

Wider Horizons School



DATES TO REMEMBER:

3/13 REPORT CARDS
 3/16-23 *SPRING BREAK- return 3/24*
 4/3-4/6 *EASTER BREAK*
 4/13-17 IOWA testing- students must attend!

Thank you to all the parents who came in to see their children's Cultural Fair projects.



FATHERS ARE NEEDED TO SAY NO

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.
 Traditional Realist

The breakup of the patriarchal family is often noted as a major weakening of our society and overall harmful to our nation. Usually divorces end with the mother granted custody of the children. This leaves fathers powerless to make daily decisions about their children and exiled from his children's future. The divorced biological father has few if any rights to influence his children's development.

Some of the culprits behind this injustice towards divorced fathers are child development experts. Their emphasis on the early nurturing years has obviously put the mother as the primary parent. This leaves fathers as practically unnecessary partners in the family except as sperm donors and financial supporters of the family.

The psychological ignorance of the real importance of the father in raising children has had a crippling impact on American families. One in four children in America live in fatherless families. It is hard to fathom experts not underscoring the fathers' major role in family dynamics. The experts often do not note that children from fatherless families have 85% more problems in school.

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PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejada

This week we had our annual “World Culture Day”. The students chose a country and presented what they learned to the classroom. They also shared authentic food from the country they chose with their classmates.

In language, students wrote a poem about Shamrocks and are continuing to read their Bob Books. The students are also learning to find missing vowels in words, as well as missing beginning letters. Some students are doing a challenge where they will read a book from the library and write a short description of what they read.

In math, some students are practicing subtraction facts for minuends of 10 or less, while others are memorizing addition facts. This will help them to explore odd and even numbers in future lessons.

In practical life, students learned to sort different colored buttons and scoop up the leprechaun’s trail of pompoms.

In art, the students made two St. Patrick’s Day crafts. One was a hat to catch the Leprechaun, while the other was a Leprechaun face frame.

In culture, we are “traveling” to Africa and learning about different landmarks and animals that live there. We also reviewed all seven continents.

We hope you enjoy your Spring Break! We will see you soon.

PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

We had a busy, yet very fun week. We enjoyed learning about many different countries and eating their native foods during Culture Day on Wednesday. Each student worked really hard to memorize facts about their country, and we are so proud of them.

In math, students continue to practice their addition, subtraction, and/or multiplication. Most practice is aided by Montessori materials, such as the number beads and number rods. The children are also practicing with flashcards, which help us to assess a child’s memorization of the facts.

In language, students received lessons on letter sounds and blends. They also copied and illustrated a poem about March. They drew spring flowers and leprechauns, as well as umbrellas and bunnies.

Students completed an Animals of Asia map to represent the different regions that make up the vast continent. The children also made pastel flowers in art.

Have a safe and fun Spring Break!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff

The Cultural Fair was a great success. We would like to thank the parents for all of the different types of foods brought in and for joining us at the end of the day.

Congratulations to Jaxson for moving up to the next time tables.

Congratulations to Nathan, Annabelle, Bryan, Rocco, Juliet,

and Jacob for guessing the answer to our state riddle this week.

During the next couple of weeks, the students will be doing warm ups in the morning to help them prepare for IOWA testing. This work consists of math, language, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

In language, the students are working from the tower and doing additional review.

In math, the students worked on booklets, applications, reviewing math, and learning about measurements.

In spelling this week, the students worked on their spelling lists and did fun spelling work.

In science, the students continue to work on vertebrates.

In history, the students continue to work on Native America cultures and resources. In geography, the students are learning about our fifty states with different facts.

Reminder to make sure your child’s states and capitals are kept in the prongs of their homework folder. They will have a test on thirty states the Friday we come back from Spring Break, and we will add another five states

Have a good weekend!

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

The main event this week was the World Culture Fair. We tasted delicious cuisine from around the world and learned many informative details about all of the different countries. Many of our students were very well prepared.

It's hard to believe that three quarters of the school year has already passed. Report cards go out on Friday, so please be on the lookout for them. Some grades may have dipped this quarter because the subject matter has become more difficult. As they continue to practice these new concepts, grades should improve in the last quarter.

This week fourth graders had a new set of spelling words. As the words get harder, studying skills are even more important as the students prepare for fifth grade. Fifth graders are practicing contractions and how to identify and correct run-on sentences in language. Students will be given a variety of activities throughout the week for practice. As we progress in the math textbook, everyone is encouraged to slow down and take their time. Lessons are becoming more difficult and complex, so it is very important to fully understand each lesson before moving forward. In botany, everyone will be creating their own flower! Each student will randomly pick different types of parts on the plant and combine these parts to make their own plant species. In geography/geology, students will be completing a volcano research report, where each student will be assigned a different volcano around the world.

Sixth graders reviewed how to use adverbs of time, place and manner. They also learned adverbs of degree, affirmation and negation, and reviewed the difference between adverbial phrases and clauses. In Physical Science sixth graders

began the construction of their roller coasters in preparation for their upcoming chapter on kinetic energy. They also tested the phenomenon of buoyancy by constructing their own boats and testing them. Novels were assigned for the next book report. It will be due on the 30th of March.

HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

Our class had a very productive week! The Cultural Fair was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their hard work. This year, students created presentations about individual states in order to learn more about—and share with others—the diverse cultures, traditions, and histories that make up our great nation. We would like to sincerely thank all of the parents who joined us to view the students' presentation boards and support them as they proudly presented the results of their research and creativity. Your encouragement made the event even more meaningful for the students.

In Seventh Grade Earth Science, students have been learning about ocean currents, tides, and waves, exploring how these powerful forces shape our planet and influence weather and marine life. Eighth Grade Life Science students completed their chapter on fish, reptiles, and amphibians, gaining a deeper understanding of the unique characteristics and adaptations of these animal groups. Ninth Grade Health Science students performed engaging skits about family dynamics, giving them the opportunity to think about communication, relationships, and real-life situations in a thoughtful and creative way. In Tenth Grade Biology, students are currently creating their own physical models of the DNA double helix, helping them visualize the structure that carries genetic information in all living things.

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

We hope everyone has a wonderful and restful Spring Break. Classes will resume on March 24th, and we look forward to seeing everyone back refreshed and ready for the weeks ahead.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer and Ms. Russell

During circle time this week, we read a book titled "Planet Earth". The children's minds were so engrossed in the topic we discussed that they kept asking very valid questions. For example, they asked, "Why is there a night and a day?". One student asked if it is possible to explore the deep blue sea. Out of all the questions, the one that got their attention the most was, "Why are volcanoes red and dangerous?".

When the children went out to the playground, most of them tried to make volcanoes out of sand while in the sandbox. Some were busy chasing grasshoppers that they found near the garden, while others were busy using the playground equipment.

Enjoy your weekend!

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Fatherless children also have greater incarceration rates and mental health issues such as depression, low self-esteem, greater drug addiction, more suicidal incidents, and poor relationship development. In essence there is a direct relationship between a father's absence with both daughters and sons having difficulty becoming fully functioning adults.

Fathers are often the only ones to say "no" to their children. They establish boundaries in the child's early life which directly influences their appropriate behavior as teenagers. The consequences meted out by the father are usually more severe if the behavior is repeated since they can see these actions will lead their children into trouble. The father often focuses more on future development while mothers focus on the day-to-day misbehaving and protecting the feelings of the child.

The research on the impact of fatherless homes on female children has received little acknowledgement. Not only boys but girls react strongly to the lack of a father in their daily lives. On top of the drug and mental health issues, girls without fathers were four times as likely to get pregnant as teens. The father's presence in a teenage girl's life helps her understand a male's thinking and the virtue of saying "no."

Fathers often have the natural inclination and understanding to stop their children from "crossing the line." After getting pestered by their child for something they want to do or do not want the mother often says, "I will tell your father if you do not stop," or "I have had enough." In either case, the child generally knows the game of harassing the mother is over.

Children learn that their father is usually harder to manipulate than their mother. The maternal instinct to love their offspring is usually stronger in a female than in a male. Men want to be in command and have their children listen to them. There is usually less need to be loved in a male's nature and more need to be obeyed. Of course, the concern for future negative behaviors is being downplayed or ignored in our present permissive society.

Today's children have more evil temptations in front of them, but they have almost no training in how to deal with these situations. Especially in this naive period of parenting our youth's fathers are more important than ever. Fathers must toughen up their offspring to bounce back from normal adversity, to learn to walk away from temptation, and to protect themselves from evil. Fathers must teach their loved ones to stay on the straight and narrow road to be successful. The evidence is overwhelming that both boys and girls need a father figure in their home as both parents bring special abilities to their children. Both parents in the home raising the children is optimal. Marriage has become increasingly difficult to navigate with the ridiculous Hollywood expectation of constant bliss. Like all endeavors, in marriage the reality there are peaks and valleys.

Our mental health and legal systems should stop their efforts to facilitate divorce. Instead, our experts should do everything possible to assist husbands and wives to realize their differences can be resolved by each learning to forgive and realize each is not perfect or blameless. The "blame game" must be stopped in counseling and in the courts. More time should be requested for the healing process between wife and husband to realize their children will forever bind them. The old saying "for the sake of the kids" should be changed to "for the sake of the family."

Both fathers and mothers are essential to raise healthy, normal, successful children.

Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers, 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 a new book, entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can visit Dr. Maglio at www.drmaglio.blogspot.com.