

Wider Horizons School

40 Years of Academic Excellence



WIDER HORIZONS SCHOOL CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Starting in 1983 in Brooksville, Wider Horizons School was established. Two years later the Spring Hill campus was started. Over the years WHS has developed a strong academic program that educates children from preschool through high school.

There have been many changes over the years as society has changed. Uniforms are required when clothing began to be a deciding factor in one’s status.

Proper behavior has always been an essential part of the WHS program. Students who were not able to conform to the expectations were asked to leave the program.

Seemingly small issues such as hair coloring, haircuts, jewelry wearing, facial hair, and even what kind of socks are to be worn have had to be addressed as students try to “push the envelope” of what is required here.

In order to maintain a quality academic program WHS has to establish high standards not only academic but behavioral as well. When an issue arises, parents are informed and expected to comply to keep from lowering those standards.

THE ARROGANCE OF IGNORANCE
By Domenick J. Maglio

Too many Americans are ignoring what is happening around them. Some people do not want to listen to the news as it often points out some negative issues that are surrounding us. The old adages, “Ignorance is bliss,” no news is good news,” “put your head in the sand” often mean to block out harmful events that will keep you up at night.

Ignoring the world around us creates ignorance. Many Americans are doing this. Too many of us do not want to hear what is happening around us and to us no less what is taking place in hotspots around the world.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

10/31 Biography Fair (Half day)	11/16 Student Thanksgiving
11/9 Veteran’s Day Tribute	11/18-27 Thanksgiving Break
11/10 <i>Veteran’s Day- no school.</i>	<i>No school</i>

THANK YOU PATEL FAMILY FOR CELEBRATING OUR 40TH BIRTHDAY WITH SUBWAY LUNCHES FOR ALL!!

PRESCHOOL
Mrs. Bermudez

Congratulations to Emma, Angelica, and Remington for completing their addition book!

This week, in the preschool classroom, we continued talking about mammals and bats. We discussed what makes an animal a mammal, where they live, what they eat, and lots of other facts. The children are also observing their beans growing daily and are drawing what they have observed during art time.

In Practical Life, the children learned how to clean a pumpkin to get it ready for carving. During circle time, the children had a vote on how it was going to look. We took the opportunity to talk about the elections coming up and how it is important to vote.

During math, the children had lessons with the teen frame and the 9-tray decimal system. The purpose of this equipment is to show children the concrete representation of the decimal system from 1 to 1000 and to demonstrate place value and the concept that a decimal category cannot exceed 9.

In language, all sound work was changed with new objects. We are working on penmanship and the children are encouraged to find challenging work. Parents, please talk to your child about challenging themselves and completing their math and language work daily. At Wider Horizons School, we take pride in ensuring that each student works at their optimal level and becomes an independent child.

PRIMARY
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

Congratulations to Bella and Skylar for completing the Bob Books and moving on to the series books.

We had a busy week in Primary. We spoke about kindness and doing our best to listen to all instructions before beginning our work or asking questions. We also discussed how pouting is not an effective coping mechanism as it prevents the child from learning and often times playing. We are emphasizing using our words and understanding that we don't

accomplish anything by shutting down. Perseverance will get us far.

In language, students wrote and illustrated a bat poem, we are very proud of how hard they work on these poems. They also received a special lesson on identifying colors with their words using black cats with different colored collars. We also discussed blends and how to match blends to pictures.

In math, we reviewed static addition with 4-digit numbers using new material, now students have multiple ways to solve these problems. Primary students also completed a fill-in the blank number worksheet to work on their ability to sequence numbers properly.

In science, students learned about the parts of a stalk of corn. We also did a science experiment as a class to see what happens when vinegar is added to baking soda in a bottle with a balloon fastened on. They learned that the creation of carbon dioxide by the reactants produces bubbles that cause the balloon to expand.

The primary classroom carved a pumpkin and got to experience the sensory experience of scooping out seeds. They also got to roast seeds and made pumpkin muffins on Friday.

The Biography Fair is next Tuesday. Please practice with your child this weekend to help them succeed. We are looking forward to seeing them perform.

LOWER ELEMENTARY
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Jax and Logan for having a perfect reading sheet. Congratulations to Nova and Alexander for mastering subtraction 1-10. Congratulations to Mark, Carter, Chad, Liam, Brentley, and Christian for moving up in their times tables.

In spelling, the students had special words this week and did many different things with them.

In language arts, the students are working in punctuation. They are learning how to write an address on an envelope. The next step is learning about a header, writing a letter, and mailing it.

STUDENT EDITOR
Chase Ghingher

In math, the students worked on geometry cards, booklets, applications, and facts families.

This week the students have worked very hard on their speeches for the Biography Fair. They need to continue to practice at home. The Biography Fair is Tuesday the 31st. This will be an early release day, but daycare will be provided if needed. If students are staying all day they need lunch and a uniform to change into.

For the past few weeks the students are learning about different types of minerals.

In art, the students will complete the art work they have started from last week. They are making Halloween decor and starting Thanksgiving crafts. We carved a pumpkin and gutted it this week. We baked seeds for everyone to try.

In science, the students are working on completing the mammal, bird, fish, reptile, and amphibian.

In history, the students had a new lesson on the southwest region. Some students are finishing California, Northwest, and the Great Plains.

In Geography, some students are working on finishing the animals of the continents and solar system. We also continue to practice the first 10 states, capitals, and abbreviations.

Amianna celebrates her birthday walk.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

Last Friday, Wider Horizons celebrated their 40th anniversary. The whole school enjoyed plenty of activities and prizes. We were very proud of the sixth and fifth graders who helped chaperone the younger students. Due to the celebration, the spelling tests were postponed until Monday. Please sign scorecards and return them as soon as possible.

The Biography Fair is next Tuesday, so all students should be practicing their presentations for the big day. We will continue to practice in class on Monday. On the day of the Biography Fair, all students should be in class by 8:20 A.M.; judges arrive early, so anyone arriving late will be a disruption to their classmates. Everyone should come in dressed as their historical figure ready to present. Although display boards are not required for this fair, if a student is using one, the board must be a part of their presentation. At 11:00 A.M. parents and friends are invited to attend the Parade of Historical Figures, where they can hear presentations and take pictures. Parents, please remember this day is a half day so anyone not leaving by 11:30 should bring in lunch, a change of clothes, and a pair of sneakers.

Fourth grade continued to work on the language tower. They learned about different types of verbs. Students also had exercises to help them recognize auxiliary verbs. Fourth graders also had a test on Florida History. Students will begin their next unit on the Phylum Cnidaria and present their state reports.

Fifth grade had a review on nouns, pronouns, and proper capitalization. Students also practiced their multiplication facts and fractions as a review. They enjoyed learning different types of

volcanoes and seeing a model volcano erupt.

This week, the sixth graders continued their exploration of the periodic table and the classification of its elements. They are learning how the periodic table is arranged and how to identify its parts. Properties of metals and nonmetals are also being discussed. The students who have completed their United States project will begin to present their projects next week. Next, each student will adopt a state and create a poster with important information about their chosen state. This project was designed to help them learn and teach each other about the U.S. states through their research and presentations.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

We would like to thank the Patel family for their generous donations of the lunches to every student and staff member.

We would like to welcome our new 7th grader, Alexander, to the class.

All students should be polishing their Biography Fair presentation and report. Each student has received constructive criticism from their peers and teachers. Throughout the week, they were given informative, detailed, and precise guidelines on how to correctly acknowledge and give credit to reliable sources. Public speaking has its benefits: it boosts confidence, improves communication skills, and helps one become a better listener. The Biography Fair is always a fun and exciting historical day.

Have a wonderful weekend!

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

This week during circle time, we read several books such as Wonders of the Desert. Most of the children were under the impression that all kinds of animals can live in the desert. It was

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

explained that the desert is a hard place to live in for people, animals, and even plants. We also read a book called Telling the Truth, which helped the children learn about honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness. While on the playground, some children were marching like wooden soldiers, others were playing in the sand box, and the rest were collecting pine cones. Once inside, the older students were hard at work doing their homework. The rest of the children worked with different activities. Some children also worked on finger painting.

Enjoy your weekend!

Lower Elementary carving a pumpkin.



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.

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Most Americans rather watch comedies, or sports rather than learn what is happening with our own governmental decisions or domestic and foreign policies. Some of these decisions directly affect our lives but much of the population does not know about it. Many of us are ignorant of governmental actions as we do not want to think, decide or have to worry. It is much easier to ignore the world around us than it is to take a stand.

In the past parents wanted to know from neighbors, family members and teachers how their children acted when not in their house, especially if they acted inappropriately. The parents understood that most children acted better when the parents were nearby than when they were unsupervised in the community. Formerly parents were concerned about keeping their children on the straight and narrow path. They were aware that there were many temptations outside the home.

Today some parents are incredibly naïve and lazy. They are not aware, or they do not want to think that their children can be influenced by others. They may not want to know that children can create devastatingly horrible lies and do other negative behaviors that their children can imitate or even initiate. Many modern parents want to believe they are such good role models and perceptive individuals that their children could not hide any negative actions from them.

When these parents learn about any negative behavior from their children's friends, they cannot fathom that their own children might be inclined to participate in this behavior. The parents' first reaction is to blame the adult in charge for allowing the inappropriate behavior or blame the other students but never their own children for bringing some obnoxious behavior to the group.

Many Americans have both parents working in full time professions. These parents can hire nannies and put their children in private schools. Their children are often dressed well, are polite, and have good manners. They have learned the art of hiding any misbehavior. Their sneakiness deserves high grades. When these children are caught doing something inappropriate, they are experts at stringing a reasonable story to get them out of any significant consequences.

These families with all their affluence realize their children are arrogant and ignorant of their subject matter. They have been dishonest about how well they were learning and doing. The report cards and notes inform the parents that the student is not applying as great an effort in their academic studies as they say they are doing.

The parent must accept their child is being dishonest with them and that the parents were not being honest with themselves. The parent finally realizes they were too blind to accept other professional's observation and appraisal of their children. They have to admit even at home they let many inappropriate behaviors slide to the point the children become professional liars to others and to themselves.

Ignoring one's own children's statements, actions, and other authority figure's assessments is not a good policy to raise outstanding young people. Parental ignorance of their children's behavior leads to a false arrogance that eventually may end with a less than happy ending.

What modern parents need to do in our world today is to return to verifying their child's word by looking over their assignments and tests. This verification process will keep the adolescent on an optimal pace to produce a higher quality of work every time. Honesty of one's performance makes the individual better able to improve resulting in more learning and in better grades.

Knowledge is power especially in keeping teenagers motivated. When loved ones know the accurate level of their child's achievements and/or failures it keeps the person humble and hungry to do even better. The honesty of performance keeps youngsters focused on improving in every way. This results in heightened focus and better performance.

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.