

# Wider Horizons School

## Field Trips to Chinsegut and Inglis

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

5/22 Pine Island Field Trip (Jr/Sr high)

5/23 Field Day

5/26 Graduation/Student Recognition

Field trips have always been an important part of the education of Wider Horizons School students. Field trips are to places that parents generally cannot take their children.

This week the primary class traveled to Chinsegut Nature Center north of Brooksville where they learned about the birds and butterflies of the area. There were two biologists who gave them the wildlife lessons.

Upper elementary class traveled an hour north to Inglis where they met up with Mr. Mark Fulkerson of Southwest Florida Water Management District. He took the students on a tour to see the various aspects of the Withlacoochee River water shed. Mr. Fulkerson had previously come into the class and gave the students lessons of Florida water especially our close river, the Withlacoochee. Both classes learned a lot.

### GOVERNMENT IS WEAKENING OUR SAFETY

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Politicians and the media are encouraging people to play the victim card to demonstrate their "caring" for the criminals and mentally ill while ignoring their role of protecting our society. American institutions are not doing their job of safeguarding rational law-abiding citizens.

Currently mentally insane people and cold-blooded criminals have more rights than innocent victims. Our teachers, police, mental health professionals, and other authorities are being handcuffed by the priority of not causing a controversy. Our political leaders do not want strong men or women who might anger a civil or national organization that would cause an uproar in the community. We are focusing on the rights of perpetrators rather than on the public safety.

This mentality of brushing everything under the rug is just hiding the dirt. It does not solve the problem. The issue just grows until it bursts out of control. At that moment, chaos prevails until someone, or some group stands up to bring back law, order, and sanity. People doing the right thing have to be honored, not punished by our government officials.

Too many politicians want to win the favor of certain voting blocs by catering to their lowest instincts to look like they are doing something.

Our law enforcement and mental health authorities are being overwhelmed especially in our urban centers

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## PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Bermudez and Ms. Wallace

This week in preschool, the children continued to learn about Memorial Day and Ladybugs and had a great time watching the entire life cycle of a Ladybug over the course of two weeks. Every morning they enjoyed watching this amazing transformation called metamorphosis. First they were able to see real eggs and after a few days they observed the larvae grow and move around inside of their ladybug home. After a week, the Larvae became pupae and finally into adult ladybugs. Last Friday they enjoyed watching all the ladybugs go free in our garden.

During Language the children had lessons on sounds, blending sounds and short vowels. Some children had lessons on phonograms and long vowels. In math, the children had lessons on identifying numbers, the teen and ten boards, and the Decimal System. At the art table they made a hat for Memorial day. Congratulations to Aurora and Masa for completing the Bob Book series!!

Please have your child bring in an extra shirt for our Annual Field Day next Tuesday.

Have a great weekend!



## PRIMARY

Mrs. Youse and Ms. Lundmark

We have had a math and language week. The students have been working quite diligently on finishing up their facts and continuing to manipulate the Montessori materials to meet their needs for learning. One of their language assignments this week was "When I Grow Up, I Want to be..." The children were asked to give a reason as to why they want to be the person they chose. Their responses were quite interesting.

On Tuesday we had Move-Up Day! We welcomed the students from preschool (future Kindergartners). Our current kindergarten class showed the preschoolers around and answered their questions. The first graders went to the Lower Elementary classroom and got to see where they would be learning next year! They are excited about all they will learn next year.

Folders will not go home this week. We will send them home next Wednesday.

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements this week. Quindolyn completed the Bob Books. Karolyn finished all the series reading books. Adelina, Caden Kinsley, Jace, Quindolyn, James, and Katherine completed their squaring and cubing booklet. Skylar finished writing her numbers from 1-1000.

Have an amazing weekend!

Jacob and Aurora had their birthday walks this week! They both walked around the sun once repressing each year they have been alive!

STUDENT EDITOR

YANNEISY FERRER

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

The students continued to work toward finishing up the language work and completing required math booklets.

Some students are building their poem book. We also have students working on botany, history, and landforms.

The third grade student had their moving up day last week and were all very excited about moving into a new classroom. The second graders also welcomed the first graders.

Keep in mind that we have a lot of different summer camps available this summer. Please sign up as soon as possible to secure your spot for that week.

Have a great weekend!



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Mrs. Poole

On Wednesday our field trip to Inglis was very educational. When we arrived at Lake Rousseau we toured the Inglis Dam and participated in a water quality activity. After that we traveled to Inglis Lock and learned about the history of the Cross Florida Barge Canal.

This week fourth grade students completed the last composition of this year and they tested on the last spelling lesson as well. Most students presented their state research reports and brought in some food indigenous to that state. They tried alien cookies from Nevada, baked apples from Washington and more. Students worked to complete math sets and take final tests. There will be still time next week to fit in some tests as well. The year is quickly coming to a close.

This week fifth grade had their final spelling test, vocabulary test, and composition for the year. Students had a review on water control structures like dams and boat locks for our Withlacoochee River field trip. Students also turned in their Volcano projects, and made another dichotomous key to identify things in the classroom. Students who have had to finish their assignments worked diligently this week so that they are not forced to rush next week. As a reminder, students will be turning in their textbooks next week.

This week in Physical Science sixth graders were introduced to the nature of waves. They learned about wavelength, frequency and amplitude. They also learned how to calculate the speed of waves. In Language we are working on writing opinions and reviewing other concepts through daily drills.

Have an amazing weekend!

## JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Ms. Sanchez, and Miss Finnerty

This week our students completed their finals, showing their teachers the culmination of everything they've learned this year. We would like to congratulate them on a job well done.

After completing their final, 9th grade Physics Science students worked on a periodic table project. This assignment allowed them to become even more familiar with the elements and overall structure of the table. Each student also got to pick an element to create a poster of to share with the class.

8th grade civics students completed their final project. They were tasked with creating a pamphlet for their "campaign". Each student had to pretend to run for office and explain what they will accomplish for their constituents.

High schoolers in economics submitted their last project of the year "Econopoly". They recreated the board game "Monopoly", including trivia questions about the economic principles they learned about this year.

As the year comes to an end we would like to remind students that we will be collecting textbooks next Thursday, they should be in good condition and free of any markings.

Our field trip to Pine Island is next week. Please remember to submit your money to the office.

Have a great weekend!

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

## AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer

This week during circle time we decided to review everything we have learned during the school year regarding "how we behave inside the classroom". We raise our hand when we need something or ask a question, we walk, not run inside the classroom, we keep our hands to ourselves, we use low voices, there is no need to shout to be heard, and most importantly we always pay attention to the teacher when she is talking, reading, or demonstrating a new lesson, and also we have fun with our work and treat others the way we want to be treated.

While on the playground, some of the children helped to plant a small lantana shrub in the garden (one of the children said "now we have to watch it grow"). Some sang "we Are Going to Kentucky" and danced to the song. Others were collecting tiny flowers from the field to bring to their moms, several children played in the sand box and the rest were playing hide and seek.

Have a great weekend!

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The major reason is not the lack of personnel but the lack of support by the media and cowardly government officials especially when a mental health worker, policeman, or other public worker makes an appropriate decision which might provoke a politically negative reaction by a small but vocal element. This leaves the worker doing the courageous, correct action appearing as a culprit not as a conscientious employee. The undercutting of appropriate decision making is weakening the integrity of our institutions.

It is easier when doing a psychological evaluation not to commit a person to an institution. It is easier for the judicial system to put a criminal back on the streets rather than put the person in prison. The same reality exists when teachers ignore bullying or academic slacking behavior in students to avoid having to face angry school authorities. It is easier and safer to the official to overlook problems than it is to confront and solve them.

The Jordan Neeley situation on a New York subway is a case in point. Mr. Neely entered a subway car yelling, "I don't have food, I don't have a drink. I am fed up and don't mind going to jail and getting life in prison. I am ready to die." These are statements of a deranged person. Most of the time subway riders put their eyes down to appear like they are not going to get involved in any dangerous incident. This time someone took courageous action.

A 24-year-old ex-marine, Daniel Penny, and other passengers were sufficiently threatened in that subway car that instead of putting their heads down they decided to do something. Several riders tried to incapacitate Neely by putting him down on the floor of the train with Mr. Penny putting him in a choke hold while a black male passenger tried to hold Neely's legs down. This was to prevent him from hurting himself and others.

Instead of being honored for his courage in subduing this out-of-control person, Penny is being charged with second degree murder and being held in prison with a huge bail. According to Mr. Neely's aunt, her nephew was diagnosed with schizophrenia and was suffering from depression and PTSD from the trauma of his mother's murder. He had 42 prior arrests including the punching of a 67-year-old woman in the head and breaking her skull. He was also charged with threatening to kill his grandfather. He had a violent history that cannot be denied. Mr. Neely was a mentally unstable individual who needed a safe and secure institutional environment for the seriously mentally ill.

The real question should not be whether Mr. Penney committed murder but why was a severely mentally deranged person not in a mental health facility receiving help? The answer is simple. Clearing out the prisoners and mentally ill from institutions is cheaper in the short run but more dangerous, expensive, and more tragic in the long run.

Justice is necessary to establish a safe and stable society. Daniel Penny is a hero in protecting the people in the subway car. He should be commended as a hero for protecting the people in the subway. We need more people like him.

Without safe streets the fear exhibited by all citizens is unhealthy. It costs to establish law and order although in the long run the country can self-regulate with less expense for more policing and mental health provision. We do not need more victims but we do need more honest and strong people to uphold and support justice so we can have a safe and law-abiding society.

*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).*



