OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION

APRIL 2026

Celebrate Success! **Share What We Learn!** **Updates on Projects!**

CHEERING FOR FORWARD TESTERS

Our kindergarten, first, and second grade students had so much fun cheering on our 3rd-5th graders during the **Forward Test**, Wisconsin's state assessment! Younger students created colorful pages, encouraging notes, and fun tag lines like, **"2-4-6-8 You Are Going to Do Great!"** to help motivate the older students before testing. Special treats such as fruit snacks and granola bars were attached to the **cheerful messages** to remind students that their school community is rooting for them. This has become a treasured tradition at our school that students look forward to each year, while also building meaningful relationships and encouragement across grade levels.

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE

TEACHER ASSISTANTS!

Mrs. Anderson

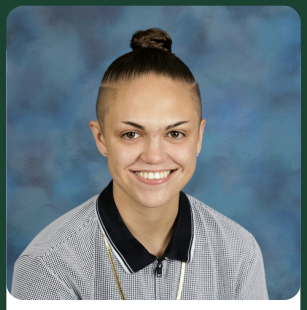
Ms. Vang

Ms. Schmitz

Ms. Jenny

Miss Ava

Mr. Caden



Miss Erica

Mr. Yasser

Mrs. Novak

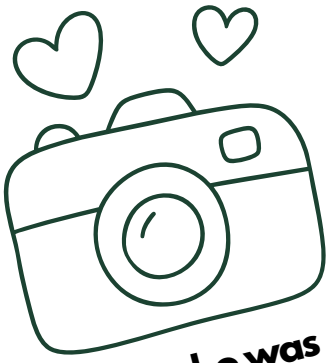
Ms. Brigson

Mrs. Moua

Ms. Gracee

We are incredibly thankful for our amazing Teacher Assistants (TAs) and the countless ways they support our students each and every day. From helping students learn and grow academically to offering encouragement, patience, and kindness, our TAs play an important role in making our school a caring and successful place for all. They step in wherever needed, build meaningful relationships with students, and help create positive learning experiences throughout the day. Their dedication, flexibility, and heart for children do not go unnoticed, and we truly appreciate everything they do for our school community!

Moment Makers: Character Counts



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

ABC COUNTDOWN

Students and staff are having a blast with our **ABC Countdown to Summer**! Each day highlights a different letter of the alphabet with a special theme or activity to celebrate the end of the school year. From **A for Amazing Authors to Z for Zip-Up and Zoom Home**, every letter brings new excitement and fun.

We had a fun night at our Picnic, Pedal, and Play family night! Thank you to our staff and volunteers who hosted bike decorating, bike registration, helmet safety, bike skills course, and playground games.

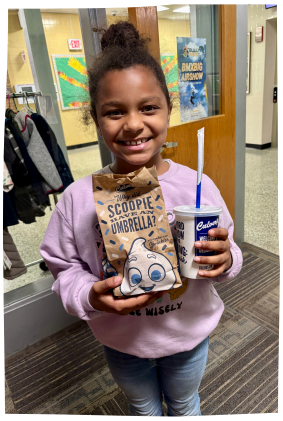
PICNIC, PEDAL, AND PLAY

FAMILY NIGHT

Thank you to **La Crosse County Safe Routes**, **La Crosse Police Department**, and the **City of La Crosse** for your partnership to make this a successful event. We are thankful to **River Trails Cycles** for **donating bikes for our students**.

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

Each month, our lounge fills with excitement, laughter, and the sweet smell of celebration as volunteers join students for birthday baking! Students from each grade level who are **celebrating a birthday**—or half birthday—gather together to **mix, measure, and create special treats** alongside volunteers who make the experience extra meaningful. What begins as baking quickly becomes something even bigger: a chance to build friendships, confidence, and a strong sense of belonging within our school community. The celebration continues as **students proudly deliver and share their treats with classmates** and staff, spreading joy one cupcake at a time. These moments remind us that celebrating together **helps make our school feel like family**.

PBIS ASSEMBLY

Our PBIS assembly was a wonderful celebration of the positive choices our students make every day! Students enjoyed exciting **Minute to Win It games** filled with laughter, teamwork, and school spirit. We also **came together for an entire school morning meeting**, building connections and celebrating our Hamilton community. It is always special to recognize how our students continue to **show what it means to be safe, respectful, and responsible**, and we love **celebrating these successes** together as a school family.

BILLY GOATS GRUFF

Students enjoyed a wonderful theater experience watching **Billy Goats Gruff at Viterbo University**. One of the highlights of the performance was how the actors creatively incorporated other **fairy tales** throughout the show instead of focusing only on The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Students were amazed that only two performers brought the entire production to life through **acting, storytelling, and puppetry**. After the play, students especially enjoyed the **behind-the-scenes explanation** where the performers showed how the puppets worked and shared more about the **magic of theater**. It was an engaging experience that sparked curiosity, creativity, and lots of smiles!

SNACK CART

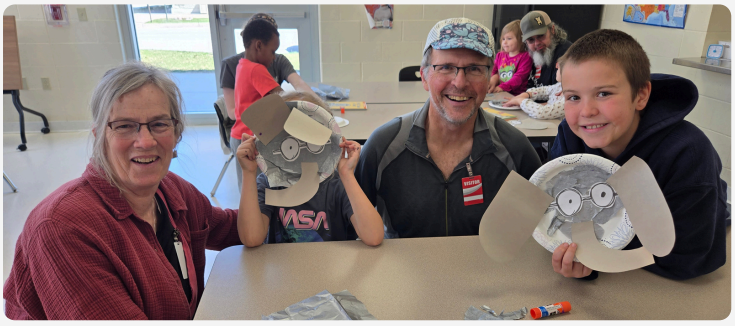
Mr. King has started a **Friday morning snack cart** that has quickly become a highlight for both students and staff! Students travel around the building visiting staff members while **practicing important communication, social, and math skills** as they "sell" donated items from the cart. From greeting "customers" and handling Hamilton/SOTA Bucks to making choices and building confidence, students are **gaining valuable real-world experience** in a fun and meaningful way. The snack cart has brought so much **joy, connection, and smiles** to our school community each Friday morning!

PETER RABBIT

Our **2nd and 3rd grade classes** had a wonderful experience attending **My Days With Peter Rabbit** (and his friends)! One of the most unique parts of the performance was that it was presented as a **"theater in the round,"** meaning the audience surrounded the stage, making students feel like they were part of the story. The play brought beloved characters to life in a fun and engaging way that kept students entertained from beginning to end. As an extra special treat, students were able to **see the cast up close** while exiting the theater, making the experience even more memorable and exciting!

Kindergarten Snack & Storytime

Our kindergarten Snack and Story Time was filled with laughter, learning, and meaningful family connections! Students and their grown ups enjoyed reading the **book "I Will Take a Nap"**! together before creating **adorable paper plate elephants** inspired by the story.



Families also practiced **math skills** by using **tally marks to vote** on whether they like naps or do not like naps, leading to lots of fun conversations and smiles. To c**ontinue the learning at home**, families received extension activities to complete together, and each family was **gifted a copy of the book** to add to their home library.

This special event is part of our **parent engagement effort**s, helping build strong school-to-home connections through literacy, creativity, and shared experiences.

SPRING MUSIC CONCERT

Our Spring Music Concert was filled with creativity, music, and unforgettable performances from every grade level! Our **kindergarten and first grade** students brought the story of **Stone Soup** to life as they "made" a delicious soup through song and movement, delighting the audience with their energy and teamwork. The **2nd and 3rd grade** students dove under the sea with their **Go Fish** theme, where audience members were even treated to the sight of a fishy square dance! Our **4th and 5th grade** students closed the concert with their inspiring theme, Your **Moment to Shine**, which beautifully connected to our schoolwide theme, Make Every Moment Count. A huge thank you goes to Ms. Mandy for all of the time, creativity, and hard work she put into organizing these amazing concerts and helping our students shine on stage!

BMX Assembly

Our BMX assembly brought high-energy excitement to the school while sharing powerful messages about **perseverance, goal-setting, and making positive choices**. Students were amazed by the impressive tricks and stunts, but even more inspired by the riders' stories of hard work and determination. It was a fun and engaging way to reinforce important life skills while creating a **memorable experience** for everyone.

DONUT MISS MORNING MEETING
4TH & 5TH GRADES

Our Donut Miss Morning Meeting was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen connections between home and school! Parents and family members gathered together to **enjoy coffee, donuts, and conversation** before joining their students for Morning Meeting in the classroom. Families received important **end-of-the-year information** about upcoming events such as graduations, concerts, family nights, and more, helping everyone stay connected and involved in our school community. Parents also had the chance to **browse books** written by our **visiting author, Meg Fleming**, and were invited to attend her special presentation. We love creating opportunities for families to be engaged in their child's learning and school experiences, knowing that strong family partnerships help our students thrive.

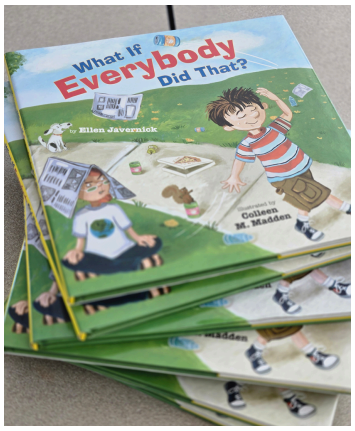
Meg Fleming Author Visit

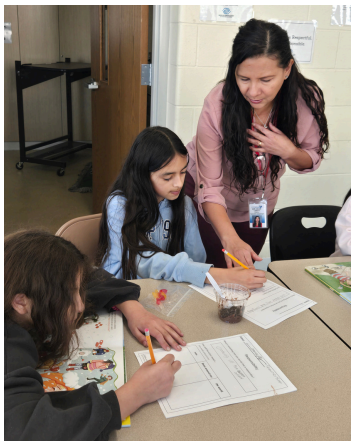
We were thrilled to welcome children's author Meg Fleming to our school for a memorable and imagination-filled visit! Meg introduced students to her newest book, **"Pretty Close but Not the Same"**, and took everyone on an exciting "safari" adventure that had students engaged, laughing, and thinking creatively. Through **storytelling and interactive activities**, she inspired students to use their imaginations and discover the joy of reading and writing. Our **4th and 5th graders even wrote poetry** with her! One of the highlights of the visit was students receiving a signed copy of a book they personally selected, making the experience even more special and meaningful.

SNACK & STORYTIME

Fourth & Fifth Grade

Our fourth and fifth grade Snack and Story Time combined **meaningful conversations, goal setting, and a sweet treat**! Students read the book **"What If Everybody Did That?"** and reflected on how small choices can make a big impact, especially around Earth Day and caring for our environment by not littering. After the story, students enjoyed making **delicious dirt cups** while discussing positive changes they could make in their own lives. Students **set thoughtful personal goals**, ranging from helping keep the Earth clean to setting alarms so they could arrive at school on time each day. They were challenged to work on their goals at home and r**eceived a special prize when they returned their completed goal sheet**. It was wonderful to see students thinking about responsibility, growth, and the difference they can make in their school and community!



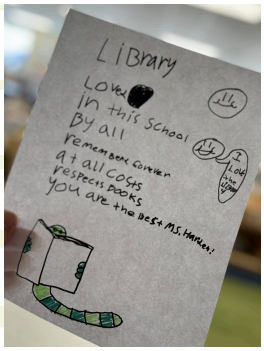


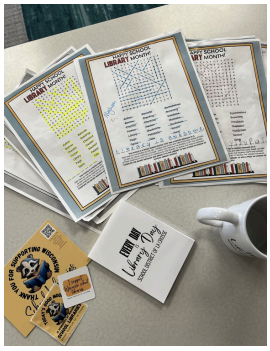
SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH & NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DAY

On **Librarian Appreciation Day**, we were excited to celebrate Mrs. Harden and all that she does for our school community! **Mrs. Harden** helps create a **welcoming library** where students can explore new worlds, discover favorite books, and grow a love for reading and learning. From helping students **find the perfect book** to **planning engaging activities** and **supporting classrooms**, she brings kindness, creativity, and enthusiasm to our school every day. We are so thankful for the care and dedication she pours into our students and library, making it a special place for everyone who walks through the doors.

Mrs. Harden had some fun activities for students and staff to help celebrate **School Library Month**:

- Students **created presents in honor of our library for our School Board**. Postcards and Stickers were purchased through Thrivent grant.
- Students **made the cutest buttons** for our staff.
- Offered our **teachers a word search puzzle** they could turn in to the library for a prize.
- Fourth grade students **created puzzles about why they love our library**.



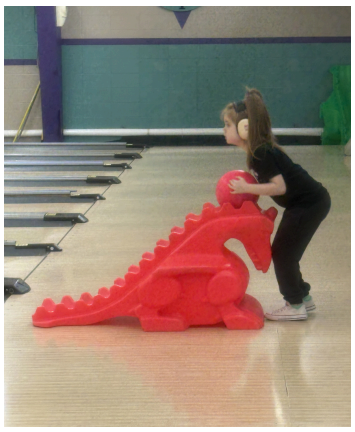


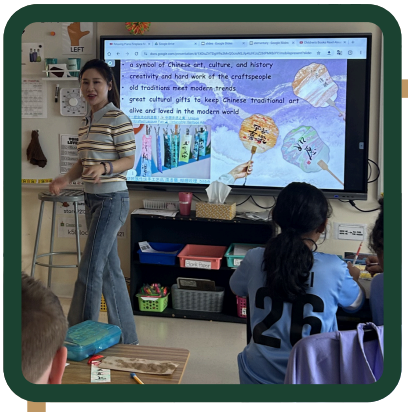
ACADEMIC BIATHLON

The **SDLAX HPL Academic Biathlon** is a **creative problem-solving adventure** that teaches and rewards creative and divergent thought processes, cooperative brainstorming, general intellect, leadership, and a flair for the dramatic–all while providing an entertaining and educational experience for all. **Four-person teams** will completed the Academic Biathlon while displaying **good sportsmanship and teamwork**. Each team showcased the outcomes of creativity and positive risk-taking. This past week **Hamilton's team of Teddy, Mya, Kaylee and Juanita** traveled to the School District of La Crosse District Competition at the Black River Beach House. The four of them did a wonderful job of problem solving during the STEM sprint and answering questions on the final research round. Their total score for the event was 370 points, just 10 points shy of 3rd place. **Congratulations to them!**

KINDERGARTEN BOWLING FIELD TRIP

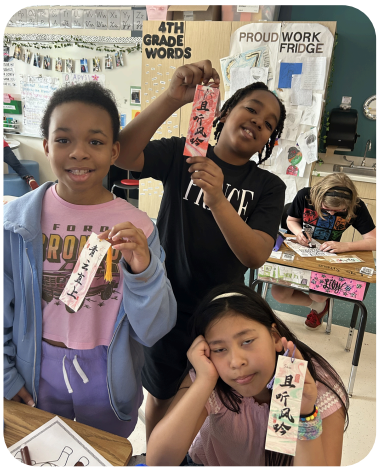
"B" Day in our ABC Countdown was **right up our alley**! Our kindergarten students celebrated with a fun-filled bowling adventure full of smiles, strikes, and school spirit. Students **practiced taking turns, cheering on friends, and showing great sportsmanship** while enjoying this special end-of-the-year memory together. From gutter balls to strikes, every roll was celebrated, and the excitement and laughter could be heard throughout the bowling alley. It was a bowling good time for our kindergarteners!





VISITING TEACHER FROM LUOYONG CHINA

The current foreign **exchange teacher** from Luoyang, China visited this past month. **Lynn spent time in many classrooms** and was able to **observe how we teach reading and writing**. In addition, she spent some time presenting on Chinese **heritage** and also taught some of our older students how to make bookmarks and using **Chinese lacquer**.



PAINT AND SIP

Our **staff paint and sip** activity was a fun and relaxing way to **connect outside the classroom**. Laughter, creativity, and a little friendly comparison filled the room as everyone worked on their own masterpiece. It was a great opportunity to **unwind, build community, and celebrate** the amazing team we have.

Key Staff Award

The **spring key staff award nominees** highlight the incredible dedication of staff in the School District of La Crosse who help students dream, believe, and achieve. While we had several deserving nominees this season, we are proud to recognize **Katherine Erickson** as the spring award winner at our school.

This program **celebrates staff** who who inspire students to contribute effectively to their local, state, national, and global communities. Every nominee deserves appreciation for the positive difference they make in students' lives each day.

Other Nominees:

- Grace Tester
- Leah Fread
- Margit Speckeen
- Maria Henry

Winner: Katherine Erickson

thank you Donors

- Alpha Xi Delta - groceries for food pantry
- Linda Lee - pet food for pantry
- Yasser Ahmed - bikes for students
- Box Tops for Education - $17.50 for student needs

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