

Wider Horizons School

WHS Celebrates WORK



DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/7 LABOR DAY- NO SCHOOL
9/17 Constitution Day
9/18 Grandparents Day * New**
1-1:30 p.m.
9/30 Technology Day

Montessori math WORK

Students are working on learning how multiplication and place value actually work in a concrete way. This gives the student a much deeper understanding of the math operations as well as developing independence, critical thinking, focus, and accuracy.



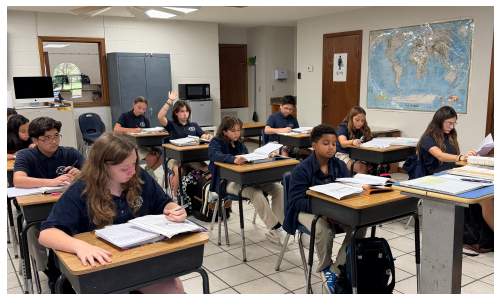
WHAT IS LABOR DAY?

On the first Monday in September Americans celebrate work. This holiday was founded by Peter McGuire in 1882. He wanted to honor the American belief that it is important and necessary to work hard to achieve success.

In 1894 President Grover Cleveland presided over legislation that established a federal holiday recognizing "Labor Day."



Upper Elementary students use a comprehensive Montessori material that teaches about the Everglades, a unique water system particular to Florida. Junior High students are working on a project for geography.



CHORES ARE IMPORTANT FOR SUCCESS

Multiple research studies confirm chores benefit children and lead to adult success. Children starting with independent chores around the age of three build higher self-confidence. Regularly completed chores help a child develop a stronger work ethic, better empathy and stronger teamwork skills. This has been shown through studies, such as research published in the Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, that childhood participation in household work links to greater academic and personal success.

The recommended way to introduce chores to your child is to start small. This empowers the child by showing them they can accomplish small tasks. Praise your child when they accomplish tasks with focus as well as doing the task independently. Teaching children life skills and responsibility is a way of reinforcing the habit of doing what parents say. As a child completes chores, encourage and praise them for listening to what you said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PRIMARY

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejada

Wow! Four weeks have gone by already and the students are working hard. We are saying goodbye to August and hello to September. We are learning about Labor Day which is on Monday, September 7th. There will be no school that day.

In language, students are still learning about their vowels a, e, i, o, and u. They are given lessons that have them sound out letters and words to match them with pictures or objects. Students are practicing their letter A by tracing and writing the letter. We have some students reading Bob Books. Congratulations Aubree and Abrah for moving up in their Bob Books, and we would like to welcome Zella to our reading group. We also have students starting to spell and write using the moveable alphabet.

In math, students are continuing to practice counting from 1-5, 1-9, and 11-19. Students have been given a lesson on the spindle box and number rods that help them continue to count. Students were also introduced to the decimal system. At this point in our math curriculum, the students are comfortable with the names, quantities, and symbols for the numbers 1-10.

In art, students are creating their own tissue paper apple representing the letter "A". They also coloring and counting the apples.

In culture, students are learning about apples and how they grow. With fall approaching students will adventure into the changes of the season, starting with a season booklet that they color and read.

We hope you have a good Labor Day weekend. Be safe and we will see you Tuesday!

LOWER ELEMENTARY 1 and 2

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff,
Ms. Finnerty, and Mrs. Nieves

This week in Lower Elementary, we said goodbye to the month of August and celebrated our last birthday of the month, Bryan, in Ms. Urbanek's class. Bryan's classmates wished him a happy birthday and sang to him during whole class meeting time. Students were also introduced to the different days of the week and months of the year. In reading, students spent mornings working on reading sheets. Students who need extra help in reading were also given books to take home to read daily. If your student is bringing home a reading book in their homework folder, please be sure to return it the next day so if they mastered it, they may receive another book. Also, we ask that all students read at least 30 minutes a day to help with reading comprehension and concentration.

In geography and science, students were given a lesson on the different layers of earth and landforms. Students labeled and illustrated the different layers of the Earth and learned how to manipulate the pushpin and cork board to construct various landforms. These lessons help to develop fine motor skills as well as learning more about the planet on which they live. The students read a book together about volcanoes, building upon their knowledge of lessons from the previous week. They also learned about the compass rose and participated in a physical group activity to help them remember north, south, east, and west.

In spelling, students interacted with their new spelling words by using the moveable alphabet and forming their words with tissue paper and beans. Students were able to their first test if they did not pass last week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. New spelling words were sent home on Friday along with spelling test results.

In math, students were introduced to the value of coins. The lesson explored the amount needed for each coin to equal one dollar as well as the different coin combinations capable of being used to make one dollar. Students were able to use their knowledge with a fun stamp activity. They stamped coin shapes then labeled the coin and its value. Students were also introduced to holey cards to practice their addition and subtraction mathematical facts. Students were also given decanomial square lesson number one with Montessori beads.

The month of August proved to be a torrid month with temperatures in the 90's. We encourage parents to allow students to bring a spill proof water bottle to keep in the classroom with them to hydrate whenever they need to. We can not allow water bottles in the classroom that are not spill proof. Those without a spill proof bottle will have to keep their water in the hallway and drink it there thus disrupting their classroom time.

Everyday, students bring their homework folders home with their work plan in it to communicate to parents the activities and lessons students are engaging in everyday. It is very important that they return in the morning with their homework folder. Please make sure they do not leave home or your vehicle without it.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. See you on Tuesday!

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

Proposals for the biography fair have been sent out this week. Students are encouraged to research their proposed topics thoroughly before submitting their choices to ensure that sufficient

resources are available to support their research paper. Once a proposal has been approved, students will begin compiling a list of sources. Upper Elementary students are required to read at least one complete book that will be used as a source for their research. When using encyclopedias, students should record the title of the encyclopedia, volume number, and page numbers for each source. Student should plan to use at least three or four reliable sources to support their research.

Fourth graders were given lessons on how to rewrite their compositions this week. Their first book report was also completed in class. The next book report will be due on September 15th and the students are to read a book from the *I Survived* series. In language they learned the difference between common and proper adjectives. As a reminder, students are given scorecards each week than need to be promptly signed and returned to school. Thank you to those who have turned in their biography fair choices. If your child has not picked a historical figure, or their options were taken, please bring in your preferred choices as soon as possible.

This week the fifth graders are learning the position of subjects. This will help them understand a sentence in its natural order. The next book report is due on September 15th and the topic is science fiction. This week in botany the fifth graders are learning about plant anatomy. They are also finishing up lessons on the atmosphere.

Sixth graders learned to identify appositives and to determine whether they are restrictive or nonrestrictive. They also categorized nouns and verbs in the first chapter. Those are 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. *A Land Remembered* has been assigned for the next book report. Sixth graders should complete reading their book and writing their book report by Tuesday, September 15th.

HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

We are now finishing the fourth week of the first quarter, and students are settling into routines and expectations for the school year. As coursework begins to pick up, we are continuing to emphasize the importance of organization, time management, and completing assignments carefully and thoroughly.

Students are becoming more accustomed to balancing the expectations of their different classes and taking a greater responsibility for their own work. We encourage them to use the time provided during the school day wisely, particularly when they have opportunities to begin homework, ask questions, or seek clarification on assignments. Developing these habits early in the year will help students tremendously as their

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

coursework becomes more challenging.

Across all subjects, we are continuing to reinforce active reading, careful attention to directions and thoughtful participation in class. Students are encouraged to not simply complete their work, but to take the time to understand what they are learning and to recognize when they need additional help. An important part of preparing students for high school, college, and beyond is helping them become comfortable advocating for themselves and taking ownership of their education.

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 are being encouraged.

As we move further into the first quarter, consistency will become increasingly important. Keeping materials organized, staying with current assignments, studying regularly rather than waiting until the last minute, and asking questions when something is unclear are all habits we will continue to encourage. We are pleased with the progress students are making as they establish these routines and look forward to seeing their continued growth throughout the quarter.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer and Mrs. Russell

During circle time this week the topic was dinosaurs. As we discussed the subject more the children were getting excited and asking lots of questions. The children learned that there were over nine hundred species of dinosaurs. We also played the game “We Are One”. This gave the students the chance to phrase information about themselves. The children told us their favorite food, color, games, and whether or not they have a brother or sister. It was very interesting to hear their replies and the children were very surprised to find out how much they have in common.

When the children were on the playground they were playing in the sand box, using the slides, singing songs, and playing red light, green light. Once we were back inside the older students worked on their homework and once they finished they were allowed to work with activities or puzzles of their choice along with the younger students.

Enjoy your weekend!

Chores are Important for Success

Continued from page 1

Often it is easier and quicker for the parent to complete the chores themselves, but they are missing an important opportunity to work with their child. Take the time to slow down, teach a child how to do the small habits, which are necessary for children to be competent in helping in the home. As a child is learning a new skill, they probably will not do it perfectly. However, setting a standard for excellence will set the stage for learning responsibility throughout life. Make chores pleasant by putting on favorite music to keep it fun and lighthearted.

Below are ideas for age-appropriate chores for children.

Age-Appropriate chores for children ages 3-4:

1. Pick up toys and books and put in designated spots.
2. Put dirty clothes in a hamper.
3. Help dress themselves with simple clothing, socks or pull-on pants.
4. Wipe table with damp cloth.
5. Set the table with unbreakable items like napkins or utensils.
6. Water plants with small watering can.
7. Feed pets with pre-portioned food.
8. Dust low surfaces with a duster or cloth.
9. Help stir or mix ingredients with supervision.
10. Carry non-breakable items to and from the table.

Age-Appropriate chores for children ages 5-6:

1. Make their bed, it does not need to be perfect.
2. Get dressed on their own, including fastening buttons or zippers.
3. Brush teeth and hair with reminders.
4. Put away their own shoes, lunch boxes and coats in designated spots.
5. Empty small trash cans into larger cans.
6. Dust furniture or baseboards with a duster or a cloth.
7. Help set the table with plates, napkins and utensils.
8. Take their plate from the table after meals.
9. Help prepare simple meals, like making a sandwich, stirring batter or cooking eggs.
10. Help pull weeds or collect leaves into a pile.

Student Editor:

Hayley DesLauriers