



Wider Horizons School

Several Field Trips

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)

NUTRITION CLASS

The upper level class had a special Culinary Arts Class. Students are learning what is a more nutritional meal and how to prepare it. These chefs are showing off the presentation of the finished taco and strawberry shortcake. They learn that “presentation” is important too.



This week Lower elementary students had a very interesting field trip to the Sheriff’s Department. They had the experience of seeing the K-9 unit and the police horses as well.

A student sees just how heavy is the vest that the sheriff’s wear.



Another students tries on the arm protector worn to train the K-9 unit dogs. See the sheriff department horse in the background.



ALL OF US ARE IMPACTED BY THE BLURRING OF WHAT IS PROPER AND MANNERLY
By Domenick J. Maglio PhD

We are living in an anything-goes era. Doing “your own thing” has become a basic tenet of our modern culture. Instead of conversing with each other at dinner family members get on their phone to communicate with someone else or play games. Everyone seems to want to appear to be youthful at all costs including massive cosmetic surgery. Teenagers dress like adults and adults dress like adolescents. Our language no longer follows grammatical rules, vocabulary is shrinking as the f-bomb is constantly used as an adjective and people do not follow logical thinking. Our feelings are more important than reality. We are driven to act and look different from others but since everyone is doing the same thing we wind up conforming to a uniformity of nonconformity. Adults attempt to act like empty-headed phony Hollywood celebrities to appear chic. There is little talk of virtue and morals.

Everyone including children talk too much and express opinions with little knowledge of facts. Diversity of thought is limited to a very few.

Continued on last page

PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace and Mrs. Nieves

Hello everyone! As we continue our discussion about winter, we are learning interesting things about snow owls and penguins. We are learning about winter, and are talking about Dr. Martin Luther King, "I have a dream."

In language, we are very excited for Caleb and Noah for passing two Bob Books this week. Along with Cooper moving up another book. Keep up the good work. We are also continuing to focus on developing fine motor skills through pre-writing activities,

In math, we are continuing to practice addition and subtraction, learning large and small number cards, and learning what are place values up to the thousands.

In sensorial, we are learning our shapes along with reviewing our colors.

In art, we are creating our own snow owls and penguins. We are also making something special to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Day. Please see our creativity in our preschool hallway.

PRIMARY

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

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. the students worked on a special craft. We also read a book about Dr. King's life.

In math, the students continued working with the decimal system. Lessons were given on place value. Students are working on verbally telling their teachers the number they choose (example, two thousand-three hundred and thirty-four).

In science, the students continued to explore the solar system; learning more about each planet. Students also started their study

of nutrition. We will start cooking/preparing healthy food next week. We are all very excited!

In geography, students are learning about U.S. landmarks and their significance.

Congratulations to Emily for completing the Bob Book series, and to Zoe and Emma for mastering addition facts 1-10!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

Congratulations to Yvnicka, Gideon, and Karolyn for getting a perfect reading sheet.

In spelling this week the students worked in their packet. We verbally went over the spelling word definitions.

In math the students worked on their various math booklets, practiced applications (word problems), and had a lesson on whatever is new for each student, and are working on fact families.

The students work hard on the times tables they are learning, but they need to review all the ones they have already passed. When quizzing the students on the time tables they have passed they tend to forget. Please continue to practice all that has been learned.

In language the students worked from the tower. However, the students sometimes forget the different parts of speech. We have been reviewing the different parts of speech at the end of each day while in circle.

The students should start to bring in their science projects on Friday the 31st or be able to tell us and talk about their project. This will give the students time to rehearse their speech and become familiar with the creation and how the project works. The science fair is

STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

on February 7th, which is a half day.

In history the students continued to work on needs of man. The students have several extensions on this work that they will be able to start upon completion of the work. As a class the students learned about the five different Eras. We watched a short clip on the TV and the new findings on Dinosaur prints.

In science the students continued to work on leaves, plants, stems, and roots.

In geography students worked on weather, clouds, landforms, wetlands, and water forms.

The students have weekly reading sheet test, however they need to continue to read daily at home.

Book report is due Feb. 21, this is a written book report.

Have a safe weekend!

UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

Due to the Science Fair Expo, the book report assigned for January 30th has been postponed until February 15th. Instead, all students should use this time to complete their research for their science projects due on the 7th of February.

This week fourth graders were introduced to their Map Skills workbook where they learned about hemispheres, latitude, longitude, the equator, and the prime meridian. In science, students were given a lesson on the scientific method and shown two demonstrations to help them better understand the expectations of the Science Expo in Upper Elementary. The class is reading *Because of Winn Dixie* for their next book report, which will be due on February 15th.

The 5th graders are learning about possessive nouns by learning to distinguish joint possessive nouns, which show ownership of one object by two or more people, and separate possessive nouns which indicate individual ownership. They are also working on lesson 16 in their spelling book which is a review of lessons 14-16. The children have also chosen their topics for the Science Expo which is on February 7th. They are excited to begin gathering the information they need to have a successful presentation.

Sixth graders this week continued mastering their lesson on the eight parts of speech. After this unit they should be able to identify the part of speech of a particular word according to its context in a sentence. In Physical Science class, sixth graders are delving into radioactivity and exploring alpha, beta, and gamma rays. It is fascinating to understand the properties and behaviors of these different types of radiation.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

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

We have had an exciting and productive time filled with learning, accomplishments, and even some culinary creativity. Let us dive into all the updates and upcoming events.

Students have been working diligently on their science fair projects, and their enthusiasm is truly inspiring. These projects offer a fantastic opportunity for creativity and exploration, and I can't wait to see the final results. The materials list and procedure were due on Friday, January 17th.

A huge congratulations goes out to Matthew DiFlippo and James Layton for their academic achievements this week! After successfully completing his Algebra 1/2 final exam, Matthew is now advancing to the Algebra 1 book. Similarly, James has completed his algebra 8/7 final exam and will be moving on to the Algebra 1/2 book. Their hard work and dedication are shining examples of what persistence and effort can achieve. Well done, Matthew and James!

We are also eagerly looking forward to our field trip to the sheriff's office on Wednesday, January 22nd. This exciting excursion will give students a firsthand look at law enforcement and the justice system in action. Please ensure that the money due for the trip is turned in by Tuesday the 21st.

In other news, our classroom turned into a culinary haven! On Wednesday, January 15th, the students got hands-on experience preparing tacos and strawberry shortcakes. The teamwork and life skills on display were wonderful to witness, and the delicious results were enjoyed by all. It was a memorable activity that brought fun and learning together.

SNACKS WILL NOW BE
\$0.75 FOR ALL ROOMS

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During circle time we went over the importance of why we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He was a fighter for racial justice and equality. We also read a book about different climates of the world. The children wanted to know what the word 'climate' meant. Well, it is the pattern of weather recorded in any one space. For example, the climate in the mountain areas is usually cold and windy while the tropics it is hot and wet.

When we went to the playground, some children were marching like wooden soldiers, others were busy playing in the sandbox, they also sang Red Light Green Light and the rest used the playground equipment. Once inside some students worked on their homework while the rest, played/worked with all different activities.



Meal prep is part of the process of cooking.

Continued from front page

Behavior is out of control. Children are grazing instead of sitting down to a meal and eat directly from their hands instead of using utensils. Many middle-aged people are wearing their baseball caps backwards to show they are youthfully carefree. This style of wearing hats backwards was begun in prison so criminals must be those to emulate. Lying, cheating, stealing, even knockouts where a gang member hits an unknown person for absolutely no reason except for "kicks" is becoming almost acceptable. It is no big deal. This goes beyond the bounds of not proper or mannerly, it is approaching cultural free fall.

Almost anyone and everyone now are equally important in their own minds. They incessantly take "selfies" and communicate with the social network what they are doing by the minute as if the world revolves around them. Their delusional existence has a lot to do with this psychological high self-esteem and the PC movement that denies anyone being critically honest. Giving your personal opinion is now considered intolerant even when it is correct.

In the past, straight, honest talk gave a person a clear and valid picture of how others saw him. Most of us without this direct feedback are more prone to a life of deceit. This is especially true in this virtual existence where we can post anything and everything on a Facebook page that makes us appear too good to be true. We can describe ourselves as slim, beautiful, smart, and socially brilliant when we are not even close to these descriptions. People have become celebrities in their own minds. The only limiting factor to how a person can present himself to others in the virtual world is his lying creativity.

Without knowing what is proper and mannerly there is no way to accurately evaluate one's behavior. The ignorance of moral values and virtues by many is produced by not giving appropriate consequences, which encourages us to participate in self-destructive addictions and thinking. When "Facebook friends" or voyeurs replace family and personal friends, all actions become more acceptable. Without loving and caring feedback a person's ability to negotiate reality becomes dangerously limited.

When someone cares enough about you to keep you on the right tract you have a legitimate loved one. Telling someone honestly what you see is one of the greatest gifts you can give to another person. At the moment he receives a valid criticism no one jumps for joy but eventually understands the value of this accurate assessment. "You are obnoxiously drunk." "You were a glutton today by eating so much." "You do not look natural by defiling your body with piercings and tattoos." "The drugs you are taking are changing your behavior." "You are disrespectful." "You don't care about anyone but yourself." "You cannot go to church dressed like that." Only when people know what is proper and mannerly you have a behavioral compass to judge your own behavior.

When everybody looks and acts similarly it does not make them stand out as exemplary people or even appropriate. The tattoos, piercings, self-mutilation, CEOs dressing down to be cool and fashionable drug consumers does nothing to increase a person's social abilities or actions. It does place the participants in a significantly large group following the lowest common denominator of appearance and behavior. Converting large numbers of youth to this movement allows an individual to feel he is not being weird or slovenly but it does nothing to improve the person's spiritual and social standing.

The superficial similarity in appearance gives many Americans the delusional belief that their appearance and actions are not being judged. The ignorance of proper behavior does disguise some of the differences but does not eliminate them. People have a right to know where they stand to better themselves. We should have these rules and standards of behavior to make ourselves more efficient, harmonious, and a socially united society. We should again be given a clearer picture of what is socially appropriate and inappropriate. Eliminating these cultural norms leads to an over-whelming number of disjointed subculture groups that weaken the cohesiveness of society.

There are families who understand reality and are training their children to join the ranks of being dignified. They are teaching their children manners and proper behavior. They are preparing them to be authority figures that can teach others the importance of how to act. Our culture can only be revitalized by parents and other authority figures demanding standards and expectations of proper and mannerly behavior.

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.