

# Wider Horizons School

## Hands on Botany

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/22 First Day of Fall  
10/3 Individual Photos (uniform required)  
10/13 Columbus Day (No School)  
10/31 Bio Fair (Early Release)

Fifth graders are studying the root systems of plants in the classroom. They had the opportunity to see many different root systems that actual plants have.

They planted the sago palm root in the garden. They dissected the tumeric root and smelled it, some brave students even tasted a tiny piece of the root.



### ARE PARENTS EXPECTING THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN?

By Domenick J. Maglio, PHD.

One of the sacred freedoms of US citizens is that parents, not the state have the inalienable right to raise their children. In many nations government-controlled systems such as communism and other top-down systems, announce mandated laws that supersede parental rights. It appears some American parents want the US government to take over many responsibilities that solely belong to the parents.

In the USA modern culture has rapidly become altered. Today's parents seem to expect the government to provide afterschool services. Many parents want to retain their lifestyle when both parents are working full time. Their necessary time to handle family and school demands has dwindled making it impossible to deal with daily family matters let alone their children's school issues.

Many parents' inability to discuss their child's school progress is allowing the school to make profound decisions about the child's education with no parental input. The modern parents working two jobs makes it difficult to get together in a parent teacher meeting.

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Lower Elementary students show off the six symbols of the United States that they made for Constitution Day.



## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Tejada

Welcome to week 6 of school! Everyone is working hard and learning a lot. This week we celebrated three birthdays: Avalon, Yvan, and Erwin. They all did their birthday walk celebrating life.

In Language, students are working on building their phonetic words. Lessons on short vowel sounds are helping them identify and repeat to move on. Others are using pink and blue moveable, alphabet letters to form simple, phonetic three-letter words, along with reading their Bob Books.

In Math, students are learning about numbers and math with hands-on material such as number rods, counting 1-10 and 11-19, and adding with number beads.

In Sensorial Materials, students are learning to use the red rods to build and learn concentration and balance, as we also introduce lessons about sorting small and large objects. The students are also learning about the change of seasons, and what we will see change as fall approaches.

In Science, the students are learning about "Fish", the types of fish, where they live, and how they eat.

We are also celebrating "Constitution Day", with some poems and patriotic art. We hope you have a great weekend.

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

We hope you have had a great week. We are already six weeks into the school year. The primary students are working hard and learning a lot.

Students worked on blends in language, as well as practicing initial sound matching using objects. We have also been practicing our sound song, "Ants on the Apple". Students who are writing correctly and legibly, received writing journals. These books are used to write stories and draw an illustration. It is wonderful to see them express their creativity through writing.

In math, students are working on various lessons; including a snake game extension, the addition charts, number identification, as well as a subtraction chart. Primary has received a lesson on 3-dimensional shapes and the differences

between 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional.

In Spanish, students worked on their colors. They got to complete a special art project to go with their lesson.

During circle, we discussed Constitution Day. We talked about who wrote the Constitution and why. We are grateful that our Founding Fathers took the time to work together to create the framework that protects our rights. We also crafted patriotic headbands to honor the day. Congratulations to Althaea for reading all 48 Bob Books! She will now be moving onto our leveled reading books. Have a great weekend!

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

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

Congratulations to Emme, Payton, Silas, Bella, Jacob, Annabelle, Amianna, Juliet, Rocco, and Benaiah for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Elsie and Ashley for mastering their addition facts 1-10. Congratulations to Bella, Jacob, and Rocco for mastering their addition facts 11-20. Congratulations to Payton for mastering her subtraction facts 11-20.

Congratulations to Amianna and Silas for mastering their subtraction facts 1-10.

In language arts, the second and third graders are learning about punctuations and different types of sentences, such as statements, questions, and exclamations.

In math, the students will continue learning and reviewing clocks, and this week is telling time per five minutes. They will continue to work on their booklets, applications, and geometry cards. The students had a lesson on different key words for addition in applications. This will help them to identify the difference between signs when solving problems. They will continue to learn key words for subtraction, multiplication, and division.

In spelling this week, the students wrote spelling words on the chalk board 2x, wrote sentences and added pictures, and worked in their packet. The students had a group lesson talking about the definitions of each word verbally, while

also using index cards to write definitions.

In science, the students learned about the frog and the four stages of its life cycle. The students then drew and labeled their own frog life cycle.

In geography, the students are continuing to learn about the USA.

In history, the students are continuing to work with regions.

Please keep in mind that Biography Fair papers went home, and each student should have picked a person they would like to portray. This is a great way to learn about our history. Just reminder, a student cannot choose a person their sibling has done nor can they share the same person.

## Happy Birthday To Erwin, Avalon, Yvan





## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, Mrs. Russell

Next Wednesday, September 24th, students will present their projects for Technology and Engineering Day. Although this fair is not mandatory Upper Elementary students are encouraged to participate. All participants will also earn extra credit in Science for their projects.

The second step of the Biography Fair Guide will be due on September 26th. Sources such as; books, magazines, encyclopedias, and web addresses can be used for research. Students were asked to jot down their sources and continue their research. This is a research paper, so only facts not sentences should be collected and placed under specific headings. Once research is complete, the facts should be numbered in chronological order. Facts should be turned into sentences, and sentences should be grouped to form paragraphs. Please refer to the Biography Fair Worksheets for due dates.

Fourth graders were given a lesson on citing sources and conducting research for their Biography Fair projects. In language, students were given a review on nouns and will be tested next week. Students are working hard in math and enjoyed their lesson on line segments and number lines, as well as their review on telling time. We encourage parents to practice telling time at home as well. Students continued to learn about latitude and longitude in geography, and about the different phyla in zoology. Their next book report is due on September 30th and must be a book in the genre of science fiction.

Fifth grade worked on lessons from the language tower and had a review on nouns, particularly being able to correctly label and identify plural possessive nouns. Students are working diligently in math, but are being encouraged to use a ruler at all times so that they do not have to redo their math sets. In Botany, students dissected turmeric plants. In geography, they continued to work in their geography skills book, focusing on parts of North America.

Sixth graders are continuing to learn about nouns, adjectives and how to utilize them in a sentence correctly. They are also learning to classify nonrestrictive and restrictive appositives. Sixth graders continued to review chapter one, preparing for their upcoming test next week. They will move on to chapter two, where they will categorize nouns, pronouns and verbs. They will learn how to distinguish different nouns and understand which pronouns to correctly use when they are subjects, direct objects, and predicate nominatives in a sentence. In geography, the students are learning how to use the scale on a map to calculate miles between two locations.

The next book report will be due on Tuesday, September 30th. Sixth graders were assigned either Black Beauty or Robinson Crusoe.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

This past week, the high school room progressed as usual. For Constitution Day, we read sections of the Constitution and discussed what they meant and why they were important. The American History and Civics classes also made posters that displayed different parts of the Constitution as well as terms that are important to our nation.

Seventh graders completed a chapter in history on Ancient Egypt. They are proving to be quite interested and engaged in this topic. In math, they are working on problem-solving skills, focusing on the problems they individually struggle with.

Eighth graders, along with the seventh graders, continued learning how to use computer programs to complete their schoolwork. This skill will help them with writing papers in the future, including the Biography Fair research paper. In Life Science, they are currently working on a project involving the creation of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.

Ninth grade students have been doing very well in English. They have been mastering the usage of both linking

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

and action verbs. They completed another Physical Science test on atomic structure and theory.

For Financial Literacy, the tenth grade students continue to explore what it means to make wise financial decisions. Through reading, discussion, and research, they are learning what they can do now to prepare to be wise consumers.

Technology Day will take place on Wednesday, September 24th. Participation and a quality presentation will result in a grade in a class of their choice. As this could truly help the overall grades of many students, we highly encourage as many people as possible to participate.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Miss Wallace

During circle time, the children were very excited to hear about a book called "Planet Earth". By reading this book, the children can understand better why volcanoes erupt, why the earth shakes, why plants grow, and why animals swim through vast oceans. First, earth is where we live. Earth is full of life because there is air and water here, and we need air to breathe. Sometimes the earth shakes and trembles, and huge cracks may appear in the ground. Not all mountains are quiet and still. Some can throw out smoke and fire, mountains like this are called volcanoes. The children started to ask very interesting questions about our fascinating planet, this went on for a while.

While on the playground, some children had fun with all the playground equipment, while others were playing in the sandbox. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework, while the rest of the students worked on different activities of their choice.

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This leaves the teachers and administrators in charge of the child's education with little or no input by the parents in their own child's education.

Major obstacles to assisting with a child's schoolwork are afterschool activities such as team sports, dance, gymnastics, music lessons and other extracurricular activities. Modern parents are leaving so-called "professionals" to raise their children. During and after school parents are unaware of much of what their child is being exposed to.

Parents' work schedules demand their children have supervised afterschool activities. This leaves parents little options but to keep their children as busy as they are. This results in limited time for children and parents to relax, spend time together and get to know each other. Children need to learn important lessons, how to think, and to learn traditional values to keep them on the straight and narrow path. This is difficult to accomplish since modern parents are just not there to teach these values, attitudes, and thinking skills. Too many parents are not taking the time to be more involved with their children. Many parents are absent from their child's adolescent confusion into adulthood. Being a parent today is complex and multifaceted.

Some government bureaucrats are attempting to step into the vacuum of parental guidance to micromanage our children through this complex developmental period. Many parents are more than willing to accept governmental assistance in controlling their children's actions. One such proposed government legislation is to make it illegal for children under the age of 16 to have certain platforms on their cellphones. These social media sites are seen as detrimental for children. Instead of the parents making this decision and directly enforcing their own rules in their home the bureaucrats are trying to mandate what children should be doing to protect them from the "digital fentanyl" of social media.

This precedence has already been established with vaccines to prevent spreading childhood diseases. Many vaccines have been mandated by an early age regardless of parent's wishes. Government schools have taught sex education actually demonstrating how to use a condom to preschool children without receiving parental permission.

Several years ago, the government mandated that college students receive a meningitis vaccine before entering college to prevent this disease from spreading. Kids are being removed from parental custody in some states to "transition" the minors against the wishes of the parents.

Parents need to take control of raising their children to be viable and strong parents and not give their sacred duties over to the government then complain about government bureaucrats overstepping their boundaries. Either parents do their job of parenting, or the government will pass more laws to attempt to gain control of youngsters who are out of control.

Once government is given an inch it takes a mile to increase its power and uses its power to tell parents what they can or cannot do with their children. This opens the door wide to spread government's abuse which will be more devastating to children as well as our nation more so than to individual parents.

Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers and blogs, 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 the latest book entitled, *IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World*. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at [www.drmaglioblogspot.com](http://www.drmaglioblogspot.com).