

Wider Horizons School

HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!



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- red, white and blue

No Jeans on Any Day
Students who do not want to participate must wear regular school uniforms!

ANNUAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

Every year in January WHS holds a Geography Bee for students in grades 4-8. This years winners are 8th graders, Nicolas Claffley 1st, William Wilkie 2nd, and 4th grader, Ethan Poulima - 3rd.



ARE PARENTS EXPECTING THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN?

By Domenick J. Maglio, PHD.

One of the sacred freedoms of US citizens is that parents, not the state have the inalienable right to raise their children. In many nations government-controlled systems such as communism and other top-down systems, announce mandated laws that supersede parental rights. It appears some American parents want the US government to take over many responsibilities that solely belong to the parents.

In the USA modern culture has rapidly become altered. Today's parents seem to expect the government to provide afterschool services. Many parents want to retain their lifestyle when both parents are working full time. Their necessary time to handle family and school demands has dwindled making it impossible to deal with daily family matters let alone their children's school issues.

Many parents' inability to discuss their child's school progress is allowing the school to make profound decisions about the child's education with no parental input. The modern parents working two jobs makes it difficult to get together in a parent teacher meeting. This leaves the teachers and administrators in charge of the child's education with little or no input by the parents in their own child's education.

Major obstacles to assisting with a child's schoolwork are afterschool activities such as team sports, dance, gymnastics, music lessons and other extracurricular activities. Modern parents are leaving so-called "professionals" to raise their children. During and after school parents are unaware of much of what their child is being exposed to.

Students celebrate the fantasy tradition of the Groundhog seeing his shadow-or not, to determine if winter is over.



[Continued on last page](#)

PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Bermudez

This week in preschool, we continued working with Valentine's Day themed work. During circle time, the class enjoyed listening to and learning new Valentine's Day songs and stories. At the art table, the children painted hearts on a paper bag and completed their groundhog from last week.

For language, we continue reviewing and practicing every day. We introduced new sound work for those that are still learning sounds and we introduced two part matching sentences for those that are reading. During circle time, the children had a lesson on how to make phrases using the movable alphabet. We also added a book with sight words which some children are required to print.

In the math area, the children had a lesson on formation of quantities 11 to 99 with the bead material. The purpose is to teach children the numbers from 11 to 99. Some students also had a lesson on multiplying with the decimal system and the multiplication board.

We continue to encourage the children to do their best and challenge themselves to do more everyday. In a Montessori classroom, children are developing a positive attitude towards school, assisting each child in building the habit of concentration, developing habits of initiative and persistence, fostering inner security and sense of order, helping develop sensory skills, sharpening the ability to discriminate and judge the materials, helping the child develop socially, helping the child develop creative intelligence and imagination, and most importantly being independent. Being independent is an essential part of life. Here are some examples a parent can use.

Parents can help by letting the children dress themselves, eat on their own, pick up their own mess, and let them walk in from the front door by themselves.

Just a reminder that Sprit Week is in two weeks. If you want your child to bring Valentine cards in on the 14th to share, please send 25 cards so everyone gets one. Please do not address these cards to anyone. Please no cupcakes or cookies. Thank you!

PRIMARY

Miss Finnerty and Ms. Wallace

This week in Primary, we learned about Australia. We learned about Australia's climate, native animals, and culture. On Friday, we made honey joys, an Australian treat made of cornflakes and honey.

In language, students received lessons on occupations and nouns vs. verbs. They also wrote Valentine's Day poems. Congratulations to our penmanship contest winners from last week Skylar, Karolyn, and Aryana.

In math, students reviewed addition and subtraction work that helps them practice math facts. We continue to practice with flashcards and play math games such as "Around the World."

In art, students created Koala portraits using newspaper and labeled and colored a groundhog.

In science, we have begun the study of the human body. This week, students labeled their hand and learned about organs in our bodies.

Congratulations to Bella, Yvnicka, and Aryana for moving up in their times tables.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Alexander for having a perfect reading sheet this week.

This week the students worked hard on their Science Expo projects. Each student had a chance to stand in front of their classmates to demonstrate or talk about the project

that have created. It was interesting to see their creative minds shine.

In spelling, the students worked in their packets and had a choice to make their words with beans noodles, or tissue paper.

The math test this week was on geometry cards, applications, booklets, and had a lesson on rounding to the nearest ten.

Language this week was extension work and language from the language tower. Second graders are learning about adjectives. Third graders are learning about pronouns.

In science, students continued to work on vertebrate extension work. Some students are on reptile and amphibian work.

In history, the students had a lesson on the Southeast Region. The students will continue to work on the list in their folder in order.

In geography, the students continue to work on states and learn about different facts for each one. Some students are still working on the animals of the continents and the solar system.

In art, the students have started to make Valentine crafts.

We as a class have been working on learning about living and nonliving things that are around us. The students enjoy these activities since they get to explore the school yard to find items that are living and nonliving. We would like to congratulate students on how hard they are working on memorizing their states, capitals, and abbreviations. We continue to have competitions inside and outside the classroom.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini,
Ms. Russell

Due to the Science Expo, there will not be any composition topic assigned for next week. Instead, we encourage Upper Elementary students to use this time for Science Expo preparation. Time will be allocated in the afternoons for practice. Afternoon classes on Wednesday and Thursday will be canceled next week to allow students more time for practice. Those struggling with terminology are advised to continue their practice over the weekend.

This week fourth graders turned in their Science Expo worksheet, where they listed the materials list and procedures for their experiment or demonstration. In class, we talked about the importance of using more scientific vocabulary and being able to explain the science behind their chosen project, as it will help them score better with the judges. Students continue to develop their map reading skills in geography and turned in their latest composition rewrite on what they would like to improve on in 2024.

Fifth graders learned about different uses for commas in compound and compound-complex sentences. They also learned how to use commas for an appositive phrase. Students learned about divergent, convergent, and transform boundaries with tectonic plates. They also received their map skills workbooks this week, and had a review on different types of map projections and how to use

coordinates to find latitude and longitude.

In sixth grade, students are progressing with their grammar studies, focusing on personal pronouns and reviewing the agreement between pronouns and their antecedents. Simultaneously, in Physical Science, they are being introduced to the concepts of “frame of reference” and “motion.” Sixth graders have finished their first vocabulary book and took a quiz today to aid in preparation for the upcoming final exam scheduled for next Thursday, February 8th. No projects are due in geography this month; instead sixth graders are working in their new Map Building Skills booklet.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

In the blink of an eye, the first month of 2024 is over, our students have been working diligently on their course work.

Science Expo preparations are already underway. The Science Expo is next Friday, February 9th. This will be an early release day. Congratulations to Matthew Diffilipo and Beatrice Maglio for completing Saxon Math 8/7 and starting Algebra 1/2.

This week our students have begun selecting their countries for World Culture Day. Please be ware that the Culture fair has been moved to March 15th. Our seventh grade has begun studying different land formations

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

influenced by water. 8th grade has completed their unit on plants. 9th grade has been learning about different types of conflict and how to resolve them. 10th grade has been studying DNA and mutation.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During our time inside we read a book called Wonders of the Rain Forest. We were wondering what mysteries the rainforest held. The rain forest is filled with many different types of plants and animals. We also read a book about zebras. Zebras are a member of the horse family despite their black and white stripes. Also, every zebra has a different pattern of stripes. Zebras also have very good sight and hearing. They mainly eat grass.

On the playground, some children played in the sand box while the others were using the playground equipment or playing games. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework while the rest of the children played games and solved puzzles of their choice.

Enjoy your weekend!

Parents' work schedules demand their children have supervised afterschool activities. This leaves parents little options but to keep their children as busy as they are. This results in limited time for children and parents to relax, spend time together and get to know each other. Children need to learn important lessons, how to think, and to learn traditional values to keep them on the straight and narrow path. This is difficult to accomplish since modern parents are just not there to teach these values, attitudes, and thinking skills. Too many parents are not taking the time to be more involved with their children. Many parents are absent from their child's adolescent confusion into adulthood. Being a parent today is complex and multifaceted.

Some government bureaucrats are attempting to step into the vacuum of parental guidance to micromanage our children through this complex developmental period. Many parents are more than willing to accept governmental assistance in controlling their children's actions. One such proposed government legislation is to make it illegal for children under the age of 16 to have certain platforms on their cellphones. These social media sites are seen as detrimental for children. Instead of the parents making this decision and directly enforcing their own rules in their home the bureaucrats are trying to mandate what children should be doing to protect them from the "digital fentanyl" of social media.

This precedence has already been established with vaccines to prevent spreading childhood diseases. Many vaccines have been mandated by an early age regardless of parent's wishes. Government schools have taught sex education actually demonstrating how to use a condom to preschool children without receiving parental permission.

Several years ago, the government mandated that college students receive a meningitis vaccine before entering college to prevent this disease from spreading. Kids are being removed from parental custody in some states to "transition" the minors against the wishes of the parents.

Parents need to take control of raising their children to be viable and strong parents and not give their sacred duties over to the government then complain about government bureaucrats overstepping their boundaries. Either parents do their job of parenting, or the government will pass more laws to attempt to gain control of youngsters who are out of control.

Once government is given an inch it takes a mile to increase its power and uses its power to tell parents what they can or cannot do with their children. This opens the door wide to spread government's abuse which will be more devastating to children as well as our nation more so than to individual parents.

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.