

Wider Horizons School

Birthday Party

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/31 Biography Fair (Half day)

11/9 Veteran's Day Tribute

11/10 Veteran's Day

Everyone had fun at the schools 40th anniversary celebration. The older students ran the events while the younger students played at the activity stations to earn prizes.

YOUR SCHOOL TAXES SHOULD RESULT IN QUALITY EDUCATION
By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Most citizens pay significant taxes whether or not they have children to cover the approximately \$10,000 per student spent for government schools in Florida. This is a high percentage of the average worker's salary and an incredibly large portion of a retired person's savings. We are constantly reminded our youngsters are the future of our nation. Our budget for government schools is one of the highest in the world.

If a student is in government schools and now in many states in charter or private schools, the future seems bleak. For no logical reason most government schools have eliminated the teaching of cursive writing. When adults hear about students no longer being taught cursive writing, they wonder how they are going to sign documents or read our founding documents. Life is sufficiently difficult without being limited by not knowing how to read cursive.

The math program in our schools paid for by taxes should be understandable and taught in a reasonable, logical manner. Math takes a high level of discipline to learn and retain the material correctly. A student has to memorize the basic adding, subtraction, multiplication and division tables. It takes consistent practice to memorize and maintain them in one's memory bank. Often it is a most difficult course for students.

Higher level math like algebra and calculus takes a more analytical system of thinking and computing. These courses are not required of all students as it was in the past. They are considered upper- level math programs that a student has to choose and qualify for by having excellent grades in prerequisite math courses. Higher math is a difficult course of study that demands constant commitment.

Continued on last page



This week in preschool, the students are learning about the cycle of the pumpkin.

In math, the children had a lesson with coloring the short bead stairs. The purpose of this material is to assist the child in learning their basic addition through simple counting. Others had a lesson with the addition strip board. This material helps children memorize their addition facts.

During geography, the children had a quick review on the continents. In Botany, the children continued to learn about plants. During music time the children are learning Patriotic songs for Veteran's Day.

Today the children had an amazing time celebrating Wider Horizon's 40th birthday. They had fun playing all the games and best of all they enjoyed the prizes they won.

Parents, please talk to your children about not putting things in their mouth, nose, or ears.

Have a great weekend!

PRIMARY
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

We began this week by discussing the start of the second quarter. We are very proud of each child for continuously improving. We have seen immense growth, and are excited to see how much they challenge themselves this next quarter.

We reviewed some foundational lessons in both math and language, to make sure all gaps are filled before introducing more challenging work.

In language, students worked on a pumpkin poem to go along with the science lesson they received on the parts of the pumpkin. All students continue to practice their spelling and reading daily.

In math, students got a lesson on static addition. They are learning how to add 4-digit numbers. We are emphasizing that units are added to units, tens are added to tens, and so on.

For art, students were asked to make a paper plate mummy. At recess we played soccer and introduced the children to simple exercises like lunges, squats, and high knees. We also continue to practice functional movements daily. This includes crossing the mid-line which helps strengthen the neural connection between the left and right hemispheres of the brain. This encourages muscle growth, coordination, and impacts writing and reading.

Primary students also continue to practice their songs.

Have a wonderful weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Richard and Taj for mastering their subtraction facts up to ten. Congratulations to Alexander for mastering subtraction facts 1-10 and Oscar for mastering subtraction facts 1-20. Congratulations to Chad and Bailey for mastering subtraction facts up to 10. Congratulations to Nova, Joemanuel, Tara, Carter, and Logan for moving up in their times tables. Congratulations to Oscar for mastering times tables up to ten and moving on to mixed multiplication. Congratulations to Hely for mastering all facts through division. Congratulation to Molly for mastering division. Congratulations to Aryanna for having a perfect reading sheet this week. Congratulations to Jace, Riley, Stefan, Christian, Brentley, Giovanna, Michael, Bailey, and Caden for moving up in their times tables.

In math, students went outside to practice and verbally test on multiplication facts and practice writing them. They also worked on geometry cards, wrote their times tables, applications and the students had a lesson on fact families. We have been verbally testing the students on their multiplication facts along with weekly testing to help them move along. However, it is important that the students continue to review the times tables they already passed.

In language, the students continued to work on punctuation. They worked on

using apostrophe in possession of contracts.

In spelling, the students took home their new spelling words and spelling test with the spelling papers they have completed during the week. Friday we sent out the new spelling words and definitions. They had competitions with students in their group and worked on a spelling packet.

In geography, the students are continuing to work on the continent animals, continent worksheets, and the continent map with oceans. We have talked about the moon and the different phases. The students brought in Oreo cookies to complete the eight phases project.

In science, the students are finishing the external parts of the mammal, fish, amphibian, turtle, and bird.

In history, the students are finishing the California region and some are working on the Great Plains Region.

In art, the students will be working on a Halloween craft or a fall craft.

The students are working hard on their biography fair reports. We will be practicing in the classroom next week. The students need to continue to practice at home. The biography fair is October 31st.

Have a great weekend!



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

On Wednesday, Upper Elementary had a guest speaker from Suncoast Credit Union. Mr. Miranda gave a very informative presentation on financial literacy. He commented on how impressed he was with the students questions. All of the students were sent home with bags, pencils, and stickers.

With only two weeks left before the Biography Fair, all the students should be practicing their presentations for the big day. We began practicing in class this week; everyone should focus on memorizing important facts, projecting their voices, and eye contact. Although display boards are not required for this fair, if a student is using one, it must be a part of their presentation, so they should practice using their board.

The second quarter began this week and report cards go out today. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the office. Parents, scorecards are sent out on Fridays; please make sure to sign and return them as soon as possible, so new grades can be added. Sixth graders completed their second unit test in vocabulary. These tests require more study time because they are a culmination to three lessons. As we get closer to the Biography Fair, some afternoon classes will be canceled for practice.

Fourth graders had lessons on transitive and intransitive verbs for their language tower, as well as another lesson on how to write a rough draft for their research paper. Student also had their first test in Zoology on animal cells. Congratulations to Anna, Brianna, and Ethan for getting the top scores.

Fifth graders were introduced to parts of a flower this week in Botany, where every student will begin a plant journal. A controlled experiment will be done in class to view the importance of sunlight and water for plant growth. In language,

students continue to practice subject and predicate, diving deeper into more complicated sentences so the students can fully grasp this lesson's concept.

This week sixth graders have continued their exploration of the periodic table and the classification of elements. They also learned to identify the properties of metals and nonmetals. They will complete their United States project this week and begin to present their topics on each state next week. This project was designed to help them, learn and teach each other about U.S. states through research and presentations.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

In a blink of an eye, another week has come to a close. Report cards were sent home today now that the first quarter is over.

Our class had a guest speaker, Mr. Miranda, from Sun Coast Credit Union this week to discuss various financial literacy topics. Each student received a string bag for participation.

In Jr. High Spanish, William W and Crystal scored 100% on their test. 7th grade had been studying the geologic column and fossils in Earth Science. 8th grade has completed their chapter on DNA and its structure. 9th grade has dove into the personal health chapter. They have discussed oral, auditory, and personal hygiene. 10th grade had been studying cells and their structures.

Biography papers are due this Monday. If you have any questions or concerns please set a meeting with the office.

Have a great weekend!

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During circle time, we learned to have fun on rainy days. We can dress up and pretend to be a pirate, princess, or a gypsy. All the children were

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

expressing what they wanted to dress up as if they had the opportunity.

We also learned about a little black bear that had been asleep in his den. As soon as the bear popped up into the warm sunshine, all he could smell was wild honey. He told all his friends about his adventure to find the honey. Before he knew it, all his friends were helping him and they finally found the honey. It's great to have good friends.

While on the playground, some children sang and danced to we are Going to Kentucky and some played Hide and Seek, while others played in the sand box. Once inside, the older children worked on their homework. Once that was done, the children worked with all kinds of board games, legos, puzzles or any activity of their choice.

Have a great weekend!

Parents please do not enter the after school classrooms. Please knock and your child will be sent out once they have cleaned up any activities they were using. Thank you for your cooperation.

Continued from front page

Dumbing down the curriculum and inflating grades has been a wonderful success in placating parents. It gives parents the impression that their child is being successful in academic areas. It should be a red flag if one's child is receiving all As and never brings home any homework. Added to this is the fact that there are an overwhelming number of students receiving high honor roll status without dedicating much time at home for their work. The problem comes when at the end of year graduation, a high percentage of graduates received honors supposedly for being outstanding. The larger the number of students receiving this recognition, the lower the status. This means the acknowledgement is lessened since everyone is receiving it.

Who is the real victim in this charade? The parents paying outrageous taxes are not getting what they paid for in the long run: a quality education. Parents are learning that their child attained high grades, but it was less than honest. The parents are beginning to realize that they should have done a better job of checking their child's work and discussing specific subject matter.

The only way to find out about your child's education is to question them about different subjects they bring up at home. Questioning is the key to learning what one child has learned. The knowledge one's child talks about can be expanded on through talking about the specific subject matter and questioning the child how it relates to other matters in life.

Specific questions about the teacher's method of evaluating the student in the class is a valid thing to discuss. This appraisal of the child should be followed up by meeting with the teacher. Talking directly to the child's teacher would answer many issues that would allow the parents to better evaluate the teacher's educational approach.

Too many teachers frequently give too many do-overs, giving students more points than they legitimately deserve. A teacher might be rewarded for their permissive teaching, although the teacher knows they should be demanding more from the students.

The individual who suffers the most and will pay the highest suffering for this charade is ultimately the student. Most of the students who received their diploma are happy to be praised for their supposed accomplishments until they realize they learned less than they needed to be successful in college.

The reality is everyone is negatively affected by our incompetent educational system. Every citizen pays dearly for our educational fiasco and are certainly not receiving their money's worth.

Parents need to monitor their own child's education closely, meeting with their child's teacher to ensure the school is giving a quality education for their child. All citizens should critically question the school board members and superintendent about the quality of the education the students are receiving in the community.

Our children are our nation's future.

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