

Wider Horizons School

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION DAY



DATES TO REMEMBER:

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



Students are weeding the garden. Proof of hard work cleaning off the walkway.



All WHS students spent two hours on Friday doing many beautification projects around the school.

Lower elementary was in charge of weeding and planting in the center garden. They also made a walkway through the herb garden with stepping stones.

Upper elementary was in charge of the southern walkway and the front of the school building. They also planted ten trees in the back of the school.

Alice and Hadley dug out palm trees and replanted them naming after themselves.

Primary class walked around the whole school grounds picking up sticks.

Students below are fixing a pathway.



Thank you grandparents for joining us last week!



Children and grandparents in the Lower Elementary classroom.



Students and grandparents in Junior and Senior High played a game.

PRIMARY

Ms. Wallace, Ms. Tejada and Mrs. Vega

Thank you to all of the grandparents who came to visit last Friday. The children enjoyed your company very much.

This week the children have learned several lessons in culture and math. One of those lessons has been to make shapes with the metal insets. The purpose of this technique is to prepare the child's hand for writing so they can develop control and precision in the movement of the hand, as well as control over the grip of their pencil.

In language the children continue to learn the letters and recognize the sounds of each letter. In culture, the children received a lesson about birds, and they learned about the parts of the birds body.

In math, the children received a lesson on ten boards and teen boards, how to recognize numbers with bead bars, and how to show quantity with the bead bars.

Congratulations to Santiago who had his birthday walk. He is now four years old.



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

We had another great week in our lower elementary classrooms. There was filler with new lessons, hands on activities, and some exiting topics!

In geography we explored countries around the world and their flags, looking at the different colors , symbols, and designs that represent each one.

For math, a few students practiced the Exchange Snake Game, strengthening their understanding of exchanges and number relationships thought Montessori materials.

Our language lessons included spelling in color and stamp work, along with the introduction to singular and plural nouns for some. The older students took their grammar knowledge a step further by using the different parts of speech within sentences.

We also had a great lesson on the Needs of Man, looking at how people have met their standards and needs through different civilizations. It was interesting seeing how our basic needs have remained the same even as the ways we have met them evolved over time. Another highlight was a spectacular presentation on dinosaurs! There were plenty of interesting facts shared, and lots of excitement surrounding these amazing creatures from the past.

For art, we tied in our study of the universe by using magnets and marbles to depict its beginning. The magnets moved the marbles across the paper creating unique patterns and giving everyone a fun and creative way to connect art and science.

It was a week full of learning, creating, and exploring, and we are looking forward to what next week brings!

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and
Ms. Russell

By now all of our students have submitted this Biography Fair proposals and are hard at work researching their chosen person. Many students have been collecting their facts and carefully following guidelines. Last Friday, students had to turn in at least three listed sources. Next week, students will turn in the facts that they have gathered so far in their research. If there are any questions, please call or send a note of clarification.

Next Wednesday, September 30th, we will be having Technology Fair. This optional fair allows students to explain and demonstrate their chosen technology. While this fair is not judged, students are able to earn extra credit in science.

Fifth graders had lessons on how to properly construct a composition as well as a book report. They have handed in two compositions on two book reports to date. It is important that their work is looked over before handing it in. In language fifth graders are learning about compound subjects and compound verbs. In geography they continue to learn about landforms. In botany fifth graders are learning about stems and their function.

This week in language, sixth graders completed their unit on plural nouns and possessives. They practiced distinguishing between separate and joint possessives sentences, using the rules in their lesson. Sixth graders were asked to record important information from the lesson in their notebooks. In Physical Science, students compared homogenous and heterogenous mixtures and discussed how their properties differ. As a part of our introduction to the periodic table, students began memorizing symbols for common elements.

HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

Our junior high and senior high school students have been making steady progress in their academic subjects as we approach the midpoint of the first quarter. Seventh grade math students continue to work through their text books, receiving individualized instruction and additional practice as needed. Eighth grade students have completed a Constitution Day board, demonstrating their understanding of the important part of American history. Ninth and tenth grade English students have begun their study of clauses, learning how they function within sentences to strengthen their writing.

Technology Day will be on September 30th. We have encouraged all students to complete a project to present to the class, though this is an optional opportunity. Anyone who participates will receive a test grade in their science class.

Preparations for this year's Biography Fair are now underway! Students should have submitted their proposals and received approval for their chosen historical figure. They should now begin gathering information, conducting research, and organizing their materials for their presentations. In Computers, junior high students have been learning how to properly format their research papers, including creating a Works Cited page and using MLA parenthetical citations. These skills will help them as they begin writing their Biography Fair papers. Students have been informed of the expectations and requirements for their projects as we look forward to seeing their research come together in the coming weeks.

We would like to congratulate Braden Ghingher for completing Algebra 1 and beginning Algebra 2! We would also like to congratulate Janie Padilla for completing Algebra 1/2 and beginning Algebra 1! These

students are on track to dual enroll in eleventh grade and we are very proud of them.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

This week at circle time we welcomed in the Autumn season. We discussed what changes we expect during the fall, such as leaves changing colors and falling off trees as the weather becomes cooler, birds migrating to warmer areas, and animals beginning to store food for winter.

During playground time some children enjoyed playing hide and seek while others pretended to be zoo-keepers. Once inside, the older students had the chance to finish their homework and join the younger children playing with activities and games of their choice.

Enjoy your weekend!

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

Student Editor:

Hayley DesLauriers

The 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.

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.