

Wider Horizons School

Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/23- 1/8 Christmas Vacation
- 1/9 Return to School
- 1/15 Martin Luther King Day

THANK YOU for all the gifts and good wishes for our teachers, staff, and administration.

We appreciate your appreciation for what we do for your children. We appreciate your support as well.

EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

Several field trips were taken by our students last week and this week. Upper elementary went to Bushnell to the Dade Battlefield to attend Project Wild.

Lower elementary and 4th grade went to the Crystal River Archeological Site. Primary class visited the Spring Hill botanical garden to see all the decorated trees for the holidays. All trips were enjoyed by the classes.

THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS TWICE

By Domenick J. Maglio, PhD.,

In 1823 Clement Moore wrote “A Visit from St. Nicholas” which morphed into the story of Santa Claus with a sleigh and eight tiny reindeer bringing gifts to children at Christmas. This was the beginning of the secularizing of the celebration of Christmas. Later Xmas was introduced which removed Christ from Christmas.

Dr. Seuss, (Theodor Gisel) wrote the story, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” in 1957.

The moral of the story was that Christmas was not just trees, stockings, and gifts but about sharing and caring but there was no celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Today’s woke culture is using the Grinch story to steal Christmas again. There is now “Merry Grinchmas” that viciously takes Christ right out of Christmas. The Grinch no longer has anything to directly do with Christmas, but you see inflatable Grinches in many yards instead of traditional Nativity scenes.

Now large corporate companies are producing Grinch inflatables and professional decorations for businesses or homes demonstrating to everyone that Grinchmas is the modern way to X out religious connotations of Christmas. Madison Avenue backed companies are producing concrete symbols that replace the religious ones with blinking, colored lights that capture the eyes of the passersby.

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PRESCHOOL
Mrs. Bermudez

This week in preschool, the children continued learning about the different holidays from around the world. At the art table, the children finished all of their Christmas and Holiday crafts and gifts for their families. The children enjoyed listening and learning different holiday stories.

In Language they learned how to make a star using the metal inset equipment.

On Wednesday, the children had the opportunity to make chocolate chip cookies.

On Thursday, the children worked really hard cleaning their classroom but had lots of fun doing it. On Friday, the students had a blast dancing, and eating homemade cookies made by them.

We would like to thank all the parents that brought in a gift for the Preschool Christmas Angels. We appreciate your kindness. The children learned a lot about giving to those that are less fortunate.

The pajama party was a success. The children had so much fun eating, dancing, making crafts, watching movies and spending time with their friends.

On Wednesday, the children learned about Slava. Slava is

the most celebrated holiday in Serbian homes. They also enjoyed some traditional treats brought in by the Mijic family.

PRIMARY

Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

It is hard to believe that it is the last week of school for the 2023 school year. It has been a busy week, finishing up holiday crafts, and going on our first field trip of the year. The children have also been practicing their carols and enjoyed singing them for their families.

Primary students went to the Botanical Gardens this week. They learned about native Florida plants and enjoyed the Christmas decor the volunteers worked so hard to create.

We would like to thank all the parents that sent in gifts for the children from Hernando County Youth and Family alternatives. The children learned about giving to the less fortunate and about how blessed they are to have what they have.

In language, students wrote a poem about hot chocolate and got to enjoy hot chocolate with marshmallow at snack time.

LOWER ELEMENTARY
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

New spelling words went home today and students will have a test the Friday upon returning to school. This week, we were mainly cleaning out the cubbies and making sure there is not any unfinished work that needs to be done. This way all students come back with a fresh Strat for the new year. We call this catching up week.

We also played educational games and Christmas bingo.

Students enjoy their trip to the Crystal River Archeological site.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

What a busy week for Upper Elementary! We had to complete our crafts for our families, and we also managed to complete our math sets, learn new language concepts and complete projects in history and geography. Practicing Christmas carols was also a big part of this week, as we prepared for the big event when we welcomed the Christmas season.

The amount of presents we received for our Christmas Angels was stupendous. Thank you very much for your generosity!

Science proposals will go out the week we get back from the winter break. Although the Science Expo is held at the beginning of February, those students planning on growing plants or any projects that consist of longer time frames should begin planning and researching for their projects as soon as possible.

This week fourth graders completed a book report for the book Call It Courage. They learned about singular and plural possessives in spelling lessons and they continue to make good progress in learning all parts of speech via the Montessori language tower. Due to their diligence and hard work all fourth graders have completed lesson 60 which is exactly half of the Saxon math book. Students have done some challenging detail work creating a 3-D model of the external and the internal parts of the Porifera for zoology class. We have made many popsicle ornaments, and other Christmas ornament crafts, and spent many hours learning Christmas songs. We hope you all enjoyed the carol sing and that you have a wonderful Christmas this year!

This week fifth graders finished Old Yeller and turned in their book reports. Their next book is a book of their choice. They are encouraged to read over break. Students used this last week of the second quarter to catch up on any work that they

needed to boost their scores before the break. Students were made aware that the third quarter is more challenging in terms of new concepts, so they should be prepared and motivated in the new year. Finally, students were excited to take home their Golden Pothos plants.

Sixth graders have been working like little elves on their crafts for the holidays this week. In language they completed the unit on identifying simple and compound sentences, and we are proud to say they all did very well on the test. Sixth graders have moved on to verb tenses. This unit is a review, so when they return they will complete a few exercises in their booklet, and will be tested.

The next book report will be due on Monday, January 16th.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

This week marks the first week of the 3rd Quarter and the last week of school for the year.

The annual Winter Dance went very well and we would like to thank all parents who allowed their students to attend. We played games, listened to music, and shared pizza and snacks. Congratulations to all those who won prizes during the course of the party!

Students exchanged Secret Santa gifts and participated in caroling. We would like to thank their families for helping us with these things, as well as all who joined us to listen to the students perform. We very much value your participation in helping us keep these traditional carols alive.

Thank you to all the parents for your very generous gifts and for thinking of us during your holiday season. It has been very heartwarming and your kindness is greatly appreciated. Teaching your growing students is a great pleasure.

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 during circle time, all the children wanted to talk about their Christmas wishes, sing Christmas songs and work on Christmas crafts like reindeer. They also painted pine cones and a small wreath out of paper plates. The children were very happy with their finished art work and it was great to see the excitement on their faces.

On the playground, the children participated in group games such as Hide and Seek, Tag, and Green Light Red Light. Some children were still collecting pine cones. All the children had fun and enjoyed their time on the playground since the weather was nice.

We would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas break!

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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Christmas is a time when we are supposed to celebrate and honor the birth of Jesus Christ as told in traditional Christmas carols. Most focus on our savior's birth.

“A Visit from St. Nicholas” became “The Night Before Christmas.” This scenario took on a life of its own. At Christmas time Santa would appear in department stores where children would sit on his lap and tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas, and he would bring it and put it under the Christmas tree. Today many children pick out their presents online even xing out Santa Claus.

This ritual became prevalent throughout the US but is significantly less today. Children are still asking for gifts on one of the most important Christian holidays of the year but not directly from Santa Claus.

Today's gifts for the holidays are purchased with the child present on the internet and are sent to the homes of loves ones. The secularization of the most Christian holiday is erasing many of our traditions. Christmas caroling by neighbors and churches has decreased or disappeared altogether. Few, if any, schools teach the children the traditional Christmas carols or have carol sings for the community.

Even the White House has very little celebration of traditional Christmas. This year the White House celebration had spooky dancers gyrating down the hallway. The movement of the dancers looked more like street performers than dignified Christmas performers. It seemed to be the opposite of performing anything to do with a religious holiday.

Every aspect of our Christmas holiday has been turned more into Grinchmas. It is now not a series of days set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ but a time to replace Him with Grinchmas. Grinchmas is a time to celebrate many hedonistic pleasures.

Grinchmas is a movement to remove any worshipping of Jesus as the savior of man who have not lived a Godly life. He came to earth to do His father's work to save the souls of man who had turned away from God's commands.

The Grinch is a symbol to lead humans away from Christ's Godly word and actions. Grinchmas is a means of swaying people away from God towards evil, temptations rather than towards holiness.

Frail souls need to return to true Christmas where praying to Jesus will bring strength to their souls. Only by doing God's holy work through Jesus' teaching will humans not be seduced into an antichrist path of evil.

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