

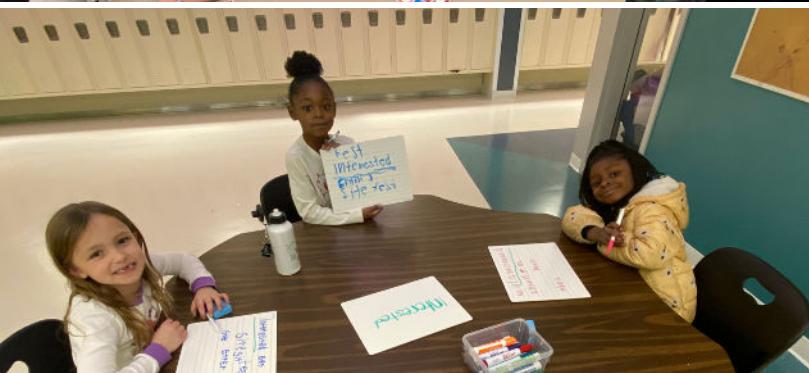


OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION DECEMBER

Celebrate Success

Share What We Learn!

Updates on Projects!



SAIL TO SUCCESS

Sail to Success is an after-school tutoring program for Kindergarten - Second Graders. The program is hosted at the Hamilton - Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse (BGC), in partnership with University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Reading with Rover.

The program offers a variety of different programs: 1:1 tutoring based on each individual's needs; group sessions based on core curriculum; along with educational enrichment programs such as Brain Gain, Power Hour, Social Emotional Learning - Basketball lessons, and more.

This program is free of charge, thanks to a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant awarded to Hamilton.

To register for Sail to Success, students need to become members of BGC at NO COST to the Family. Registration can be done in person or online at BGCLAX.org.

For more information, eligibility requirements, or questions, please contact Emily Jensrud at Emily.Jensrud@bgclax.org or 608.789.8461.

LA CROSSE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION (LPEF) GRANT

Congratulations to Mandy Parameter, Hamilton/SOTA I - Music Teacher, for being awarded an LPEF grant to purchase spotlights for use in our music classroom. Utilizing an artistic approach, these spotlights will help create flexible seating and grouping within the music classroom. The spotlights will also create an atmosphere where students can create, perform, respond, and connect in a way that is consistent with elementary music curriculum standards.





This was an amazing collaboration between the UW-La Crosse Women's Basketball Team, the Boys & Girls Club (BGC), and Hamilton/SOTA I.

Coach Mo and the UW-La Crosse Women's Basketball Team hosted "Basketball Nights" with BGC on Mondays from October 9th - December 18th at Hamilton/SOTA I.



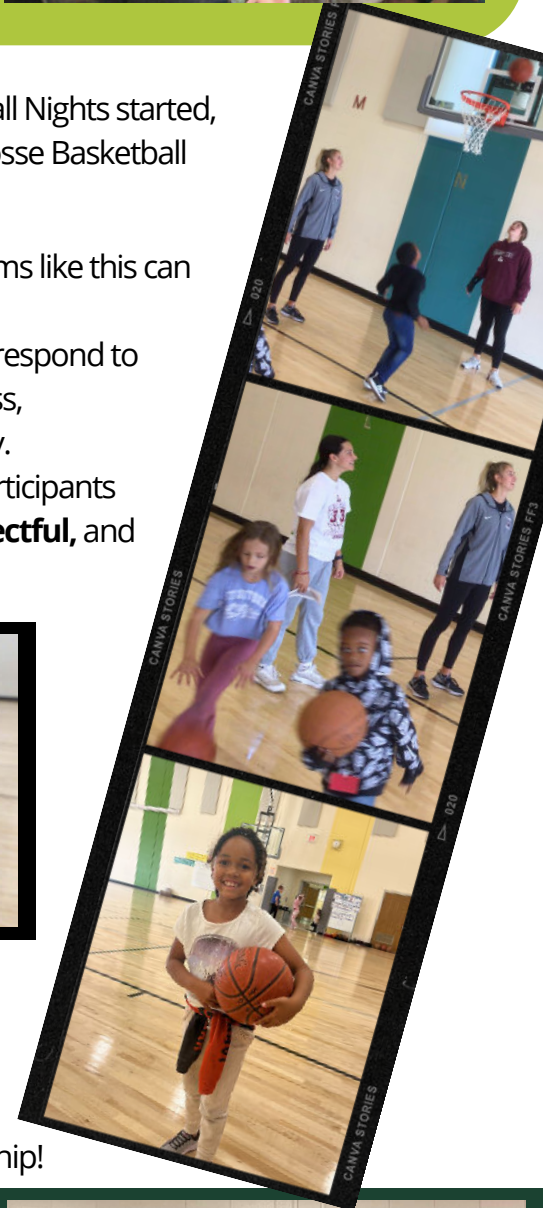
In September, Jordan Young (Hamilton/SOTA I - PE Teacher) created and shared videos with BGC on how he manages P.E. classes with a variety of social/emotional learning tools.



BGC staff used the videos to create a common language and common expectations between the school and BGC.

On **October 6th**, before Basketball Nights started, BGC staff met with the UW-La Crosse Basketball players to share with them:

- What kind of impact programs like this can have on the participants.
- What to expect and how to respond to Boundaries, Competitiveness, Distractibility, and Physicality.
- And expectations for the participants related to being **Safe, Respectful, and Responsible.**



October 9th was our first Basketball Night. So Much Fun! BGC staff, Coach Mo, and Basketball players reviewed expectations with the participants before EVERY Basketball Night.

On **November 20th**, participants attended a UW-La Crosse Women's Basketball game at no cost! UW - La Crosse won the game with grace and great sportsmanship!



BASKETBALL NIGHTS CONTINUED

On **December 15th**, BGC staff met with the UW-L players and shared stories on how the players impacted the participants. Cassidy Murphy, Southside Area Director, BGC of Greater La Crosse, shared the following takeaways:

- “This has been one of my favorite partnerships!”
- “The growth in **community building, sportsmanship, and social/emotional skills** amongst BGC members during Basketball Nights has been impressive. I’ve seen our BGC members transfer these skills to other parts of our program!”
- “Because of Basketball Nights, I have seen BGC members **build each other up more, be more gracious during wins as well as losses, and better at calming themselves** when they face challenges.”

“This is my chance to play with professionals and improve my skills!”



Our **Wrap-Up Party** was on the last Basketball Night of the season, **December 18th**.

- Coach Mo and Coach Angel brought jerseys for BGC members to wear for photos.
- BGC members received signed certificates.
- Everyone enjoyed pizza and refreshments.



Coach Mo, the UW-La Crosse Women’s Basketball team, and Basketball Nights will be back in the Spring! Watch for details in the future!



SPIRIT WEEK



The Student Leadership Team decided our spirit week. We decided on Pajama Monday, Sports/Jersey Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, Hat Day - Thursday, and Red and Green day Friday.



During our meeting we made posters to hang up. The kids had a fun time being creative with their outfits.



Door Decorating Contest

After many requests we planned a door decorating contest for the classrooms to participate on. The rules were that it had to have student participation and at least 3 colors. Classrooms had roughly a week to decorate the outside of their door before the Student Leadership team walked around and judged for a 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place winner.





WINTER SOLSTICE

SOTA I families enjoyed seeing their students perform in the Winter Solstice.



WINTER SING-A-LONG

Hamilton families and community partners enjoyed the opportunity to sing seasonal songs with Hamilton & SOTA I students.



WINTER PBIS STATIONS

On Friday, December 22nd, our PBIS team hosted a morning of winter activity stations. These stations included winter bingo, creating holiday cards for residents of Springbrook, drawing activity, a snow globe activity, winter fun recess, and building a snowman trap using legos.

Our 4th and 5th grade Hamilton students were split up among the kindergarten through third grade classrooms and were great helpers! Staff and students are looking forward to our next whole school stations!



BGC BEARS

Boys & Girls Club donated teddy bears for Pre-K and other students!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership team has done an awesome job being leaders in the classroom, hallways, specials, in recess, and the lunchroom. Every Wednesday we meet to discuss special events that are happening in Hamilton during lunch.



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP TEAM (CSLT) UPDATE

Through November, Hamilton & SOTA I "Daily Attendance Rate" was 89% and 92% respectively. 41% of Hamilton and 30% of SOTA I students have been "Chronically Absent", missing 6 or more days of their first 55 days of school.

High concentration of learning opportunities are offered during the school day. The more we have children at school, the more we can work on academic and social/emotional skills. The more skills a person has, the more options they will have later in life.

The Hamilton CSLT has adopted the following Theory of Improvement:

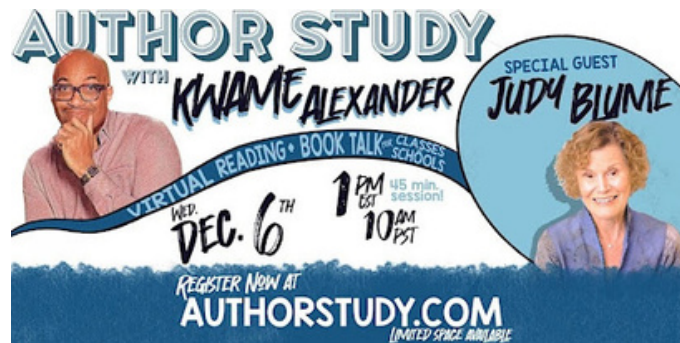
*When we reduce barriers and address needs related to attending school, **children are** better positioned to be at school and in a learning state of mind which will **lead to** more academic and social/emotional skill development.*



We want to hear from you!
Please complete this short survey about attendance.

What is working?
What is getting in the way?
What would help?

On Wednesday, December 6th, Title 1 hosted a virtual author visit with Kwame Alexander and Judy Blume. Kwame read from his book, *Booked*, which is written in poetry. The students were able to ask the authors questions via the chat feature.



Our 4/5 students are reading *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume right now and they will be kicking off a Poetry Unit and then hosting a Poetry Slam for their families in the new year.



Thank you to these generous donors in the month of December:

thank you

- Blanket Donation - Gundersen
- Lunch for Staff - FSPA
- Food Pantry - Our Savior's Lutheran Church - La Crosse, WI
- Food Pantry - Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Winter Clothes - UWL's Early Childhood Education Program

SUPER STUDENT GIFT BAGS

Officer Jo was here on Dec 18th to hand out gift bags to Hamilton students recognized for being **Respectful, Responsible, and Safe!**



HAMILTON & SOTA | FAMILY NIGHT

LAUGHING WITH THE ANIMALS WITH DAVID STOKES

JANUARY 18TH
5:30-7:00PM
ENTER THROUGH DOOR A



Through the use of songs, stories, movement, riddles, audio/visual hands-on materials, and live animals the crowd will be wowed and engaged in learning about frogs, turtles, fish, and mice.

Also enjoy dinner, a frog hopping contest, legos, and coloring. A STEM activity will be sent home with everyone who attends.



Sponsored by Title I

If interested in helping with our January Family Night, please [sign-up here](#).

WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Our staff and community partners are some of the most amazing people! If you see them, please thank them for all they do!



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 jjzinniel@lacrossesd.org