



# Wider Horizons School

## SCIENCE EXPO DAY

### DATES TO REMEMBER

2/10-14 Spirit Week  
 Mon- Pajama Day  
 Tues- Mix Match Day  
 Wed- Favorite character/Superhero  
 Thurs- Hat Day  
 Fri- Dress Up Day  
 2/17 Presidents Day(NO SCHOOL)

### CHINESE RESTAURANT VISIT

Students from grade 2-12 will be going to the Buffet City restaurant on Thursday, February 13. Parents are welcome to meet us there. Cost per ticket is \$13 for anyone, student or parent. Parent tickets are available at the office. Grades 2 and 3 as well as jr/sr high will be there at 11am. Grades 4-6 will be there at 12pm. Please plan to meet your child

### WHS ANNUAL SCIENCE EXPO

Students in every grade level had scientific experiences today. Some younger children had classroom science activities while other classes had students each present something they found interesting in science.



First grader, Juliet, shows her board and project.

### COMMON SENSE HAS TO BE 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.

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### THIS YEAR'S WINNERS OF THE WHS GEOGRAPHY BEE



Braden, 7th grade, first place.

Hadley, 5th grade, second place.

Mason, 7th grade, third place

The Geo Bee is always a fun activity to test patience and knowledge.

## PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace and Mrs. Nieves

This week we talked about Groundhog Day. On Friday, everyone was asked if there would be early spring or long winter. Monday, we talked about how the Groundhog saw his shadow and we would have a long winter. We also made our version of a groundhog. This week we will be talking about Valentine's Day, and how we can be nice to our friends and family.

In language, we continue to read our Bob Books. We continue to learn our sight words as we as spelling the names of some objects. Some will be challenging their writing skills with a small poem for Valentine's Day.

In math, we continue to learn how to add and subtract. We have a new math lesson to encourage our learning.

In Sensorial, we have some new lessons that are helping us learn to sequence colors. Along with learning how to sort smallest to largest and largest to smallest.

In Geography we are exploring the ocean and learning about different sea shells you can find and what they might be used for.

As we get ready for our science experiments, in class we are going to learn how to paint with science.

In Art, we are making groundhogs, Valentines Day hearts and much more. We love to expand our creativity.

Have a great weekend!

## PRIMARY

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

The Science Fair was a successful event. The students enjoyed each other's demonstrations and

presentations. We would like to thank our parents for helping your child succeed. We hope you enjoyed walking around and looking at all the science projects.

Next week is Spirit Week! Please remember **no jeans** on any day. Uniforms are to be worn in the event your child does not participate but encourage them to join the fun.

In language, students received lessons on more beginning blends, singular and plural nouns, as well as a lesson on filling in the blank story writing. Students wrote a poem about February and illustrated beautiful pictures.

Primary has begun Valentines Day recognition. We are reading books and making Valentines Day crafts.

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

Congratulations to Joemanuel, Bella, and Kendra for having perfect reading sheets. Congratulations to Yvnicka and Frank for moving up on times tables. Congratulations to Chad for moving up to mix times tables. Congratulations to Skylar and Emme for mastering their subtraction facts 1-10. Congratulations to Yvnicka, Chad, and Cora for mastering their subtraction facts 11-20.

We would like to thank the judges that came into our classroom to judge the student's science projects. The Science Expo was a great success. It was interesting to see the children's creative minds shine.

In spelling this week the students went over their words with verbal definitions, and worked in their spelling packets.

Math this week highlighted  $<$ ,  $>$ , or  $=$ , calendars, geometry cards,

## STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

booklets, applications, place value, bar graphs, and had a lesson on symmetry.

In language 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 the completion of their daily work.

In geography the students continue their study of weather, clouds, landforms, wetlands, water forms, and glaciers.

In social studies the students continued to learn about Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest, and reviewed N, S, W, and E. They had lessons on solids, liquids, and gases.

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

In art, the students are finishing any Valentine's crafts.



*Athena celebrates her birthday for the first time at Wider Horizons School with a Montessori birthday walk around the sun.*

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

This week's afternoons were largely devoted to preparing for our school's annual Science Expo. We have numerous impressive projects this year. Today, parents and friends visited our classroom, and many were impressed by our work. We extend our gratitude to the judges for their involvement.

Last week our students competed in the Geography Bee. Our top five students in the Geography Bee were: Ethan, Bianca, Hadley, Xavier, Janie and our alternate Gwyneth. They went against the Jr. High students, where Hadley came in second place. Congratulations to those students.

Fourth graders are learning how to use more descriptive adjectives in their work this week, where many of them utilized a thesaurus to find synonyms to extend their vocabulary. Students reviewed the proper format to their friendly letter that they will be writing for Valentines Day. Their book report, Because of Winn Dixie, is due on February 14th.

This week the fifth graders are learning about how to identify nouns and pronouns used as an object of a preposition in a sentence. Students are also working on properly citing sources in the language tower. The children will continue to have language, math, reading, science, and history lessons.

Sixth graders revisited their vocabulary words in preparation for their final test in Vocabulary Book 1 on Thursday. Next week, they commence the next level in vocabulary. In Physical Science, they are currently delving into topics such as speed, acceleration, motion, and friction, while also mastering the formulas necessary for calculations related to these concepts. They will continue practicing these formulas until they achieve mastery before

their Chapter 12 test scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th.

## JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, & Ms. Wheeler

Welcome to another exciting week in our Junior and Senior High School Class! We have had a fantastic time recently, and we cannot wait to share all the fun activities coming up.

Our students dedicated their time to practicing for the Science Expo and wrapping up their final reports. On Friday, February 7, we held the Science Expo, and it was a huge success! A big thank you to everyone who came out to support our students and to the family members who graciously served as judges. Your involvement made this event truly special!

Get ready for Spirit Week! A schedule of the themes for each day has been sent home with the students, and we encourage everyone to join in the fun! Do not forget that Friday is Dress-up Day, which is a big day for photos for the yearbook. Everyone should participate.

We will be visiting Buffet City for a delightful lunch that we loved to do in the past. Parents, grandparents, and friends are warmly invited to join us. The cost is \$12 per person, and we kindly ask you let us know how many family members will be attending. A slip was sent home with the students, and please remember the tickets must be paid by Tuesday, February 12, at the school office. We cannot wait to enjoy this time together!

## AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

This week during circle time, we discussed different subjects. For example what makes them feel angry, upset, sad, afraid, or shameful. We discussed how to handle their emotions. The feedback from the children was very interesting. We

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

also discussed about being greedy. It was explained to the children that it is very important to treat other people the way we want to be treated. After, the children worked with numbers and shapes in a sensible manner. The children were shown either a shape or a number and all the children had a turn and did great!

During our time outdoors, some children participated in games such as Hide and Seek Tag, Simon Says, while others used the playground equipment and others played in the sandbox. Once inside, some children worked on their homework and the rest had a chance to work on any activity or board game of their choice.



Students wore jerseys for the Super Bowl!!!

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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.

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 difficult 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 their 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 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 and 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 they have been prepared to 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](http://www.drmaglio.blogspot.com).