

Wider Horizons School

Happy Thanksgiving to You

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 11/20-27 Thanksgiving Vacation
- 11/28 (Tues.) Return to School
- 12/15 Gift Giving
- 12/22 Carol Sing
- 12/23- 1/8 Christmas Vacation
- 1/9 Return to School



A flock of turkeys made by preschoolers.

Richard stirs the cranberry sauce



Every year for many years the WHS student body has cooked various items for our Thanksgiving Dinner. Preschool bakes pumpkin bread. Primary prepares 15 pounds of green beans. Lower elementary students make the cranberry sauce and cookies. Upper elementary students peel and mash 40 pounds of potatoes. Junior and senior high students make stuffing and bring it in for the dinner.

Each class has something to add for our thankful circle that ends with a prayer of thanks for all the blessings we enjoy.

Thank you to Mrs. Ghingher, Mrs. Mijic, Mrs. Rothe, Ms. Phannovinh, and Mrs. Rullan for baking turkeys for the student Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday.

Primary students prepare green beans.



GRADE INFLATION IS OPIUM FOR MOTHERS

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Before the 1950s most mothers did not work outside the home. Their main job was to raise the children while the husband was the provider, bringing the money home to pay the bills, buy the goods, and pay for the necessary services. Both fathers and mothers had full time responsibilities although usually the man worked outside the home.

After the fantastic victory of WWII, most military men were raring to go to work, to establish a wholesome family, and create a positive lifestyle for their future. Betty Crocker was the symbol for wholesome women becoming productive housewives and mothers in the home rather than competing with men in the workplace.

Almost 75 years later much has changed. Females have been “liberated” by entering the work force. They have been promoted to many high paying positions as well as many positions that were once dominated by men. With skyrocketing divorce rates, many women had to take occupations outside of the home to maintain the lifestyle that the husband had originally provided for the family.

At this point in the 2020s, divorce is a reality to even more women. Even when the father is present, many mothers work to supplement the family income to increase their financial quality of life.

Continued on last page

PRESCHOOL
Mrs. Bermudez

This week we continued our studies on pilgrims, Indians and why we celebrate Thanksgiving. During art the children made a wreath using fall leaves.

The children are working nicely in all areas. In Sensorial we had a lesson on the different sizes of objects and we added cards to the Brown Stair Equipment.

In math the students had a lesson with the Ten Boards. The purpose of this material is to associate the quantities and symbols 10 to 90. Using this material can also help children explore the number names of the tens and the sequence of numbers 11-99. Other children had a lesson on the 45 Layout, again. The purpose of this material is to learn the concrete representation of place value using the golden beads; to place numeral cards to individual quantities; to learn one of the foundations of the decimal system. In doing this work, the children are developing concentration, coordination, independence, and a true sense of mathematical order. During language the children had lessons on various three part matching material. Congratulations to Angelica and Remington for completing their addition book! Congratulations to Andre for completing his mixed addition and subtraction book! Congratulation to Bjorn, Remington, Andre, Angelica, and Emma for completing the 45 layout this week!

Today the children had a wonderful time at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The children made pumpkin bread to share with the entire school. It was a blessed and happy day!

PRIMARY
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

What a busy week! In preparation for the holiday next week, primary students created Fall and Thanksgiving crafts and they also learned new songs.

As a class, they worked together to prepare and cook the green beans for the student luncheon. They enjoyed getting to play this role and accomplish this task for so many of their schoolmates.

Even with the impending break, students stayed focused and were able to master new materials that they received a lesson on this week, like the multiplication board, and creating words using beginning, middle, and end sounds. Some first graders got a lesson on nouns and verbs.

Students also have begun learning about gems and rocks in science. As a special science lesson, we did a fizzy-Turkey experiment in class.

LOWER ELEMENTARY
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Joemanuel, Alexandra, Leighton, Jax, Kendra, Kenneth, Riley, Adelina, Richard, and Caden for moving up in their multiplication facts. Congratulations to Thomas for moving on to division facts. Congratulations to Jax and Hely for having perfect readings sheets. Congratulations to Molly for mastering all facts.

In math, the students worked in their math booklets, learned more about $<$, $>$ and $=$, worked with geometry cards, and applications.

In spelling, the students did something different, they had cards to choose for every day. Students picked cards and

STUDENT EDITOR
Chase Ghingher

whatever the card said was what they did for spelling.

In language, the students learned about syllables, and worked from the language tower.

In art, the students are finishing continent work while other students have started on the states. The students have states, capitals, and abbreviations in their homework folder that they need to memorize. They currently have the first 10 states. In science the students continued to complete the external parts on animals. In history, the students continued to work on and complete the Northwest, California, the Great Plains, and the Southwest.

Lower elementary students made cookies for the dinner.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini,
Ms Russell

This week our class participated in our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. Upper Elementary was responsible for preparing the mashed potatoes for the whole school. Everyone worked hard to make the luncheon a success. After the festivities we cleaned up and played chess at the end of the day.

This week fourth graders learned about different animals in the Cnidaria phyla such as sea pens, anemone, and coral. They also had to research any animal from that phylum. Students wrote compositions for Thanksgiving and turned in their book report for Call It Courage.

This week fifth graders reviewed and tested on different map projections to reinforce what they learned prior to the biography fair. Students also have been monitoring the growth of their Golden Pothos and are researching Longevity Spinach. Once students finish their reports they may take cuttings home. Students were given their instructions for the next book report and are able to choose their own book.

For Geography sixth graders reviewed subject pronouns and object pronouns correctly in a sentence. Many students are leaving work blank in their math sets. They are encouraged to try and work the problem out, and must seek help the following day. If not, their set will be seen as incomplete. In science, students

completed a unit on covalent bonds, ionization, and are learning about oxidation numbers and how elements can bond with other elements. An extension was issued Black Beauty for those that did not finish their book report. It will be due when they come back from break.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

Congratulations to Emily, 9th grade, for completing Algebra I and moving on to Algebra II.

On Friday, the entire school took part in our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Each classroom had a significant contribution: preparing, cooking, baking, serving, and cleaning up. A big thank you to the parents and grandparents who cooked the Turkey!

With our second quarter halfway finished, the students are refining their skills to improve this quarters scores. Good note taking allows a permanent record of key information, which can be helpful when studying for tests. We urge students to read the material, take notes, and ask questions. We are trying to prepare them for college, if that is the path they are pursuing.

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

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

This week, our time indoors consisted of story telling about Why, Why. Why are some birds special? Some birds can fly, walk, run, and even swim. Why are hummingbirds so tiny? They are tiny so they can reach inside flowers and collect nectar. Why can't penguins fly? They can't fly because their wings are too short and stumpy. Why are some birds colorful? They are colorful to show off and make themselves look attractive. Why are flamingoes knees bent backwards? Actually, those are the animals ankles! It was very obvious that the children enjoyed this book.

During playground time, the children made sand castles and cakes in the sandbox, others were using the playground equipment or playing. Once inside, the older students worked on homework while the rest had time to play with games and puzzles of their choice.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

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

This means there might be no parent home to greet and care for the children when they come home from school (latchkey kids). It is difficult to handle all the daily obligations of a mother as well as the demands of a professional position. Working parents need a break to relax when they get home and have little time or patience to discuss each child's school experience, homework, and test scores.

Another reality is it is difficult to be granted an appointment with their children's teachers or with school administrators. Most of these questions about their child's academics and social progress are unanswered on the report card, although without any details in this one-way communication from school to parents. The report card with specific grades and positive or negative remarks too often creates a false impression for the parent's uncertainty about being conscientious parents.

If their children's in-school report shows them as straight A students with impeccable behavior, it puts a "feather in the parent's cap." The parent's concern of not knowing what is happening with their child at school is now settled and removes their fear of being a noninvolved parent.

The mother is immediately relieved of guilt for not taking the time to learn what the child is doing in school. They know they should have asked and discussed their child's progress each day. The glowing report card removes all the guilt from the parents for not being in close contact with the child's daily behavior and learning.

According to administrators in government schools, parent teacher meetings are too time consuming to accomplish with the shortage of teachers and administrators. The best answer therefore to parents and school administrators who lack time to meet is the one-way communication of the report cards and special rewards.

The guilt of not doing more of a conscientious job as a parent is wiped out by these official school awards and accolades. The general recognition of the student and inflated grades is sufficient for parents to feel comfortable concerning their child's education. It eliminated all the parent's remorse and guilt for not understanding what the child is learning.

Being placed on the principal's list and other special honors are often an attempt to cover up the child's lack of learning and achievement. This inflated report card and principal's list are a fraud. The grades and remarks are nothing more than a "happy drug" for parents but destructive to the student's possible future academic achievements.

Any inflated positive feedback is like any drug that creates a mirage that everything is great. This mirage gradually caves in on the parent as they realize their child did not get the guidance and consequences needed to keep the child on the straight and narrow path. Eventually the student's evaluation demonstrates he is functioning several years behind.

Less than accurate feedback is a policy that has long term negative results for students and eventually the parents. The student and the parents can temporarily feel satisfied with their child's education. When the false drug of high grades and mastery of subject matter is exposed, the truth of the victimization of another student and parents become undeniable.

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.