



Wider Horizons School

Friday Night Live.

DATES TO REMEMBER

4/25 FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE
7 PM at Springstead Theater
5/5-5/9 Teacher Appreciation Week
5/9 Mothers Day visit
8:00-8:30

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE IS TONIGHT

The WHS annual theater event is tonight at Springstead Theater.

This performance of every class in the school is anticipated by everyone who has been in WHS for anytime at all. It is a chance for children to practice their acting, singing, dancing and performing skits in front of an audience.

This special event of WHS is required for students to attend. Please make sure your child is at the theater at the designated time.



Students practice their skits, songs, dances and other performance parts in the parking lot for several days to become proficient in their parts.



CHILDREN SPECTACULARLY LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Today's children are being deprived of many things. They have plenty of toys, electronics and other devices. If a child asks for the latest fashion, it immediately becomes part of their wardrobe. When a child as young as a preschooler asks to take a karate class, gymnastics, dance, music class or any sport they are immediately signed up for these different enrichment experiences.

What modern youngsters do not have is time to play unsupervised and uninstructed with peers. They cannot play on their own without adult supervision and instruction due to the parent's fear. Even recess in many public schools is being eliminated for safety reasons. Children are shielded from their peers which is stunting their growth in many areas. There are many reasons for this phenomenon.

American families have shrunk in size. "The one and done slogan" of parents has produced many single child families. Couple this with our social mobility that has separated family members: grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins from interacting with each other. It has resulted in a child being isolated from their young relatives. In the past adult family members talked and gossiped while the children played and learned from each other.

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PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace and Mrs. Nieves

Happy Earth Day! This week is a short week but a very busy one at that. Our students have been practicing very hard for Friday Night Live.

In language, we continue to read our Bob Books. We are also learning new blue series lessons. These lessons introduce pupils to different blends of consonants with 'A' short vowel sounds. Our new students are learning how to recognize the letter with the object.

In math, our second year students are starting their subtraction booklets. As new students are learning the teen numbers and counting.

In art, we are being creative with using recycled material to paint our own Earth for Earth Day. We also created our own binoculars to explore outside and see the new animals coming out for Spring.

PRIMARY

Ms. Finnerty, Ms. Skiff, and Mr. Garrand

Welcome back, we hope everyone had a restful Easter weekend. Primary students had a jam packed week with practicing for Friday Night Live, lessons, and Earth Day poems and crafts.

We discussed Earth Day with the students and the importance of taking care of the environment. We read the book "Michael Recycle" and discussed the ways they can help take care of the Earth. Students also got a special science lesson on recycling.

In math, we discussed time and showed students that the short

hand tells us the hour and the long hand tells us the minutes. Students were introduced to a game called clock word that requires them to match the clock with the time.

The students are doing a phenomenal job with their Friday Night Live performance. We discussed why we practice so hard so they can be proud of their performance at the end of the night.

Congratulations to Rylee for completing the Bob series books and for moving up to the leveled readers books. Happy birthday to Rocco, Justin and Juliet, we are so glad to celebrate this day with you!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

This week the students have been going outside to practice for FNL everyday to prepare for tonight. FNL is at Springstead theater at 7pm.

The main focus is for the students to complete the necessary work to move up to the next grade.

We have a field trip next week to the bowling alley, which is a great reward for the students since they have been learning how to set up the pins, how to hold the bowling ball, and where to stand.

The last composition is due next week on April 30th, if they have not already turned it in. There will not be any more book reports for the year. It is really important that the students continue to read daily for 30 minutes.

STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

In math the students are working in their booklets. In language some students are working on the review while other students are still working on the language tower.

In spelling the students did word web, word search, and wrote a sentence with a picture.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss. Bandini, & Ms. Smith

It has been a busy week for everyone! Preparations for Friday Night Live were in full swing as students worked hard on costumes, props, skits, songs and dances. Dress rehearsals ran from Wednesday through Friday, and Upper Elementary students had the opportunity to enjoy a special preview of the play on Wednesday.

Due to Friday Night Live, spelling and vocabulary tests have been postponed to Monday. Students can study over the weekend.

Fourth graders started their unit on the Civil War this week and learned what fueled the war between the Union and the Confederacy. Spelling and vocabulary tests were postponed this week. Their next book report of their choice, is due on May 1st.

Fifth graders were introduced to the third article and branch of the constitution in Civics. Students learned that the judicial branch interprets laws, and how judges are appointed. In future lessons, students will learn the limits and powers of the judicial branch.

Despite a week filled with play preparations, sixth graders successfully wrapped up their unit on heat transfer. They learned how thermal energy is transferred and explored the three main types of heat transfer: conduction, convection and radiation. Chapter 17 test will also have questions on conversions of Kelvins to Celsius and vice versa. Sixth graders will be tested on this material on Monday, so they are encouraged to use the weekend to review and prepare.

A reminder about book reports: The final book report of the year is due on Thursday, May 1st. Only students who still owe a report after this date will be required to submit one.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Ms. Wheeler, & Mrs. Parks

We have had another wonderful week of school in the Junior and Senior High School classroom!

Get ready to be entertained! Our students have been working hard and showing off their talents in preparation for Friday Night Live, our annual student variety show happening this Friday evening. Practice sessions have been running smoothly, and the energy and excitement are through the roof! You won't want to miss this fun, family-friendly night of music, comedy, and creativity.

Even with the excitement of Friday Night Live, our students continue to stay focused in the classroom. We're proud to report strong academic performance across all grades. Their dedication, resilience, and passion for learning truly shine every day!

As we plan ahead, don't forget that details for our summer academic program were recently sent home. This is a great opportunity to keep your child engaged and growing academically over the summer. This will be especially beneficial for students who want to continue progressing in their math books. Be sure to sign your student up soon if you haven't already!

A big congratulations goes out to Hayley Deslauriers, who has successfully completed Algebra 1/2 and has now advanced into Algebra 1. This accomplishment reflects her hard work and determination- well done Hayley.

**SNACKS WILL NOW BE
\$0.75 FOR ALL ROOMS**

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During circle time we discussed wild weather such as tornadoes and earthquakes. We talked about how dangerous they are and what we all need to do in order to stay safe.

The children were asked about how they thought they would stay safe during a dangerous situation. The students gave impressive responses such as staying inside and avoiding tall structures. The students learned to stay down and cover their face, head and neck from debris when an earthquake happens. The most important lesson is to not go outside during a natural disaster unless it is absolutely necessary.

While on the playground, some children were going up and down the slide while others were very busy collecting dry leaves to make nests for the little creatures they found on the ground. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework and the other children worked with an activity of their choice

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When children are allowed limited freedom and choice by not being chaperoned by adults, a pecking order is established for different activities, skill areas and natural leadership development. A child who has been taught proper behavior might tell another that he should not act that way or treat another child disrespectfully. Often a child will role model others who already have learned leadership skills without being conscious of it. Children learn from each other.

The natural resource of children teaching each other is underutilized in our public schools. Our public schools have become centralized from national and state bureaucratic mandates, which are to be followed by each and every teacher. Teachers common sense has been stifled by the concept that the whole class has to be at a certain point in the curriculum at a certain time. This cookie cutter approach to education does not allow for students to teach and help each other. Instead, often the child is labeled and assigned to a specialist or para-professional to remediate the child's academic difficulty. The child may improve with an Individual Educational Plan but once the specialist or paraprofessional is reassigned to another child, the student's confidence and achievement often evaporate. Peer teaching is a cost-effective alternative to hiring specialists and paraprofessionals.

That peer teaching of students helps students has been demonstrated to be very effective in assisting student learning. One-room schools were considered by researchers to be the most cost effective and efficient method of educating children. A teacher of multi aged students in the same classroom would have no option but to use the better students to help others with academic problems. This system also encouraged student leaders to counsel inappropriately acting students.

Maria Montessori, an internationally recognized education authority, incorporated "peer teaching" as an integral part of her world-famous education system. Montessori schools all over the world have had incredible success in motivating academic learning and have used peer teaching as a major component. The peer teacher learns by doing and verbalizing the accurate information while the other student learns the lesson. This learning technique becomes personalized by employing different methods and examples to help the student understand the new concept. The student who needs more practice or conceptual understanding receives it and improves.

Children normally teach each other. Older children are role models to their siblings and friends. Often younger children can assist older children to reach levels they did not think possible. If a child needs assistance, they can overcome their inhibitions and fears. The student can learn to be independent and successful. "I can do it myself!" becomes a reality. The power of peer teaching is significant and should not be overlooked.

Children helping other children is as old as human history. Children learn from each other. As a society we should maximize these opportunities. Children need to learn how to interact with other children. These experiences do not have to be orchestrated by adults as they can happen spontaneously. Children have to develop these difficult life skills on their own to gain self- confidence.

Let us not rob our children of these necessary experiences with other children because of our adult fears. Our children need to believe their loved ones have faith in them to become responsible adults. Let our children be sufficiently free to learn from each other.

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 a recent book entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING in a PC World. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at www.drmaglioblogspot.com.