



OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION

NOVEMBER 2025

Celebrate Success!

Share What We Learn!

Updates on Projects!



DONUT MISS MORNING MEETING

Families had a fabulous time at our recent 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. One of the biggest hits of the morning was the joyful "A Tooty Ta" song, which had everyone moving and laughing. The energy in the building was warm, positive, and full of connection. **We are already looking forward to welcoming 2nd and 3rd grade families for their "Donut Miss Morning Meeting" on December 12!**



During American Education Week—the week before Thanksgiving—our morning announcements highlighted daily celebrations:



AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Monday: Shout-out notes written by students to staff on paper apples

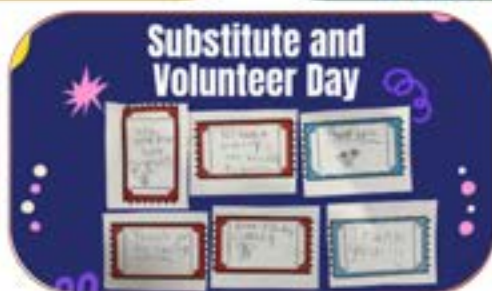


Tuesday: Students created family portraits in art class to line our hallways to create our Family Wall of Fame





Wednesday: Students and teachers held an **Education Support Professionals Day parade** with appreciation posters for our administrative assistants, teacher assistants, custodians, student teachers, kitchen staff, and crossing guard



Thursday: Our student leadership team made thank-you notes for substitute teachers in honor of **National Substitute Educators Day**

American Education Week recognizes the many people who help our students succeed—from teacher assistants and clerical staff to bus drivers, custodians, and families. Each one plays a vital role in supporting students and keeping our schools running strong.



Friday: We had **Dress Like a Teacher Day**, and students submitted their ideas for rules they would make if they were teachers.

"My new rule would be every Friday to get extra library" - Hamilton 2nd Grader

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 five students from each school to pick a prize from the prize case. Our students look forward to Friday mornings when this is announced.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

We had a perfect attendance day at Hamilton for kindergarten through fifth grade, and we celebrated with a **virtual dance party** at the end of the day! Strong attendance helps students build routines, stay connected, and make the most of every learning opportunity.



CENTRAL PLANETARIUM

4th and 5th graders had the opportunity to go to Central High School Planetarium. It was a great way to explore life outside of earth!



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!



MOMENT MAKERS: CHARACTER COUNTS



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



ART CLUB



Art Hub Club started practicing some building skills with constructing a **collaborative cardboard house**. We are continuing to create and draw great things together. Kids are expressing their creativity by drawing fun **seasonal characters**.



LEGO CLUB

Our after-school LEGO Club has been a huge hit! Students come together to **build, create, and let their imaginations run wild**. From towering structures to clever inventions, their **teamwork and problem-solving skills** shine through each week. It's a fun, hands-on way to end the school day!



Veterans Day

Hamilton/SOTA I came together for a meaningful and heartfelt **Veterans Day assembly** to honor the brave people who have served our country. The program included the entire school joining their voices to sing the national anthem, filling the space with pride and respect.



Our 5th graders shared a touching poem, offering gratitude through their thoughtful words. Students from SOTA I added a powerful artistic touch with a beautifully performed **dance titled "Because of You"** honoring veterans. **SFC Joseph N. Aylsworth** taught students the proper way to stand for the **Pledge of Allegiance**, and we proudly practiced together as a whole school.



Girl Scout Troop 7571 & Cub Scout Pack 1111 presented the flag, creating a memorable moment for everyone in attendance. We also got to honor **Superintendent Dr. Aaron Engel** during our assembly.

It was a morning full of gratitude, learning, and unity as we recognized the importance of service and sacrifice.





VITERBO FINE ARTS PROGRAMS

Fourth and fifth graders have had two opportunities so far this school year to attend Viterbo Fine Arts programs.

Students enjoyed **FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book**, a lively, literature-based performance that combined storytelling, STEAM concepts, and character development through creative comic book techniques.

Students experienced **Shaun Boothe and the Unauthorized Biography Series** at Viterbo, a performance that combined multicultural history, character development, and public speaking as Boothe celebrated cultural icons through biographical rap, music, and inspiring storytelling.



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!

4th and 5th grade have been learning how to be an **entrepreneur** and how to **spend and save money** in every type of job.



NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK

During National School Psychology Week, we celebrated our amazing school psychologist, **Kylah Frederixon**! Her guidance, problem-solving skills, and unwavering commitment to student well-being make a huge difference in our school community.

FIRE STATION FIELD TRIP

Our **first graders** had an exciting field trip to the fire station, where they toured the building and played fun safety games. The highlight of the visit was watching the firefighters gear up and get ready for a **real emergency call**. It was an unforgettable, hands-on learning experience!



SERVICE SATURDAY

Volunteers spent Service Saturday preparing a variety of hands-on learning materials and classroom resources. They laminated and cut the CVC raindrop project, organized phonics cards and reading games, and prepped a candy cane craft for Hamilton's winter stations. In addition, they got worksheets ready for the next math unit and created more nighttime routine schedules, all to **make learning smoother and more engaging for students**.



Reading Buddies

When **fourth graders read with kindergarten students**, it builds confidence and fluency for the older students while giving the younger students extra support and attention. This buddy reading also fosters strong relationships across grade levels, encourages a **love of reading**, and helps younger students feel more **connected to the school community**.



Turkeys in Disguise

Some of our students had a blast with the Turkey in Disguise activity! Each child transformed a plain paper turkey into a clever, **creative "disguise"** to help it hide before Thanksgiving—everything from a **superhero to a different animal**. It was a fun way to spark imagination and celebrate the season with lots of laughter and creativity.



CHICK-FIL-A BOOK DONATION



This year, Chick-fil-A partnered with a **student servant leadership group** for a special project focused on giving back to the community. One of their initiatives was to hand out **book bags to our Preschool thru First grade** students, filled with five different books featuring Sea Turtles, Dolphins, Chipmunks, Gorillas, and Toucans. Hamilton was chosen as one of the schools to receive these fun and educational book bags. Students from a local high school came to our school to personally distribute the bags to our students. While visiting, they also **spent time reading** with and to our students, creating a meaningful connection. The activity not only encouraged a love of reading but also highlighted the importance of community service. Our students were thrilled to receive the books and enjoy the special visit. It was a wonderful way to inspire learning and kindness at the same time!



SOLAR ENERGY PRESENTATION

A former Hamilton student, who now attends **La Crosse Polytechnic School**, returned to our school to share an engaging presentation about solar energy with multiple classes. Students learned why **solar power is beneficial, from reducing pollution to creating long-term cost savings**. To wrap it up, everyone joined an interactive Kahoot review that had the classrooms buzzing with excitement and friendly competition.



ABC FEAST

Our ABC Feast is a **special tradition** where students from both Hamilton and SOTA I come together to celebrate thankfulness as one community. During the feast, students get to **sample a variety of foods representing each letter of the alphabet**, including delicious eggrolls for the letter E made by a Hamilton family. Our littlest feasters added extra smiles to the day as they proudly wore their **adorable turkey headbands**. The event gives students the chance to try new foods, share experiences, and enjoy time together. The feast is **made possible through the generous donations and helping hands** of staff, families, and community members. Their support allows us to create a warm and welcoming celebration for all. It's a beautiful reminder of how our community comes together to care for our students and each other.



MIDWEEK MOVEMENT

Our new Midweek Movement activity invites staff to come together for a midweek run, walk, or hike. It's a great way to reset, get active, and build camaraderie.



MAKING FRY BREAD

• • • Nikki, Nadine, Mandy, and Angie spent a wonderful morning making frybread at the **Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers Building** in La Crosse. They prepared large batches of dough to ensure there would be plenty for our **Taste of 7th Street family night meal**. The dough was made from flour, salt, sugar, warm water, and yeast. As with many **frybread recipes, measurements can be more approximate than exact**, and for this batch they used Angie's hand to measure out "one handful" of salt. They emphasized the importance of using warm (not hot) water, stirring the dough slowly, and allowing it to rise before shaping. Once risen, the dough was rolled into balls and gently stretched out, with a small hole poked in the center before frying. **After frying, the result was a delicious treat that everyone enjoyed!**





November Family Night



Family Night was a wonderful evening filled with **connection, fun, and community**. Families explored a variety of activities together, from hands-on crafts and games to engaging cultural experiences. It was a great opportunity for students to share their school with loved ones and for families to spend quality time together in a warm, welcoming space.





Hamilton & SOTA / Sing A Long



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
1:30-2:00 PM

Join Hamilton & SOTA I
students for a seasonal sing-
a-long. Enter through the
community school entrance on
Johnson Street. Doors open at
1:20.



- Benzschawel Wawrzasek Family - student snacks
- Janine Skemp - gloves for students
- Linda Lee - pet food for pantry
- Jessica Erickson - clothes for students
- Pfeiffer Family - snacks and tissues

thank  you
Donors

Food Drive Donations

- Andrew & Kelly Manson
- Paquette Family
- Franzo Family
- Emplify by Gundersen
- Anna Szymanski
- Kris Borene
- Wood Gray Family
- Murphy Family
- Ronsman Family
- Johnson Family
- Eimer Family
- Alpha Xi Delta Sorority
- Marine Credit Union
- Anonymous
- Gundersen Pain and Neuroscience Department



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
jjinniel@lacrossesd.org