



Wider Horizons School

Happy- Healthy New Year to Everyone

DATES TO REMEMBER

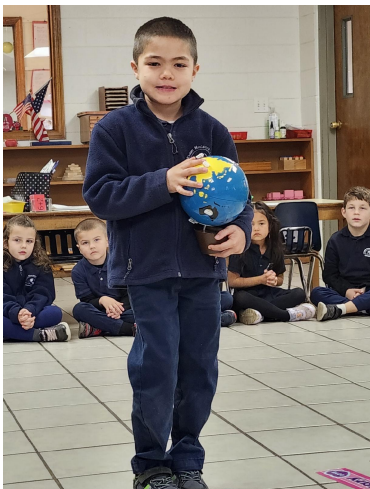
Geography Bee 1/29
M.L. King Day 1/20 (NO SCHOOL)
January 15- 100 days of school
Presidents Day 2/17 (NO SCHOOL)
Science Fair- 2/7 (half day for students)

BIRTHDAY WALK

Soren's birthday walk was not missed even with her broken leg. She was supported by her teacher to do the walk.



We also celebrated Henry's 7th birthday. He did his birthday walk and the class sang Happy Birthday.



BRRR- ITS COLD OUTSIDE!

Students come to school dressed for the winter weather. Hopefully this cold does not last as we Floridians are not used to it and freeze easily.



LAZY PARENTING IS BEHIND THE LYING EPIDEMIC

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Lying has been part of the human experience forever. The Bible notes that habitual lying leads to evil and eventually to hell. It is certainly not a path to obedience and elevated spirituality or a successful lifestyle over the long run. Lying will not be totally eliminated but can be controlled by conscientious traditional child rearing. The proper consequences, duration and moral teaching will minimize the frequency and length of these lying episodes.

Lying does not have to be taught. It is natural for a child to say whatever pops into his mind to appease the authority figure. "I did not break the toy, it just fell on its own." "I did not push her, she tripped." Children would say falsehoods even when they realize an adult is watching them. It is part of human behavior but needs to be corrected.

The parent needs to help the child tell the truth. Teaching the habit of telling the truth takes an enormous amount of work. The parent just cannot say "you should tell the truth" but should be ready to teach moral lessons and follow up with appropriate consequences on every occasion. The child uses lying to get something or get out of something.

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PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace and Mrs. Nieves

Welcome back everyone! Happy New Year! This week we will be settling back into our routines. We went over our classroom rules.

In language, we continue to advance in reading the Bob Books. We are also continuing to practice our spelling words. Some of our students are continuing to write words and spell them out. In other groups we continue to learn our letters, along with sounds that go with them.

In math, we have some continuing to learn how to count 1-10 and 11-20. As others are challenging themselves to count up to 100. We also have students practicing their addition while others are practicing subtraction.

In science, we are talking about hibernation along with mammal vs non mammals. Our first two animals are polar bears and snow rabbits.

Which brings us to art, where we will be making our own polar bear and snow rabbit. We will also have push pin animals to go with our theme.

PRIMARY

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

Welcome back parents. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas/Holiday celebration and enjoyed your vacation time. As teachers, we look forward to the learning and growth in the lives of each student in this new year.

Primary started their first day of class very strong. The students wasted no time getting back into their classroom routine. In circle time they reviewed classroom rules, discussed the amount of time remaining in the school year and some of their education goals. They also completed a language

assignment, writing out their personal goals, a poem about the month of January, and colored it afterward.

Ms. Finnerty gave a lesson in Science about the Solar System. The students joyfully embraced the new lesson and seemed very interested in the subject matter.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

We would like to welcome back everyone from break. We hope that you all had a safe a restful two weeks.

Congratulations to Chad and Cora for mastering addition facts 11-20. Congratulations to Annabelle for mastering subtraction facts 1-10. Congratulations to Cora and Milana forming up in times tables.

Congratulations to Chad for the third quarter has started and the students need to buckle down and get ready for the next grade. Second grade compositions are full front skipping lines with a minimum of five words per line and book reports are all the way to the bottom and half way on the back for the summary, skipping lines. Third grade compositions are now 1 ½ pages skipping lines. Book report summary and opinion is remaining front and full back.

The students review and master addition and subtraction facts 1-20 and multiplication facts up to 10. They are testing every week until they have mastered them. This review and mastering of the facts will continue every year along with testing. This is work that is repetitive in every grade because students tend to forget over the summer.

The students work in booklet based on their level, some use materials and some do not. There are many different types of booklets and as one booklet is completed the student will then move on to the next booklet. We have static and dynamic booklets. This work is done once a week.

STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

The students also do applications once a week which are known to be very difficult. We give the students tools and clue words that they write so they can put it in their math folder and homework folder to use. These are clue words that help them to determine if the application problems are addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division.

The students are also working on geometry cards once a week. The geometry cards introduce the students to geometric shapes, point, line, curve etc. We also have extension work in the classroom that is a continuation of the geometry cards.

So far this year the students have learned about the penny, nickel, dime, and the quarter. Even though may have learned it this early in the year this is something we review every year since they are young and tend to forget how to use, count, or recognize coins and the correct amounts. The students have learned about clocks and how to tell time by the hour, half hour, per five minutes, and per minute. The students have learned how to read a ruler, learned how to measure 1", ½" and ¾". We are just now starting on learning how to read a calendar with dates, also understanding the difference between, day, date, and month.

There will be plenty of other activities the students will be learning in math. We also have lots of extension work in the classroom which is work they have learned. Occasionally we will take students that are struggling and help them with flash cards and other times we will verbally test students on their facts. Facts have to be learned at home.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

Proposals were sent out before winter break, so any students who were absent should make sure they have their proposals. We are happy to say many of our students are excited about the Science Expo and have already submitted their proposals. The Science Expo will be held on Friday, February 7th. Please note topics are approved on a first come; first serve basis, so any students that have not handed in their proposals should give them in as soon as possible.

This week fourth graders started their new language book. This book will teach them more about the structure of words and how to use them. In math students learned about four different types of graphs; pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs and pie charts. We had a good start in our new semester!

Fifth graders had a wonderful start to the third quarter. They worked diligently on their spelling and vocabulary. There will be no compositions due this month due to the Science Expo. In math, students had a review on how to properly read a math lesson. In science, students are learning about the taxonomy of mushrooms. They researched facts about various edible and toxic mushrooms. Next week, students will be given a lesson about the scientific method and a class experiment will follow all the steps as well.

Sixth graders settled into their daily routine fairly quickly this week. In Language, they reviewed the eight parts of speech. By the end of this chapter, sixth graders should be able to identify the part of speech of a particular word according to its use in a sentence. Since this is a review of the previous chapters some students may need to refer back to prior lessons to prepare for the test next week. Now that we are

entering the third quarter, we discussed how essential it was for them to demonstrate growth in their work. We all agreed that correcting bad habits and implementing all they have learned so far will surely accomplish this goal.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

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

Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had a restful and joyous winter break. It's wonderful to see all the students smiling faces as we dive into the second half of the school year.

Please join us in congratulating Janie Padilla, one of our 6th graders, on her exciting milestone-she's officially starting the Math 8/7 book this semester! She will join our classroom for math class as she is now doing work on a 7th grade level. This is a great achievement, and we are so proud of her hard work and dedication.

The Science Fair is just around the corner. Students should be making steady progress on their projects. Be sure to check in on their timelines and experiments as they continue to develop their ideas.

We are spicing things up in art class- literally. This semester, we are introducing culinary arts as a part of our curriculum. Occasionally, we will be cooking meals together, and each student will be responsible for bringing one ingredient for these projects. This hands-on activity is designed to foster teamwork, creativity, and practical life skills. Your student will be informed of which ingredient they are being asked to contribute so that there will be plenty of time to obtain it and bring it in.

As we progress further into our textbooks, the work will naturally become more challenging. We

**SNACKS WILL NOW BE
\$0.75 FOR ALL ROOMS**

encourage all students to stay focused and committed. With determination and effort, we know they can rise to meet these challenges and achieve success. We would also like to give a special congratulations to Lynus for moving onto Algebra 2.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

Welcome back! We are so happy to have you back at school. We are looking forward to an exciting and fun filled school year. This week as a friendly reminder, we went over the rules and regulations of the playground and classroom. We raise our hand when we need something or ask a question, we walk, not run inside the classroom, we keep our hands to ourselves, we use low voices, there is no need to shout to be heard, we also always pay attention to the teacher when she is talking, reading, or demonstrating a new lesson and most importantly, we treat others the way we want to be treated.

This week on the playground the children participated in games such as Simon Says, Red Light Green Light, and Ring Around the Rosie. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework and the other students worked/played with any activity of their choice.

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Lazy parenting is the major reason that lying is out-of-control. Two parent families have dwindled weakening the power of both the father and mother. Parenting usually falls on the shoulders of the mother but not always. When fathers have sole custody, the same phenomenon takes place. A single parent is often attempting to be liked better than the other parent. In split custody the child has the advantage of playing one parent against the other. The eventual loser in this process is the child.

In the traditional, intact family, the mother often had the support of the father to give a second dose of a moral lesson and often a stronger consequence. The two-parent family usually works together to stress the importance of telling the truth. Teachers, pastors and other authority figures also enforce the value of honesty. Most significant authority figures, including the parents, demonstrate telling the truth in public is essential for living a positive life. This is no longer a normal occurrence. Lying has become an art form that is becoming admired instead of condemned.

What came first, our culture admiring public figures lying to us or the breakdown of the family to teach the virtue of telling the truth? The lazy parent does not take the time to teach the ultimate harm of this behavior or powerful negative influences of the degrading of authority in our communities and nation. It does not matter for the correction can only be taught effectively at an early age by the most significant person in the child's life: the parent. It does not matter where it began but how we, as a society, most effectively teach it.

Incarcerating a person in a prison or mental institution is much too late to start the process of being truthful. A pathological liar is almost impossible to convert. An infant or toddler can be placed on the right track by a simple but labor-intensive process. The parent has to take charge. Anytime the child does not tell the truth there should be an appropriate negative consequence. Anytime the child admits to a wrongdoing he should receive praise for doing the right thing and how proud the parents are. Nevertheless, there should be a mild consequence to remind the youngster that any deception is not acceptable.

The sacrifice of parents' time and effort in teaching these lessons pays incredible dividends for the child. An honest child is worth his weight in gold. By possessing a moral compass they will guide themselves towards good and away from evil. The compass will help them avoid temptation and become a valuable citizen. Without honorable citizens our constitutional republic will eventually crumble.

Parents are the gatekeepers to telling the truth to their children. There are a million possible excuses for avoiding this long, drawn out process of arriving at truth. Almost any parent has some shame when confronted by another authority figure about their child being dishonest.

However, a child like most adults would do, attempted to deceive in order to avoid confrontation and embarrassment in social situations. To help the child resist the temptation to become addicted to lying the message that lying in the long run will be more painful than what it was supposed to solve must be clear, repetitive and concise. Ultimately the child will be the victim of his own lies-he will not be able to discern the truth about himself or reality.

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