

Wider Horizons School

Constitution Day 9/17



DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/30 Technology Day
10/2 Individual Portraits
10/12 Columbus Day (No Classes)

In honor of CONSTITUTION DAY we had several events. Jr High/High School had a speaker show a video of the signers of the Constitution. The Daughters of the American Revolution brought in a display of the Constitution to share with our students.

MATH: THE SUBJECT THAT SEPARATES THE STUDENTS

By Domenick J. Maglio Ph.D

There is one subject in education that the further you advance knowledge, the more is demanded of the student. It is an area you are attracted to or you avoid like the plague. At the beginning of school some students gravitate to language arts and others to math activities. In the higher elementary grades more disciplined study is demanded in math to develop a strong foundation in this area. Mathematics builds on itself and requires more attention to detail to arrive at the exact answer. The precision in mathematics makes it more demanding of the student and creates a more mathematical mind.

Addition, subtraction and multiplication facts have to be memorized for immediate recall. This presents a student with the first significant challenge to memorize a block of facts. The student either learns it or does not. There are no excuses for not learning the material.

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Eighth graders made a poster of the 36 Signers of the Constitution.

They learned about each person, what their contribution to the revolution was and how they were affected by the signing of the Constitution.



Bryan completes the 45 Layout.



PRIMARY

Ms. Wallace, Ms. Tejeda and Mrs. Vega

We had a lot going on this week. We celebrated Stephen's 4th birthday on Tuesday, September 15th. We also had grandparents come to visit on September 18th. The students practiced songs and completed a creative memory for them.

In language students continue to read Bob Books. Congratulations to Aubree, Gabriela, Abrah, and Zella for moving up in their reading. Students are having lessons on the letters C and D. Students are learning to match objects like graphic symbols, which helps build letter recognition. Students are also learning how to match Nomenclature Cards, which enrich vocabulary and help develop oral communication.

In culture students are learning about parts of the tree. They enjoy puzzle matching and three part matching lessons about the parts of a tree.

In art the students created a special book for their grandparents.

In math students practiced odd and even numbers. Some students learned how to do the 45 layout, which will help them continue learning sequencing and the decimal system. Congratulations to Bryan who challenged himself with the the 45 layout, demonstrating a clean and organized way of working and following the teacher's instructions.

We hope you all enjoy the weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY 1 and 2
Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff, and Ms. Finnerty

This week in lower elementary, students were introduced to early mathematic numbers of Indic, Early Arabic, and Modern

numerals. This lesson tied in nicely with last week's lesson of the age of the earth. Last week students learned how the universe and life evolved over millions and billions of years. This week they learned how numeral writings evolved over time too. Students enjoyed attempting to duplicate numeral writings and compare them to previously learned numbers and symbols. Students were also given a lesson on the Timeline of Life.

In language students learned how to symbolize articles, nouns, verbs, and adjectives within a sentence. This interactive activity encouraged students to see different parts of speech within a sentence and learn how to use them in the correct order. They also learned how to match articles with nouns and interact with past, present, and future verb tenses.

Lower elementary also took some time to reflect upon the contributions that their grandparents make in their lives. Students wrote an acrostic poem highlighting attributes and characteristics they remember about their grandparents. They also made cards to give them on Grandparents Day and learned a new song to sing to them. Students also wished Gabriel S., Avalon, and Evonne a happy birthday.

Students in both classes spent some time in the garden pulling weeds and discussing the varied plant life in the garden. Students learned about the different classifications of vegetation and enjoyed the peaceful surroundings, as well as some insect discoveries.

We would like to thank the parents who have helped to make their student's reading a priority by ensuring they read 30 minutes a day and helping them read books that are sent home. Students are showing improvement in reading comprehension as well as developing a love for reading.

Keep up the good work. You are making a difference.

Thank you to all the grandparents who came for Grandparents Day. Your grandchild spent the week creating ways to make you feel special and loved. We hope that you enjoyed the time spent with your grandchild as well as the snack you assembled with them.

Happy Grandparents Day!

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

Upper Elementary had a wonderful time during Grandparents Day this afternoon. The class formed a panel and interviewed their grandparents.

During our interviews, we heard many interesting stories and anecdotes from the grandparents' childhoods. Thank you to all who participated and shared memories and experiences with us. We truly appreciate the wonderful stories you shared!

By now, all of our students have submitted their proposals for the Biography Fair and are hard at work researching their chosen person.



Stephan celebrates his birthday.

Many students have been collecting their facts and carefully following the guidelines. This Friday, students had to turn in at least three listed sources. If there are any questions, please call or send a note for clarification.

Fourth graders turned in their second book report this week. Their next book report will be due on October 9th, and must be about the person they are researching for their Biography Fair.

Biography Fair. Students were also given lessons on citations to help them with their Biography Fair research. In Zoology, students continued to learn about the animal cell and identify the building blocks of life inside each cell.

The fifth graders are assigned two compositions per month. It is important that they look over their work checking for spelling and grammar errors. They are learning how to properly write a composition. In math, the fifth graders need to hand in a math set daily. While doing their work it is important that they label all work, use a ruler, and write neatly. This week in botany, they are learning about types of roots. In geography they are continuing to learn about land and water forms.

Last week, we announced the highest score on the science test, but we would also like to recognize Scarlett for earning a perfect score of 100 percent on the previous test. Congratulations, Scarlett! In Language, sixth graders completed the first half of their unit and were assessed on abstract and concrete nouns, subjects, subject complements, and objects. Congratulations to Thomas and Logan for earning the highest grade on the test! In Vocabulary, sixth graders were introduced to idioms. This week, they explored the origins and meanings of various idioms and enjoyed creating posters featuring their favorites. In Science, sixth graders concluded their chapter on the phases of matter with a test. They will now begin studying elements and compounds, which

will serve as an introduction to the periodic table. Additional time has been allotted to ensure all students have completed reading *The Land Remembered*. Students have been given until September 21st to finish the book.

HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

The students have been progressing in their various subjects in the junior and senior high classroom. Seventh grade math students are working through their books and receiving lessons on concepts they are having trouble understanding. The eighth grade students completed a board they began creating for constitution day.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to all of the grandparents who joined us on Friday to spend the afternoon with their grandchildren and our school community. We truly enjoyed having you with us and appreciate you taking the time to be part of such a special day!

All Biography Fair proposals should have been turned in by Friday. Students now know the historical figure they will be portraying and should be gathering information and conducting research for their projects. In computer class, Junior High students have been instructed on how to create a sources page so they are aware of expectations and requirements as they begin their Biography Fair work.

We would like to congratulate Matthew Difilippo for beginning geometry! Wow would also like to congratulate Ethan Poulima for beginning algebra 1/2.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

This week during circle time, we read books and discussed farm life. We talked about the importance of farmers, how the food we eat comes from farms, the purpose of scarecrows and why farmers use

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

Them. We learned about some of the crops that are planted in the fall. We also read a book called the "Wonders of the Desert". It was explained to the students that the desert is a hard place to live in for people, animals, and even plants, but there is also beauty because the sunsets are often very colorful. We also had the chance to work with math and shapes while we were inside.

Once outdoors, the children tried all the fun equipment on the playground. They also played hide-and-seek, while others were watching a tortoise by the playground. The children have passed down the nickname "Speedy Number 2" to the tortoise after children in previous years.

Enjoy your weekend!

Student Editor:

Hayley DesLauriers

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The student's determination to spend time and concentrate on memorizing the material demonstrates to the child it takes pure effort to gain certain types of knowledge. Some students apply themselves willingly and easily to memorize the facts. Others could care less and have to be prompted and bribed to even start the process. These students regrettably fight each step of the way to their own detriment. Some will win the battle and lose the war where many schools allow the student to count on his fingers instead of putting the information into his mind's memory bank.

This reluctance to get tasks done that are not attractive to the student is troubling for the student's future learning. There are many subjects in our schools such as grammar, spelling, history or science that seem to an immature youngster to be boring and unimportant but are building blocks of knowledge and skills. Not everything can or should be sugar packaged to the interest of every student. They have learned to "take their medicine" and do the things they do not want to do to become *educated* strong student. This certainly will be the case in higher education.

Many modern students are addicted to doing only what they want instantly. It is the age of instant gratification. The Internet and social media often enhance their ability to self promote and express themselves to show what they want to be not what they really are. Social media consumes a large portion of time, thought process and has even become a lifestyle for much of our youth. This leaves little time to do things that have to be mastered to be a well-educated person.

Our school grade inflation has been the opium for students and their parents to feel their child is doing well academically. The reality is too many are well below the level of competent students in this country and foreign nations. The giving of high grades to students who have not earned them is stifling learning. Students need to compete with themselves and others to be challenged to produce quality work. The poor academic achievement of modern American students is being compared negatively with past generations and current foreign students.

When students take comprehensive achievement and college entrance exams their deficit is exposed to the parents often for the first time. In too many cases they have to take remedial courses without any college credit or are unable to remain in the college program they chose. Too many students are delusional about their ability and prospect of success in college.

The one subject that is usually the litmus test for student success in higher education is mathematics. It is nothing more than logic that builds on itself. It is almost impossible to be a consistently good student in math without a solid foundation.

The student has to be precise, checking his own work after showing every step of the process including the type of units to arrive at a correct answer. It is a learned skill that requires focus and discipline in solving the problem. This activity is learned by reading the lessons thoroughly several times to fully understand the concept that is being shown. This procedure is necessary to develop the mental set needed to become a proficient math student.

Math is the area of study that separates the conscientious student from a casual, passive or "just get by" student. The subject of math cannot be faked. It is right or wrong. There is no subjective middle ground no matter how the material is presented.

Mastering math to an adequate level of proficiency is essential for earning almost any higher degree. It is a difficult subject for many students as it takes self-discipline to overcome obstacles and appreciate the positive logical thinking patterns that math teaches. Learning to think logically is necessary in higher education. More importantly it is a fundamental thinking skill that should be used in any career and is necessary to cultivate wisdom in one's life. Math is a challenge for most students that can and should be conquered for the future success of the student.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

***Music Lessons with Mike Scaglione, musician extraordinaire, will begin this week. Mr. Scaglione is a well known musician who has played with the Miami Sound Machine for years.**

Inquire at the office as to what instrument and day you would like your child to begin.

Yearly Pizza Payment

It has become a bit confusing with so many recurring orders for pizza. Some parents have started to pay for the rest of the year rather than try to come up with the cash each week.

For the 28 Fridays left of the year, one slice is \$84, two slices is \$112. Please communicate with Mrs. Hobbs if you want this option.

Once in awhile orders still use the weekly slips.

First graders now need to wear a belt and have their shirts tucked in like the second and third graders in their room.