

# Wider Horizons School

Remembering 9/11



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

*9/17 Constitution Day*  
*9/18 Grandparents Day \*\*\* New*  
*1-1:30 p.m.*  
*9/30 Technology Day*

Learning about money is difficult for children when all they see used are credit cards. This material shows all the ways to make \$1.00 from pennies all the way to the dollar bill.



It is another way of learning the decimal system.

## Lest We Forget

To help the students learn about what happened to the USA on 9/11 we watched videos in the upper levels about the "BoatLift." We read books written for the younger children that told the story of how so many heroes helped out when we were attacked.

This 25th anniversary is a time to reflect on how we can help one another when times are difficult.

Lower Elementary students enjoy learning from many of the Montessori materials that teach about the continents



and where they are located in the world.

Students label each continent then make their own labeled maps.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

**\*Music Lessons with Mike Scaglione, musician extraordinaire, will begin this week. Mr. Scaglione is a well known musician who has played with the Miami Sound Machine for years.**

**Inquire at the office as to what instrument and day you would like your child to begin.**

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## Yearly Pizza Payment

**It has become a bit confusing with so many recurring orders for pizza. Some parents have started to pay for the rest of the year rather than try to come up with the cash each week.**

**For the 28 Fridays left of the year, one slice is \$84, two slices is \$112. Please communicate with Mrs. Hobbs if you want this option.**

**Once in awhile orders still use the weekly slips.**

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**First graders now need to wear a belt and have their shirts tucked in like the second and third graders in their room.**

## PRIMARY

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejada

Welcome back, we hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend.

This week students are learning and discussing about 9-11. We read a story and discussed the importance of fire fighters, police officers, and every-day people who help others in a time of need.

In language, students continue to read Bob Books. This week we are practicing the letter B. Students are tracing, writing, and sounding out words with the letter B. Some students started to write their name this week. Others are continuing to trace and practice their letters. Students are learning to identify initial sounds with objects. They are learning to match graphic symbols to develop classification skills.

In math, preschool students are practicing their sandpaper numbers, counting with the spindle box, and playing the zero game. Kindergarten students learned the snake game which helps students practice adding the basic operations of 10. Students were also introduced to the large and small number cards. This helps students associate the names of the first four categories of the decimal system.

In culture, students are learning the parts of an apple. Since fall is approaching, we are talking about the changes that happen.

We hope you have a great weekend. Don't forget, September 18th is Grandparents Day visit.

LOWER ELEMENTARY 1 and 2  
Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Skiff,  
Ms. Finnerty, and Mrs. Nieves

We had another busy and productive week in our Lower Elementary classrooms! The students continued building on skills from previous lessons while exploring new concepts throughout the curriculum. It has been wonderful to see them become

more comfortable with their routines, growing in independence, and making connections between different areas of their learning.

In language, our younger students worked with initial blends and phonograms, helping strengthen their reading, spelling, and writing skills. Our older students practiced alphabetizing nouns and explored verb tense, learning how verbs change depending on when an action takes place. Students continued working at their individual levels, allowing them to practice and build confidence with these concepts.

In math, we continued our work with clocks, telling time, money, and fractions. Students practiced telling time and worked with concepts such as half past and quarter to. We connected these lessons to fractions, helping students see that half an hour represents one-half of an hour and a quarter hour represents one-fourth. Our work with money also provided a practical, hands-on way to reinforce counting and parts of a whole.

Students also became more familiar with the calendar and the 12 months of the year. We explored how a full year can be divided into smaller parts, including half of a year and quarters of a year. This tied in nicely with our fraction work and helped students see how math can be found in everyday concepts such as time and the calendar.

In our cultural and science studies, we learned about the layers of the Earth, exploring what lies beneath the surface of our planet. We also began our introduction to the Montessori Needs of Man, discussing the basic needs that all people share and beginning to explore how people throughout history and around the world have met those needs in different ways.

This week, we also took some time to recognize September 11 with a brief and age-appropriate discussion. We talked about the

importance of remembering and honoring those who lost their lives, the courage of those who stepped forward to help others, and our gratitude for those who served then and those who continue to serve today. Our conversation focused on kindness, courage, service, gratitude, and remembrance.

It was a wonderful week of learning and making connections across the curriculum. We are proud of the hard work the students are putting in and look forward to continuing to build on these lessons next week.

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, and Mrs. Russell

This week in fourth grade students learned how to interview someone in anticipation of Grandparents' Day next week. Students were tasked with learning how to conduct an interview and record their responses so they could summarize them in this week's composition. This week was also the fourth graders' first history test on the geography of Florida. Most students did very well. We would like to congratulate Yvnicka for earning the highest grades on the test. The next section will cover the different regions in Florida. Students were also introduced to subjects and predicates in language this week.

Fifth graders are learning how to structure a paragraph this week. This will help them when writing their compositions and book reports. In Botany this week, the fifth graders are learning about plant physiology and its functions. They will learn about plant reproduction, transpiration, water circulation, and nutrition absorption. In geography, the fifth graders are learning about land, air, and water. In civics, students had their second test on natural rights.

The sixth graders took their second physical science test on the properties of matter this Thursday, and everyone performed very well!

Congratulations to Thomas for earning a perfect score of 100%! The next science test is scheduled for September 16th. To help students prepare effectively, we have asked them to write the Key Terms and their definitions on index cards. Students should focus on memorizing approximately five terms at a time.

We have also encouraged them to highlight or underline the most important words in each definition. This strategy can help them identify the key information and make studying and memorization more manageable. In reading, sixth graders currently have the book *The Land Remembered*. Rather than completing a traditional book report, students wrote a brief summary of the novel on September 9th. A few days later, they worked together to write a short play highlighting some of the most important events and themes from the novel. This activity provided students with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the story in a creative and engaging way.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

We are officially halfway through the first quarter of the school year! As students settle more fully into their routines, we are continuing to emphasize organization, responsibility, and strong academic habits across all grade levels. Students are becoming more comfortable managing their daily assignments, keeping track of upcoming due dates, and balancing the expectations of several different subjects.

An important goal at this point in the quarter is helping students become more independent learners. Students are encouraged to check their work, keep their materials organized, ask questions when they need clarification, and advocate for themselves when they need additional help. These habits are especially important as we move into the second half of the quarter and students begin to manage their regular daily work.

Biography fair proposals were distributed to students this week so they can begin choosing the person they would like to portray for this year's biography fair. Choices will be approved on a first come first serve basis, so students are strongly encouraged to discuss possibilities and select someone as soon as possible. Students should choose a person they will enjoy learning about and presenting to others. Completed biography fair proposals are due Friday the 18th.

As always, we appreciate your continued support at home. Please encourage your student to stay on top of assignments, come to class prepared, and make good use of the remaining weeks of the first quarter. We are proud of the progress students are making as they continue developing the independence and responsibility expected at the junior high and high school levels. Progress reports were sent home with any student currently earning a grade of D or below in a class. This notice is meant to inform you of your student's current standing and give them an opportunity to adjust their work ethic and study habits by the end of the quarter.

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 and Mrs. Russell

During circle time this week, the first thing we discussed was "Why We Celebrate Labor Day!". We celebrate labor day to thank all Americans that have worked so hard, and to give them a chance to rest and relax for a day.

We discussed the importance of using please and thank you, and the difference between "Can I?" And "May I?". One asks about your ability, and the other asks for permission.

While we were on the playground the children had many decisions to make on what they would use because we have lots of new play equipment. We also had a few children watching and following butterflies that had flown to the playground from the garden. They found that the butterflies were very fast and hard to catch.

Once inside, the children with homework continued with their assignments and the others worked on activities of their choice.

Have a good weekend!

Student Editor:

Hayley DesLauriers

## DISCIPLINING A CHILD REQUIRES EARLY DILIGENCE- By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

“He who spares a rod (of discipline) hates his son. But he who loves him disciplines him diligently and punishes him early.  
Proverb 1.3.24 AMP

The United States had moved very far away from Biblical wisdom. Modern child rearing is about maintaining an open communication with one's children. The child is supposed to be treated equally, often on the same level as the parent. Discipline of the child is supposed to come organically from the egalitarian and caring environment created at home.

The consequences of this permissive/materialistic approach to raising children have become evident after the general public has been adhering to them for five decades. Children are more outspoken, debating every safety and other directive given to them. They have difficulty following directions as they are rarely given any to follow. They have few if any chores required of them. These children's opportunity to learn from adults interacting among themselves is very limited.

Most of the time children spontaneously join in any conversation they encounter and often dominate it. There are no boundaries enforced that even hint that children should “be seen and not heard.” They are deprived of the skill of listening in order to learn. Simultaneously they are saturated with false esteem statements of how wonderful and smart they are.

Children are in the middle of the mix spouting their naïve and nonsensical opinions as fact. While adults pretend to listen intently. Many children believe they are smarter and stronger willed than their parents. This observation is constantly being reinforced by the parents giving in to the children's demands while the children persist until the parents capitulate and the child is victorious. This scenario is allowed to happen time after time verifying this apparent truth that children do not have to listen to parents or any other authority figure such as a teacher.

To reverse this warped picture of modern families, parents need to make it clear it is their duty to be in charge. Children do not have the wherewithal to make an appropriate and wise decision for other family members and especially for themselves when they are in the early stages of life. The modern child is not as intelligent as he is led to believe, while the discipline of the parents is incredibly pathetic.

Establishing the power as parents requires them acting as parents instead of equals or friends to their children. They have to be in the family for sufficient periods of time to assert their authority. Quality time, not only quantity time is essential for ensuring the child that the parents will be at home enough to direct and protect them. When this happens children naturally become more comfortable that their parents can function as responsible leaders in the family.

This leadership starts with simple commands to their child. “Take this to your mother.” “You need to eat this food to be healthy.” “Please come to the table, now.”

The child experiences that the parents know how to accomplish caring for them. The more the parents establish their authority, the more the child sees the parents as the head of the family. Any power conflict between parents becomes minimal when parents quickly use an authoritarian voice, manner and appropriate consequence when the child oversteps the boundaries.

Being a positive disciplinarian does take early intervention diligently performed during the child's formative years. The punishments should be just right for the offense. The consequences should be “just right” consequences that are explained to the child after being given. The explanation helps the child not resent the parent's punishment but understand they made the wrong decision and need to correct it.

When the child is ready to push his obstinance the parent may emphasize their resolve by moderate spanking to remind the child who is boss. This will not destroy the child's faith in mankind but will emphasize the parents' authority as head of the family.

This moderate spank, certainly not an abusive one, has been shown in studies not to have negative mental, emotional, social or any other detrimental effects on the child's development. It is wise to use moderate spanking early when a toddler shows defiance and is used as often as appropriate. It is necessary to show the child the parent's willingness to show the child right from wrong. Ignoring a child is often more destructive to his well being.

Learning to listen and follow wise and caring elder's advice guides a youngster to best navigate life's decisions. This loving act of disciplining the child puts the child on the straight and narrow path to healthy and successful development.