



OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION

MARCH 2026

Celebrate Success!

Share What We Learn!

Updates on Projects!



ART SHOW

Mrs. Hanneman did a wonderful job inspiring students to create their own art to display during our **school art show**. Students also had the chance to participate in an **art-themed scavenger hunt** and a **collaborative coloring project**.

The library was a vibrant space that families enjoyed visiting and viewing student pieces. Attendees also had a chance to make **compliment cards** for our artists.





ART MADNESS BRACKET

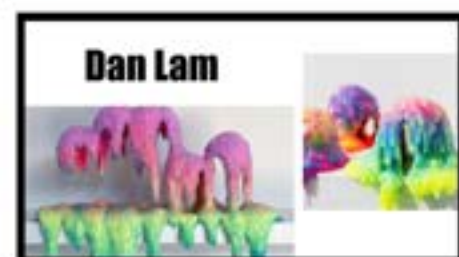
Students spent time voting in art class as part of our Art March Madness Bracket. The final round of voting happened at Family Night, where the **League of Women Voters hosted a voting station** with paper ballots.

Mrs. Hanneman, our art teacher, did a great job getting students ready to vote. Over the course of her classes, she introduced them to a wide range of artists so students could learn about their styles and artwork before casting their vote.

A giant artist bracket was displayed on a bulletin board in the hallway, showing each artist's name and a couple of their famous works. The two finalists, **Ester Roi and Dan Lam**, have very different styles, but both are known for their bold, colorful palettes.

By the time students arrived, most of them had already decided who they wanted to vote for.

The League of Women Voters also mentioned the April 7 election to as many adults as they could. Almost everyone already knew the date and seemed just as excited to vote as their kids.





FAMILY NIGHT: BOOK MADNESS

We had a **vibrant celebration of art and literacy** during our **Art & Book Madness** family night. **PBS Kids** partnered with us to bring engaging literacy activities: creature research and comparison, story writing, wonder wall, and arm span measuring. Some students shot baskets in the gym. PBS Kids also brought **Clifford the Big Red Dog**, the mascot chosen by students to attend. Families got to take home a swag bag with books courtesy of PBS Kids.



La Crosse Public Library hosted a fun decorate your own slap bracelet activity, as well as shared information about their programs.





School Social Worker Week

National School Social Work Week celebrates the important role school social workers play in **helping students succeed**.

At Hamilton and SOTA I, you'll often find **Mrs. Oliphant Deal ("Mrs. O.")** supporting students and connecting with families. She's a **great resource for parents**—whether you need help with parenting challenges, navigating systems, or finding community resources.

Behind the scenes, school social workers also partner with local agencies and support efforts that **strengthen families** and the community.

Mrs. O. is proud to serve our schools, and along with Mrs. B., helps make up a caring **pupil services team** dedicated to supporting our students and families.

MOMENT MAKERS: CHARACTER COUNTS

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



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



We are so proud of **fifth grader Kharie're** who went to state for wrestling with **Boys & Girls Club** during his first season. Congratulations!

Snack & Storytime for Third Grade

Families and BGC staff joined our 3rd graders for a meaningful time of reading and hands-on learning centered around **"Meet the Mini Mammals"**. Students explored what makes a mammal by **classifying different animals** and deepening their understanding through engaging discussions. They also worked hard to read about specific mammals and proudly **presented their learning** to the class, building both confidence and knowledge. A **themed snack** added an extra layer of fun as everyone enjoyed reading together. We are so grateful for the support of our families and BGC staff in making learning come alive!



Snack & Storytime for First Grade

Snack and Story Time was a special opportunity to welcome **parents and grown-ups** into our classroom for a shared learning experience. Together, we read **"The Pigeon Needs a Bath!"**, laughing along with the pigeon's silly excuses. Students then enjoyed creating **directed drawings** of their own pigeons and worked to **sequence the story** using pictures, strengthening both their comprehension and creativity. A **tasty snack** made the time even more enjoyable as families read and connected with one another. We truly love having parents join us in our learning—it makes these moments even more meaningful!



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.



Birthday Baking



Our students have the special opportunity to **bake with volunteers** during their birthday month, making their celebration even more meaningful. This hands-on experience not only teaches valuable skills but also creates joyful, **lasting memories as students mix, measure, and create together**. We are so grateful for the volunteers who give their time and energy to pour into our students—**building connections**, encouraging confidence, and making each child feel celebrated. The smiles and excitement during these moments truly show the impact of their kindness and support.

DRUM THAO



DRUM TAO's show, **The Best**, brought powerful and energetic drumming to the stage, combining **traditional Japanese taiko drums with modern movement and music**. Performers used vibrant costumes and a variety of instruments to create an exciting, synchronized performance. Having entertained millions of people around the world, Hamilton students were excited to experience DRUM TAO at **Viterbo University**. They delivered a fun and unforgettable cultural experience for our students.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK



We had a fun time celebrating National School Breakfast Week at our school! Students enjoyed special treats like **strawberry milk**, wore crowns, and had chances to win **prizes** for eating breakfast at school.

It was a great way to highlight the importance of starting the day with a healthy breakfast—and to make mornings a little more fun for everyone!

SYMPHONY FOR YOUTH

Third graders enjoyed a field trip to the Symphony for Youth performance of **La Crosse Symphony Orchestra**. They listened to music and learned about symphonies.



FIRE STATION FIELD TRIP

Fourth and Fifth Graders walked to Fire Station 1 for a community field trip where they learned about advanced **fire safety and prevention**, as well as did some **career exploration**.





ICE SKATING

We had our final round of ice skating for students this school year. It has become a tradition that our students really look forward to. Thank you to **Green Island Ice Arena** and **River City Youth Hockey Association** for hosting this field trip.



READ ACROSS AMERICA

During Read Across America week we had a **spirit week of dress-up days** to celebrate: Minty Monday, Tart Tuesday, Whimsical Wednesday, and Throwback Thursday. It was such a fun way to celebrate the **joy of reading**.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

To celebrate National Music in Our Schools Month, **Ms. Mandy created a Mystery Musician activity** we participated in during morning announcements. Clues for a mystery staff musician from our school were read each morning, and the musician was revealed the next morning.

We had lively discussions about all of the ways music impacts our lives: musical group performances, concerts, special moments, and even singing while getting ready for the day.



EXCHANGE TEACHER VISIT

We were fortunate to have visiting **student teachers from Japan** in many of our classrooms, teaching **Japanese calligraphy and origami**. The Japanese student teachers also enjoyed learning about our school and having lunch with our students.



All City Strings



Fifth grade orchestra students joined middle and high school students for a performance at All City Strings. It was a great time to see how our musicians have grown, and for our students to see the opportunities yet to come.



We were even surprised with an opening performance from the **La Crosse and District Pipes and Drums**. The event concluded with a piece played by all district orchestra students in fifth grade or older.



STAFF VERSUS STUDENT BASKETBALL

To celebrate the end of quarter three of the school year, we celebrated with our third annual students versus staff basketball game. Fifth graders signed up to play against staff and community members for the whole school.

We also had a silly mascot relay race at halftime. Students enjoyed cheering for players and racers.



DONUT MISS MORNING MEETING



Kindergarten and First Grade families joined us for our special "Donut Miss Morning Meeting," a wonderful opportunity to connect as a school community. Families gathered to visit with one another before heading into classrooms to experience Morning Meeting, an important part of our day at school. Morning Meeting is a daily routine where students greet one another, share, participate in group activities, and start the day building a strong sense of belonging and community.

Parents also had time to **chat and enjoy reading books** by our upcoming visiting author, Meg Fleming. We shared information about upcoming events like Snack and Story Time and Family Night, making it a meaningful and engaging morning for all.

We truly love having parents in the classroom and partnering together in our students' learning!

HAMILTON & SOTA | FAMILY NIGHT

PICNIC, PEDAL, & PLAY

Tuesday, April 28th
4:30-6:00

Bike Rodeo

Family Time on the Playground

Bag Toss
Jump Rope
Spike Ball
Jacks
Chalk
Hopscotch

Dinner:
Hotdogs
Hamburgers
Pickles
Carrots
Grapes
Chips
Cookies
Lemonade

Enter through the
8th St Playground Gate



Must have your grownup present to attend



You're Invited

to the
5th Grade Graduation

Friday, May 22nd
1:15-2:00
Hamilton Cafeteria

Enter through door A for screening before entry.
Bring your photo ID.

thank you
Donors

- Linda Lee - pet food for pantry
- Emplify Population Helath - groceries for food pantry

Hamilton and SOTA | Family

**DANCE
NIGHT**

Friday, May 22nd

5:30-7:00 pm

Enter through Door A

Music by DJ Brettly including:

Hokey Pokey, Chicken Dance, Dancing Games

- Photo booth
- Lots of prizes
- Quiet game space
- Glow-in-the-dark items provided



Sponsored by Title 1

Wear your favorite dancewear!

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