



Wider Horizons School

Getting Ready for the Upcoming Holidays

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/17 Foster children gifts due
- 12/20 Christmas Caroling at 2PM
Report cards go home
- 12/23-1/6 Christmas Vacation-
return 1/7
- Christmas Holiday Vacation

GIFT GIVING ON WEDNESDAY

The representative from the foster children group will be coming to WHS on Wednesday, December 18 at 9am to pick up the gifts each class has brought for their child.

CAROL SINGING AT NURSING HOMES

On Wednesday students in junior and senior high will be going to two different assisted living facilities to sing for the elderly folks and deliver beautiful cards they have made for them. This is a small way we can perform community service for them.

Students in every class have been working on many different projects in preparation for the various holidays.



Lower Elementary with their stocking Christmas crafts.



Upper Elementary makes origami snowflakes.



Junior and Senior High with their Christmas cards, which they made for the assisted living residents. They will be caroling for the residents at two different local assisted living homes next Wednesday and will also be gifting the Christmas cards they made.

ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING WORTHWHILE TAKES EFFORT

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Nothing worthwhile that is accomplished is easy. It takes work, perseverance and concentration to learn a skill, complete a task well or invent a better mousetrap.

Most youngsters today have been conditioned by the culture to believe they are entitled to anything they want. They desire it, get it, and throw it away. This quick turn over of interests happens daily throughout their lives.

These children are born into a consumer-credit, fad economy. Instant gratification is the norm in their lives. When children lose or abuse a toy or precious object they immediately have it replaced. These young people rarely have to repair, maintain or build something. Our affluence has encouraged us to passively purchase services and objects rather than use our ingenuity and imagination to rebuild or create another interesting activity.

The art of living a unique life of overcoming liabilities and turning them into assets is becoming unusual in a victimized society. Youngsters, often with the consent and encouragement of their parents, would rather receive special diagnosis and assistance by professionals to complete simple objectives rather than struggle
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PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace & Mrs. Nieves

This week, we have been learning about holidays around the world. We have been making lots of new arts and crafts to celebrate.

In sensorial, we learned the names of new shapes along with a matching lesson.

In math we learned about sequencing large numbers with cards. We also did a lesson that helps us count from 1-100.

In language we continue to read our Bob Books; Congratulations to Noah for moving up another book. We have been practicing tracing words as well as writing them.

We are super excited about our PJ party this Friday afternoon with all the fun games and crafts we will be doing!

PRIMARY

Ms. Finnerty and Ms. Skiff

This week in Primary, students continue to celebrate the season with Christmas and Holiday themed poems, songs, and crafts. Both kindergarten and first grade learned the parts of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. This activity is going to be used in a future activity we have planned for next week, that will incorporate the student ability to listen, remember and

recall what they learned as well as foster healthy competition.

In math, first graders had a lesson in static subtraction. Kindergarteners had a lesson in the missing addend in addition. This lesson begins to prepare the kindergarten students for subtraction.

In language Kindergarten was introduced to word building using new word beads.

Congratulations to Juliet for mastering addition facts 1-10. Happy 6th birthday to Finn!

Ms. Skiff is looking forward to sharing all the fun she has planned for the Pajama Party this Friday. Thank you to all who signed up, see everyone then!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

Congratulations to Chad for having perfect reading sheets last week. Congratulations to Ezra for mastering 11-20 subtraction facts.

Congratulations to Frank and Emme for moving up on their time tables. Congratulations to Emme and Annabelle for mastering their 11-20 addition facts.

In spelling the students had fun with roll the dice, word search, stars, and writing their words to practice and review their spelling words. This week and next week is review of unit 1-13

STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

In math the students continued to work on booklets, magnify 1, and math review.

In language the students were working from the Language Tower. Second graders are learning about different types of plurals. Third grade is working on either contractions or suffixes.

In history the students continue to use Montessori materials; they are working in Botany on the tree, flower, leaf, and parts of the leaf.

In social studies the students have had a reminder of the different Cardinal directions and how to complete and use a compass rose.

In geography the students are finishing the common landforms, water forms, wetlands, clouds, and types of weather.

The students are working on completing various Christmas crafts.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

What a busy week for Upper Elementary! We had to continue working on crafts for our families and also managed to complete our math sets, learn new language concepts and complete projects in science, history and geography. Practicing Christmas carols was also a big part of this week, as we prepared for the big event on December 22nd to welcome the Christmas season.

There are many important dates coming up next week. The gifts for the Christmas Angels should be in by Tuesday morning, December 17th. Please remember the gift should not be wrapped and each present should be labeled. Thank you, parents, in advance for your generosity and participation! The gifts are sure to make all of the foster children so happy!

Instead of a composition this week, Upper Elementary were treated to a lesson on writing dialogue for a comic book. They will all create their own comic book and it will be due on the last day before we go on Christmas break, December 20th.

Fourth grade students learned about the many uses of commas this week. They learned when to use them for appositive phrases, lists, and direct addresses.. They also learned how to avoid run-on-sentences. In zoology, students had a quiz reviewing the five kingdoms.

Fifth graders were introduced to lichen and watched an informative video on the organism. They were surprised to learn lichen is made of three biological kingdoms! They also took a stroll around the school property to identify different forms of lichen in their environment. Many commented on how much they had enjoyed this activity.

Sixth graders are learning about reaction rates and factors that either increase or decrease the rate of reaction; such as temperature, concentration, surface area and the presence of a catalyst. In language, sixth graders are completing the unit on prepositions, conjunctions and interjections and are practicing to diagram prepositional phrases.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

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

This week has been another busy one in the junior and senior high room as we prepare for the end of the second quarter and holiday vacation.

The students have been crafting holiday greeting cards to deliver to the elderly at the nursing homes we will be visiting on caroling trip next week They have put a lot of effort into these cards and we are very pleased with their work.

Math binders were do this week if students turned in a complete binder with their lessons arranged in the correct order, they will receive an additional two points on their quarter grade for their current math class.

Today was the official end of the quarter; report cards will be sent home with students on Friday of next week.

All children were given the opportunity to participate in our classroom Secret Santa this year. If they opted in, they drew a name and were given that child's questionnaire that details their likes and interests. While we encourage to craft their gifts for their classmates, if they choose to purchase their gift the maximum cost should be twenty dollars. Their gifts should be wrapped or bagged and brought to school by next Wednesday.

Any gifts purchased by for the foster children our classroom was assigned for this holiday season should be brought to school by next Tuesday.

We have now reached the time of year when we as a class begin to prepare for the school Science Fair. Today, students took home a packet explaining the fair and walking them through the expectations for their projects. They should fill out these papers with their proposed project hypotheses and turn them in by next Friday before we go on break so that they can begin preparing for the next step to be due the week we return to school.

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

This week during circle time, we discussed the meaning of Christmas with the children. The first thing some children said was "we get presents". We discussed that this is true but it is not only about receiving gifts, but about spending time together with our family and loved ones. We should also think of others whom are less fortunate than us. We sang several Christmas songs but their favorite songs were "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman".

Once we went to the playground, some children sang and danced to "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree" and "Here Comes Santa Claus", while other children were hopping around the playground like reindeers and collecting pine cones to take home their own Christmas tree. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework while the rest played and worked with any activity of their choice.

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.

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to find their own strategy to compensate for their limitations. According to child advocates it is not the fault of the child for having some limitations, as they should be given special programs and assistance to deal with their immediate problems.

Our public schools are insisting certain difficult students need to receive psychotropic drugs to attend school. When parents refuse to place their child on drugs they are sometimes confronted by child protective services. There are even cases where children have been removed from their home and placed in foster care due to the parent's not complying with the school district edicts. This has taken place without the parents being given due process to their rights as citizens.

It is not good for particular students to have tests read to them. They should only be given tests that are on their reading level. Without the ability to read they will not be functional in any modern society, nor should they receive extra time to take a test. This ridiculous practice only confirms to the child that he is less than normal. Children need to be trained and inspired to reach incremental goals, not be warehoused and labeled as defective by the system and accepted by the child.

We as a people have forgotten that our greatness as an economic powerhouse was established on the industriousness of our ancestors. Many of them had to work to help support their families from a young age. Mostly everything they had to learn came from their own initiative and experience. Their reading, math and job skills were learned by fighting for them. There were often significant people who assisted them and apprenticeship opportunities to learn job skills were identified through their own resourcefulness.

When a person just makes excuses and gives up, nothing is accomplished except a sense of failure and loss of confidence. When the person fights through these challenges and resolves the crucial issues his competence increases as well as his strength of character.

As a society we should stop pandering to special interest groups who demand too many privileges, concessions and accommodations for the child having difficulties. Removing all types of adversity creates a victimized and entitlement society. Overcoming obstacles builds confident and self-reliant people. We should return to a fair merit competition to build winners. In the "everyone wins" mentality there is no motivation to improve. Without failing in something a person loses the motivation to be a winner.

Doers who succeed have to persevere to reach their goals. It takes effort to be a success not accommodations, lower standards and expectations. These are the people who never walk away from a challenge but confront it time and time again until they conquer their inner fear of failure.

Eventually they are victorious and are able to savor their temporary accomplishments then reach out for new and more difficult goals. They raise themselves to new heights and greater laser focused efforts.

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