



# Wider Horizons School

## ENJOYING THANKSGIVING DINNER

### 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

STUDENTS ENJOY THEIR THANKSGIVING DINNER TOGETHER- SERVED BY THE OLDER STUDENTS.



DOING THE RIGHT THING INOCULATES A PERSON AGAINST EVIL

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

In today's world temptations are more accessible to our youth in our "anything-goes" culture. The lifestyles for most adults are harried and hectic with their careers and social activities. Besides ever increasing material wants, there are many social options to occupy oneself. Work hard and play hard leaves little time for parents to intimately and directly interact with children to teach right from wrong. Instead children are left unsupervised to explore the world through the monster electronic devices.

### PARENTS CREATED A WAY TO SHARE COSTUMES WITH OTHER PARENTS !

Throughout the year at Wider Horizons the kids have opportunities to learn about historical figures and global cultures, then, dress-up for the day while they present their findings.

While this is a wonderfully fun learning activity, it can become tricky for parents and caregivers to find outfits for their children to participate; and once you have an outfit, what do you do with it next?

Well, here is a solution: **The Costume Catalog**

The Costume Catalog will be a place where parents and caregivers can post their unwanted costumes for others to use and repurpose.



There is plenty of idle time that modern children need to fill. Children are often isolated from each other because modern parents have decided to live in transient suburban communities where people are anonymous and isolated from each other. Everyone does his own thing. Understandably parents have little faith in the safety of their children and the children have too few peers for the children to play outdoors. Extra curricular activities such as karate, team sports, gymnastics, dance and music lessons provide some limited socialization skills with other children under adult supervision. This partially fills in the void for children to play in a relatively protected environment. It likewise gives the parent a reprieve from being the child's playmate for a short time.



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## PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace & Mrs. Nieves

Welcome back, and hello December! A lot is going to be happening in the classroom.

In math, we continue to learn about the decimal system. We also introduced an extension math to help students with their addition. Big shout out to Caleb for finishing his addition book!

In language, we continue to read our Bob Books. Great job to Abigail and Cooper for moving up another book! We are also matching pictures with letters to help us spell. In addition, we introduced the insta language board which helps students spell words.

In art, we are being very creative and are in the process of making many fun surprises for the holidays.

In sensorial, we went over our shapes. We discussed what type of shapes along with what objects in the classroom look like the shapes.

## PRIMARY

Ms. Finnerty and Ms. Skiff

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fantastic week off. The students were happy to be back in the swing of things.

This week, we focused on reviewing the lessons which they have been given this far. The next two weeks will be very

busy. The children have begun working on Christmas and Holiday crafts. We have also started learning the Christmas songs for caroling on December 20th.

In language, students copied and illustrated a December themed poem. Kindergarteners received lessons on vowels and the short and long sounds they make. First graders are working on ending blends and phonograms. These lessons are the framework of language arts and will instill confidence in the students as they progress.

In math, students continued to practice their math facts, while also working on writing the numbers 1-100, the decimal system, and sequencing. The repetition of math facts helps them memorize for quick recall, which will aid them in future operations.

Students have been practicing fine motor skills daily with a candy cane activity designed to help them grip smaller things and manipulate them independently.

Congratulations to Masa for mastering addition facts 1-10 and for completing the series books and beginning GPS. Congratulations to Jacob for mastering the 10 times tables.

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

Congratulations to Michael, Sebastian, Milana, Caden, Emme,

## STUDENT EDITOR

Morgan Szabo

Cora, and Skylar for moving up on their times tables.

In spelling the students learned definitions verbally, had fun with competitions using white boards, and played roll the dice.

In math the students continued to work on geometry cards, applications, and learned about ( $1/4$ '').

In language the students were working from the 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 on the tree, flower, or leaf.

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

In geography the students are to finish their landforms, water forms, wetlands, clouds, or weather.

The students are working on Christmas crafts.

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

With only a few short weeks until the end of the second quarter, we have urged our students to stay focused, so they can finish the quarter on a high note. The excitement of the holidays sometimes tends to derail even the most dedicated students.

Fourth graders are working diligently to be halfway done with the math textbook before the end of the second quarter. Students are almost finished with the first half of the language tower as well, and will be tested on the different parts of speech. Students have been assigned a realistic fiction book for their next book report due on December 16th.

Fifth grade students have been working hard to finish a majority of the language tower that they began last year. As the rules of grammar get more complex and abstract, it is important for students to have a strong foundation on the parts of speech. In math, many students are more than halfway through the textbook. However, it is important that students avoid rushing and making careless mistakes. Fifth graders have *The Phantom Tollbooth*, or *Hidden Figures* for the book report.

Many of our sixth grade students are close to the halfway mark of their math book; now is the time to put forth more effort towards learning new concepts. New concepts mean more effort, and practice will also be needed to earn better grades. Don't forget that homework assignments prepare the student for tests, so extra care should be taken when completing math homework. One way parents can help is by making sure a math set is completed daily, all work must be shown, and students should refer back to previous lessons. In Physical Science our students are working on Ionic and Covalent atomic bonding.

They should start preparing for their test next Thursday. Sixth graders' presentation of their element is due by the 16th. They will create a poster demonstrating the unique characteristics of their chosen element. After their presentation they will receive a certificate of adoption. Students have been assigned *Black Beauty* for their next book report.

## JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

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

We were glad to see everybody back happy and healthy after what we hope was an enjoyable Thanksgiving break for all of you. We are now approaching the end of the second quarter. It seems like it has flown by!

Math binders for this quarter will be due at the beginning of the day on Wednesday. Students should be familiar with the requirements in order to receive the additional two points awarded for turning in a completed binder.

Students have received their Secret Santa questionnaires to fill out. They should put effort into completing these so that the student who draws their name has plenty of options when selecting their gift. We ask that all gifts be appropriate for opening at school.

We will be hosting a Winter Movie Night party for all students who are interested on Friday December 13th from 6PM to 9PM. The ticket fee will be \$20. The price includes food and drinks provided, so its not necessary for attendees to bring anything with them other than a sleeping bag or blanket if they would like to watch the movie sitting on the floor instead of sitting at a desk. A permission slip was sent home with the students. If they are interested in attending, they need to bring the slip signed along with \$20 by Wednesday the 11th. This week,

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.

the seventh graders have begun studying weathering and how it affects the Earth's geography. The eighth graders are continuing their map creation projects. The ninth graders took a test on Carbon Chemistry, completing their chapter on this subject. The tenth graders are learning about the Middle Ages and what took place during that time.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During circle time this week, we learned about "Wonders of the Desert". Most of the children were under the impression that all kinds of animals could live in the desert. It was explained to them that the desert is a hard place to live in for people, animals and even plants. Even so, beauty can be found, especially in the colorful sunsets.

We also read another book about a girl named "Emma" that was never happy with the gifts she received on various occasions (such as her birthday or Christmas). The children were told that no matter what you are given, you should always be grateful and say "thank you".

While on the playground, some children played in the sand box and others played with the playground equipment. However, most of the children were very busy looking for bugs, crickets or worms. They were very proud of their work. Once inside, the older students worked on their homework while the rest of the students played or worked with any activity of their choice.

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Most of their extra time is being spent on social media and unfettered access to the Internet. Although parents attempt to monitor their children's access to their cell phones too many children know how to get around their parental controls. Children as young as 6 or 7 have access to illicit sites from which they should be protected.

The opportunity and energy that parents have to teach and demonstrate moral values is minimal. This conscience development vacuum is very dangerous to the youth's future. The children's leisure time and increased exposure to evil temptations leaves children more vulnerable to it. Most have no clear idea what is right or wrong nor do they understand the long-term consequences of going down the wrong path.

Being inoculated with traditional Biblical moral values gives a shield for children unknowingly walking down a path of evil. Without this knowledge of right and wrong a young person does not have an early warning system to signal potential future danger. Doing the good deeds decreases the exposure and appeal of possible problematic temptations. Too few youngsters are given these guided lessons.

When an individual knows good from bad and follows moral behavior the effect is one of strength that deflects a predator from continuing his pursuit. Instead they turn to easier prey that appears confused and weak to attempt to control them for their personal pleasure and satisfaction. These targets are becoming more plentiful.

Going down the straight and narrow moral path, guides and attracts a person to others with a similar state of mind and spirit and naturally repels them from negative and self-destructive behavior. The inherent weakness of a spiritual-less existence opens this type of person to an instant gratification lifestyle that has temporary emotional highs and long drawn out lows. This makes one susceptible to shyster's smooth talking promises. These frauds use lies to hook a person to a life of unfulfilled dependency on negatively addictive things and other similarly destructive people.

More than ever in a world of numerous and incredible choices at one's fingertips in our anonymous computer existence, people have to realize beforehand the real potential consequences of their behaviors. It is much easier to continue down a destructive path without immediate detection. Parents in our modern world have to inoculate their children with powerful moral lessons to clearly teach right from wrong, good from bad. Today's culture has a multitude of negative subgroups readily available to join.

These peer groups have a powerful influence on an individual especially during the adolescent or young adult stage of life. Parent's control and influence wanes as young people find their own social groups. In order to belong to any group you have to please other members by accepting their speech, thinking and behavior.

When the things the group does are contrary to one's moral values they can change those values to fit in or reject the group. A person with a weak belief system is more prone to be sucked into a deviant lifestyle. Those who have internalized a traditional one are going to have many moral conflicts that will create wedges retarding the process of becoming a member or even prevent it.

The clear and precise definition of good and bad behavior will create a strong inner conscience that will protect them from going down a path of dissolution. Rather it will protect them from the forces of evil. The thorough knowledge of moral values and reality consequences are a wonderful insurance policy to keep an individual on the straight and narrow.

*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 IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can visit Dr. Maglio at [www.drmaglio.blogspot.com](http://www.drmaglio.blogspot.com).*