

Wider Horizons School

Parade of History

THURSDAY WE CELEBRATED OUR ANNUAL BIOGRAPHY FAIR

Students in all grades took part in our annual Biography Fair. This academic fair highlights the important historical figures the children learn about in their history classes. They also learn a lot of history from their classmates.

We appreciate the parents who took time out from their day to be judges in all the classrooms.

DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT SELF RELIANT STUDENTS By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Ideally the process of independence should begin in infancy as soon as a child begins to explore his environment. The selection of objects is important for the child to examine and begin to manipulate and move around in the beginning explorations of the world. The touching of objects hanging above his crib shows the infant that he can directly impact reality.

The process of the child's natural cooing and babbling is an important opportunity for parents to assist the child's speech development. Too many parents do not seem to comprehend the importance of facilitating their infant's development. Instead of requiring the child to repeat a word before giving him an object he desires they read the toddler's body language and respond to his needs or wants. On the other end of the spectrum many parents are oblivious to the child. In either case the language development is slowed or reaches a level of disability for the growing child.

The modern child development approach is not to train the child for independence but to enjoy and extend his childhood. This approach delays development in most maturational areas, which can lead to future disabilities. It is as debilitating as forcing him to enter the adult world before he is ready.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

11/8 Veterans Day Tribute 9am
11/11 Veterans Day-No classes
11/22 Student Thanksgiving Dinner
11/25-12/2 Thanksgiving Vacation
Monday-Monday, return 12/3
12/20 Christmas Caroling

Report cards go home

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



PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace & Mrs. Nieves

Hello to all! This week was exciting, we were carving pumpkins, planting seeds in our preschool garden and singing fall songs. Along with being creative in art and making our own pumpkin stories. We also practiced for our Biography Fair that was on October 31.

In math, we continued to learn our addition along with extension work where we try to count without our beads. The students are learning to count with different numbers using the 'Dice Game', and others continue to practice tracing numbers 1-10 and teen numbers.

In language, we continued to read our Bob Books, keep up the hard work. Congratulations to Axl, Caleb, and Noah for moving up a book. The students are learning their vowels using the mixed pink boxes. Newer students are sounding out their letters and sounds, along with learning to trace their shapes.

In Sensorial, the students have been learning to match their colors and numbers with the months of the year.

In art, we are doing all kinds of pumpkin art along with bats.

PRIMARY

Ms. Finnerty, Ms. Skiff, and Mr. Garrand

In primary this week, we began discussing the importance of taking pride in our work and producing quality work. We discussed what quality means and provided examples. Our examples included proper line and letter spacing as well as proper capitalization. This discussion was to encourage the students and to empower them to take risks when they choose to do work.

In math, students received a lesson on the 45 layout. The 45 layout is used to familiarize them with the decimal system and how to combine and identify variable amounts. Students also received a refresher lesson on odd and even numbers.

In language, kindergartners received a lesson on initial sounds using the movable alphabet, while the first graders received a lesson on compound words.

We carved a jack-o-lantern together as a class. The students helped to scoop out the insides while identifying the names of the parts of a pumpkin. We named our pumpkin, Pumpkin-stein, this year.

We had another successful Biography Fair and want to congratulate all of the students on a job well done. Their hard work was evident and appreciated. We hope everyone enjoyed the parade of historians.

Have a fantastic weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

Congratulations to Annabelle, Gideon, Leighton, Sebastian, and Caden for moving up on their multiplication facts. Congratulations to Kinsley for moving up to mixed time tables. Congratulations to Yvnicka and Christian for having a perfect reading sheets. Congratulations to Yvnicka and Ezra for mastering their addition facts 11-20. Congratulations to Micheal and Sebastian for mastering subtraction facts 1-10.

On Monday and Tuesday the class was split into groups to practice their biography fair stories so they were prepared for Thursday morning. The Biography Fair on Thursday was a great experience for all! The students looked great all dressed up in character. It was amazing how had most of the students worked, learning about the person they chose, remembering

STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

their story, and presenting for the judges and students.

This week in math, the students learned about time (per minute). The students went outside to get extra practice for their times tables, which helps them move forward and provides exercise, too. We encourage them to keep practicing the times tables they have already passed so they do not forget.

This week in spelling we worked on packets.

This week in language arts we continued to work on punctuation. The students learned about using commas.

This week the students learned a new type of poem the Haiku, they have started to create their own Haiku poem.

This week in botany, the students are continuing to work on tree, root, flower, and leaf characteristics. The students also made their own spice tree project.

This week in geography the students continued to work on landforms, water forms and wetlands.

Next week's composition is due on Wednesday the 6th and book report is due on November the 8th. Remember, future dates are subject to change due to any conflicts.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

Everyone did a wonderful job presenting this week for the Biography Fair, but we would like to mention Hely, Aryeh, Zain, Xavier, Brianna, Hadley, Samuel M., Janie, and Maximillian for receiving a perfect ten on their presentations! Congratulations!

With the Biography Fair over, it is now time to focus on the Veteran Tribute which will take place on Friday, November 8th. Upper Elementary is working very hard on practicing songs and writing letters of appreciation to our veterans. They will also make posters to welcome our guests.

Students in fourth grade continued to learn about verbs, particularly irregular and regular verbs. Many students are progressing nicely through the language tower and will have a test on verbs once all lessons are given. In math, we reviewed fractions and were able to identify mixed numbers on a number line. In geography, students presented their state reports for the southeast region.

Fifth graders are reviewing plurals and nouns in language and are working on converting mixed numbers to improper fractions in math. After completing the plant cell booklets, fifth graders are creating models out of clay and beads in Botany. Fifth graders have completed the mapping skills book, therefore they will be moving on to making a map of North America and all of its special regions.

This week in Physical Science sixth graders continued to explore the periodic table and were

introduced to different classifications of atomic bonding. They learned about ionic, covalent and metallic bonding. Sixth grade students completed their mapping skills booklets and will move on to making pin maps of North America.

Fifth and sixth graders were assigned the novel, *The Land Remembered* for the next book report due on November 15th.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

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

This has been a very busy week in junior and senior high school room. WE feel the Biography Fair was a big success, and we were very happy to see the turnout of parents, families, and community members who came to support the students as they presented their projects that they have worked on for the last couple of months. We would like to thank who assisted the students with the work required to pull off such a feat.

This week the seventh graders wrote and illustrated their own fables. This gave them a chance to both express their creativity as well as practice their writing skills. Eighth grade students began reading a new novel *Skeleton Key* by Anthony Horowitz. The ninth graders have been studying chemical equations and how to balance them in Physical Science. In tenth grade English, students have been continuing to build their language skills, working toward mastery of sentence structure. Students helped Mr. Harrell with clearing out some of the debris left on campus from Hurricane Milton. They showed a

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.

willingness to work and contribute to the well-being of the school at large.

We would like to wish good luck to all students who submitted essays to the VFW "My Voice in Democracy" contest. We look forward to hearing the results soon.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

This week during circle time, we reviewed several important topics that we have learned over the year. Some examples are simple such as sharing, be good, not being greedy, be polite, never take anything from a stranger and be helpful and respectful towards our family, friends, and neighbors. The children were also given a friendly reminder about the rules while inside the classroom and outside on the playground. All the children had the chance to express their opinion and feelings towards each subject we covered.

On the playground, some children were playing inside the sandbox. Other children using the slide while the rest were marching like wooden soldiers.

This period of childhood is a time when children have to develop in many areas such as emotional, physical, social, coping, communication, thinking, and time management as well as developing moral values, spirituality and a presence of God. This is only a partial list but emphasizes the importance of laying a strong foundation to assess the youngster's journey to independence.

The entrance into school is the second opportunity for the child to fill in his foundation. The teacher's evaluation of the child compared to other children is often the first objective appraisal of the child's abilities and skills. The parents and teachers have to work together to help the child be successful as an adult. This is a continual process.

Almost every parent, especially parents of a preschooler truly believe that their child is exceptionally bright. Usually there are preschoolers that have knowledge and interest in certain areas and deficits in others. When they enter preschool it is up to administrators and teachers to give an honest evaluation of the child to the parents. By starting with the strengths, which the parents clearly comprehend, it establishes a positive bond between the administration and the parent. Any problem area should be expressed to the parents but always with a plan of action to improve and correct these weaknesses. The parents usually are less aware of these problems than they are of the child's strengths. The child's liabilities are often overlooked or placed on the back burner.

The assistance of the school to help the child should be communicated as a wonderful team effort, not an assault on the parent's effectiveness. The parents and the school working together can create miracles. The working together between parents and school requires a long committed dialogue towards the development of a successful, solid student. Any sabotaging by the parents more often than not results in the regression of the student often ending in withdrawal from the program or school.

When an honest relationship between the parents and school is established the work begins in earnest to help the child become an independent learner. One of the first issues to be settled is how much assistance the parents should give to their child in completing schoolwork. Depending on the age of the student, the parental- school involvement should decrease as the child advances into higher grades.

In preschool through the second grade, parents should establish a stable home schedule for eating, bedtime, and waking. The parents should expect their child to do age appropriate chores well and in a reasonable time. Reading to them and once the child begins reading; the child should read to the parents. Certainly the child should be corrected in speech, thinking, factual information, behavior and errors. Parents are instrumental in setting standards and expectation for facilitating their child's character, moral values and cultural foundation. Most importantly they should spend "quantity time" interacting with and loving their child.

Any rote memory activities in school the parents can and should participate in at home like spelling words, math facts, vocabulary definitions and reinforcement of basic knowledge. General knowledge development is further ground for strong parental involvement. In higher elementary grades, 3-6, parental involvement should proceed with caution. The student should assume most of the responsibility for his own assignments. The parents should expect the school to give the students review assignments that can complete on their own.

Encouraging the child to be independent can be difficult for many parents, especially those with only a single child. Too many parents are unaware of the short time they have to prepare the child to become a fully functioning, independent adult. With the help of the teachers and staff the parents realize they have a finite time to prepare their child to be a young adult and their attitude turns towards encouraging independence training for the child.

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.