

WILDCAT PAW PRINTS



IN THIS ISSUE

**MR. PETERS IS BACK
AND BETTER THAN EVER**

**HOW TO BE A GOOD
FRIEND IN PRE-K**

**VALENTINE'S DAY
THANK YOU'S!!**

**FIRST EVER VALENTINE-Y
WRITING CONTEST**

From Dr. Wells

High School Status

Unfortunately, the Iowa State Board of Education did not approve of the return of the Hamburg High School. Our plan called for sharing high school staff with Essex and having Career Academies in Construction Trades, Nursing, Welding, and Culinary Arts. The state board made positive comments about our current PreK-8 school but in the end, they were concerned that a high school would not be feasible. I appreciate all of you who were able to go to Des Moines and share your passion for our school.

So where do we go from here? First, nothing really changes in reference to our school we remain a PreK-8 school district. We will work with Sidney to develop a tuition agreement that is fair and will provide our high school students with a quality education. We will be having meetings with Sidney throughout the spring in hope of such an agreement. We will have a parent meeting on February 27th at 7 p.m. in the gym to discuss open enrollment options for high school students. We encourage all high school parents to attend the meeting.

Although this is a set back it is not the end of our planning for our district. We will continue developing progressive programming for our students and push for the very finest education possible. I encourage you to keep a positive attitude and to be involved with school planning activities. I leave you with the words of Paulo Coelho Brida, "When you find your path, you must not be afraid. You need to have sufficient courage to make mistakes.

Disappointment, defeat, and despair are the tools God uses to show us the way." Thank you for your unwavering support of the Hamburg Community Schools, if you have any questions please contact me at (712) 382-2017 or by email at mwells@hamburgcsd.org.

Preschool - Mrs. Williams

Each day in Preschool we work on friendship skills and being kind to others. Preschool students would like to share their thoughts with you on how to be a good friend!

Peyton - Share your toys and play together

Layla - Help your friend build something with blocks

Ryker - Be nice

William - Play together at recess

Lilly - Help them if they get hurt and take them to the doctor

Hazel - Play games with them

Uriyah - Play ball with them

Brynna - Be someone's best friend,
get along, and don't get mad at each other

Ian - Play together

Parker - Play blocks with them

Barrett - Do good things

Jaxson - Catch frogs with them

Archer - Play with them

Josie - Help them

Donald - Give your friend a snack

Easton - Play with them at the grocery store center

Sylas - Help them if they get hurt

Nora - Play dinosaurs with them

Bristol - Help them build something at the block center

Noah - Be nice to them

Ryan - Play trucks with your friend

Brennen - Play with them

Wyatt - Help them put their toys where they want them

Thanks to everyone who provided treats for our Valentine's Day parties! Thanks also for attending Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was great visiting with you about your child's progress!

Kindergarten - Mrs. Brandt

We celebrated the 100th day of school on Wednesday, January 29th. The students had the opportunity once again to have the 5th and 3rd graders to read and spend time with them. The 5th graders helped the Kindergartners count out 10 items of different food and ended up with 100 items to eat when finished. The 5th graders also helped them write what they would do with 100 dollars. The 3rd graders helped the Kindergartners count out 100 fruit loops, by using groups of 10's to make a necklace. The 3rd graders took the Kindergartners on a walk to show what 100 steps looked like.

We had our Valentine's Party on Wednesday, February 11th. The 3rd graders read to the Kindergartners their Valentine's. The students enjoyed cupcakes, cookies, candy, and juice. Thank you to everyone who sent treats for our party.

In Reading, we are moving right along in our new Reading books and everyone is reading several sentences. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Well, Denise Claiborne, and Nancy Middaugh come and listen to us read. Please try to listen to your child read every night if possible. Thank you for your help.

In Writing, we working hard on writing complete sentences with capital letters and correct punctuation. The students are trying hard to form the letters correctly and write in the lines. In Math, the students are working hard on writing and recognizing numbers 1 to 20. They are working on word problems with addition and subtraction. We continue counting to 100 every day. The students are doing a great job with the counting collections.

Thank You to everyone who came to Parent-Teacher Conferences. I appreciate talking to everyone.

First Grade - Mrs. Hendrickson

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

We have finished our testing in the areas of Reading and Math. I am so proud of how hard the students worked on their tests. They took their job seriously and did a great job. Our classroom focus this next quarter is in the areas of fluency and sight words. The sight words are those words that the children need to know without sounding them out. These are words that they see repeatedly. Listen to your child read and also have them listen to you read. The books you read to your child do not need to be books at their level.

Try reading a short chapter book, reading a chapter each night. This is how your child hears what fluent reading is.

In Math, we have been working on making 10. One of their favorite games to play is Tens Go Fish. Instead of asking for pairs, students ask for the number that makes ten in their hand. We will begin our unit on addition and subtraction this next week.

This past week in Social Studies, we started a unit "All About Work". We talked about money and how it is important to save money for things we need or want to buy. This ties into our next lesson "Needs and Wants". They will discover the difference between the two.

We did a quick write on what we like more hugs or kisses. This is what they came up with.

Thank you to all of you who came to conferences this week. I enjoyed visiting with you about your child. Also a big thank you to those of you who helped make our Valentine party a success.

Zach - I like hugs because my parents squeeze me.

Spencer - I like hugs because they are warm.

Addy - I like hugs because they are sweet.

Carsyn - I like hugs because you get squeezed.

Shaye - I like hugs because they are sweet.

Taryn - I like kisses because they are loving.

Myah - I like kisses because it is sweet.

Eden- I like kisses because kisses are like love.

Landon - I like kisses because I like it.

Callie - I like kisses from your family.

Thank you to all of you who came to conferences this week. I enjoyed visiting with you about your child. Also a big thank you to those of you who helped make our Valentine party a success.

2nd Grade - Mrs. Gregg

This past month we read through informational texts that centered around the essential question, "How do animals care for their young?" After reading through our stories about penguins, the 2nd graders had the opportunity to research about penguins. I asked the students to share one fact that they felt was the most interesting:

Laynee- Penguins have black and white feathers.

Benny- Penguins can be underwater for 20 minutes.

Cash- Penguins live in different places.

Cash- Penguins live in different places.

Murrin- Chinstrap penguins have a thin black band under their head, which makes them look like they're wearing a helmet.

AJ- Penguins live in the southern hemisphere.

Mia- No penguins live in the North Pole.

Mark- Penguins are flightless birds.

Kyler- Most penguins live in the south.

Sam- Penguins can drink sea water.

Bryn- Emperor penguins can live up to 15-20 years old.

Leland- Penguins belong in the bird family, but they cannot fly.

Kowa- Penguins have no land based predators.

Graysin- Penguins spend half of their life on land and the other half in the water.

3rd Grade - Mrs. Welch

An important upcoming event for the third graders will be the Iowa Assessments. These tests will be given in the first part of April. Also, another event for the third graders will be performing soon is the play, "Pirates with Molly on Board" directed by Mrs. Emberton. The date for the class play will be on Thursday, March 19th. A note will be sent home soon giving more information about the testing and the play.

There is one student that has reached the goal of 50 Accelerated Reader points and that is Larry Beyer. Several third graders are getting close to 50 points. The third graders need to reach 37.5 points at the end of the third quarter and 50 points by the end of the school year. Please have your child keep reading at home daily.

The third graders are continuing to learn the fifty United States. They have improved greatly and all students are now able to locate Iowa on a map. Congratulations to **Taytin Tiemeyer** and **Kooper Thompson** who have identified all 50 states. A web site the students may use to help identify the states is www.sheppardsoftware.com and click on U.S. Geography Games.

Thank you to all the students and parents that brought supplies or treats to our classroom parties throughout the year!

4th Grade - Mrs. Duncan

Adding and subtracting very large numbers has been a big focus in math recently. We have even been using the "U.S. Standard Algorithm" which might make some parents very happy to hear. In our "Investigations" textbook we use the Common Core Math to work our way to eventually using the standard algorithms that we were all taught. We will be starting fractions soon.

We had our Valentine's Day party on February 12th. Thanks to all the parents for providing snacks, cups, drinks, napkins, plates, and anything else we have needed throughout the year for all of our parties. Without you, they would not have been near as fun. We have some very creative kids and parents in our class. It was fun to look at all of the awesome boxes.

Thank you for attending conferences. This is a very important part of your child's academic life. It was very nice talking with all of you. We will be taking the Iowa Assessments at the beginning of April. Please make sure your child gets a good night's rest and a good breakfast each morning.

Mrs. Dovel sponsored a writing contest for the entire school. The criteria were that the story could not be longer than 214 words, and had to be about a magical valentine. I would like to congratulate Emersyn Matheson on getting first place for her story about a magical valentine which gave her dog the ability to talk for the day! Congratulations Emmy!!

5th Grade - Mrs. Fann

Congratulations to Hannah Thompson, Camren Riggs, and Keith Thompson for earning medals in the annual Upper Elementary Science Fair. Hannah Thompson's project was awarded first place. She studied which paper towel brand absorbed the best. Second place winner, Camren Riggs, studied aerodynamics through paper airplanes. Third place winner, Keith Thompson, analyzed which golf ball brand generally goes the farthest distance.

Special thank yous to the judges: JH Wolf, John Hall, Marilyn Gude, Judy Crain, Barb Lamb, Denise Claiborne, Jim and Susan England, Kim Evans, and Nancy Buckalew. An extra special thank you to Aaron Allred for configuring all the electronic formulas to tally the judges' scores and making the trip to Hamburg to make sure all worked out.



It is will your willingness we are able to enrich our students' education and provide them with meaningful experiences like the science fair.

Mark your calendars, 5th graders are off to Des Moines to tour the capitol building and Science Center of Iowa.

6th Grade - Mr. Peters

They say it takes a village to raise a child, whoever wrote this was so right. I have so many people to thank for helping my 6th graders through my health issues and the loss of my father. Mr. Kim Evans and Mrs. Beth Lueth, thank you for working with my students when I was not able to be here. But, it's not just the substitute teachers that worked with my kids.

Dr. Wells and Mrs. Barrett jumped into my room and covered when it was an emergency. Mrs. Fann and Spencer keep my science fair participants on schedule. Ms. Martin takes over math for a few weeks. Vicki and Deb help keep my "Iron Cheffers" organized and working. Again, Mrs. Barrett helps administer tests when I couldn't be there. During Makers Space, Steve Hansen keeps woods class "afloat" without my assistance. The whole staff helped me get through this and continue to help. Thank You to everyone. I am so lucky to work in such a loving, thoughtful, hard-working, giving, supportive environment. I am truly blessed.

Science- Currently, the 6th graders are working on a 43-page student guide about conservation provided by Black Hills Energy. We had a few lessons about Earth, energy and natural gas. The students were provided with a box with a new shower head, faucet filters, air quality tester, and water temperature digital thermometer. This is a fun and different science unit.

Math- We are working with decimals and percents. This real world life skill has included estimating with money and how to calculate tax for items. It was actually an eye opener for some when we discussed how much they will be paying for their first home. Some students enjoyed our lesson on "percent of discounts". The shoppers are always looking for the best deal.

Resource Room

The Importance of Sleep in Your Child's Learning

<https://www.theoldschoolhouse.com/importance-of-sleep/>

Sleep is crucial for a child's growing brain. Studies have found that a good night's rest can have a massive impact on a child's ability to develop and ultimately find success in the classroom. In fact, simply getting an extra 18 minutes of sleep a night can have significant effects on an elementary student's grades in Math and English. If you want your child to be successful at school- make sure they are getting enough sleep at night!

Sleep researchers recommend that school-age children get **9-11** hours of sleep every night. Below is a list covering the benefits of sleep for a child's cognitive development, to encourage you to set aside time for your kids to get the rest they need.

1. Improved Memory

While we sleep, the human brain processes information from the previous day to create long-term memories. So, without enough sleep, children can have difficulty recalling new information. Memory is one of the most crucial aspects of learning, and a well-rested brain is more capable of gaining new skills in the classroom and processing information faster.

2. Boosted Cognition

Inadequate sleep has been linked to poor decision-making skills, which can slow down a student in many ways. Restorative sleep can enhance your child's cognitive skills, including focus and reasoning. It allows children to analyze situations with more clarity of mind and, therefore, be more alert, and productive students.

3. More Creativity

After rejuvenating REM sleep, the human brain is able to perform high-end abstract thought at a much faster rate. "Sleeping on" a difficult issue may not just be motherly advice; it's also been scientifically proven to improve creative decision-making and problem-solving skills. Whether a kid is interested in art or science, creativity is crucial to making thoughtful choices and creating out-of-the-box solutions to issues that might arise in their studies.

English - Mrs. Dovel

The junior high English classes have been practicing informational writing. The latest assignment is as follows: Students have been asked to write an informational article on dog parks for a website that focuses on local news. Write an article that explains to residents the aspects of a dog park. Your article must be based on the ideas and information that can be found in the passages: "Are Dog Parks Helpful or Harmful?"

The goals:

1. Read the passages
2. Plan the response
3. Type the response
4. Revise and edit the response
5. Use evidence from multiple sources
6. Do not rely on just one source
7. Responses should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay. Each paragraph must have a topic sentence.

This spring, students will be taking the state exam. This is one of the types of writing they will be expected to complete. Keep working hard, students! You will do great!

Algebra - Mrs. Hall

The Pre-Algebra class has now started a unit on graphing. They will be plotting points on the coordinate system and then graphing equations of lines. To graph equations of lines, they will use two methods - making tables of ordered pairs and the slope-intercept method. In addition to graphing equations of lines, students will be graphing parabolas and identifying the vertex and line of symmetry. Finally, Pre-Algebra students will be writing equations of lines by using either a point on the line and a slope, or by using two points on the line.

Algebra I students are working with rational expressions containing variables and quantities - simplifying, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing them. It is a very difficult unit, so it will take these students a while to complete.

Middle School Science - Miss Martin

Middle School just had their mid-term conferences and they went very well. I wanted to say thank you to all the middle schoolers and their parents for coming. We have a few more months left of school and a lot of things are happening. We have a few students who are competing in science olympiad. This is a science based competition that is held on the UNI campus in Cedar Falls, where students compete among grade levels in various competitions. Representing our school is Harlie Jones, Kristin Ingram and Ellie Ward from 7th grade ----Hailee Barrett and Paycee Holmes from 8th grade.

The 7th grade class has been learning about genetics, asexual and sexual reproduction in plants and animals. I am very proud of this 7th grade class and their appreciation for curiosity and their eagerness to question. We have had great discussions trying our best to explore and explain these topics so our "family" grows and learn together. The 8th grade class has worked hard on grasping some very difficult topics such as different energy sources, the complexity of the laws of motion and the difference between complex and simple machines. We are going to be finishing this unit within the next week and will be moving on to different elements and chemical bonds.

Middle School Math - Mrs. Wright

This month has been a wild ride of emotions as students start getting into some more difficult math concepts. The 7th graders are starting to work with linear equations and graphing. They will also be doing some hands on projects that allow them to further understand these math concepts. The 8th graders have been working on more algebraic equations with multiplying binomials. The students will require more focus as we head towards the end of the year. Please encourage your kids to keep doing their best and to strive for success in all they do, no matter the difficulty.

The 8th graders have been on a grand adventure as they search for careers that align with their personality, values, interests and intelligences. They have had several visitors over the past few weeks who shared their experiences as lawyers, veterinarians, radio personality/journalism, and real estate. We will have more visitors coming to share their experience as a chiropractor and dentist in the near future. The 8th graders will soon be looking into colleges that have the programs that will lead to their future careers.

Elementary Music - Mrs. Emberton

We just finished "Fun February" in the music room with Valentine's songs, groundhog songs and even "Rap of the Presidents." Now it's on to "March Madness in the Music Room."

Our first date is the Music Carnival on March 7th. The concession stand will be open from 5:00 - 7:00, and the carnival games will run from 5:15 - 6:45. The cake auction and raffle drawing will start at 7:00. We are asking each of the 3rd and 4th graders to provide a plate of cookies, candy, Rice Krispie bars, or brownies for the dessert walk. The carnival games will be run by parents of the 5-8th graders. Thank you for your help with this big event. We can't have a Music Carnival without the help of all the parents. Please see the last page for more information.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, March 19. That is the date for the elementary musical plays. The plays will be presented at the Colonial Theater at 9:00 in the morning and parents are invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

The 3rd graders will be first. At 9:00 they will present their play "Pirates.....With Molly on Board." When their play is over (approximately 9:30), the 5th and 6th graders will present "Wagons Ho!"

Several 6th graders are also interested in attending the SWIowa Honor Choir in Underwood on March 10th, so we are busy rehearsing for that as well.

The 4th graders have done the impossible--they broke the record in their music theory game. This is a game that students ask given questions, students answer correctly, then quickly ask the next question. Our last time was 2 minutes and 54 seconds. That is a record!

MS Band & Chorus - Mrs. Emberton

The band students have been rehearsing the music for the c.c. honor band. We have 11 students that were selected! They are Lizette, Addy, and Hailee on flute; Logan on clarinet; Marley and Ellie on alto sax; Kennedy and Ian on trumpet; Emma on trombone and Zach and Randa on percussion. The band festival takes place at East Mills this year on March 17. Students will practice all day with students from all the corner conference schools and present a concert at 7:00 that same evening.

The chorus students continue rehearsing their musical "Hee Haw Hayride." We're still looking for a date in early April for that performance. They have also started on music for the SW Iowa Honor Choir. This event takes place in Underwood on March 10.

Twenty-two J.H. students will be traveling to Omaha to see "The Lion King" at the Orpheum Theater on Wednesday, April 29. By the time you read this, your child should have already paid for their ticket! It will be so amazing!!!

Here is a list of dates for you:

March 7 Music Carnival

March 10 SW Iowa honor choir in Underwood

March 17 JH honor band at East Mills

March 19 Elementary musical plays at the Colonial Theater

April 29 "Lion King"

May 7 Elementary Spring Concert

May 12 JH Spring Concert

Art - Mrs. Wells

Colored glass has been around since the civilizations of the Romans and ancient Egyptians. In the fourth century, stained glass became popular when churches were being built across Europe. In modern times we see stained glass not only in churches, but also in homes, offices, and public buildings, in the form of suncatchers, lamps, and special window pieces. Middle school students have taken a peek into this world of stained glass with a small scale project. Students designed a stained glass piece using straight-lines shapes such as squares, triangles, and rectangles. Students then used a special glass cutting tool to cut colored glass. We then wrapped the edges of each piece of glass with a special type of foil. The foil gives the solder a way to connect all the pieces of glass. Going through this process has increased student's appreciation of craftsmanship and design in the art of stained glass.

In grades K through 6, we have been discussing stained glass also and working on projects that have common qualities with stained glass. We have made tissue paper suncatchers and enjoyed the way outdoor light shines through the colors. We have also talked about the design that goes into stained glass window making; focusing on ways to connect items in a picture and use of space.

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.

MUSIC CARNIVAL

MARCH 7, 2020

HAMBURG SCHOOL GYM

\$1.00 ADMISSION

5-7 CONCESSION STAND

CARNIVAL GAMES 5:15-6:45

BINGO 5-7

**CAKE AUCTION, RAFFLE DRAWING,
AND DOOR PRIZES AT 7**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

