

WILDCAT PAW PRINTS



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From Dr. Wells

Snow Day!

As adults reflect on their school days one thing becomes very evident—our memories are flawed! Adults may claim they walked five miles to school uphill both ways. If you ask about snow days, most parents will claim school never closed as the result of snowstorms and that it snowed more when they were children. One thing is for sure—our memories are short and fuzzy.

In the last two years, Iowa has experienced some of the snowiest winters in history. As a result of this winter weather, we had to close school more and had more

delayed starts than we are accustomed to. I thought in this issue of the Paw Prints I would explain how we make our decision to cancel school and how we make up snow days.

We rely heavily on technology to determine the path of winter storms. We spend a great deal of time on the National Weather Service website (<http://www.weather.gov/>) which allows us to track winter storms. This gives us some predictability of the amount of snow and the time the snow will arrive.

The second action we take is to drive the roads. Often the city streets are fine, and people wonder why we are delaying school while the country roads are dangerous. I depend on the professional opinion of Curt Crain. He drives the most treacherous roads to determine if they are safe for our busses and our families who drive. Curt has a lot of experience on these roads and knows areas where snow is likely to drift. I drive the roads west of town. I usually start driving around 4:00 or 4:30 a.m.

The third action we take is to communicate with our county workers to determine their timeline for clearing roads and to gather their professional opinions on the condition of the roads. I will call Terry Travis and ask his opinion about the country roads. Our county road crews are excellent, and we value their opinions. It takes many hours for the county to clear these roads.

The fourth action is contacting other school districts. School attorneys caution schools from being the only school open. If all surrounding schools cancel, we are more likely to cancel.

We are very concerned about our young people driving on treacherous roads and will take all precautionary actions to prevent accidents. Winter is a dangerous time and, despite taking precautions, accidents do happen. Parents have the right to keep their child(ren) home if they feel the roads are too dangerous for travel.

How will we make up snow days? Snow make up days will be added to the end of the school year and will not be taken from professional development or spring break. School is scheduled to end on May 24th so we could have three snow days and still complete school in May.

Winter weather is one of the most stressful times for school leaders, and we understand that our decisions can mean life or death. I assure you that we consider many things when making decisions, but the most important thing is the safety of your children. I do not take this responsibility lightly and assure you that I will always make these decisions based on what is best for our children.

I leave you with the words of Bill Watterson, "I like these cold, gray winter days. Days like these let you savor a bad mood." I hope the winter weather doesn't sour our souls and remember that spring will be right around the corner.

If you have any questions about our school system, please contact me at mwells@hamburgcsd.org or call me at (712) 350-1065.

Thank you for your support.

Mike Wells, Superintendent.

Preschool - Mrs. Williams

Both Preschool classes have been busy this month! Each day we practice identifying letters of the alphabet and work on our writing skills. We also work on rhyming and breaking words into parts in our daily Phonics lesson.

We enjoy center time each day. Our centers include Art, Blocks, Puzzles, Games, Sensory, Books, and everyone's favorite- the Kitchen Center! The students learn how to get along with others while playing in centers.

We are learning skills each week that help us be good friends. Last week our focus was on how to ask a friend to play. Each day one student gets to be the classroom greeter and welcome everyone at the start of the day!

On Thursdays, the 3 year olds have Show and Tell. The 4 year olds have Show and Tell on Fridays. Show and Tell helps the students develop language skills and confidence in speaking to others.

Both classes learned about Fire Safety. The 3 year old class got to see the fire truck and learn about fire safety from the firemen that visited. We had fun learning how to Stop, Drop, and Roll in the classroom!

Please check your child's backpack each night for important papers. Important notes are often sent home that could be missed if folders aren't checked. Please make sure your child also wears a jacket to school as the days get colder.

We will finish up the month with Parent teacher conferences and Halloween parties! We will also learn about pumpkins to finish up the month of October!



Kindergarten - Mrs. Brandt

In Reading, we are beginning small groups working on beginning sounds. The students have had several wordless stories and had fun telling the story. We are working on reading the sentences in our Reading books. They just finished the first Reading book and ready for book 2. We are working hard on writing our names, numbers and letters correctly in the lines.

In Math, we have been working on recognizing numbers 1 to 10. The students are working on longer and shorter, reviewing the shapes, and counting out items in their counting collections. They have had fun with the pattern blocks making animals figures and then trying to figure out how many of each shape they have.

In Science, we have been talking about the different signs of fall. The students all brought in a sign of fall and each student explained about their items they found. The class went on a Scavenger Hunt to find some different signs of fall and several different leaves. Mrs. Owen invited us to her pumpkin patch and let each of us picked pumpkins or gourds that we were able to carry home. Thank you Mrs. Owen!

Social Studies, we had a unit on Fire Safety for Fire Prevention Week and learned several ways to escape a house on fire. We learned that you need to: have an escape plan, crawl low under smoke, always know two ways out, and how to stop/drop & roll. All students received a certificate for Stop, Drop and Roll.

Reminder the Fall Party is Wednesday, October 30st. Notes have been sent home. Students may bring their costumes that day for the parade. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be October 29th from 4:00 – 8:00 and October 31st from 8:00 – 4:00. Hope to see everyone at conferences. Whenever there is a question or concern, please call the school.

First Grade - Mrs. Hendrickson

The First Graders and Kindergarteners were invited to the Gubser Pumpkin Patch. Thank you Mrs. Owen for arranging this. We all got to pick out a pumpkin!!

In Reading, we now know all our short vowel sounds. We continue to put sounds together to build new words. We have started to build words with blends. We continue to read our A.R. books. These books need to come back to school everyday.

Our new PWIM poster we titled "The Pumpkin Patch". We have begun to "shake" out our words from our poster. We will look at short vowel words, words with blends, and also 1 and 2 syllable words. Students are beginning to learn many facts about pumpkins.

In Math, we are looking at 2-D Shapes in Geometry. Students are looking to see what attributes each shape has to make it that shape. We continue to work on our addition and subtraction. Practice counting on from the bigger number. Many of the students want to count everything. (Ex. $5+2=?$ 1,2,3,4,5...6,7 instead of saying 5...6, 7.

Please read with your child each night. Let your child listen to you read, so they hear fluency and listen to your child read to practice new skills they are learning. Keep up the reading!!!

Be watching for a letter coming home about Halloween. Each child will be responsible for one holiday. Have a super safe Halloween!! See you all at conferences!

2nd Grade - Mrs. Gregg

The second graders have had a very eventful month! Our apple picking trip and field trip to Morrill Hall was a highlight for the month of October. We are getting very excited for Halloween next week and the 2nd graders would like to share their costumes for this year.

Laynee- Dead cheerleader

Benny- Scream

Cash- Ninja

Murrin- Fox

AJ- Devil

Mia- Mystical Deer



Mark- Dinosaur

Kyler- Giants Football Player

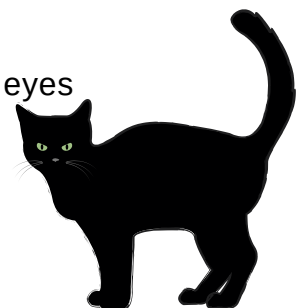
Sam- Tiger with Bulging green eyes

Bryn- Mermaid

Leland- Scream

Kowa- Mermaid

Graysin- Batman



3rd Grade - Mrs. Welch

We will have our Halloween class party Wednesday, October 30th. It will begin at 1:15 p.m. with the costume parade through the classrooms. Parents are invited to watch the parade in the lunchroom. Students may bring a costume to put over their clothes, no make-up or weapons. After the parade, we will go to the parking lot for "Trick-or-Trunk" where we go from car to car trick-or-treating. We will finish the afternoon with treats in the classroom. Notes were sent home soon showing when each student needs to bring treats or supplies for the classroom parties throughout the year.

We went to the Durham Museum in Omaha in September. We had guided tours showing and telling us about the one room school house, a house of the time, and how trains crossed our country in the 1800's. We also viewed the static exhibits in the museum. We ate lunch at Lake Manawa Park and enjoyed playing on the playground before returning to school.

On Monday, October 21st, we went to Lincoln to the Morrill Hall. We went to the planetarium and watched a very good video on the stars and planets. We then toured the dinosaur exhibits the other interesting parts of the museum. Next, we went to University of Nebraska Union to eat lunch. Then we went to Memorial Stadium and viewed the Heisman Trophies and memorabilia.

Just a Reminder-please dress warmly for recess. We usually go outside daily for recess.

4th Grade - Mrs. Duncan

On October 21st, the 2nd-5th graders went on a field trip to Morrill Hall and Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska. They were able to see many exciting things including, full fossils of dinosaurs, elephants, and mammoths. They were able to engage in many interactive activities as well as see a video in the planetarium about the sun, moon, and Earth. After eating a sack lunch in the Union with all the college students on the campus of the University of Lincoln, they traveled to Memorial Stadium North Hall where they were able to see the Heisman and National Championship trophies, as well as the tribute wall to the Orange Bowl. They also got a little peak into the weight room.



I asked each student what their favorite part of the trip was.

Hailee: Getting to see all the fossils in the floor that were covered in plexiglass.

Emmy: The planetarium video

Owen: The room with the big dinosaur fossils

Keagan: The planetarium video

Alexa: The huge mammoth and the dwarf mammoth

Kyra: The globe that told us all about ecosystems

Cole: Seeing all the birds they use to compare fossils to

Lucy: The planetarium video

Rebecka: The planetarium video

Hannah: The enormous American alligator

Jayla: The dinosaur room

Xavier: The big dinosaur fossil room

Caylee: The planetarium video

Savanna: I liked seeing the geodes

Jaxson: The giant dinosaur

Noah: The planetarium video

Ava: The giant dinosaur

Emily: The big dinosaur fossil

5th Grade - Mrs. Fann

On Monday, October 21st, 5th graders (along with 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders) went to Morrill Hall in Lincoln. They examined quite a few fossils and learned about creatures from long ago. They also enjoyed a video in the Planetarium. After lunch, they made a quick trip through North Hall on UNL's campus where they saw an assortment of trophies, including the Heisman trophies.

They are eager to share their favorite parts with you.

David: going to the Planetarium

Braden: seeing the sharks

AJ: seeing North Hall

Blayne: seeing the trophies because they are football related

Ashlyn: seeing the animals

Chloye: the Planetarium

Hunter: eating in the Union

Aiyana: seeing the giant mammoths

Ely: everything at Morrill Hall

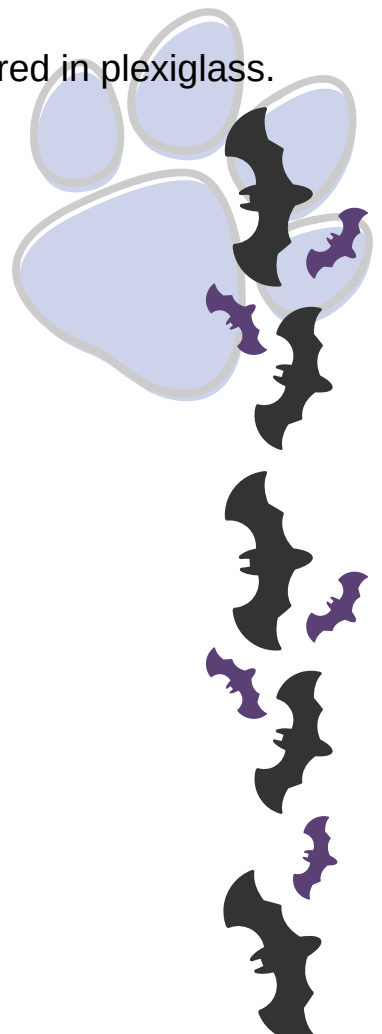
Nevaeh: seeing the sculptures of cats, especially the baby ones

Bryan: seeing the TURTLES!

Reilly: the Planetarium

Hannah: seeing the fossils

Bella: seeing the bones



6th Grade - Mr. Peters

The 6th grade class was recently asked the question.
What are you looking forward to this Fall?

Here are their responses:

Kara Ingram – Playing in the leaves and the Halloween party at school.

Katie Ingram – Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Kaydence Kimpston – Pretty leaves falling and getting candy.

Brooklyn Michel – The apple orchards open, dressing up for Halloween and the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks.

Mason Peeler – Carving pumpkins and getting candy.

Camren Riggs – The birth of my baby sister.

Martin Rodriguez – Going to Haunted Houses and getting lots of candy.

Tessa Scoville – Taking pictures of the beautiful outdoors with my new camera.

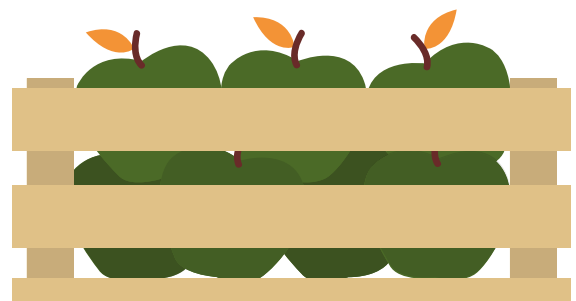
Hilda Thompson – The pretty leaves on the trees.

Keith Thompson – I'm looking forward to basketball, but sad that golf is ending.

Hailey Woolard – Dressing up as a clown for Halloween

Resource - Mrs. Shull, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Harris

Halloween is just around the corner and a blue bucket is the new symbol to provide a more inclusive holiday, especially for children with autism. Halloween can be challenging for someone with autism, especially when prompted to say, "trick or treat!" in order to receive the Halloween candy. Autism is a spectrum disorder; each person has different strengths and challenges when it comes to their social skills and speech. When a autistic child comes to your door, you may or may not hear "trick or treat" or "Happy Halloween", but the blue Halloween buckets is meant to bridge that gap. Halloween is for everyone; young kids, teens, and adults, so be inclusive to whoever comes to your door! Happy Halloween!



G.R.O.W After School Clubs - Mrs. Stockstell

Greeting from G.R.O.W After-School Clubs, we have been staying very busy! This month we started a new partnership with the Hamburg Public Library. Every Friday the 5th and 6th graders have been spending their after-school time doing community service and activities at the library. Each student has "adopted" a library shelf that they are in charge of, and when they get to the library their job is to make sure their shelf is dusted and orderly. This is a new and exciting partnership and we hope to be able to start taking the younger students as well as the year goes on!

Also this month we have been exploring the world of making melt-and-pour soaps, as well as practicing our skills in reading and following directions by assembling LEGO kits. Finally, our Drama club has been meeting 2-3 times a week in the hopes of putting on a play at the end of the semester. Keep an eye out for information on when the performance will be, we hope to see you all there supporting our wonderful kids!



English - Mrs. Dovel

The 7th and 8th grade students have been writing narratives. The following format has really helped them learn how to develop a solid story. CSP: character, setting, and problem are all stated in the beginning. TIEFET: (T) Transition from the first paragraph to the second and include an (I) idea on how to solve the problem. Then complete the (E) event's actions. There must be at least three and of course, there will be (F) failure. When the actions fail, there are (E) emotions that must be included in the narrative. Finally, (T) transition from paragraph two to paragraph three. This model continues until completion of paragraph four. The final paragraph revisits the CP where the characters solve the problem and the narrative is complete. In addition to this format, students learned four different ways to open a narrative. 1. Dialogue, 2. Setting, 3. Sound, 4. Action

When the rough drafts are complete, students check a rubric to see that they have met expectations. In addition to following the narrative format, they are asked to demonstrate the 6 Traits. Ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.

As you can see, we are busy, busy! Happy fall, everyone!

Algebra - Mrs. Hall

The year is quickly going by, and we have already finished our first quarter! The Pre-Algebra students are now using their skills with positive and negative numbers to solve equations. They have solved simple equations (requiring just one step), and will soon be solving multi-step equations. In addition, they will create and solve equations to do word problems.

Algebra I students have just completed a unit on graphing in the coordinate plane. They graphed equations of lines using T-tables and using the slope-intercept method. In addition, they graphed parabolas, inverse variations, and reviewed bar graphs and broken line graphs. In this unit, students also wrote equations of lines given a slope and a point, or given two points. Algebra I students are now starting a unit in solving systems of equations.

Middle School Science - Miss Martin

The 7th graders have been learning about what tools scientist use to classify animals and have looked at different organisms through microscopes. They are well on their way exploring what makes up plant and animal cells. The 8th graders have calculated, graphed and testing; speed, velocity and acceleration. They learned how to calculate average speed by using a distance-time graph. Soon, they will be learning about different scientist who made an impact on our everyday life.



Middle School Math - Mrs. Wright

We have had a great first quarter. The students have been working hard and we've made some great math discoveries. The 7th graders started the year with a geometry unit studying polygons and we have moved on to reviewing adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative numbers. The 8th graders started the year with a statistics unit and we have moved on to the Pythagorean Theorem. The new math curriculum requires the students to explain their thinking as well as finding their answers. It is good for students to make connections between the math we are learning, their background knowledge, and real world experiences.

The 7th Graders are half way through their Financial Literacy class. They have learned how to create budgets, stay out of debt, save for the short-term and long-term, and some information about investing for the future. We have also discussed the different types of taxes that students will see in everyday life.

Elementary Music - Mrs. Emberton

The elementary students just finished their favorite holiday in the music room--Halloween! We have lots of Halloween songs that reinforce the music basics--high/low, fast/slow, beat/no beat, and form. On Monday we'll begin work on our Christmas music. The annual elementary Christmas concert will be held on Thursday, December 5 and 7:00.

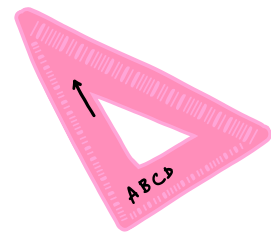
Please mark your calendars! Please encourage your recorder players and beginning band members to practice their instruments at home. The students are already miles apart in their ability. It all comes down to practicing!

MS Band & Chorus - Mrs. Emberton

The J.H. Christmas concert will be held on Thursday, December 12 at 7:00.

On October 9th several J.H. students traveled to the Omaha Community Playhouse to attend the Broadway show "Annie." It was an excellent show and the students loved it!

Most of them agreed that Miss Hannigan and Rooster were their favorite characters, but Daddy Warbucks was really entertaining as well. Several students even got their pictures taken with the characters after the show.



Art - Mrs. Wells

In early October, kindergarten and first grade students looked at the role of shapes in artwork. Students were able to arrange shapes to create pictures of buildings and people.

Students then thought about what shapes they could use when drawing objects or people. Second through eighth-graders were able to work on a drawing unit focusing on cartooning. Cartooning has its beginnings in caricature drawing. The Italian master artists would use caricature as a quick way to show the essence of a person. Second grade students focused on creating their own cartoon character. Older students created their own cartoon character and then made a short comic strip featuring that character.

Elementary students have also been learning about ancient Egyptian art. We have made some fun headpieces called "nemes", and some "necklaces", inspired by traditional jeweled broad collars and King Tut. Third through sixth grade students also got to make miniature sarcophagi and mummies just in time for Halloween.



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.