

# Wider Horizons School

## Autumn Arrives

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/6 Individual Picture Day  
10/13 Columbus Day (No school)  
10/20 Report Cards



### THE MONTESSORI BIRTHDAY WALK

In preschool and primary classes the children have a special Birthday Walk to celebrate their birthday. Pictures with the 12 months of the year are spread out on the floor with a "Sun" in the middle. The child carries a globe and walks around the sun the number of years of their age. As they walk the teacher explains how they were growing and learning as each year passed.



### WHEN YOU TEACH NONSENSE COMMON SENSE DISAPPEARS

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Parents who tell their child to think before they act have repeated the phrase "use your common sense". Today it is not said as often for it is quite rare to expect the child to think before doing. Many parents are no longer teaching common sense and our culture is obliterating it by stressing fantasy and utopian thinking. Reality is being ignored or circumvented to avoid contradicting a naïve, wishful, and non-reality belief system.

Anyone can be anything they want to be if they do not give up their dream. Just ask an aspiring athlete, actress or artist working as a waiter how long they have been waiting for their "big break." People rarely research the probability and actual price they will have to pay to possibly reach their dream. Like fools-gold they can live a life looking to hit the jackpot but realize they have wasted many opportunities to find the success that is right in front of their nose. Instead, they live out a life of regret.

Believing in fantasy-thinking starts with parents. The helicopter parents micro-manage the children, protecting and preventing them from directly learning from reality. The harried parents are so busy "making it" they cannot point out examples of negative actions of people and the eventual consequences.

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PRESCHOOL  
Mrs. Bermudez

Congratulations to Zoe, Bjorn, Lincoln, Roman, Althaea, Coral, Eduardo, Angelica, and Emma who are now adding with the Decimal System.

This week in preschool, we continued our discussion about why leavedschange colors and the seven continents. In the art area, children decorated an autumn tree.

In math, the students received a lesson on the short bead stair material. The purpose of this equipment is to assist the children in memorizing the colors of each bead bar and it's associated quantity. This is a preliminary activity for more advanced work. The teen board was also introduced. With this equipment, the children associate the numbers eleven through nineteen with the symbols 11-19.

In language, we are working with sound repetition and blending sounds together while others are working with short vowels and blends or spelling words with the movable alphabet. The movable alphabet is a box of individual letters that have been cut out so the child can move them around to make words. This material progresses from single words, to phrases, and eventually to stories. In this way, the movable alphabet teaches children how to symbolize their own thoughts, and begin to write creatively.

Have a great weekend!

PRIMARY  
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

Congratulation to Ezra for passing addition and moving onto subtraction.

We began our week by discussing the change in season, from Summer to Fall. Students identified what makes fall special and some of the holidays we will be experiencing. The children are very excited for all of the fall activities we discussed, especially pumpkin carving.

A special congratulations to Bella for agreeing to move on to the next level of spelling words and challenging herself.

In language, students were introduced to new materials to help them with letter identification and penmanship. These foundational lessons provide an essential base for the children to build on as they grow. The children also received a lesson on sentence to picture matching. We are focusing on helping our students identify letters that are commonly reversed when reading and writing; like b and d and p and q. We also began reading a chapter book in class to get the students to use their imagination and to foster their love of reading.

In art, the children created beach scenes using real sand and shells to go along with our Florida lessons on geography.

In math, students received a lesson on the addition board. This lesson helps the children build a better understanding of this math skill.

Have a wonderful weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY  
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to James W. for mastering addition 1-10 and Oscar and Giovanna for mastering addition 1-20.

Congratulations to Adelina, Carter, and Jace for mastering subtraction 1-10 and Logan for mastering subtraction 1-20.

Congratulations to Oscar, Kinsley, Liam, Jace, Joemanuel, Christian, Logan, and Jax for mastering their times tables and Hely for mastering mixed multiplication.

Congratulations to James P. For mastering all facts through division.

Congratulations to Tara, Thomas, Aryanna, and Kendra for having perfect reading sheets this week.

In spelling, the students verbally talked about the word meanings, students also worked in their packet. Remember, all new spelling words go home Friday attached to their spelling test and any spelling they have completed throughout the week. Next week will be the definition test.

STUDENT EDITOR  
Chase Ghingher

In math, the students have been going outside in groups of their times tables to practice them and to see if they can verbally answer correctly. This is helping the students move up on their times tables faster.

In language, the students are working on punctuation. The students are reviewing the four different types of sentences and the correct punctuation that goes with that sentence.

In history, the students are learning about the Native American regions. They are learning about art, culture, defense, clothing, and food. Some students are finishing up the Northwest Region.

In science, the students are working on the external diagram of the fish and mammal.

In geography, the students are working on completing the remaining continent animals and started on the Solar System. They have also learned about the four oceans.

In art, the students are working on different Halloween and fall crafts.

All students should have chosen a person for the Biography Fair. Some students have received a book source, however, they can also use the library or computer for additional information on their person.

Please make sure your child is reading 30 minutes a day.

Have a safe weekend!

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

By now, all of our students have submitted their proposals for the Biography Fair and are hard at work researching their chosen person. Many students have been collecting their facts and carefully following guidelines. If there are any questions, please call or send a note for clarification.

Fourth Graders were tested on nouns this week where they were able to identify irregular plural nouns, count nouns, mass nouns, and common and proper nouns. Students were also given a lesson on citations to help with their Biography Fair research. In geography, students have finished labeling regions of the United States and each state capital. Next week, students will be assigned a state from the southeast region. In Zoology, students continued to learn about the animal cell and identify the building blocks of life inside each cell. Students also had their first Florida History test this week.

The fifth graders had lessons in language extension materials where they had to identify and label parts of a sentence such as the direct object, indirect object, and the adverbial phrases. Students were also given tips on how to search for information for their Biography Fair and how to write their introduction. In Geography, students are learning terminology for maps, globes, and how different types of map projections have different uses. In Botany, the students are going to receive their own classroom plant that they will be caring for. They will have a plant log to record their progress.

Sixth graders completed the unit on prepositions and conjunctions this week. They began a review of action and linking verbs and will learn to identify verb phrases, direct objects, and indirect objects in the next chapter. In geography,

sixth graders are continuing to work on their United States pin maps. On Tuesday, sixth grade finished the chapter on the phases of matter with a test. We would like to congratulate Braden, James, and Sarah for earning the top scores on the test. Students who did not do well on this test can complete page 89 for extra credit. Extra credit must be submitted by Tuesday, October 3rd.

## JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

Congratulations to Chase Ghingher (10th grade), Julie Maglio, (9th grade), Sofia Howes (8th grade), and Matthew Ni (7th grade) for finishing their math books and continuing to be on track for dual enrollment in their Junior and Senior years!

In a blink of an eye, another week has come to a close. This week has started the official preparation for the Biography Fair as all of our students have turned in their topics. Each of our students have a due date timeline for each part of the fair.

7th grade has explored the rock cycle in Earth Science. They completed a starburst rock cycle lab to put it into practice. 8th grade completed chapter 4 in Life Science that covered different cell processes such as respiration, photosynthesis, and mitosis. 9th grade Physical science created their own "alien" periodic tables. 10th grade Biology has covered biomes across the globe.

As a reminder, picture day is next Friday, October 6th. Biography Fair works cited pages are due on October 16th.

See you Monday!

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 / Ms Wallace

This week, the After School group welcomed in the Autumn season. In circle, we discussed what changes we expect during the fall, such as leaves changing their color and eventually falling off and the weather becoming cooler. The birds begin to migrate and the animals start storing food for winter. The older students spent the indoor time completing their homework and using various building activities and board games.

During playground time, some children enjoyed playing Hide and Seek while others pretended to be zoo keepers. Once inside, the children had the chance to work or play with a game of their choice.

Enjoy your weekend!

Parents please do not enter the after school classrooms. Please knock and your child will be sent out once they have cleaned up any activities they were using. Thank you for your cooperation.



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This has become politically incorrect to do. They cannot teach common sense since they are not there enough as parents to teach important lessons of reality.

We are being fed utopian nonsense by the media, Hollywood, and our educational system. Students are taught that once they graduate from college, they know their chosen profession better than those who have been in the profession for years. Public schools are indoctrinating students that learning should be fun and no longer should take hard work and focused discipline. Rampant grade inflation has not completely disguised the disgraceful lack of learning of students. The PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) has highlighted our pathetic national testing results as compared to 30 other developed nations. Instead, schools are propagandizing students through “feeling discussions” led by progressive advocates rather than critical thinking with factual knowledge to reach a well informed and logical conclusion.

False advertising has exposed the lack of common sense to a disturbing level. Commercials shout at us that buying this exercise machine, this new diet program or pill will immediately remove weight and bring back your youth. New drug after drug is shown in testimonials to cure all your ills. Commercials note the more you spend on credit the more you can purchase and the higher your standard of living will be. There should be no concern about bankruptcy for over extended credit as your ever-increasing salary due to advancement, credit consolidation and forgiveness programs will make it needless to pay back. Live for today and do not worry about tomorrow is the message even though there are real consequences for irresponsible actions. Living above one’s means until a person is serving you with a subpoena to appear in court or the collection agency appears on your doorstep to repossess the outrageously expensive purchases you cannot pay for. Regardless of what the media experts might inform us we are living in a capitalist society that does not forgive when you do not pay for your purchases as agreed.

Common sense was only common because it was taught by the overwhelming majority of loved ones and observed in daily life. When the authorities of government and the media promote a PC agenda that controls what history should be and the way we are supposed to think, common sense is always the victim. We are not supposed to “believe our lying eyes.” According to the authorities it is perfectly all right if one group riots, but the opposing group is arrested for combating them. Law and order are not supposed to be equally administered because some groups may have been victimized in the past. This is not blind justice; it is social justice of privileged interest groups.

When the truth is denied or twisted for politically correct or cultural reasons, citizens have a moral obligation to stand up and denounce it. No one person or any government has the right to distort reality to further their agenda. This only results in confusion and ends in a nation’s “out-of-control,” totalitarian society.

To prevent politically correct propaganda from destroying our freedom of speech and freedom to think we need to fight back by speaking out “common sense truths.”

To gain information torture does work and has for centuries. Children should receive appropriate consequences including an appropriate spank for their misbehavior, not be appeased. Parents should be in-charge of their children.

Common sense is based on observing reality and giving natural consequences. Common sense keeps us anchored but when it becomes dulled in a person or by the culture, nothing but very bad things will happen.

*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).*