



OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION FEBRUARY 2024

Celebrate Successes!

Share What We Learn!

Updates on Projects!

Black History Month Trivia

One way we celebrated black history month was to share facts each morning during announcements.

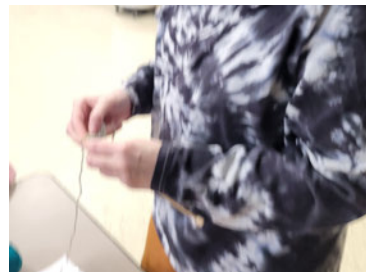
1. Who was the first Black woman in history to top Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart?
2. Who was the first Black president of the United States?
3. Which hurdler was the first Black person to earn a medal at the Olympic Games in 1904?
4. Who was the first female self-made millionaire in the US who created a line of hair care products for Black women like her?
5. Who was the youngest Black child to desegregate a school in the US in 1960?

(answers on the last page)

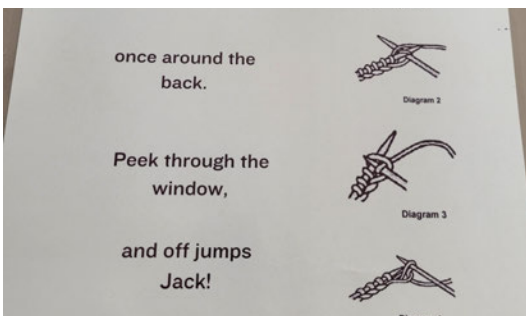
Reading & Knitting

Our Reading Tutors are always finding ways to connect with our students to foster interest in reading.

Ms Terri, Reading Tutor, has started a Reading and Knitting group where students read instructions and read a shared book as the group is learning to knit.



The group is starting off by making stuffed toys and will evolve to more elaborate creations.



February Super Students

Look who was caught being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe in February!



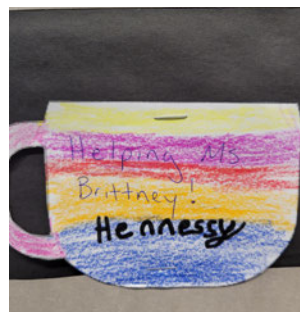
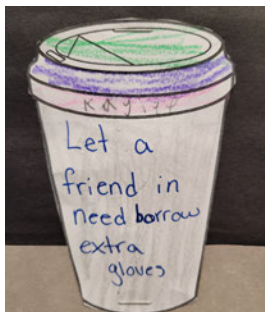
Neighborhood Clean-up

The Hamilton Student Leadership Team (SLT) picked up trash around our neighborhood on **February 26th!**
Thank you SLT!



Cups of Kindness

Students have been given "cups" to add to our Cups of Kindness bulletin board. Here are some of the kind actions that our students have been doing.



Staff Professional Development



Team Building

Thank you, Sr. Lucy and the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration for hosting a relaxing morning with fun team-building activities at the Spirituality Center!

Staff enjoyed a great breakfast and had many laughs!

Bal-A-Vis-X

Staff finished their second day of Bal-A-Vis-X training on **February 9th**. Thank you Barb Oettel for teaching us so many great uses for this wonderful resource!



Thank you to the **Project Aware** grant for covering the cost of this valuable training!



Bal-A-Vis-X is a set of exercises that incorporate balance, as well as auditory and visual input. It progresses from simple to complex and is beneficial for coordination and attention skills.

The basis of the exercises are rhythm and work on many skills such as tracking, impulse control, co-regulation, leadership, and so much more.



Staff have already brought Bal-A-Vis-X into the classrooms and students have really enjoyed it. Students often request more Bal-Vis-X time.

Global Play Day

February 5th was Global Play Day. The older students played with the younger students.



100th Day of School

Students celebrated the 100th day of school on February 13th!



Valentines Day



Strawberry Milk

Our amazing Ms. Shannon, School Nutrition Cook, got permission to be a pilot school to offer strawberry milk on Valentine's Day.

"Given the response, I would expect many more schools to offer strawberry milk on Valentine's Day next year!" ~ Ms. Shannon





Longfellow Band & Show Choir

Hamilton & SOTA I students enjoyed watching and cheering on the Longfellow Band and Show Choir.



GROW GREENHOUSE

Students at Hamilton were able to visit both the GROW Garden Greenhouse as well as parts of Western Tech for a fun science field trip. At the greenhouse, the students learned all about the control center or "brains" of the greenhouse and how it all works. They also watched the hydroponic system in action, practiced their pollinating skills, and even got a taste of some healthy vegetables. They took a tour of Western Tech and saw many parts of the school including the beautiful living wall and the cafeteria, which includes lots of fresh produce brought over from the greenhouse! It was a fun filled field trip and all the students took home an herb they planted as a reminder of their special day.



FIRE STATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Back in October, the Fire Department came to Hamilton & SOTA I to review fire prevention and fire safety lessons. In February new students who were not here in October visited the local Fire Department. They learned, laughed and enjoyed their time with the Fire Department.



UPDATE FROM OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP TEAM

DONUTS WITH GROWNUPS

On **February 21st**, Hamilton and SOTA I families had a chance to meet with staff and other families over coffee, donuts, and other snacks. Staff were present to translate and answer questions. Thank you families for your feedback!



TEACHER CONFERENCES

Families met with Teachers on **February 29th** and **March 4th**.

Afterwards, families joined us in the cafeteria for some light refreshments, sign up for Summer School, meet other families, and an opportunity to give their feedback and more.



At both events, families gave feedback to the school on school communications, feeling welcomed, being involved at school, and talking with their child about school.

SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS

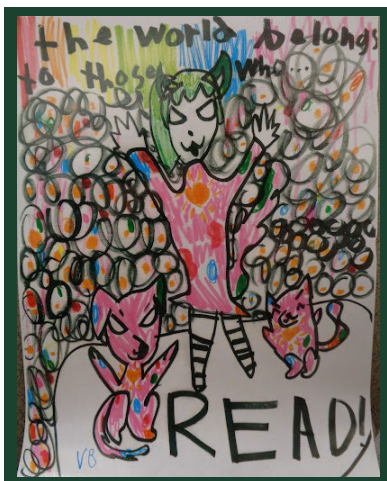
Kharie're, a 3rd grader at Hamilton was presented with the **Black Excellence Award** last week for outstanding commitment towards making our community a better place for all and his work with the Dance Team. **Way to go Kharie're!**

Violet B, a 3rd grader from Hamilton is one of our students who loves to illustrate books and draw. During a random breakfast in February she created a poster with the theme of how important it is to read.

Her message; **"The world belongs to those who....READ!"** has been turned into posters and can be found hung throughout the school building. **Great job on your positive message and fabulous illustrating Violet!**

Anthony & Cody, 1st Grader & Kindergartner at Hamilton Elementary, participated in the **BGC Wrestling Program** this winter.

They are pictured with Coach Chad. Great work and effort Anthony and Cody! **Keep it up!**



ICE SKATING AT GREEN ISLAND ICE ARENA



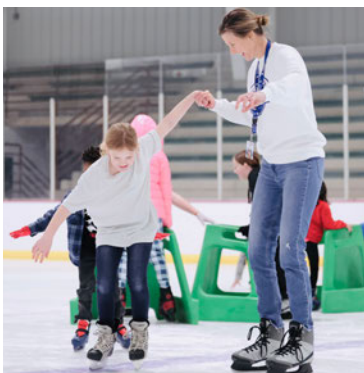
**Thank you
Green Island Ice
Arena!**

What a great community resource we have so close to us!

On three **Fridays in February**, a different group of K/1, 2nd/3rd, and 4th/5th grade Hamilton classes walked to Green Island Ice Arena and skated for no charge.

Look at all the smiles! Many first-time skaters were getting the hang of it in less than an hour on the ice.

What resilience! Each time a student fell with style, they got right back up and tried again!



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

We celebrated Read Across America the week of **February 26th - March 1st**. Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading. **We had a blast celebrating reading all week!**

MONDAY

We read **"Word Collector"**. We dressed up wearing our favorite **"WORD"**.



TUESDAY

We read **"Arnie the Doughnut"**. We dressed up colorful like sprinkles on a doughnut. Everyone received a doughnut from Linda's Bakery.



WEDNESDAY

We read **"Catching the Moon"** and dressed up as our favorite sports person or team.



THURSDAY

We read **"Kindness is our Superpower"**. We dressed up like a superhero and wore our kindness shirts.



FRIDAY

Teachers read their favorite book. We dressed up as our favorite book characters. We ended the week with a **whole building Book Parade!**



OTHER EVENTS & PROJECTS

Thank you!

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

- GECU - food pantry groceries and winter clothes
- St. John's United Church of Christ - winter hats and gloves
- Toyota of La Crosse - food pantry groceries
- Jada Hunter - clothes and shoes

February Family Night - Night at the Movies

234 students and family members enjoyed the movie "Inside Out" at the Rivoli on February 15th.

Thank you to the Rivoli and our amazing staff for providing such a great experience with good pizza, popcorn, and drinks!



Welcome to the new staff that joined us this semester!



Ms. Bucholz, Mr. Brett, and Ms. Vang

HAMILTON / SOTA I
FAMILY NIGHT

MARCH
Madness



THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST

ACTIVITIES & FREE
CONCESSIONS

OPEN 5:30-7:00 PM

Black
History
Month

Trivia Answers

(questions on page 1)

1. Beyoncé
2. Barack Obama
3. George Poage
4. Madam C.J. Walker
5. Ruby Bridges



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