



Wider Horizons School

HOW WHS CELEBRATES BIRTHDAYS

DATES TO REMEMBER

11/22 Student Thanksgiving Dinner

11/25-12/2 Thanksgiving Vacation

Monday- Monday, return 12/3

12/17 Foster children gifts due

12/20 Christmas Caroling

Report cards go home

12/23-1/6 Christmas Vacation-
return 1/7

Christmas Holiday Vacation



Preschool and Primary classes celebrate birthdays with the Montessori Birthday walk.

For a Birthday Walk, the child walks around the “sun” the number of years shown by the months displayed on the floor. Each year that the child walks around the sun the teachers tells about the accomplishments the child has made in that year. In the beginning they learned to walk and talk then learned many other things as they grow up.

Students in the elementary grades can bring in a timeline of photos of themselves that show how they have grown into the child they are now.



This is a special day for the students and everyone in the class who enjoy these Birthday Walks.

The Montessori Birthday celebration celebrates the growth of the child without the superfluous cake and balloons often associated with birthdays.

ARE PARENTS EXPECTING THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN?

By Domenick J. Maglio, PHD

One of the sacred freedoms of US citizens is that parents, not the state, have the inalienable right to raise their children. In many nations government-controlled systems such as communism and other top-down systems, announce mandated laws that supersede parental rights. It appears some American parents want the US government to take over many responsibilities that solely belong to the parents.

In the USA modern culture has rapidly become altered. Today's parents seem to expect the government to provide afterschool services. Many parents want to retain their lifestyle when both parents are working full time. Their necessary time to handle family and school demands has dwindled making it impossible to deal with daily family matters let alone their children's school issues.

Many parents' inability to discuss their child's school progress is allowing the school to make profound decisions about the child's education with no parental input. The modern parents working two jobs makes it difficult to get together in a parent-teacher meeting.

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PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace & Mrs. Nieves

This week we are talking about the Mayflower and how Thanksgiving began. We are learning a three part lesson on a turkey along with discussing how to share and be friendly.

In math, we are learning about the three part 20's number bead matching. We had a lesson on number rods with numbers cards. We also continue to practice our addition.

In language, we continue to use our pink box material that shows us three letter words. We have new blue bins that help us spell our words that go with the pictures.

In reading, everyone is trying their best to move up in a Bob Book. A special congratulations to Abigail and Noah this week for moving up on their Bob Books.

In art, we are creating our own turkeys along with singing fall songs that talk about turkeys. The students are creating their own pumpkin pie.

PRIMARY

Ms. Finnerty and Ms. Skiff

This week certainly flew by. Even with a short week, our students worked hard to challenge themselves in all areas of the classroom. We have enjoyed watching the students share their work with their parents while they visited for the beginning of National Education Week. We look forward to the continuation of these visits next week.

In language students received lessons on CVC-word/picture matching and blends. First graders also learned about nouns. These lessons help the children form a foundation for grammar lessons they will learn in the future. Primary students also copied a poem about kindness in honor of National Day of Kindness on the 13th. We also discussed ways to be kind and how we should treat others the way we want to be treated, and live by the golden rule.

In math, students worked on number sequencing puzzles and recognizing numbers 1-50. Some students are working on dynamic addition as they continue to progress through the Montessori work.

In science, students learned about different types of bats; as well as the difference between living and non-living things.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

Congratulation to Katherine and Yvnicka for mastering subtraction facts 1-10. Congratulations to Bella for mastering subtraction facts 11-20. Congratulations to Skylar, Sebastian, and Alexandra for moving up on their multiplication facts. Congratulations to Kennth and Gideon for moving up to mixed time tables. Congratulations to Frank, Michael, Emme, Ezra, Milana, and Karolyn for having perfect reading sheets. Congratulations to Aryana for mastering mixed multiplication and moving to division.

In math this week the students worked on geometry cards, applications, and had a lesson on measuring by inches (1").

STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

In spelling the students worked on their packet, and a competition, and went over each word verbally to discuss what each word means. Specialty words went home today. Third grade had revised words.

In language the students are continuing to work on different types of punctuation.

In art this week the students worked on finishing Thanksgiving crafts.

In geography students continue to work on wetlands, water forms, landforms, and clouds.

Students continue to learn about the measurement of time. The concepts of seconds, minutes, hours, and days have been covered and this week they learned about months and years by examining calendars.

In botany the students learned about the five main characteristics of plants that make them different from animals. A new book went home today for the book report; this new book report is **due on December 13th, as a diorama (A diarama is their favorite scene created in a box)**. Some students are in a reading group. Please if your child in the reading group (Pippy Longstocking) do not have them read ahead in the book. We read together, they have certain pages to read and it is discussed in class the next day.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

This week fourth graders started a unit on early people in Florida, where they learned about how different Florida's shape and climate was before the glaciers melted resulting in the flooding of Florida's coasts. They are also learning about Pre-Columbian Florida natives, their culture and how they lived. Students were assigned their states in the northeast region of the United States, and had a zoology quiz this Friday. Their next report is of their choosing and is due on December 3rd.

This week fifth graders are focusing and exploring different leaf shapes. They created booklets that define the different leaf shapes, and are learning that not all leaves are the same and how to distinguish their unique shapes. Fifth graders were challenged to a scavenger hunt to find a sample of each leaf shape in their environment. In civics, students shared their own constitution and bill of rights.

Sixth graders completed their unit on adjectives and adverbs last week, but they will be spending more time on this section until they master and are able to pick out adjectives and adverbs in a sentence. Hopefully, this extra time will prepare them for their upcoming test.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Ms. Wheeler, and Mr. Harrell

The holidays are rapidly approaching, and we have begun discussing the Thanksgiving luncheon. On the 22nd of November, every classroom will contribute a certain dish to a meal the school will share in together. Our room is responsible for bringing in stuffing. We will be asking the students next week who will be able to commit to bringing in a pan of stuffing to share with the school. Any contributions to the group meal will be greatly appreciated.

This year, we have been discussing the addition of debates to our classroom activities. We have noticed that a lot of the students could use practice defending their positions and opinions on various topics. We feel that the opportunity to use their critical thinking skills on the fly will also benefit them greatly, particularly as they prepare for college, where that skill will be tested often. We encourage families and friends to ask their students about these debates and how they have been engaging with topics.

We have also slightly altered the way that physical education will be practiced in our room. On Thursdays and Fridays, all students in the classroom will go outside to participate in PE class.

IN CASE OF A STORM OR STATE OF EMERGENCY WHERE THERE IS NO POWER - SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED. We follow the public school schedule for school closings.

As some students have expressed that they get very little to no physical activity outside of school, we feel that their minds and their health will benefit from the opportunity to engage in this twice a week. They will be expected to bring their recess/PE uniforms on these days.

We would also like to congratulate Barrett Fromhart for progressing to Algebra 1!

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

This week we continued to discuss Veteran's Day and why we celebrate the day. We talked about how our country may have turned out differently if it wasn't for our brave men and women who protect our rights. Also this week we discussed what kindness is and how to show kindness to others.

While enjoying our time on the playground, the children participated in group activities such as Simon Says, walking like wooden soldiers, and following the bus driver. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework while the rest worked or played with any activity of their choice.

This leaves the teachers and administrators in charge of the child's education with little or no input by the parents in their own child's education.

Major obstacles to assisting with a child's schoolwork are afterschool activities such as team sports, dance, gymnastics, music lessons, and other extracurricular activities. Modern parents are leaving so-called "professionals" to raise their children. During and after school parents are unaware of much of what their child is being exposed to.

Parents' work schedules demand their children have supervised afterschool activities. This leaves parents little options but to keep their children as busy as they are. This results in limited time for children and parents to relax, spend time together and get to know each other. Children need to learn important lessons such as how to think, and to learn traditional values to keep them on the straight and narrow path. This is difficult to accomplish since modern parents are just not there to teach these values, attitudes, and thinking skills. Too many parents are not taking the time to be more involved with their children. Many parents are absent from their child's adolescent confusion into adulthood. Being a parent today is complex and multifaceted.

Some government bureaucrats are attempting to step into the vacuum of parental guidance to micromanage our children through this complex developmental period. Many parents are more than willing to accept governmental assistance in controlling their children's actions. One such proposed government legislation is to make it illegal for children under the age of 16 to have certain platforms on their cellphones. These social media sites are seen as detrimental for children. Instead of the parents making this decision and directly enforcing their own rules in their home the bureaucrats are trying to mandate what children should be doing to protect them from the "digital fentanyl" of social media.

This precedence has already been established with vaccines to prevent spreading childhood diseases. Many vaccines have been mandated by an early age regardless of parent's wishes. Government schools have taught sex education actually demonstrating how to use a condom to preschool children without receiving parental permission.

Several years ago, the government mandated that college students receive a meningitis vaccine before entering college to prevent this disease from spreading. Kids are being removed from parental custody in some states to "transition" the minors against the wishes of the parents.

Parents need to take control of raising their children to be viable and strong parents and not give their sacred duties over to the government then complain about government bureaucrats overstepping their boundaries. Either parents do their job of parenting, or the government will pass more laws to attempt to gain control of youngsters who are out of control.

Once government is given an inch it takes a mile to increase its power and uses its power to tell parents what they can or cannot do with their children. This opens the door wide to spread government's abuse which will be more devastating to children as well as our nation more so than to individual parents.

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