

# Wider Horizons School

## Handwriting Winners

Happy birthday to Zoha and Michael!



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

4/13-17 IOWA testing- students must attend!

5/1 Friday Night Live

5/4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week

5/8 Mother's Day visit

Sixth graders participated in a rollercoaster making competition. Congratulations to the winners: Gianna, Hadley, Dixie, Alice, and Siyana



Every year WHS holds a handwriting contest to show off the beautiful handwriting our students can do. Winners below.



**FEAR OF USING PUNISHMENT IS WEAKENING OUR CHILDREN'S CHARACTER**  
By Domenick J. Maglio Ph.D.

Our modern culture has emphasized that positive reinforcement is the solution to raising healthy children. By eliminating negative reinforcement children will develop a higher self-esteem and more appropriate behavior. There will be no self-doubt and anger that come with any form of punishment. Employing the reinforcement schedule of 8 positives to 2 negatives our children will become successful people of substance. Everyone will find these young people friendly, helpful, and cooperative to others. It is the perfect profile of a person for fitting into a materialistic world. It just has not happened.

The reality of giving 8 positives to every 2 negatives is a difficult task for parents and loved ones. The parents and other adults have to be with the child intimately for many hours each day. B.F. Skinner gave a pigeon a food pellet every time it made the right action, which took diligence and continual observation. Reinforcement has to be diligent and often upgraded to remain as an effective tool for the maturing child. It is not happening.

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## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejada

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a nice Easter Weekend. We celebrated two birthdays; Michael turned 5, and Zoha turned 6.

In language students continue to read Bob Books and practice their spelling words. This week students learned to write an Easter poem; some learned to trace the words to the poem. Students learned to use the moveable alphabet to spell words of objects they were given. Others are learning to find the blend sounds to words missing their beginning letters.

In Math, preschool students had the opportunity to learn to count from 1-6 and 10-20 with Easter items. First graders learned new ways to practice multiplication with dice and number beads. Kindergarten had new lessons in addition and subtraction.

In culture, students traveled to Asia. They are now learning about animals that live in Asia. They are also learning about different cultural structures they would see in Asia.

In sensorial, students have a chance to practice color matching with different Easter eggs. They practiced tracing the Oval shape which represented eggs. Students also learned to weave string through a bunny pattern.

In Art, students used their cutting, coloring and gluing skills to make Easter baskets and paper bag Easter bunnies. In the honor of spring, students are helping create a spring bulletin board and singing "April Showers Bring May Flowers".

We hope you have a great weekend.

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful Easter weekend.

Primary 2 students have been hard at work for the last two weeks.

Students have been focusing on challenging language work. We have added new work to language and have seen them work really hard on building words, creating sentences, and identifying the parts of speech. Students completed a cinquain poem, and some of the older students challenged themselves and wrote their own cinquain poems.

In math, students are continuing to work on memorizing addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. They are making progress moving from our concrete Montessori materials, to the more abstract flashcards.

In science we are continuing to explore insects. Students have been learning how to draw, while also learning about African animals. In addition, students made giraffe faces to bring home.

We would like to congratulate Althaea for completing the big book series and beginning GPS. Also, congratulations to Axl for moving up to the big book series.

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff

Please make sure the students have a healthy breakfast every morning and plenty of sleep for the upcoming Iowa test.

Congratulations to Juliet, Elsie, and Silas for getting all correct on their reading sheets. Congratulations to Wendy and Bryan for moving up to mixed multiplication. Congratulations to Bryan, Elsie, and Wendy for moving up in their times tables. Congratulations to Payton, Gabriel, Bella, Jacob, and Amianna for passing their states. Congratulations to Emme and Wendy for passing subtraction 11-20. Congratulations to Kota and Elsie for passing subtraction 1-10.

In spelling this week the students had verbal definitions, spelling diagram, and drew a picture with sentences. New spelling words were given out today but they will not be tested on them next week because of Iowa testing.

In math the students worked on booklets, applications, and finishing up measurement  $\frac{3}{4}$ , which they had a lesson on.

In language, the students are working from the tower and parts of speech boxes. The second grade is learning about adjectives/adverbs. The third grade is learning about punctuation definitions definitions and measurement definitions.

In art this week the students learned about cherry blossom trees and made their own trees. The students used oil pastels for some of the foundation and then used their fingers with paint to make the flowers.

In geography the students worked on their state facts. Some students are labeling the map of the United States. This will help them to better understand where each state is located. The remaining states have been added to their homework folder.

In history the students continued to work on Native American culture.

In science the students have been working on finishing external mammals and started internal mammals. Some students started internal mammals. Some students started on the animal research.

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

Since this is our final week of practice before the Iowa Assessment of Basic Skills, our mornings have been dedicated to test preparation. Beginning next Monday, Upper Elementary students will begin the actual assessments. The complete battery of tests is expected to take approximately three days. We also prepared our answer folders in anticipation of next week.

With only a few weeks remaining in the school year, some afternoons have been set aside for Friday Night Live rehearsals, where students have been learning their songs and preparing for the play.

Fourth graders had a review on the rules of capitalization and punctuation in preparation for testing next week. Students also learned how to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers in math. In class, we continued to read *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

Fifth graders have been busy planting flowers, plants, herbs and strawberries in botany. They have also been learning how to read a map in their Map Skills book. In language they are learning how to use verbs in a sentence. The fifth graders are working very hard to complete their math books. We've had three students move on to the Saxon 6/7 grade books!

The sixth graders recently completed their roller coaster challenge and had the opportunity to showcase their projects; not only to their peers but also to visiting junior high and high school students who served as judges. The creations were especially impressive this year. Congratulations to Gianna/Hadley and Dixie/Alice/Siyana for winning the challenge! In addition, Upper Elementary concluded their unit on simple machines,

discovering how these mechanisms are all around us in everyday life.

For this month's book report, sixth graders were asked to choose a book of their choice. This book report will be due on April 30th.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

As we step into April with fresh energy, our classroom has been buzzing with creativity and curiosity.

All of our students have been actively preparing for our upcoming Friday Night Live performance. From writing scripts to rehearsing skits and perfecting their timing, it has been inspiring to see their teamwork and enthusiasm. We look forward to sharing their hard work and humor with you!

Our Physical Science class recently conducted a hands-on lab outdoors using UV-detecting beads to explore the effects of ultraviolet radiation. These special beads change color when exposed to UV light, allowing students to see just how quickly UV rays begin to take effect. Students tested the beads with and without sunscreen to observe how well sunscreen blocks UV radiation. The activity sparked great discussion about sun safety, the importance of protecting our skin, and how science can help us better understand everyday health choices. It was a fun and memorable way to see scientific concepts in action.

Our Junior High students have spent this week preparing for the upcoming Iowa Test, which they will take next week. The Iowa Test is a nationally standardized assessment that measures students' progress in key academic areas such as reading, language, and mathematics. It helps provide valuable insight into how students are developing academically and where additional support or enrichment may be beneficial.

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

Because the test requires focus and careful thinking, it is very important that students arrive at school on time each day next week. Getting a good night's sleep and eating a healthy breakfast will help students feel alert and ready to do their best. We appreciate your support in helping them come prepared and confident for testing.

We would like to congratulate Barrett Fromhart for completing Algebra 2 and moving to Geometry.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer and Ms. Russell

During circle time this week, we decided to talk about one of our senses, smell, which we obtain through our nose. Our nose has two holes which are called nostrils. Surprisingly without our sense of smell, it is very difficult sometimes to taste anything that is in our mouth. The children tried eating a small piece of apple while holding their nose, but they could not tell what they were eating, because there was simply no taste. The children found this extremely fascinating.

While on the playground, many children were playing in the sandbox trying to make birthday cakes and using dried sticks as candles (what a great imagination). Some children were running around trying to catch butterflies, while the rest were using the playground equipment. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework, while the rest played with any activity of their choice.

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The obvious problem to this method of shaping behavior in our modern culture is that most parents are at work and not at home. The babysitter or preschool teacher usually has more quantity time with the child than does the parent. Modern parents often have minimal to no time to interact with their child. These parents want to appease their child to decrease their own guilt for being absentee parents. Many children attempt to gain their parent's attention by doing inappropriate things.

This is a significant dilemma for the parent who corrects the child's behavior according to modern psychological tenets. It can cause feelings of rejection and unnecessary stress for both parents and child. The most common response of today's parent is to ignore the child's inappropriate actions as pleasantly as possible to avoid any unnecessary incidents. This causes frustration and aggravation for both. The parents are constantly reminded that they should spend quality time with their precious child. Quality time should be a contented period when the child and parent are supposed to bond.

The tragedy of this scenario is the child is ultimately the loser. He is never taught what is the appropriate behavior. The child becomes more prone to do whatever comes into his mind rather than please the parent by doing the right thing. The child learns to "do his own thing" rather than the socially approved thing. The child starts to believe he has the inherent right to do anything he feels like doing. Since children are not being taught boundaries of right and wrong they get into the habit of doing and feeling anything, they do is acceptable. These children do not develop social skills like manners, appropriate space, kindness, perseverance, and conflict resolution. When many modern children enter school, they are psychologically labeled for the parent's lack of appropriately socializing them. Their child's shortcomings are often amplified when they enter college and the work force. These young adults do not know how to make eye contact, follow through on assignments in a timely manner or handle criticism.

The university environment has become the natural extension of the lenient approach to immature and antisocial behavior. Cry closets, nap stations, and safe spaces have been established to protect student sensibilities and allow greater tolerance for angry outbursts against anyone who possesses different ideas and opinions. Even campus police are trained to overlook abusive and illegal behaviors. These "privileged students" have been given special consideration to placate the parents who are paying their outrageous tuition fees.

Probably the most devastating event of removing punishment for destructive behavior from the lives of our children is the weakening of their character. Our modern children are not being taught to sacrifice for the future or accept the consequences for their counterproductive decisions. These overly positive-rewarded people at times need punishment to keep from going further down a negative road.

Sufficient punishment for obnoxious and dangerous behavior alerts the individual that pain is going to be associated with his inappropriate action. Punishment inhibits behavior, which is essential for maturing into a strong, moral person not a fragile one.

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