

Wider Horizons School

WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to all our new students !!



We are glad you are here.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

8/21 PARENT ORIENTATION 7-7:0PM
9/1 LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL
8/12 Grandparents Songfest 9am
8/17 Constitution Day
8/29 First Day of Fall

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

Tyler coming to school on the first day:
“ I am soooo glad to be back. I LOVE SCHOOL.”

Mother of new student who teaches math at a local high school:

“When I have a student who comes to my class and really understands math, they invariably have gone to school at Wider Horizons School.”

“Never let a child risk failure before he has had a chance at success.”

Maria Montessori



Students working in the 3-6 Montessori classroom.

BEING A FRIEND TO YOUR CHILD IS DELUSIONAL

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Most modern parents have been indoctrinated with the notion that if you are your child's BFF (Best Friend forever) they would have a blissful, intimate relationship with each other forever. The child and the parent's friendly relationship is supposed to keep all communication between them honest and open throughout their years together. The parent will be told everything going on in the child's life. There will be no surprises since the child will seek out the parent's advice before making any decisions.

This utopian relationship between parents and child sounds terrific but is diametrically opposed to human nature. At the beginning of life fetuses are physically attached to the mother by their umbilical cord. Upon birth they are largely dependent on their parents for survival although they naturally begin to explore their environment. By the time they are toddlers they are able to crawl and begin to walk then run.

It eventually becomes a problem to keep them safely corralled in a particular area. The sweet sound of cooing when they are happy is soon augmented by words. As they continue to explore the world they increase the number of relationships with others. Peers help them learn new words, behaviors and new ways of thinking. Their world is branching out and becoming more involved and complex. The parent is no longer the major influence in their life.

PRIMARY 1

Ms. Wallace, Ms Tejeda

Welcome back to school everyone! I hope you had a wonderful summer vacation. This year we are delighted to be your teachers and to follow you on your academic path.

We are starting off the week with circle time, discussing our daily routines and the rules of the classroom and playground. We discussed the children's role in the classroom and our goals and expectations for them.

The new students were given a tour of the classroom in order for them to familiarize themselves with different work areas. They were given different lessons in the Practical Life area. These activities are uniquely purposeful and calming. They appear to be simple and repetitive, but these skills and characteristics are essential to a child's progress in a Montessori classroom. They will help develop a high level of concentration, a developing sense of order, pride in their work, taking responsibilities for any necessary clean up, and increasing a sense of independence. This happens through care of themselves and their environment, respect for their community, classmates, and their teacher, and in the development of time motor-skills.

Our returning students are doing great getting back into their routine. They are also being great helpers with the new students.

PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

We would like to extend a huge welcome back to our returning students and a warm welcome to our new students and their families. The children are settling in nicely in the classroom. We introduced some important school, classroom, and playground rules to ensure safety. All students were given a tour of our classroom to help them get familiarized with the different work areas. As a Montessori classroom, the children will work and follow the Montessori principles. The

Montessori manipulatives are essential to the students' mastery of foundational concepts such as letter sounds and number quantity.

During circle time we played listening games and learned some new songs. The returning students dove right back into the routine and their work. They also helped the new students adjust and learn the rules. Although a new classroom can be scary, the students seemed to have overcome their initial fears and are happy to participate and share.

This week the students had a few practical life lessons such as grace and courtesy (manners, greetings, interacting respectfully with each other, and using materials correctly). They also are getting lessons in taking care of themselves and their environment. The aim of these practical life exercises is to help the children gain independence and to adapt to our classroom.

We use the newsletter as a tool to communicate with you, the parents, letting you know what is happening at school, what your child is working on, and any important events or days you should be aware of. Folders will go home every Friday. Please check your child's folder and return them the following Monday. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to through the front office. Thank you for a wonderful first week. Have a great weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

I would like to start off by welcoming all the returning students and all the new students to second and third grade. This week we have started off by reviewing the classroom and school rules. We have given a few lessons this week. We are currently testing the students to see what they have remembered during the summer. We are testing them in different areas such as reading, addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

The students have started their first writing project. They have also started their first poem of the year to hang out in the hallway.

STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

The students have made their first art project. They have received a lesson in Native American, science, language, and geography. The students reviewed the noun family in language. The student's spelling list went home this week. Spelling tests are every Friday with all the spelling they have done for the week. The first spelling test will be Aug. 22nd.

The students engaged in different activities outside for recess. We have played dodgeball, trashcan game, gaga ball, relay races, and kickball. For some students, this is their first time playing these games while others have played them before. The rules are discussed prior to each game so the students have a better understanding of the concept of each game.

Please remember that this class does have a snack time. The students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack from home. If the student wishes they can also purchase snacks from our classroom snack basket for 75 cents. Snack time is at 9:30 A.M. and such is at 11:30 A.M. After lunch the students will go outside for recess, however, since it is so hot outside the students will have recess in the morning after snack time.

The students will have time tables for homework every weekend. The student will know how to write them and what time tables they are writing for homework every Friday.

We encourage the students to practice the time tables song we are learning. This week is the 2's and we add to it every week.

Please remember the first composition and book report will be done in class as a whole so the student will know how to write them.

We ask that you please do not take anything out of the homework folder prongs. The work remains in the prongs for the entire year.

The homework folder needs to go home and return back to school on a daily basis. Please take out any and all papers that are in the pockets and leave them at home (unless it is homework).

Have a great weekend!

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Mrs. Russell

We are delighted to welcome all of Upper Elementary back for this new school year. It has been exciting to see how much our students have grown in such a short time, and we have truly enjoyed welcoming so many new faces. Our new students are adapting wonderfully to the classroom dynamic and building new friendships.

We started the week assessing each student's skills in reading, writing and math. Once individual voids were identified, work was assigned to help fill in any gaps. It is especially important to build a stronger foundation before moving forward to new concepts.

Anyone who has not passed the timed tests in addition and multiplication should practice this weekend. Demonstrating their proficiency in their math facts is a prerequisite to be able to take their Saxon math book home.

Fourth graders were welcomed to their new classroom and introduced to all subjects. Rules and expectations for the Upper Elementary were also explained. The class had an opportunity to go through their math textbook where they went over the commutative property of addition, the identity property of addition, and reviewed the vocabulary for addition problems such as addend and sum. The students began lessons in Zoology and the five kingdoms in a three-part matching lesson. We also introduced the differences between physical and political geography through the use of maps.

Fifth graders began working in the language tower and in their language books. The first spelling and vocabulary tests will be held next Friday, August 22nd. Some students were able to take their math textbooks home. They were introduced to Civics. Our students also explored the geography and botany sections of the classroom as well, reviewing some common landforms and the five kingdoms.

We would like to welcome Alice, Ava and Jaylen to our classroom. They are transitioning well into the sixth grade and have already made new friends. All subjects were introduced this week. Sixth graders explored their unit one vocabulary words and will be tested next Friday. The different sections of the language textbook were also introduced. Sixth grade students should refer to their spelling list for words for their test. The novel, *My Side of the Mountain* has also been assigned, and the first book report will be due on September 15th.

All of Upper Elementary will have their first Spelling and Vocabulary tests on Friday, August 22nd.

HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Ms. Youse, and Ms. Wheeler

We are excited to welcome all of our students back for a brand-new school year! Our focus this year is to help each student continue building high standards for themselves and, more importantly, meeting them.

By now, all students should have their school supplies ready and be prepared for a productive year ahead. The first week has been spent introducing everyone to their new and continuing courses, as well as outlining our expectations for success. Students have already taken their first vocabulary tests and displayed a mastery of ten brand new words with which to express themselves.

We are looking forward to a fruitful and exiting year filled with learning, growth, and achievement. We will make this year one to remember!

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

AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Ms. Wallace

We want to welcome all of the students to a new and exciting school year filled with learning, projects and fun. Our time indoors this week consisted of the classroom and playground rules. Some of the students asked very interesting questions regarding the rules (inside and outside of the classroom). We also reviewed important topics that we have learned over the years; for example, they were reminded to share with their friends, not be greedy, to be polite, and to be helpful towards our family, friends, and neighbors.

Once outside, the children played inside the sandbox. Others used the playground equipments and played "Red light Green light". Once inside, the children did some art work. They had the chance to play with any board games and/or any activity of their choice.

Continued from first page...

At the same time they are beginning to better express their feelings by negotiating and even demanding what they want. These simple expressions of feelings increase as the child learns to speak. As their mobility and language becomes more developed their skills to do the unexpected explodes. The testing of limits of parental tolerance for behavior becomes a more sophisticated activity. Humans from birth to death are known to lie, steal, cheat and hurt other's feelings even loving parents and other caring people. These behaviors have been noted as part of human nature.

Our media's pop culture has led many modern parents to believe that an intensive bond between parents and child will eliminate the negative parts of human nature. As long as parents maintain open communication, the child will share everything with them. Any lying, stealing, selfishness or disrespectful behavior will miraculously disappear after a soft talk and reluctant admission by the child. As long as the child says "sorry" the parent is relieved. When the child becomes more sophisticated in playing this counseling game, the parents become certain the child can be trusted. This youngster will supposedly develop into an exemplary adult who will not cheat or steal but will be honorable in every venue. The intimate relationship between the child and parent will create BFFs. Once the child and parent are BFFs the child will be protected from all temptations that will confront him throughout his life.

Not only a group of peers, teachers and even family members will be told by a parent that "I spoke to my child and he told me the 'true story'." The ultimate reason for this faith in the child's unquestionable word and behavior is simply ensured by the parent who says: "I am the child's best friend and the child would never lie to me or do anything wrong." The faith in this notion is embedded enough for them to deny overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

All people lie. Only through vigorous conscience training can a parent hope to minimize blatant lying. It is natural to lie to get out of trouble, telling the truth has to be taught. The parental response to other people's accusations of their child's wrong doing is not only a denial of reality but farcical. Most parents of sociopathic criminals, including mass killers, invariably state to the media that their offspring was a good child growing up. They will do this even after being presented with detailed evidence by family, friends and other authority figures of the community of his anti social behavior. Even police dossiers of fully investigated, horrible crimes are viewed skeptically or even as an outright frame-up by the parent. This diehard belief of a child's innocence regardless of the type and volume of evidence testifies to a delusional parent, often the mother.

This parent does not see the child as a perpetrator but as a victim of societal misunderstanding and unforgiving people. The parents want everybody to know their child is a good person since the child has always told them everything.

"My child is my BFF," is frightening. Parents have the responsibility to be a parent, not a friend. It means the parents have to put the child in many social situations to observe and hear reports from respected authority figures about his behavior with other people. Unsupervised peer activities should be spot checked by parents to view how they behave in these types of situations. Like all of us, a child acts differently in different environments. The parents need to investigate their child's actions and question, probe and evaluate their behavior patterns.

The parents of children are the primary authority figures. They have the most to gain from giving appropriate consequences and are in the most advantageous position to civilize their offspring. When they accomplish their sacred task, the child succeeds as an adult. When they do not instill moral values to direct them, the child has no conscience to guide him. These children with a moral vacuum usually fall into some form of destructive lifestyle.

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 recently published book, entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can visit Dr. Maglio at www.drmaglio.blogspot.com.