

Wider Horizons School

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY

DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/7 Picture Day (uniforms required)
10/10 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL
10/12 PSAT Testing

Upper Elementary made cards honoring their grandparents and thanking them for all that they do.



Lower Elementary made candles for their grandparents which was their "little light".



Students of all grades are honoring their grandparents by creating crafts and writing about how much they appreciate them.

WHS is celebrating Grandparents Day with a songfest this year. We want to acknowledge the contribution grandparents make to our school, their children's lives and our community. This is our way of saying Thank You!

Even though there was a little rain we managed to wait it out and have our song fest. We thank the many parents and grandparents who came to hear us sing.

NEW WINTER SCHOOL JACKETS

WHS has adopted a new fleece style zipper winter jacket.

We need to put our orders in immediately before they disappear from the shelves !!

**Orders have to be in by
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14TH**

Preschool made various crafts to honor their grandparents and their everyday sacrifices.



**CHILDREN SPECTACULARLY
LEARN FROM EACH OTHER**
By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Today's children are being deprived of many things. They have plenty of toys, electronics and other devices. If a child asks for the latest fashion, it immediately becomes part of their wardrobe. When a child as young as a preschooler asks to take a karate class, gymnastics, dance, music class or any sport they are immediately signed up for these different enrichment experiences.

What modern youngsters do not have is time to play unsupervised and uninstructed with peers. They cannot play on their own without adult supervision and instruction due to the parent's fear. Even recess in many public schools is being eliminated for safety reasons. Children are shielded from their peers which is stunting their growth in many areas. There are many reasons for this phenomenon.

American families have shrunk in size. "The one and done slogan" of parents has produced many single child families. Couple this with our social mobility that has separated family members: grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins from interacting with each other. It has resulted in a child being isolated from their young relatives. In the past adult family members talked and gossiped while the children played and learned from each other.

When children are allowed limited freedom and choice by not being chaperoned by adults, a pecking order is established for different activities, skill areas and natural leadership development.

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PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Bermudez, Miss Brown

This week in the preschool classroom, the students continued to learn about mammals, reptiles, insects, continents, and about Autumn. During art time, the children made an Autumn Tree and continued working on their own planet earth.

The students were excited to see new sound work in the classroom and had a lesson on the Moveable Alphabet in the Language area. The purpose of the Moveable Alphabet is to prepare children for spelling, writing, and reading.

In math, the children had various lessons with the large number cards, the short bead stairs, 1 to 5, 1 to 10, and 11 to 19, while others were learning to add. The purpose of the large number cards is to help the child recognize the written symbols for the decimal system quantities.

For Sensorial, we added equipment that helps children to sort and we continued to review colors and shapes.

During Science, the children learned about animal types and characteristics. The children also had a lesson on different types of animal skins.

Congratulations to the children that continued or have started reading Bob Books: Rocco, Juliet, Eli, Haven, and Kota. Great job! Keep it up!

Have a wonderful weekend!

PRIMARY

Mrs. Youse and Ms. Lundmark

We would like to wish our grandparents a very happy Grandparents Day and a wonderful weekend. We hope you enjoyed the songs the children have worked so diligently at memorizing.

For math we reviewed the Addition Snake Game, which teaches the child how to make bonds of ten. Some students are still practicing the Short Bead Stairs as it is important to master this activity prior to advancing to other activities. The Snake Game teaches the child linear counting, reinforces the exchanging procedure, and prepares the child for addition as well.

The following students have either remembered the addition math facts from last year or have recently memorized them; Jace, Logan, Kendra, Kinsely, and Brent. Logan also knows the subtraction facts and is currently working on each multiplication table.

We encourage all students to work on memorizing the math facts. A lesson was given with our flashcards and writing down the facts that they have yet to memorize.

For language, we continued practicing penmanship, alphabetizing, letter sounds and blends with some kindergarteners, while others began writing language words, reading, and sorting words.

Have a fabulous weekend!



Kathrine (Primary) worked on putting in the correct vowel into a word to match the picture for her language work.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek, Miss Bennett, and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Dixie and Xavier for having perfect reading sheets!

In spelling, the students worked in their spelling packets and wrote their words 5 times each in colored pencil.

In math, the students learned about graphing, and how to read bar graphs. They also worked on booklets and applications.

STUDENT EDITORS

YANNEISY FERRER

In language, the second grade students started learning the names for animal gender. The third grade students reviewed synonyms and antonyms.

In botany, the students continued to work on the tree, flower, and learned about the different types of roots.

In art, the students created an art project that is relate to 9/11.

In geography, the students continued to work on different landforms and water forms. The students set the work out on the floor, put the landforms together, label it, and then write the definition for each term (label). Once the students have completed the definitions they will then be able to color the landform and label it.

This week we read a book that was an age appropriate discussion about the events that took place on 9/11. We also sang the national anthem. In history, the students learned about the needs of man, months of the year, and finished the meaning of the name of the day of the week.

Students need to continue to practice their times tables, addition facts, and subtraction facts at home. Once they have mastered them, they will no longer have to be tested weekly.

A composition is due 9-21-2022. It will her done at home by the student. Please see the homework folder for the assigned topic.

We would like to let all of the Lower Elementary parents know that our lunch time is 11:15-11:45. If you are dropping off lunch , please be sure it is here by 11:15.

Students finished their grandparents' crafts that went home today. We would like to thank all the grandparents that came to visit us today. It was nice to see the grandparents.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Mrs. Poole

This year for Grandparents' Day the whole school participated in the Songfest for our grandparents. Our students worked hard to learn an array of songs to entertain our VIP guests. They also prepared a card and a composition about how they honor their grandparents. Hopefully, everyone had an enjoyable day.

The fourth graders this week wrote rough drafts for a new composition about a heroic event. They learned about pronouns, memorized 15 new spelling words, and started reading the book "Because of Winn-Dixie". This will be the book they will use to write their first book report of the year. Students are making great progress in their Saxon math lessons. Each day students are completing a lesson and learning more about money, counting by 4's, 6's, etc., and complex addition and subtraction. In Spanish, they continue to master new words, practice short dialogs, and in Florida history, they are learning about our great state and it's geography. In Zoology, students are establishing the big picture of zoology by learning about the kingdoms, phylums, orders, and classes, to understand the system of classification Linnaeus established, so we can categorize and study living things. Students also drew a schematic of the animal kingdom. From this they can see all various animals we will be studying this year. The students completed their week by celebrating their grandparents. Students feel so happy they have their grandparent and they really enjoyed writing a composition about how they honor them.

Fifth graders were given a lesson on how to write their book report due September 15th. They are all aware of the increased writing requirements as well as the importance of writing complete sentences. Students were also given another lesson on the structure in their writing as well. Students were shown different examples of outlines and brainstorming that can be done when planning a composition. Most of the students have had at least one test in math are working diligently on their Saxon math books. In geography and botany, students are continuing to work on the anatomy of the Earth, and preparing the upper elementary garden. They also had their first civics test this week.

Sixth graders completed the first chapter in their language book this week and will move on to learning how to categorize nouns and pronouns. It is very important that as they review and learn new concepts that they begin to implement

them into their assignments. This will help to improve their writing skills. In physical science sixth graders explored the property of matter called inertia and also learned about the difference between weight and mass. Please remember the first book synopsis is due on the 15th of September; we have reviewed the format for the book report in class, and students can look on page 398 in their language textbook for guidance. Sixth grade students were asked to refer to the Spelling Demons list on page 464 in the language book for their new spelling words.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Miss Finnerty, Ms. Sanchez

Today we have completed the fourth week of our nine-week quarter. Each grade level has their classes and work schedules memorized. The students should be well aware of when assignments are due. The students' workload in each class does not deviate much from subject to subject or chapter to chapter. Consistency and clear directions breed success for most students. Although some of the younger students may take a little more time to learn their daily routine and schedule; this last week should have nailed it for them.

We strive to help students become independent learners. We believe at this age the students are able to write down their homework and complete quality work. If these beginning steps are not being accomplished at this time, parent/teacher meetings will be set up to discuss the reasons why.

The students will always have a novel to read. Twice a week reading time in the classroom is given. There will be reading to accomplish at home also.

Today we had the grandparents of our students come to school to hear the students sing a variety of songs. In class, we spoke about the importance of grandparents. Thank you all for coming. This week, we also talked about the heroes on 9/11. There were people who came to help from every walk of life.

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. Bennett

This week the children enjoyed the weather outside. They played Gaga Ball, Kick ball, Dodge Ball, and free Play. The children had fun and enjoyed themselves.

During the week, the children used many of the activities such as the building activities, boards games, and on Wednesday the children got to play with the Mind Lab games, which helps the children with the ability to use their brain and think of a concrete solution to a problem.

This week we watched the movie The Chipmunks. The children enjoyed the movie and ate pizza.

Have a great weekend!

PRESCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer

Since we have several new students, this week we had a chance to review the alphabet. The children were asked what they saw in the classroom that started with each letter of the alphabet. They were also asked about the letters in their own name, as well. Later in the day, some pictures in a book were pointed out to them to identify what letter each object started with. Some of their responses were great. They also had a chance to paint or color their favorite fruit, or animal.

During their time outdoors, some of the children played hide and seek and then switched to sliding down the slide and some decided on playing in the sandbox, building sandcastles. The children were reminded about the playground rules in order for them to not get hurt while outside.

Have a safe weekend!

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A child who has been taught proper behavior might tell another that he should not act that way or treat another child disrespectfully. Often a child will role model others who already have learned leadership skills without being conscious of it. Children learn from each other.

The natural resource of children teaching each other is underutilized in our public schools. Our public schools have become centralized from national and state bureaucratic mandates, which are to be followed by each and every teacher. Teachers common sense has been stifled by the concept that the whole class has to be at a certain point in the curriculum at a certain time. This cookie cutter approach to education does not allow for students to teach and help each other. Instead, often the child is labeled and assigned to a specialist or para-professional to remediate the child's academic difficulty. The child may improve with an Individual Educational Plan but once the specialist or paraprofessional is reassigned to another child, the student's confidence and achievement often evaporate. Peer teaching is a cost-effective alternative to hiring specialists and paraprofessionals.

That peer teaching of students helps students has been demonstrated to be very effective in assisting student learning. One-room schools were considered by researchers to be the most cost effective and efficient method of educating children. A teacher of multi aged students in the same classroom would have no option but to use the better students to help others with academic problems. This system also encouraged student leaders to counsel inappropriately acting students.

Maria Montessori, an internationally recognized education authority, incorporated "peer teaching" as an integral part of her world-famous education system. Montessori schools all over the world have had incredible success in motivating academic learning and have used peer teaching as a major component. The peer teacher learns by doing and verbalizing the accurate information while the other student learns the lesson. This learning technique becomes personalized by employing different methods and examples to help the student understand the new concept. The student who needs more practice or conceptual understanding receives it and improves.

Children normally teach each other. Older children are role models to their siblings and friends. Often younger children can assist older children to reach levels they did not think possible. If a child needs assistance, they can overcome their inhibitions and fears. The student can learn to be independent and successful. "I can do it myself!" becomes a reality. The power of peer teaching is significant and should not be overlooked.

Children helping other children is as old as human history. Children learn from each other. As a society we should maximize these opportunities. Children need to learn how to interact with other children. These experiences do not have to be orchestrated by adults as they can happen spontaneously. Children have to develop these difficult life skills on their own to gain self- confidence.

Let us not rob our children of these necessary experiences with other children because of our adult fears. Our children need to believe their loved ones have faith in them to become responsible adults. Let our children be sufficiently free to learn from each other.

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 a recent book entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING in a PC World. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at www.drmaglioblogspot.com.

