Materials in the primary class for the children to use.

Here Gabriel has completed many addition problems.

He had to find the answers from the many number tiles in the box.



ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING WORTHWHILE TAKES EFFORT

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Most youngsters have been conditioned by the culture to believe they are entitled to anything they want. They desire it, get it and throw it away. This quick turn over of interests happens daily throughout their short existence.

These children are born into a consumer-credit, fad economy. Instant gratification is the norm in their lives. When children lose or abuse a toy or precious object they immediately have it replaced. These young people rarely have to repair, maintain or build something. Our affluence has encouraged us to passively purchase services and objects rather than use our ingenuity and imagination to rebuild or create another interesting activity.

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PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Tejeda

This week, the students have been continuing to work on their apple lessons. We have also been practicing our songs for Grandparent's Day this Friday at 9am.

In Math, some students are now learning the steps of addition by using the addition strips and addition boxes. As others are learning the small table version of the number rods.

In Language, students continue to read Bob Books, congratulations Remington for moving up another book. We are having our first spelling test for the first graders. Then next week, the test will be for both kindergarten and first grade, so each day the students will practice their spelling words.

In Sensorial Materials, students are learning their colors by matching the colors together, then coloring objects with the color names.

We hope you have a great weekend!

PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

We hope everyone enjoyed the Grandparents' Day song fest. The children worked very hard to memorize the songs to make their families proud. We would like to wish all grandparents a very Happy Grandparents' Day, and thank those who were able to join.

For math, we introduced the addition snake game. This lesson teaches the children how to make bonds of ten. Some students are still practicing the short bead stair, as it is important to master this activity before advancing

to other activities. The snake game teaches linear counting, reinforces the exchanging procedure, and prepares the children for addition as well.

In language, we continued practicing penmanship, alphabetizing, and sequencing. Some students are receiving lessons on silent "e". We are focusing on familiarizing them with both the short and long vowel sounds. These activities promote better fluency and comprehension when reading. During circle time, we discussed 9/11 and its significance. We talked about how brave both the first responders and soldiers were during and after.

In science, we introduced our study of leaves and are looking forward to seeing the leaf booklets they complete. We also wrapped up our study of the fish. Have a great weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

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

We would like to thank all the grandparents that came out to spend time with their grandchildren while the school sang for them.

Congratulations Payton, Bella, Jacob, and Rocco for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations Benaiah and Rylee for mastering their subtraction facts 1-10. Congratulations Jaxson for mastering his addition facts 11-20.

This week, we have been talking about the Constitution. The students will be memorizing the first 10 Amendments. The Amendments will be kid friendly so they have a better understanding of how they work. We also touched on 9/11 and the affect it had on our country.

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

In Spelling this week, second and third graders are continuing to learn about ABC order, this will help them learn how a dictionary works. The students stamped five words and cut out three words, using newspaper letters to make their spelling words. They did one word in beans and one word in tissue paper.

In math, the students are still reviewing clock hours, and had a lesson on half hours and are working in booklets, applications, and geometry cards.

In language, the students continued to work on language from the tower.

In science, the students are learning about the different parts of vertebrae animals.

In history, the students continue to work on different regions of Native America.

In geography, the students are working on learning about different symbols of the United States.

Cooper celebrates another year!



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, Mrs. Russell

This year for Grandparents' Day the whole school participated in Songfest for our grandparents. Our students worked hard to learn an array of songs to entertain our VIP guests. They also prepared a card and a poem to honor their grandparents. Hopefully, everyone had an enjoyable day.

This Tuesday was the fourth graders' first history test on the geography of Florida. Most students did very well. We would like to congratulate Joemanuel and Kendra for earning the highest grades on the test. The next section will cover the different regions in Florida. As a class, we finished *Call It Courage*, and students will write their first book report in class next week. Students were also introduced to subjects and predicates in language this week.

This week, fifth graders are being encouraged to keep their math sets organized and we are emphasizing the importance of neatness. Students are doing well reviewing previous concepts that they learned last year. In civics, students had their second test on natural rights. In Botany, students learned the characteristics of a pineapple and dissected one.

Sixth graders had their second science test last Friday. Everyone did very well! We would like to congratulate Hadley, Ethan, Xavier and Gwyneth for earning a hundred percent. The next science test will be on September 16th. To help our students prepare accordingly, we have asked them to write the Key Terms and their definitions on

index cards. They should try to memorize them five at a time. Suggestions were given when reviewing for the test to underline important words in the definitions to help memorize the terms. Sixth graders will write their first synopsis of the novel, *My Side of the Mountain* on Monday. The structure of a well-written book report will be reviewed in class, and a copy of an example of a book report and guidelines will be handed out to each student on Monday. The next book report will be due on Tuesday, September 30th. Sixth grade students are asked to refer to the Spelling Demons list for their spelling words.

HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

We are officially halfway through our first quarter of the school year!

In English, students completed their second chapter test and did well overall. In Literature, they are currently reading the novel *Animal Farm*. In Physical Science, students are learning about subatomic particles and the other most fundamental building blocks of life.

In American History, students are learning about some of the first settlements in North America and why they originated. They are also identifying important leaders who were responsible for many of the policies and beliefs on which our country was founded.

Students are studying how to make good financial choices in Financial Literacy. They are focusing on how to avoid impulsive spending. Mindfulness of their accounts and taking an active interest in their financial health is being encouraged.

Thank you to everyone who attended today's Grandparents Day celebration.

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

It was a pleasure to see so many smiling faces.

AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Miss Wallace

This week our time indoors consisted of story telling about "Why, Why". Why are some birds special? Some birds can fly, walk, run, and even swim. Why are humming birds so tiny? They are tiny so that they can reach inside flowers and feed on the sweet juice, called nectar. Why can't penguins fly? Penguins can't fly because their wings are too short and stumpy. Why are some birds colorful? Birds can be big show-offs, and they use bright colors to make themselves look attractive. Why do flamingos have long necks and look as if their knees are backwards? Actually, what appears to be their knees are really their ankles! It was obvious by looking at the children's faces that they really enjoyed this book.

During playground time, the children enjoyed making sand castles and birthday cakes while in the sand box, others were using the playground equipment, and the rest were singing and playing red light, green light. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework, and the rest had a chance to play with all kinds of games or puzzles of their choice.

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The art of living a unique life of overcoming liabilities and turning them into assets is becoming unusual in a victimized society. Youngsters, often with the consent and encouragement of their parents, would rather receive special diagnosis and assistance by professionals to complete simple objectives rather than struggle to find their own strategy to compensate for their limitations. According to child advocates it is not the fault of the child for having some limitations, as they should be given special programs and assistance to deal with their immediate problems.

Our public schools are insisting certain difficult students need to receive psychotropic drugs to attend school. When parents refuse to place their child on drugs they are sometimes confronted by child protective services. There are even cases where children have been removed from their home and placed in foster care due to the parent's not complying with the school district edicts. This has taken place without the parents being given due process to their rights as citizens.

It is not good for particular students to have tests read to them. They should only be given tests that are on their reading level. Without the ability to read they will not be functional in any modern society, nor should they receive extra time to take a test. This ridiculous practice only confirms to the child that he is less than normal. Children need to be trained and inspired to reach incremental goals, not be warehoused and labeled as defective by the system and accepted by the child.

We as a people have forgotten that our greatness as an economic powerhouse was established on the industriousness of our ancestors. Many of them had to work to help support their families from a young age. Mostly everything they had to learn came from their own initiative and experience. Their reading, math and job skills were learned by fighting for them. There were often significant people who assisted them and apprenticeship opportunities to learn job skills were identified through their own resourcefulness.

Nothing worthwhile that is accomplished is easy. It takes work, perseverance and concentration to learn a skill, complete a task well or invent a better mousetrap. When a person just makes excuses and gives up, nothing is accomplished except a sense of failure and loss of confidence. When the person fights through these challenges and resolves the crucial issues his competence increases as well as strength of character.

As a society we should stop pandering to special interest groups who demand too many privileges, concessions and accommodations for the child having difficulties. Removing all types of adversity creates a victimized and entitlement society.

Overcoming obstacles builds confident and self-reliant people. We should return to a fair merit competition to build winners. In the "everyone wins" mentality there is no motivation to improve. Without failing in something a person loses the motivation to be a winner.

Doers who succeed have to persevere to reach their goals. It takes effort to be a success not accommodations, lower standards and expectations. These are the people who never walk away from a challenge but confront it time and time again until they conquer their inner fear of failure.

Eventually they are victorious and are able to savor their temporary accomplishments then reach out for new and more difficult goals. They raise themselves to new heights and greater laser focused efforts.

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 a new just published book, entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can visit Dr. Maglio at www.drmaglio.blogspot.com.