

Wider Horizons School



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2/9 Science Fair (Half Day)
- 2/12-16 Spirit Week
- 2/19 **President's Day- no school**

SPIRIT WEEK COMING UP

The week of February 12-16 is the annual WHS Spirit Week

- Monday- PJ Day
- Tuesday-Tacky Tourist Day
- Wednesday- Dress Up Day
- Thursday-Jocks vs. Nerds Day
- Friday-America Day

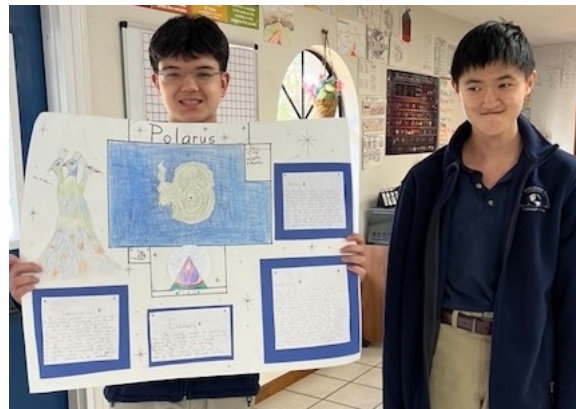
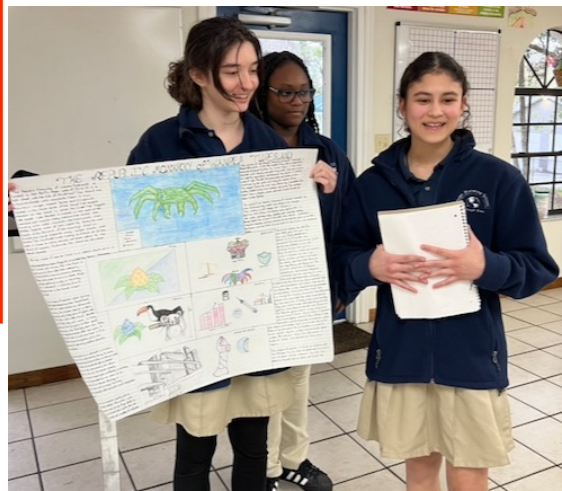
No Jeans on Any Day

Students who do not want to participate must wear regular school uniforms!



NINTH GRADERS CREATE THEIR OWN COUNTRIES

Students in 9th grade had a good time creating their own countries with a flag, resources, constitution, laws, and map. The goal of the project was to help the students understand the difficulties of making a functioning nation. The students made posters explaining their country, how they worked, what government they had, what native animals live there, and the history of their country. They presented their posters in front of the class.



PLAYING FAVORITES CAUSES EVERYONE TO BE UPSET IN ANY GROUP

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Teachers, coaches, scout leaders, church deacons, CEOs of companies, and even parents need to be careful not to treat one person more special than anyone else in the group. Favoritism usually leads to significant problems since everyone wants to be treated fairly by the leaders of any group.

It is understandable that if a coach's son is given more opportunity to shine than other players on the team it would cause resentment with the team especially if his abilities were average. This is the reason the coach should direct his child to another team to play.

Favoritism can take place in one's own home where one child is allowed to get away with what the other children cannot. Usually the "favorite one" is not necessarily ostracized by the siblings but sometimes is resented. If it is "the baby" of the family, the other children may cut him some slack and may even participate in making the baby the favorite of everyone, erasing jealousy.

This problem is more prevalent in large groups like a dance studio or a class in school with numerous students. All the class members know each other well and witness with their own eyes the subtle additional assistance that one student gets over others. The other students are aware they did not receive the same help as a particular student did and will feel resentment toward this type of teacher.

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PRESCHOOL
Mrs. Bermudez

This week in preschool we continue to talk about animals that live in the North and South Pole. We are also discussing the food pyramid now called My Plate. The children are learning about the importance of eating healthy, exercising, and getting enough sleep for a healthier lifestyle.

During circle time the students had lessons with the geometric solids equipment and three part matching for it. The students also had lots of different variations and extensions with the tower of cubes, brown stairs, cylinder blocks, red rods and the knobless cylinders. The children also had a lesson on two part matching with colors and we reviewed shapes and colors.

In math, the children had lessons on counting the large number cards and the change game. The purpose of this equipment is to help children experience the ordering effect of the laws of the decimal system and to teach the child how to physically exchange ten of the one hierarchy for one of the next hierarchy. Some children continue working on identifying numbers, 1 - 5 or 1 -10. For language some children are working on identifying letter sounds, while others are reading Bob Books and writing sentences.

PRIMARY
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

This week in Primary, student got to create a postcard depicting the Arctic and Antarctica to culminate the geography lessons they have been receiving on continents. Next week, we will begin our study of Australia and its animals, weather, and regions.

In language, students received lessons on beginning blends,

synonyms, and the story cubes. Giving these lessons to the whole class gives younger students the opportunity to challenge themselves and show their teachers what they are capable of. Students also continue to compete for best penmanship through poem writing.

In math, students were introduced to the Bring Me Game. This game aims to evaluate students knowledge of place values and their ability to quantify large numbers using Montessori materials.

Congratulations to Gabriel and Annabelle for completing the bob books and moving onto the series books. Congratulations to Aryana and Gideon for moving up in their times tables. Congratulations to Christopher, Gabriel and Grace for advancing to the next level of spelling.

LOWER ELEMENTARY
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Jax, Stefan, Hely, Aryeh, Jace, Giovanna, Thomas, Logan, and Tara for having perfect reading sheets this week. Congratulations to Richard, Mark, Caden, Kinsley, Chad, Adelina, Quindolyn, and Carter for moving up in their times tables. Congratulations to Jax and Logan for moving to mixed times tables and to Thomas for mastering all mixed facts. Congratulations to Michael, Kendra, and Joemanuel for mastering subtraction 11-20.

In spelling this week, the students worked in their spelling packets and we went over the words verbally and took a definitions test.

STUDENT EDITOR
Chase Ghingher

In math, the students worked on geometry cards, booklets, applications, measurement with the gallon bot and had a lesson on greater than, less than, and equal to.

In language, the students are working from the tower. Second graders are learning about verb tense. Third graders are working on subject and predicate pronouns. They are also reviewing nouns, articles, verbs, and adjectives.

In history, the students continue to work on Native American history and move onto the Southeast region.

In science, the students will continue to work on vertebrates.

In geography, students continue to work on states and learning new states. The students had a test on their first 20 states. It is important for students to memorize the name, capital, and abbreviation for each state. This information can be found in their homework folder. The students should have 25 state capitals and abbreviations in their folder. Please keep these in their prongs for future additions.

The science expo will be on February 9th. The students should have started to work on their projects at home. The science expo will be a half day.

In art, we worked on crafts for Valentine's day.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

Last week, our annual Geography Bee wrapped up. Braden, Claire, Jael, Janie, and Ethan emerged as the top five contestants, securing the most points in Upper Elementary. Their impressive performance earned them a spot to compete with the Junior High School and High School students. Congratulations to them for giving their best effort and to Ethan for coming in third place!

The Science Expo worksheet guides were distributed this week, and they must be completed by January 31st. Students can choose to type or handwrite the information, incorporating it into the display board or submitting it as a separate report. Remember, a display board is mandatory for the Expo, and everyone should be ready to explain their projects by February 1st.

This week fourth graders learned about possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns. Students also learned about predicates and predicate phrases. The students also gave updates on their science projects and are now able to differentiate an experiment from a demonstration. They continue to read "Because of Winn Dixie" in class.

In language the fifth graders have been learning to identify both direct and indirect objects. They also wrote compositions about Martin Luther King Jr. In math, the children are encouraged to show all of their work and use a ruler when needed. When the student is home, they should also be encouraged to do the same. In botany, the 5th graders are learning about plant propagation, methods and techniques. The Science Expo is on February 9th. The children have been approved for their topic.

Sixth graders finished Unit 1 in Language this week, culminating in a comprehensive test on Friday to

showcase their mastery of the concepts covered in the first chapter. In Physical Science, we are concluding our study on types of radiation, and students should use this weekend to memorize key terms from chapter 11, to prepare for the upcoming test on Tuesday. Parents, please note the next book report is due on February 15th, considering the Science Expo schedule.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

This has been another busy week in the Junior and Senior High School room. In preparation for the rapidly approaching Science Expo, students turned in their results and conclusion. We recommend that the students begin practicing on their own even though we will be providing time for practice in class. The more comfortable they are with their material, the better prepared they will be.

We would like to congratulate Barrett Fromhart for moving on to Pre-Algebra!

In Art, the seventh graders created pieces based around the concept of onomatopoeia. They had to illustrate chosen words in a style that reflected their usage in speech. Eighth graders have begun reading War of the Worlds, one of the earliest stories to detail a conflict between humankind and an extraterrestrial race. It is considered one of the foremost novels in science fiction history and we look forward to seeing their interpretations of the importance of this work. The ninth graders ended their previous quarter of Physical Science studying forces, and they have begun this quarter studying how these same concepts apply in fluids. They participated in a lab that gave them a better understanding of how Bernoulli's Principle applies to aircraft and a flow streamline. In World History, tenth graders are studying how

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

other countries integrated religion into their government.

AFTER SCHOOL Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During circle time, we discussed the life cycle of honey bees. The children learned that bees grow from an egg to an adult bee. The children also learned the three classes of bees within a hive. The drones are the male honey bees. The worker bees gather the food, protect the hive, and care for the young bees. The queen is the only female that can lay eggs. She is responsible to keep the hive populated.

During playground time, the children enjoyed playing on some of the playground equipment while others were collecting pine cones. They also played in the sand box and were trying to build sand castles.

Enjoy your 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.

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The teacher playing favorites often loses all credibility as a professional. A teacher is supposed to be above choosing favorites as all students in the class need help not one singled out over others. Still, it can be an unconscious act that needs to be monitored by other conscientious teachers.

The student who received special treatment by any teacher is harmed since they did not rely on their own skills to learn the material by themselves. Obviously, the other students know they were treated unfairly by the teacher's special attention. Eventually the teacher will lose the respect of the students for this unfair practice unless the child has an academic, mental health, or emotional issue which the teacher is addressing.

Individuals often use their power to maximize it to gain more advantages. People with power over others may use it to gain more status and even greater power. This means people with power are not always impartial decision makers.

If humans want an impartial world, it would not be on earth but in a spiritual realm. People in normal interaction should expect some honest, uplifting complements although some mixture of the ways to improve should be part of the evaluation. Those rare comments from an honest, objective person should be respected and cherished as they are sincere suggestions for the student to improve.

Too many who evaluate a person's production want to be liked by them, so they inflate their assessment in a positive direction. Of course, others in the group resent special treatment for another while the person receiving the unearned praise may feel special and honored or uncomfortable with the attention. The other unnoticed members of the group feel shunned and cheated of recognition for their outstanding efforts or results.

Eventually the favored person sees they are being singled out for average effort, behavior, or results. They begin to feel the other class members' resentment toward them for the hypocritical behavior of the teacher. The teacher observes the group's change in the acceptance of the "pet" student by the rest of the class. They realize they have treated one student differently from the others in the class which negatively impacts most if not all the other students.

The teacher finally learns a valuable lesson that each student needs special attention, not just one to be crowned the most outstanding student in the class. The lesson the teacher should have learned is that to be a good teacher each student must be considered honestly and impartially for their improvements as well as the need for improvement.

An honest evaluation is most important.

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.