

WILDCAT PAW PRINTS



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PRESCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS AROUND
THE WORLD!**

**NEW YEAR
RESOLUTIONS**

**FIELD TRIP TO THE
OMAHA SYMPHONY**

From Dr. Wells

Hamburg High School?

Many of you have asked for information pertaining to the decision on the Hamburg High School being reinstated. I wanted to share with you the date, time and process.

The hearing is scheduled for January 23, 2020, at 1:30 in the Grimes State Office Building in the State Board Room. I cannot ask you to attend the meeting nor may I discourage you from attending but I want you to know it is a public meeting and everyone is welcome. In these types of situations, the more people that come the more impact you will have on the state board.

Governor Reynolds will be presenting prior to our presentation so I would encourage you to share your thoughts about getting our high school back with her. The Iowa State Board of Education serves at the Governor's will because she appoints all members so, if she thinks we should get our high school back we are very likely to get it back. Governor Reynolds has been a dear friend to Hamburg, so I encourage you to reach out to her.

January 23rd at 1:30, Kevin DeChant (board president) and I will have a brief time, usually 20-30 minutes, to lay out our reasoning for getting our high school back. Our plan is based on three concepts: curriculum, finances, and career academies for Southwest Iowa.

Following our presentation, they will ask questions and then they will vote. There are nine voting members so it will take 5 votes in order to get the high school back. Below are the e-mail addresses for the Governor and the 10 board members (1 student representative). If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Governor Kim Reynolds

<https://governor.iowa.gov/constituent-services/register-an-opinion>

Brooke Axiotis, President

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Fez Zafar, Student Member

fez.zafar@iowa.gov

Preschool - Mrs. Williams

Preschool enjoyed many learning activities during the month of December! A new grocery store center was added to our room. The students are workers in the store, and use their writing skills to keep track of store items and use play money to make purchases. Our food items are real empty food boxes! It is definitely a favorite center!

The 4 year old class is working hard on identifying letters of the alphabet. Each day we also have a Phonemic Awareness time where we work on rhyming, breaking words into parts, and identifying beginning and ending sounds in words. Most of the 4 year olds can write their names now! We work on this skill everyday as we hope to have it mastered before Kindergarten. If your child isn't able to write their name yet, practicing at home would be great! Most of the students can count from 1-10 and many can count to 20 and even beyond! A fun way to practice at home would be to have your child see how far they can count, and practice counting different items around the house.

The 3 year old class has been practicing saying the alphabet, counting, identifying shapes and colors, writing, and cutting with scissors. We are also working on recognizing our names and identifying what the first letter in our name is.

We had fun singing in the Christmas concert and playing our musical instruments! We also made several Christmas Art projects which were fun to do! We enjoyed wearing pajamas and watching the Grinch movie at our Christmas party! Thanks to all parents who provided treats for our Christmas party. We are looking forward to a new year of learning in 2020!!!

Kindergarten - Mrs. Brandt

Merry Christmas to everyone! The Kindergarteners are very excited for Christmas and have written their letters to Santa Claus.

In Reading, they are working hard on sounding out words. We have had several new sight words and are working on reading simple sentences. They are writing complete sentences with sight words. Please continue reading with your child and listening to them read.

In Math, the students continue working on counting 20 and some more, practice counting objects in a line and in a scattered configuration. They are problem solving with their counting collections. The students learned a new shape hexagon and reviewed the rectangle, triangle, circle and square. We continue counting every day and need to be able to count to 50 by January.

With the holidays coming and a long break from school just around the corner I would like to remind everyone to practice a little bit on numbers, letters and words. They have accomplished so much during the year, we would like them to keep their skills fresh. Thank you to all parents who provided supplies for our Christmas Party.

Here is the number 1 thing on each student's Wish list:

Kinslee Adams- Baby Shoes for my baby doll

Bodie Dechant- Stackin Stix

Drayden Flowers- Nerf toy

Rylee Garcia- Baby doll

Kyle Green- Army men with trucks

Easton Holmes- Dirt bike

Thomas Ingram- Paw Patrol stuff

Dawson Kier- Crocodile Dentist game
 Charlie Matheson- Smashers
 Nadalyn Mattox- JoJo Shoes
 Easton Peeler- Fortnite "B" Bucks
 Kenzlie Reafleng- Mermaid Barbie
 Rease Reafleng- Unicorn Doll
 Carly Roberts- Big Legos
 Christian Simpson- John Deere tractor I can drive
 Jesse Smith- Backhoe
 Mackayla Songer- A real puppy
 Ziggy Thompson- Legos
 Wyatt Wray- My trip to Florida
 Joshua Wright- Baldi's Basic Game
 Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

First Grade - Mrs. Hendrickson

First graders studied "Christmas Around the World" in Social Studies. We visited different countries and learned some of the traditions and how to say Merry Christmas in different languages. We learned that in Sweden they say **God Jul!** A short video showed us what St. Lucia Day was and we made hats and crowns to celebrate. First graders then "traveled to" Germany. In German they say, **Fröhliche Weihnachten!** We learned about the legend of the Christmas tree and read The Cobweb Christmas and found out why tinsel is on Christmas trees. Pere Noel visited us from France. We made sabots (wooden shoes) for Pere Noel to fill with candy. **Joyeux Noël!**

Many people in France believe that the mistletoe brings good luck. Here is some wishes my first graders had:

Eden- I wish for my dad to be safe!	Landon - I wish we have a Merry Christmas.
Callie - I wish my parents got a trip.	Taryn - I wish my mom to be healthy all of her life.
Myah - I wish for my brother to get better.	Zach - I wish good luck for the people in the military.
Carsyn - I wish you a Merry Christmas!	Shaye - I wish my mom gets all the presents.
Addy - I wish everyone was safe.	Spencer - I wish to have the best friends.

Thank you to all the parents who made our Christmas party a success! Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! I will see you all in 2020!!

2nd Grade - Mrs. Gregg

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the 2nd grade class! The students are looking forward to the new year. Here are their 2020 goals:

Laynee- math

Benny- trying to get a belt in wrestling and maybe next time, a jacket

Cash- Trying to beat the Sidney basketball team

Murrin- to go on a field trip

AJ- to get to the reading goal

Mia- to go see Claudia and Jaden

Mark- Reading

Kyler- Winning our basketball game this Saturday

Sam- Trying to beat Sidney in wrestling

Bryn- learning more math

Leland- See another hockey game

Kowa- to be healthy and strong and tall

Graysin- Getting good grades in math

3rd Grade - Mrs. Welch

Nifty Fifty United States: With the start of the New Year, the third graders have begun to locate and identify the 50 United States on a map. Each Monday, the students will be given a blank map to complete this goal. On our first try, 11 students were able to locate 40 states altogether, with the average of about 4 states per student. Many students were able to locate Iowa on the map, but some still need to work on this. A web site the students can go to is www.sheppardsoftware.com to practice this skill in the Social Studies part of the site. Or any other way that is available to practice this skill. We will continue to work towards this goal of identifying the 50 United States every Monday, so the third graders will need to study to become a member of the Nifty Fifty United States Club.

Accelerated Reading Points: Larry Beyer has the highest points in the class. He has 37.3 points since the beginning of the school year. Taytin Tiemeyer has 32.8 points. Those students with over 25 points are Cayden Hinds with 27.9 points, Jozie Parmer with 25.7 points, Gunner Trospen with 26.9 points, and Konnor Ward with 29.4 points. Keep reading!

Outside Recess: We go outside for recess almost every day unless it is too cold. Please make sure your child has all his/her cold weather gear at school daily. Thanks!

After School: If your child has different plans after school, please write me a note, call the school, or email me and let me know ahead of time where your child needs to go. My email is lwelch@hamburgcsd.org. Thanks!

Valentine's Day: We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 12th due to Parent/Teacher Conferences this week. The students will need to bring valentines for their classmates. A class list and a party supply list will be sent home soon. Thanks!

With the start of the New Year 2020, the third graders thought of New Year Resolutions. Here are their responses.

Larry-be nice to my sisters

Marley-play football and pass the swim test at the pool

Cayden-to always play sports and get to the 100 point A.R. Club

Jozie-be nicer to my brother, Jeryn

Jaraiya- to get a million dollars

Kooper-try to pass third grade

Taytin- get all A's

Konnor-get stronger and run as fast as a Kansas City Chief football players

Kullen-save up my money

Gunner-practice basketball so I can become a pro basketball player

Raiden-to have more fun with my friends

4th Grade - Mrs. Duncan

As the New Year begins the 4th graders are hard at work. In math, we will be starting a unit on 2-D geometry and measurement in which we learned all about mirror symmetry, lines, line segments, power polygons, and angles. We will also be learning the U.S. Standard Algorithm for adding and subtracting larger numbers. I've asked the students to show their parents a different way of adding and subtracting. If they haven't shown you yet, as them.

It's always fun to learn something new!

In science, animals are our focus. Vertebrates and invertebrates have been in our studies. We learned that there are many more invertebrates than vertebrates. There are many characteristics that make animals unique and we are learning all about those. We have been helping take care of the animals in the barnyard. Dr. Wells has assigned the 4th graders to be leaders and help the younger kids.

For Social Studies will soon start to study the regions of the United States. The Northeast will be our first unit of focus. We are learning about the people, economy, and the geography of that region.

Before Christmas break, we did a unit on "The Polar Express". We read the book, studied the vocabulary, and watched the movie. Our new stories in reading are all about an earthquake.

Soon we will be going to the Omaha Symphony. Mrs. Emberton will be sending home permission slips. Also, please be looking for your parent-teacher conference schedule to arrive in the mail. They will be here before we know it.

Please keep an eye on the weather. Make sure you send appropriate clothing for recess such as boots, hats, gloves, and a warm coat.

5th Grade - Mrs. Fann

Fifth graders are starting work on their science fair projects! (The upper elementary science fair is designed to prepare them for the Corner Conference Science Fair in middle school.) Each student will pick a question to investigate and follow the scientific method to answer it. Students are responsible for creating a display board to show off their project. Students will share their projects on Wednesday, February 5th in the school gym from 1PM - 3PM.

Each fifth grader received a blue school pride shirt as a belated winter gift. These shirts are for field trips. Of course, they can wear it anyday, but please, make sure it is ready for field trips.

Resource Room, Mrs. Shull

Our students had a fun time making the Christmas door decorations! All our students were turned into a snowman! We came in 2nd place!

We love Christmas in our classroom. It is a great time to show our students how much we care about them by sharing gifts and candy canes! We also received a lot of gifts from them including homemade cards and treats. Sounds like everyone had a great break and we're excited that everyone is back at school!

English - Mrs. Dovel

The middle school English classes are continuing to work on timed writings with grammar skills added to each lesson. Thus far, both classes are doing well with descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive writing. In the spring, the state exam will entail much more writing as it is a new format from the previous Iowa Test of Basic Skills. This year the state exam will also be completed by each student via computer. This is also different from prior years. As an English teacher, it is very important that my students have plenty of practice on the computer completing the writing tasks. As you may recognize, it takes us longer to work our way through writing assignments than the spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. All of the students have passwords to access IXL, a spelling and grammar program on their computers. I encourage each student to work on IXL at home while we work on writing skills during these longer units. As always, I cannot thank you parents and guardians enough for all of your support! Happy writing and remember, grammar is groovy!

Algebra - Mrs. Hall

Before Christmas, both Algebra classes took semester tests over all of the concepts that they had learned first semester. All of the students did well on their tests, and it is now time to start a new semester of work in Algebra.

Pre-Algebra students are starting a unit on exponents. They are studying polynomials, and will learn how to classify them and combine like terms. Students will also learn the laws of exponents, and use these laws to multiply monomials and take powers of monomials. Algebra I students are currently solving inequalities. They solved inequalities before Christmas Break, and graphed their solutions on number lines. They will now solve linear inequalities involving conjunctions, disjunctions, and absolute value. In addition to graphing the solutions on number lines, they will be graphing inequalities on the coordinate system.

Middle School Science - Miss Martin

Both the 7th grade and 8th grade students have done a great job in their first semester this year. They have worked really hard staying organized in their science journals and notebooks. Most of their work is kept in their science notebook and used as a portfolio for their work. The 7th grade finished their semester learning the differences between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. The students produced mini models of either a plant or animal cell, using household materials to represent the different organelles. While the 7th grade students were learning about cells, the 8th graders were creating posters, poems, books and raps about Issac Newton and his three laws. I was very proud of the material they produced in such a quick time. It takes a lot of courage to get up in front of your peers and sing about an unfamiliar topic. As we move into the new year, I cannot thank my students enough for blessing me with their smiles, sarcasm and for always keeping me on my toes. I am looking forward each day ahead that I get to learn from them and explore the meaning behind science and technology.

Middle School Math - Mrs. Wright

In math, the 7th graders have been working with ratios and proportions. They are using real life situations to learn how to shrink and enlarge pictures with a constant ratio. The 8th graders have been working hard learning about exponential growth and decay with exponential functions. By the end of the year, they should be masters at graphing functions and explaining how they work, as each unit comes back to it and ties it into what they are doing.

The 8th graders will be taking Career Explorations this semester. They will be taking surveys and learning what careers match their values, personality, and lifestyle. They will research how much money they need to earn per year in order to support the lifestyle they would like to have. The students will also learn and practice how to write a proper resumé and cover letter when applying for jobs. As these kids move forward, I hope they take with them the information they will have learned about themselves and their career interests to create a great future.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! It was a great first semester and I'm excited to see what the second semester brings.

Elementary Music - Mrs. Emberton

Happy New Year everyone! I want to thank all of you for coming to support the music program at our annual Christmas concerts. Your attendance means a lot to all of us!

For kindergartners, 1st graders and 2nd graders the new year means going back to the books to reinforce the music basics.

In kindergarten, we start each music period with a letter, and then sing songs that start with that letter. We made it to "N" before our Christmas break.

The 4th graders will learn about different families of instruments in preparation for 5th grade band. They get to attend the Omaha Symphony concert in Omaha on Thursday, January 23.

For 3rd, 5th and 6th graders, the new year means selecting, rehearsing and presenting a musical play. We will start on those January 3rd and keep you posted on our progress.

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 J.H. chorus has decided they want to present a musical play this spring, so we'll get busy with those rehearsals right away. Another opportunity for singers is the southwest Iowa honor choir which will take place in Underwood in February. We will have a busy 2nd semester!

Art - Mrs. Wells

December was a fun month to work on winter and Christmas-themed artwork. Kindergarten, first, second, and third-grade students were able to make ornaments out of clay. After the ornaments were fired in the school kiln, students were able to use ceramic glaze to paint their ornaments. Ceramic glaze looks rather dull when it is first applied. After the glaze dried, the ornaments were fired again in the kiln. The students were surprised at how shiny, and bright their ornaments were when the process was finally complete.

Older students worked on a drawing of Christmas lights, and various ornaments. We used chalk pastels on black paper. Students were able to easily blend and smudge the pastels to create highlights and shading. Finished pictures had a glowing appearance. Students were amazed that they could create a drawing with form, just by using lights and darks.



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.