

# WILDCAT PAW PRINTS



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PRESCHOOL**

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THE WORLD!**

**NEW YEAR  
RESOLUTIONS**

**FIELD TRIP TO THE  
OMAHA SYMPHONY**

## From Dr. Wells

### Hamburg High School?

Last week, we had an opportunity to discuss with the Iowa State Board of Education the idea of returning a high school to Hamburg. To be honest, I anticipated a quick meeting and a negative response, so I was pleasantly surprised that the State Board actually listened to our argument. The vote was 4 to 4 with one member absent. As a result of a split vote, no action was taken. The State Board has asked us to return on February 20th at 10:00 a.m. to further discuss the idea, which is encouraging.

How would a Hamburg High School work? We know initially our high school will be extremely small with perhaps 20-25 students in year one and expand each year. We anticipate a high school of 60-70 students at its fullest. We will share staff with other districts in order to meet state accreditation standards and will utilize online courses that have been approved by the state. Financially we are sound, and we have a good plan for returning the high school, but it will be an uphill battle. If the town does not grow by doing a housing project, then the plan will fail. We have great faith in our town leadership and believe we can have an excellent high school and our town can recover from flooding. In order for this to happen we need a community that is 100% behind our school.

If parents do not send their high school children to Hamburg, then it will fail. Again, we have great faith in our parents and their support of our school. The decision to bring the high school back to Hamburg is not one taken lightly by the school board or administration. If the state allows the high school to return and it fails, the entire district will be dissolved and split between Sidney and Shenandoah. What happens if they don't allow us a high school? Our middle school numbers will dwindle because parents want their children in the school they will graduate from for athletics. If the high school doesn't come back to Hamburg it will be very difficult to maintain our school numbers.

Lastly whether we get a high school back or not, we will have a parent/community meeting on February 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. We will not have a tuition agreement with Sidney next year, so we need to discuss open enrollment papers, transportation issues and schedules. I leave you with the words of Jessica Lave, "When the chips are down, you are given the chance to find the strength you never knew you had and put it toward the greater good." If you have any questions about our school system please contact me. Thank you for your unwavering support.

## Preschool - Mrs. Williams

The Preschool classes have enjoyed doing several Science experiments this month! Since we have had cold snowy weather, we brought some snowinside into our sensory bin. The students used brushes to paint the snow with colored water! It was fun to watch the snow change colors!

Another favorite experiment involved using Kool-Aid, vinegar, and baking soda. We enjoyed watching the baking soda fizz as the vinegar was added. The Kool-Aid made it very colorful too! We thought it looked like the colored snow in the book, *The Snowy Day*!

We have also been learning about solids and liquids. We filled some trays with water and predicted what would happen if we put it into the freezer. We found out that it would change into ice! Then we let the ice sit out in the classroom to see what would happen next. We found out it would change back into a liquid!

We are looking forward to more fun days of learning and the 100th day of school which is coming up soon!



## Kindergarten - Mrs. Brandt

It hardly seems possible that January is over and third quarter is under way. This is the time of year in Kindergarten when the students can use the skills they have learned to complete their projects.

In Reading, all the students have made progress with their reading skills. They are doing great at sounding out the words and reading sentences. Some students are reading 4 to 5 little books a week and others are reading AR books and quizzes on the computer. This is a great accomplishment for any student. Keep reading at home.

Reading went along with Science talking about water can be liquid, a gas, or a solid. Water turns into ice when very cold (solid). The students put a cup of water outside and then went and got a solid. Then the sun melted the ice and we had a liquid. They watched water turn to gas when it got very hot.

In Math, the Kindergarteners will celebrate the 100th day of school with the 3rd and 5th graders on January 28th. The students are busy counting and writing numbers with the counting collection. We are busy working with number lines and numbers on a ruler as well.

In Social Studies, we have been talking about how people are different in their cultures. The students reviewed, Habit 1 – Be Proactive – Take charge of me and be a responsible person. The students made a unique snowman to show how we are all different. Winter Reading testing started this week and Math testing will begin next week.

The 100th day of school will be Tuesday, January 28th.

Valentine's Party will be Wednesday, February 12th.

Notes will be going home soon.

## First Grade - Mrs. Hendrickson

First graders just welcomed Eli McAtee. Eli comes to us from Florida!

Welcome 2020! Please remind your child to bring their boots and snow pants. For those children without boots, they will be asked to stand on the cement..Also, please make sure that they are wearing clothes that are appropriate for the weather! January has started our very cold and the kids have not been able to enjoy the snow. Hopefully this changes and we will be getting outside!

We just recently talked about Martin Luther King Jr. We listened to his "I have a dream" speech. First Graders talked about their dreams for where they live. Here are some of their ideas:

Addy - My dream for Hamburg is people not being mean to people.

Landon - Hamburg has peace to give.

Zach - My dream for Riverton is to have all of my family love each other.

Myah - My dream is Hamburg people that don't get in a fight.

Carsyn - My dream is Hamburg has a waterslide.

Eden - My dream for Hamburg is there is love.

Taryn - My dream is for Hamburg to have more happiness.

Shaye - My dream is having a big water fountain.

Spencer - My dream is to have Hamburg have good people.

We have started our winter testing for Reading and Math. Please encourage your child to do their personal best!! Our 3rd session of Maker Space starts this Friday, January 24. If you have any ideas that you would like to see your child make have them mention it to their teacher and we can see what we can do with the supplies we have.

## 2nd Grade - Mrs. Gregg

Throughout the school year, the 2nd graders have been solving math problems around the number of the day. As we are gearing up for the 100th day of the school year, I asked each of the 2nd graders what they would buy if they had \$100:

Laynee- I would have a white fluffy chair and a computer

Benny- 100 WWE guys

Cash- Buy a motorcycle

Murrin- Spend it on "animal stuffies"

AJ- craft stuff

Mia- I would let all of my siblings get one toy. I would give half to my Mom and Dad and I would keep \$10.

Mark- I would buy another Nerf Rival Nemesis

Kyler- I would use \$50 on sports cards and the other \$50 on sports stuff

Sam- Computer

Bryn- 1 dog, 1 horse and 1 bunny

Leland- Buy a car

Kowa- I would use it for a bunch of Baby Alive Dolls

Graysin- I would give it to charity

We have enjoyed the snow and ice this month, but we really liked the warm temperatures in the green house. This month we helped Dr. Wells in the green house. Earlier this school year, we discussed plant parts and needs of living things in science. While outside in the greenhouse, we have been able to plant different types of vegetables and herbs. We are excited for the arrival of the fish!

We will be celebrating the 100th day of the school year on January 28th.

## 3rd Grade - Mrs. Welch

The third graders wrote a Haiku for this month's Paw Prints. Haiku are Japanese poetry with 17 syllables-5 syllables for the first line, 7 syllables for the second line, and 5 syllables the third line. Please enjoy our poetry!

Valentine boxes

I love giving teddy bears

I love my mom too

By Konnor

Hershey kisses are

The gift for you and I love

Valentine's Day, too

By Larry

I love teddy bears

I love my sister Elsi

I love my mom too

By Taytin

Thankful to people

Let's give roses to your mom

Help your dad with work

By Raiden

I love candy hearts

I love teddy bears and hearts

I love roses too

By Jozie

I love Valentines

I like flowers and roses

I like teddy bears

By Kullen

I give cards to friends

I like big chocolate boxes

Everyone has fun

By Gunner

I love candy hearts

I like valentine's boxes

I like teddy bears

By Kooper

I love teddy bears

Let's give roses to my mom

I love my sister

By Cayden

Valentine's Day bear

Waiting for my candy now

Roses for the day

By Jaraiya

## 4th Grade - Mrs. Duncan

Starting this Friday, we will be starting a new Makerspace. This will be 6th one since the beginning of Makerspace last year. So I asked each of the students to tell me which Makerspace was their favorite so far and why. These are their responses:

Jayla: Pottery because you get to paint the pottery and use the wheel.

Xavier: T shirt making because you get to make t shirts.

Jaxson: Metals because we were making a go kart.

Owen: CNC because you can laser on glasses and wood.

Noah: T shirt making because I was able to make a t shirt for my little brother.

Cole: Pottery because the clay feels cool.

Emmy: T shirt making because we were able to make something for preschool.

Hannah: CNC because I liked making farm things for my family.

Bram: Pottery because you use clay and make cool things.

Rebecka: Cooking because you get to make snacks and watch Youtube videos.

Alexa: Pottery because you get to make cool stuff.

Caylee: Bookmaking because I like making books.

Kyra: Quilting because I was able to make scrunchies and a blanket.

Hailee: I like Pottery because you can use the wheel to make cool stuff.

Keagan: TV recording because we make cool videos.

Lucy: Pottery because we get to make and paint our pottery.

Savanna: TV recording because I like making the Monday announcements.

Emily: Quilting because we made blankets for our family.

Isaiah: Woodworking because I like to work with wood.

Ava: Quilting because you get to learn how to quilt.

## 5th Grade - Mrs. Fann

Traditionally, 5th grade gets a little busy during the second semester.

Keep these dates in mind.

January 23rd: Symphony with 4th grade (Omaha)

February 5th: Upper Elementary Science Fair (Hamburg)

March 4th: Capitol Field Trip (Des Moines)

Other than that, the 5th graders are hard at work on science fair projects and would like to share their hypotheses with you.

David: I think the reaction between Cherry Cola and Mentos will be higher than regular Coke and mentos.

Braden: I think an egg can float.

AJ: I think Coke will make the highest explosion with Mentos.

Ashlyn: I think the apple will rot first.

Chloye: I think the higher you drop an egg the worse the break.

Hunter: I think a potato will light a lightbulb.

Aiyana: I think it will take 5 tablespoons of salt to make an egg float.

Ely: I think metal will float best.

Nevaeh: I think the double stuffed Oreo will not have much more than a normal stuffed Oreo.

Bryan: I think a plant can grow from coffee grounds.

Reilly: I think the bread will land butter side down.

Hannah: I think Sparkle paper towels will be more absorbent.

Isara: I think soda will clean pennies the best because it is fizzy.

Bella: I think cookies with baking soda will taste better than cookies with no baking soda.

## Resource Room

“5 ways to help your child focus” by: Great Schools Staff

Get the ya-yas out first. Moving the body motivates the brain. Try having your child walk or bike to school, play outside after school, do chores around the house, or play on a sports team. Make sure your child has had a chance to run, walk, or jump around before sitting down to homework.

Turn off screens and cell phones. Before your kid tackles homework or does anything that takes concentration, turn off the television. Or if others are watching it, make sure your child is far enough away that he can't be distracted by it. Also, shut down or move him away from the computer, and if your child has a cell phone, make sure that's off too.

Make a to-do list. Having a lot of chores and homework assignments can be overwhelming for kids. Help your child focus on getting things done by making a list — together — of everything he needs to do for the day or week. Then let him cross off each task as he finishes it.

Use signals. Try to avoid conversations when your child is working. To cut out distracting talk altogether, you and your child can even come up with a few basic signals. For example, when you point to his work that means he needs to go back to what he was doing. Or when you raise your hand that means he should stop what he's doing and get to work. For some kids, it helps to just lay a hand on their shoulder to bring them back into focus.



Take breathers. During homework time, make sure your child takes a few breaks. After working for 10 or 20 minutes (depending on his age), have him get up and move around, get a drink, and then go back to work. But don't let him get involved in something else during the break. Just make that time a relaxing few minutes.

## English - Mrs. Dovel

The English classes will soon begin argumentative writing. This essay presents both sides of an issue. Students will use facts and evidence to prove whether a thesis is true or not. In addition, they will present both sides of a single issue and cover arguments for and against. One of our main focuses will be to present information and key ideas in a logical format using good transitions. In addition to this essay, classes are working on the three types of conjunctions which include: coordinating, correlative, and subordinating conjunctions. It is important to recognize these conjunctions as they must be used correctly to connect phrases and clauses throughout the essay.

Favorites Units:

1. Paycee - I liked all the essays that we have written.
2. Emma - I liked the Holocaust unit in English and history.
3. Aiden - I like working on the three types of conjunctions.
4. Zach - I liked the WWII unit.
5. Kennedy - I liked the Holocaust unit and meeting Dr. Fred Kader, survivor.
6. Hailee - I like learning about the different types of essays.
7. Lizette - I liked writing the essays.
8. Carter - I loved the Holocaust unit.

## Algebra - Mrs. Hall

During the past two weeks, the Pre-Algebra students have been learning the laws of exponents and have been using them to multiply monomials and take powers of monomials. They are now multiplying binomials using a process called FOIL - students should be able to explain what that is! Algebra I students are just about done with their unit on inequalities. They have solved inequalities and graphed the solutions, both on number lines and on the coordinate system. These students will soon be working with rational expressions containing variables and quantities - simplifying, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing them.

## **Middle School Science - Miss Martin**

The 7th grade class has been on a cellular journey, learning about mitosis and how cells carry out different functions throughout unicellular and multicellular organisms. They have composed plant and animal cell prototypes along with making raps, books and posters about mitosis. The students will finish off the next two weeks learning about the level of organization within a cell and how that is related to the overarching theme, which is that a cell is the smallest unit of life.

The 8th grade class has dove into learning about the different types of energy. They have made bumper stickers that are composed of different energy sources, such as; heat, electric, solar, nuclear etc. The students will be focusing on energy sources for a couple weeks and will continue to learn about energy transfer and simple machines.

## **Middle School Math - Mrs. Wright**

The middle school math classes have been hard at work with the start of the new semester. The 7th grade class has just started a unit over ratios, rates, percentages, and proportions. They are excited to take what they have learned from their last unit and apply it to new ideas and concepts.

The 8th graders have just started a unit over Quadratic Formulas. They are continuing to learn how to graph different types of equations and apply it to real world situations. They will also be gaining more foundational skills for Algebra during this unit to help prepare them for next year.

The 8th graders have also been learning a lot about themselves in Career Explorations. We have been focusing on setting goals for ourselves, but we will soon use those goals to help us on our career search.

## Elementary Music - Mrs. Emberton

The elementary plays have been selected and the casts have been revealed! The 3rd graders will be performing "Pirates.....With Molly on Board." Captain Blackbeard will be played by Konnor and Molly, his wife will be performed by Marley. Most of the cast will be pirates--how fun is that?!

The 5th/6th graders' musical play will be "Go West!" The play is a musical review exploring America's westward expansion. The play will feature the pioneers who traveled by covered wagons, the miners, (there's gold in them thar hills"), the farmers, trappers, the cowpokes, and even Robert Fulton with his steamboat crew. We hope to present these plays in March. We'll keep you posted on the performance dates.

The 4th graders are still practicing their recorders and trying to get to that coveted black belt. Several students only need 3 more belts to complete the program. Good work 4th graders!

Please put March 7th on your calendar. That is the date of the annual Music Carnival. Yay!!!

## MS Band & Chorus - Mrs. Emberton

The band students will start rehearsing the music for the c.c. honor band. We have 11 students that were selected! The band festival takes place at East Mills this year on March 17. We also plan to have a solo/ensemble contest later this spring, so we'll start rehearsing those pieces as well.

The chorus students have started rehearsing their musical "Hee Haw Hayride." This is a fun play that I've done a few times before. It's the story of two feuding families, the Calhouns and the Tollivers. The songs are great and the characters are fun! We'll also start practicing for the upcoming honor choir.

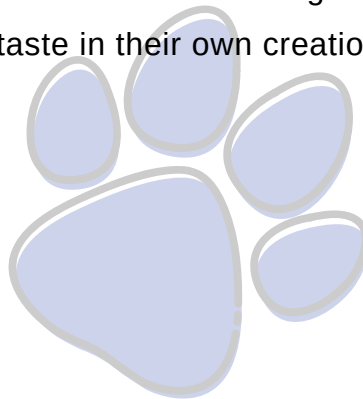
## Art - Mrs. Wells

Dreams can be strange. When we have a dream, it feels like we are in a mixed-up world. Surrealism in art is a lot like a strange dream. In surrealist art we see objects together that usually don't go together. Some surrealist art shows objects, animals, or people changed in some way. Rene Magritte and Salvador Dali were two famous surrealist artists. Students have been discussing these artists and drawing inspiration from their work.

Rene Magritte was especially fun to discuss. Kindergarten through fourth-grade students read Magritte's *Marvelous Hat* got to experience the world of Magritte through the eyes of a fictional artist dog. Magritte used objects like bowler hats, birds, eggs, apples, and clouds floating through his artwork.

Kindergarten through sixth-grade have been creating strange long-legged elephants inspired by Salvador Dali's painting of elephants. Dali's *Elephants* is a painting of two elephants with toothpick-thin legs. Our elephant pictures are a collage combination of paint, fabric, decorative paper, and sequins.

Middle-schoolers got to look at Dali and Magritte's' life and art more in-depth. Students have been creating their own surrealist using their choice of drawing or painting materials. It has been fun to see each student's personal taste in their own creations.



### **Non-discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of the Hamburg Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Dr. Mike Wells, 309 "S" Street, Hamburg, IA, 712-382-2703, mwells@nishbd.org.

### **Statement of Assurance Related to Highly Qualified Teacher Assignments**

*If, due to circumstances out of the districts control, a substitute or replacement teacher will be assigned to your students classroom or class for a period of time of four or more consecutive weeks and that teacher is not highly qualified in accordance with federal and state laws then the district will notify you of the situation. It is the intention of the Hamburg Community School District to provide 'highly qualified' teachers in all areas to the best of the district's ability throughout the school year. Hamburg: Parents or guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 382-2017 or sending a letter of request to Office of the Superintendent, 309 "S" Street, Hamburg, Iowa 51640.*