

# Wider Horizons School

## Caitlyn Dean WHS graduate star

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

12/14 Holiday Gift giving

12/16 Carol Sing for all 2pm

12/19-1/2 Christmas Break

1/3 Return to school

1/14 Geography Bee

1/16 M.L. King Day NO SCHOOL

### INDULGING YOUR CHILD CREATES FUTURE DEPENDENCY, HELPLESSNESS AND VICTIMIZATION

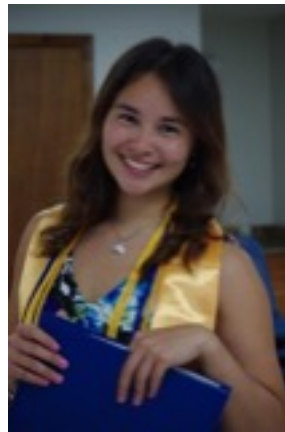
By Domenick J. Maglio Ph.D

For children to survive for the first years of life they absolutely need a parent or another adult to assist them. Street children in third world countries are exceptions to this rule. They join with other street kids as early as four years old so they can survive but in ways that would horrify others. Begging and living in sewers should not happen in our modern world although children can survive thinking like adults well before their years.

Modern children are placed in daycare or preschools as early as infants and often by three years old. These children are taught some academic and socialization skills but often need to be trained  
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Caitlyn Deam graduated from Wider Horizons School in 2019. She was a terrific student while here and a great addition to our school. Caitlyn attended WHS since preschool so she is well known by many teachers who appreciated having her in their class.

Below Caitlyn has written about her years at the University of South Florida where she will be graduating from this spring.



*I am honored to have won the Programming Staff Member of the year award and to have been selected to serve as President for the Campus Activities Board in my last year at USF. I love this department and the activities and opportunities we bring to students, some highlights from just this past year including introducing T-Pain on stage for Homecoming concert, meeting actress Stephanie Beatriz and gymnast Aly Raisman after University Lecture Series, and having the opportunity to creatively plan and execute several late night programming events of my own with a focus on collaboration with the USF and Tampa Bay community and a focus on diversity, equity,*

*and inclusion.*

*This past year as a Bulls Nite Out Director has provided me with my best USF memories and learning experiences, and I am excited to see what serving as President brings for our department.*

*A few weeks late but...how honored I am to have been voted for USF Tampa 2022 Homecoming Queen!*

*Freshman me could never have imagined being granted this amazing opportunity, and definitely would have never pictured being as involved in campus as I have been throughout my time in undergrad. The amount of invaluable experiences I have gained throughout my involvement in many different facets on campus is something I will never forget as my time wraps up here at USF.*

*After graduation I will be taking a gap year and intend on taking the MCAT and LSAT in hopes of pursuing an MD/JD program. My career end goal is to be an expert witness with a background in forensic pathology and criminal law. I also intend to intern at a law office, and continue working at Moffitt Center Center this next year.*

Good for you, Caitlyn!!

PRESCHOOL  
Mrs. Bermudez

This week in preschool, the children are learning about the different holidays around the world. The children are having lots of fun learning new and traditional Christmas songs and have been very busy at the art table making various holiday crafts.

On Thursday, the children were introduced to Christmas themed work. The math area has lots of new Christmas number set baskets. Practical Life has all new work added as well. The children had a lesson on writing 1 to 50, 1 to 100, and some children were learning to subtract.

In language the children were working with sounds and blending sounds while others were reading Bob Books and working on their penmanship. The children were also given a lesson on different vocabulary words.

At the Practical Life area the children had various lessons on the Dressing Frames. The dressing frames are a set of wooden frames that can be fastened together. Each frame has a different fastening device: snaps, hooks and eyes, lacing, buttons, buckles, zippers, and bow ties. The children also had a lesson on how to put their jackets on by themselves. Here at Wider Horizons one of our goals is for your child to become more independent and we ask the parents to please help your child be more independent outside of school. For example, letting your child walk alone to their classroom, not carrying them in, and letting them dress themselves are just some examples. Thank you.

Next week December 9th, we are having our Pajama party from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Parents just send your children in with their Pajamas and we will take care of

the rest! We hope to see you there, preschoolers!

PRIMARY  
Mrs. Youse and Ms. Lundmark

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fabulous week off. Students were happy to be back into the swing of things.

This week we focused on reviewing the lessons which have been given thus far. The children are getting ready for the parents to visit next week. We will welcome the kindergarten parents on Monday and the first grade parents on Tuesday. Please allow your child to show you what they can do independently. They are proud of what they can do on their own. Remember not all children develop at the same time, and each child internalizes new information differently than their peers. Each child is trying their best. All we ask is that you provide your child with undivided attention for the time you are with them in their classroom. Please leave your phone in the car.

The next two weeks will be very busy. The children have begun working on Christmas and Holiday crafts. We have been working on Christmas songs for our school wide caroling.

The students are excited about the Pajama party on December 16th. If you choose for your child to attend, please send in the payment with your child.

Congratulations to Aryana for completing the Bob Books!

LOWER ELEMENTARY  
Mrs. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

We hope everyone had a happy, relaxed, and safe Thanksgiving!

This week in spelling the students learned definitions verbally, wrote their spelling words three times each, rolled the dice, made a word web, and created a word search.

STUDENT EDITOR  
YANNEISY FERRER

In language this week the students are working in the language tower where they left off before punctuation and syllables.

In math the students worked in their math booklets, solved applications, and continued to work with time. Most students know how to tell time so this is a refresher, however for those who do not know, you will see them looking at the clock and telling more time.

In art the students have started creating crafts for Christmas, which they will be working on over the next two weeks.

In history the students continued to work on the months of the year and days of the week.

In Botany the students are working on landforms, water forms, weather, wetlands, and clouds. They had a new lesson this week on glaciers.

Next book report is due December 16th. Composition is due December 7th.



Harper and Jay had their birthday walk this week! They both walked around the sun once for each year they have been alive.

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Mrs. Poole

With only a few short weeks until the end of the second quarter, we have urged our students to stay focused, so they can finish the quarter on a high note. The excitement of the holidays sometimes tends to derail even the most dedicated students.

Fourth graders this week have started reading the fun adventure story called Call It Courage. They also wrote nice compositions about the wonder of winter. They learned 15 new spelling words and quizzed on the spelling of our states and their capitals in the western region of our great nation. In zoology they explored the internal parts of the sponge (Porifera) and learned how the sponge eats, reproduces and protects itself. It's great to have all the students back from our Thanksgiving break!

This week fifth graders turned in their book report from Thanksgiving break. Students enjoyed being able to choose their own book. Their next book report is due on December 15th and their next book is Old Yeller. In language, students showed their proficiency in being able to correctly label parts of a sentence using symbols. As the second quarter quickly comes to a close, students should be halfway through the math textbook. Here they will be learning new concepts not previously taught. It is important that students focus and remain diligent with their math homework, so that they fully grasp the new material. In Botany and Geography, students were tasked with creating and labeling particular parts of speech. Students will be tested on sentence structure and the parts of speech next week. Students finished their projects on water conservation and each presented a topic that reflected the importance of Florida's biodiversity.

Many of our sixth grade students are reaching the halfway mark of their math book; now is the time to put forth more effort towards

learning new concepts. New concepts mean more effort and practice will also be needed to earn better grades. Don't forget that homework assignments prepare the student for the tests. In Physical Science our students are working on booklets that illustrate elements from the periodic table. Upon the completion of both booklets, they will create a poster demonstrating the unique characteristics of their chosen element. After their presentation they will receive a certificate of adoption.

## JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Miss Finnerty, Ms. Sanchez

There are only ten days left in this second quarter. Report cards will be going home with your student the last day of school, Friday, December 16th. Math binders will be due on Wednesday, December 7th. We are expecting 100% participation in this quarterly assignment. The two points given on the students' final grade for completing math binders is well worth the time and effort. This assignment helps the students focus on organizational and neatness skills.

The students made beautiful 3D cards in art this week. The classes have begun practicing Christmas carols in preparation for the parents coming on the last day before Christmas break. On this day. Students may wear a Christmas sweater, dress pants or uniform pants. NO JEANS ARE TO BE WORN!

The students are planning a Winter Dance for Friday, December 9th from 6 o'clock to 9. The money will be due by December 5th. The students have also voted to do a Christmas gift exchange. Students in our room are also participating in the gift giving for the foster children assigned to their grade.

Students have been told to begin thinking about possible experiments for the annual Science

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

expo. A packet went home Wednesday with information as well as due dates for different aspects of their project.

Although there are many fun events at this time of the year, we still have work to get through before then end of the quarter.

## AFTER SCHOOL

In after school this week children were given time to complete their homework. They went outside and played various games. Children also enjoyed having an opportunity to play board games and work on different activities of their choice.

## PRESCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer

This week during circle time, we read several books but one that caught the children's attention was "The Wonderful Life of Seas and Whales". Seals come ashore to rest and have their young. Whales, large and small, spend their lives in the water all the time. We also read a book called "Telling the Truth", which helped kids learn about honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness.

While at the playground, some children were marching like wooden soldier while others played in the sandbox. Some were very busy collecting dried pine cones to decorate and paint for Christmas. When the children came inside, they started to decorate the pinecones with paint, colorful beads and ribbons. Others played with other activities such as puzzles and board games of their choice during this time.

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by caregivers. Often the preschool staff teaches children to listen better to them than to their parents. For the most part working parents feel some guilt for leaving their children with others while they are working or relaxing, but it has become part of our culture.

Modern parents smother their guilt by pampering their children. This translates into ignoring misbehavior and giving the child everything they demand. Usually, the parent's only power is derived from bribing their children to motivate them to do what the parent wants.

Parents' indulgence is a poison pill. It may do the job in the short term but reinforces in the child's mind that parents can be easily manipulated to give them what they want. The child understandably begins to believe the parent will be there for them through adulthood believing parents will always provide for them.

This is obviously impossible. As parents get older they have less energy and greater desire to fulfill their own dreams. Not many years ago, children in the extended family saw their parents caring for grandparents. This tradition has rapidly shrunk with senior citizens living in assisted living facilities and mothers working. Today's children are shielded from the reality of the aging process through modern cosmetics and a culture that emphasizes youthfulness.

Modern children are being cheated. Their grandparents and parents will eventually die, and they will be left alone expected to care for themselves. These "middle-aged children" are unprepared adults who will need a crash course in taking on major responsibilities or may feel like failures for not helping take care of significant people in their life.

Today's children have been provided with their own phones, computers to play games before they can read and whatever else they demand, without having to earn it. They have incredibly high false esteem without having to earn that either. In fact, they have not earned anything but were given everything. These children have everything except an understanding of what is going to happen in their future life.

They are totally dependent on the adults in the family to meet their wishes. They have never learned to work to meet their own needs. Perseverance to gain one's wants has not been demonstrated or taught. The modern child's dependency on the parent to buy them happiness has prevented them from becoming independent problem solvers and doers. They are victims of short-sighted parents.

The future of these children is bleak. They are not trained to be doers only takers. Without adults giving them challenging jobs or projects that they need to do to earn what they want, there is no chance of them finding success in a complicated, modern society. Their inability to comprehend what it takes to be grown up is criminal.

Modern children are victims of a culture that has rejected reliable, traditional methods of teaching them to be independent. Modern parents are not devising new ways of preparing children to prosper as adults in our economy. Government agencies may attempt to assist these self-centered adults with large tax dollar programs that will encourage more young people to accept the socialistic government as an extension of their parents' overindulgence.

Parents need to say "no" to children's pleading and demanding by setting appropriate limits. This is primarily the job of caring and realistic parents who want to prepare their children for life without them. Instead, they should teach children how to develop skills in the home: gardening, cooking, cleaning, putting things back in their place, planning, building and especially helping others whenever possible.

These traditional childhood chores should be required of youngsters to assist them to be able to function as adolescents and adults. Keeping offspring as helpless invalids in their later stage of life is unfair to the individual's future self-worth. Everyone should be given the tools to care for themselves and to give back to others.

*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](http://www.drmaglioblogspot.com).*