



# OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION

# JANUARY 2026

Celebrate Success!

Share What We Learn!

Updates on Projects!

## SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

We are grateful for the time, care, and commitment our **School Board** members give to support our students, staff, and families. Their dedication helps ensure our schools are welcoming places where every child feels supported and ready to learn. We were especially thankful to welcome three board members into our building to **visit classrooms**, learn alongside students, and see our staff in action. Their presence and continued service mean a great deal to our school community.



# Walking Field Trip Birthday Celebration

Our students took learning beyond the classroom and into the neighborhood by **walking together** to celebrate **Community Schools Coordinator, Jon Zinniel**, as he recovers from a medical procedure. With handmade signs, cards, balloons, and a joyful chorus of “**Happy Birthday**,” students and staff showed what it means to care for one another. It was a powerful reminder that school is about more than academics — it’s about community, kindness, and showing up for people when it matters most.



## ART SHOW AT THE PUMP HOUSE

We were proud to see our **students' artwork** featured at the district art show held at the **Pump House**! Several of our students had pieces selected by their art teacher, Mrs. Hanneman, to be displayed in the gallery, showcasing their creativity and hard work. It was exciting to celebrate their talents and see their art on display in such a special community space.



**Hamilton:**  
K5: Liviya, Bill, Iggy  
1st: Sherri, Remi  
2nd: Zymariaha  
3rd: Isabella, Aaron, Luca  
4th: Pyper  
5th: Kastiel

**SOTA:**  
K5: Esme  
1st: Ellie, Penny  
2nd: Bennett  
3rd: Clara  
4th: Josie  
5th: Anabelle, Alayzia



## 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!



## GUNDERSEN GIVING TREE



We are grateful to **Gundersen Partners at Emplify** for setting up a **Giving Tree** to fill needs for our students and staff. School staff created snowman gift tags that were fulfilled by generous community members, providing meaningful support to our school. We are thankful to have Gundersen Partners at Emplify as a community partner who truly cares about and supports the needs of our students.





## LONGFELLOW MUSIC CONCERT

We loved welcoming students from **Longfellow Middle School** to our assembly for an amazing music concert! Their **band and orchestra**, as well as the district middle school **show choir**, performed and filled our school with energy and talent. It was extra special to see many former students and children of our staff members performing for our students. Everyone enjoyed the performance, and our fifth graders especially appreciated getting a **preview of the exciting music class options** they can look forward to next year.



# THIRD ANNUAL ICE SKATING TRIP



# JANUARY FAMILY NIGHT



Our family night was built around the book “**Stella Díaz Has Something to Say**” and the interests of the main character Stella, making the evening both meaningful and fun. Families enjoyed **spaghetti and meatballs** for dinner, created **friendship bracelets with the La Crosse Public Library**, played **math games**, learned **Spanish vocabulary words**, and made **Frida Kahlo-inspired flower crowns**. Students also helped decorate a **welcome banner** for the **author’s visit later in February**, learned about the Shedd Aquarium, and tried out a **chopstick game**, all while celebrating reading, culture, and time together as a school community.





**JANUARY FAMILY NIGHT**

## ART CLUB

We started a new session of art club for this semester with new opportunities for creating and community building. We learned how to draw fun and silly characters and how to fill our papers to make them come to life.



## Ms. Dawn

Ms. Dawn, the La Crosse Public Library Director, regularly visits our school to read with students and share her love of books. Each month, she inspires our 4th and 5th graders to **get excited about reading** and to explore new stories and ideas. She has been an incredible advocate for our students, encouraging them to dive into new adventures through books and lifelong learning.



## Cinderella

**Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT)** presented Cinderella, an original adaptation of the classic fairy tale. A pumpkin coach, Prince Charming, a glass slipper, and a dream come true are woven together by the magic of a Fairy Godmother in this enchanting musical. When Cinderella's stepsisters try to keep Cinderella from attending the ball, the Fairy Godmother enlists the help of the Mice and the Pumpkins and is able to transform Cinderella just in time for the big event. Also featured in the production are Cleo the Cat, Fido the Dog, the Lords and Ladies, the Town Criers, the King and the Beggars. Experience the unique twist the MCT puts on this classic story.



Two of our fourth graders were characters in this play! **Gabby** played a Busker and **Sam** played a Town crier. Congratulations Girls! We are proud of YOU!





## ***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!



# PBIS ASSEMBLY

Our **PBIS assembly** was a fun and energetic way to reboot after winter break while reinforcing important **winter playground expectations** and **proper winter gear**. Students participated in a **scooter relay race** where they raced to collect winter gear in the correct order, then passed it off to Mrs. Fernholz, Mrs. Blakstad, and Mr. Young to put on—much to the crowd's delight! We also played a **snowball scoop Minute to Win It game** to tie into our school-wide theme of Making Every Moment Count. The gym was filled with cheering, laughter, and outstanding sportsmanship as students encouraged one another. We ended the assembly by celebrating students with **Moment Maker Awards**, which are staff-nominated recognitions for students who make a positive impact each day. Students were honored for qualities such as willingness to try when things are hard, encouraging friends, and showing a positive attitude, making it a meaningful and uplifting conclusion to a great assembly.



Hamilton & SOTA | Family  
**MOVIE NIGHT**



Live Action  
Disney  
**Lilo & Stitch**

NEW DATE

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH**



DOORS OPEN AT 4:50 PM  
MOVIE STARTS AT 5:15 PM



**RIVOLI THEATER  
117 4TH ST N**

HAMILTON & SOTA | FAMILY NIGHT

**ART & BOOK  
MADNESS**

FEATURING 

Thursday, March 26th  
5:30-7:00pm

Join us for our annual Art Show as well as fun activities brought to you by PBS Kids!



**Fun Literacy  
Activities**




**Student  
Art Show**

In January, Cheddar visited with  
SRO Michael Abraham



*thank you*  
**Donors**

- Linda Lee - pet food for pet pantry
- FSPA - \$2,000
- Sue Staples - snowpants for students

**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](mailto:jzinniel@lacrossesd.org)