



OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION

DECEMBER 2025

Celebrate Success!

Share What We Learn!

Updates on Projects!

WINTER SING ALONG

Our Winter Sing-Along is one of our favorite moments of the year. After practicing songs in December, students from across the building gather to sing and celebrate together before break.

We're always thankful for the families and community members who join us.



Our **first graders** had a wonderful time visiting the **Children's Museum**, where they explored, played, and learned through hands-on exhibits during their field trip.



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM FIELD TRIP



WISCONSIN CAPITAL FIELD TRIP

Our **fourth and fifth graders** traveled by coach bus to the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison for an exciting and educational field trip, where they learned more about our **state government and history**. A big thank you to our **PTO** for helping fund the bus ride and making this memorable experience possible for our students.



READING BUDDIES



Our **second and third graders** enjoy special reading buddy time with the SOTA fourth and fifth graders. It is wonderful to see older students modeling strong **reading skills** while building **positive connections** with our younger learners.



ART CLUB

Art Club students had lots of fun **working together** to build a cardboard house, and in another activity they let their creativity shine by drawing cheerful seasonal characters.

"My **favorite** part of Art Club is **drawing** pictures together. My favorite one so far has been the penguin." ~First Grader Jamariah





JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT



Junior Achievement recently visited our classrooms to teach students about **financial literacy, careers**, and the basics of how **communities** work. Through hands-on activities and engaging discussions, students learned real-world skills like decision-making, teamwork, and problem-solving. These lessons help students see how their learning connects to **future opportunities** and responsibilities. We're grateful for this partnership that empowers our students to dream big and plan for their futures!

DRAMA CELEBRATION



Mr. Nofsinger's drama classes performed a **showcase** of what they've been learning in his class for others to see—and even surprised them with a fun treat to **celebrate** their hard work! They performed a short story "Bear Snores On" as well as a song "12 Days of Winter", a humorous song about what a teacher got their students for the holidays.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

To celebrate weekly attendance, we use an online spinner with all the names of students who have had amazing attendance for the week. The spinner chooses 5 students from each school to pick a prize from the prize case. Our students look forward to Friday mornings when this is announced.



MOMENT MAKERS: CHARACTER COUNTS



Look who was
recognized for being
extra safe, respectful, and
responsible this month!



Birthday Baking

Each month at Hamilton, students come together for Birthday Baking, a special tradition where we bake and celebrate all the birthdays of the month. This fun and hands-on activity fosters a sense of community while allowing students to practice teamwork, measuring, and kitchen skills—all while enjoying a homemade treat!





VIDEO CALL

Fourth and fifth graders had the exciting opportunity to video call with a **scientist who studies stars**, with a special focus on the sun. Students learned about how the sun works, why it is so important to life on Earth, and what it's like to study space for a living. They also asked thoughtful questions and enjoyed hearing directly from a real scientist.

CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scout Pack 1111 spent the day putting kindness into action by creating thoughtful **gift bags for NICU** patients and their families. Their teamwork, care, and generosity shone through each item packed, reflecting a true spirit of service. We're grateful for their effort and the positive impact they brought to our community.



FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

We have received over \$4000 in estimated food pantry donations in November and December.

We could not be more thankful for the ways our community comes together to support our students and families. **Alpha Xi Delta** sorority has been doing an ongoing collection in addition to volunteering at our family nights.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER IMPACT

School board member Trevor Sprague generously delivered **socks and underwear** collected through his personal network to support our students. He also used his connections to secure a full-size **washer and dryer** for our school—funded by the **La Crosse Community Foundation**—so we can clean students' clothing and preschool bedding whenever needed. We are deeply grateful for his advocacy and the meaningful impact of his support.



BLANKET DRIVE



We are grateful to **Gundersen Population Health** for organizing a **blanket drive** to support our school community. These donations will help keep our students and families warm and cared for during the colder months, and we truly appreciate their **generosity and partnership**.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MUSIC CONCERT

Mathy BGC offers **voice and piano lessons** to 3rd - 8th graders through the support of both the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse** and **Cappella Performing Arts Center**. Group lessons in piano and singing are offered 1 - 2 days a week in 3 different sessions throughout the year. Students get the opportunity to learn from a trained music professional and showcase their talents at the end of each session with a public performance at either the Mathy Club or at Cappella PAC. About **25 students** take advantage of this opportunity each session. The program teachers, **Miss Kim and Miss Mary**, are excited to see so many students involved in lessons as the study of a music instrument has been shown to improve focus and academic success. We love to see our students loving music!



ELFIE SELFIE FUN

Our **Social Committee** added an extra dose of December cheer with a fun and festive **Elfie Selfie game** for staff! Elfie selfies were secretly hidden in common spaces around the building, bringing smiles and laughter as staff searched to find their own. When a selfie was discovered, the lucky finder headed to the office to choose a prize. Treats included cozy favorites like hot chocolate, relaxing shower steamers, journal books, and popcorn with special seasoning. This lighthearted activity was a wonderful way to spread joy, **show appreciation** for our amazing staff, and make December a little more magical.





DONUT MISS MORNING MEETING

Families had a fabulous time at our 2nd and 3rd grade parent engagement event, where grown-ups were invited to enjoy **donuts and coffee** while connecting with other adults from their child's class. Parents kicked off the morning with a lively **"Get to Know You" bingo game** that sparked conversations and lots of smiles. After introductions, teachers welcomed families into the classroom to participate in a special **morning meeting**. Together, students and grown-ups shared a greeting, completed a fun community-building activity, and read the daily message. The energy in the building was warm, positive, and full of connection. We are looking forward to welcoming 4th and 5th grade families for their "Donut Miss Morning Meeting" on January 23rd hosted by parent engagement coach, Mrs. Speckeen!



GINGERBREAD PEOPLE

After completing AIMS testing, fifth-grade students collaborated on a creative project by designing life-size gingerbread students, building teamwork and creativity while adding holiday cheer to the hallways.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Two of our students made an incredible start to their first **Boys & Girls Club wrestling season**. Both **Demi and Kharie're earned the Beast Belt** at their very first wrestling practice — a recognition given to athletes who work hard and truly stand out. We are so proud of the effort, determination, and strong impressions they made on day one!



WINTER SPIRIT DAYS



WINTER STATIONS



Our school continues a cherished annual tradition of bringing grade levels together for **holiday stations** on the day before winter break.



Classrooms and common spaces buzz with excitement as students rotate through festive activities, including making **holiday headbands** to wear to our sing-along, creating **beaded candy canes** to share with local nursing homes, playing **winter bingo**, and enjoying Minute-to-Win-It games like **candy cane fishing** and **snowball toss**.

A large movement station in the gym keeps everyone active and smiling. Adding to the joy, our **community mentors** join us to help lead stations and cheer students on.



This special day highlights the **true spirit of community** as older students work side by side with our littlest learners, supported by caring adults, to spread kindness and holiday cheer.



OUR QUARTER 2 PBIS CELEBRATION

INSPIRED BY
THE BOOK,
"STELLA
DIAZ HAS
SOMETHING
TO SAY"



HAMILTON & SOTA I



FAMILY

JANUARY
29

5:30-7



NIGHT

ENTER THROUGH DOOR A

**EACH FAMILY ATTENDING WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF "STELLA
DIAZ HAS SOMETHING TO SAY" BY ANGELA DOMINGUEZ**

CHILDREN MUST HAVE AN ADULT PRESENT TO ATTEND

- Linda Lee - pet food for pantry
- Pam & Dan Claussen - Beannie Babies and stuffed animals
- Washburn Neighborhood Group - groceries for food pantry
- Sue Tolvstad - hats
- Sustar Family- groceries for food pantry
- Villabona Viviescas Family - clothes and booster seat
- Alphi Xi Delta - groceries for food pantry and gloves
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church - \$150 to support staff and students
- Citizens State Bank - \$131 for food pantry
- Toyota of La Crosse - groceries for food pantry
- Gundersen Population Health - blankets
- Altra Federal Credit Union - \$100 for student support
- Thomas & Juna Krajewski - \$100 for food pantry
- Bridges United Methodist Church - student snacks and school supplies
- St. John's United Church of Christ - hats and gloves for students

thank you
Donors



Your Voice Matters

We want to hear from you!

**If you would like to learn more, ask questions, share your insights, or volunteer please
contact Jon Zinniel, Hamilton Community Schools Coordinator at 608-789-5092 or
jzinniel@lacrossesd.org**