



# DECEMBER

## News from Hammitt:

We so enjoyed seeing so many of our families here having lunch with their kiddos at the Thanksgiving Feast! We hope you all will join us again at the Christmas Program on December 20th!

### Important reminders:

With the possibility of winter weather and school cancellations, if we are closed you can hear that on WJBC or go to [wjbc.com](http://wjbc.com)—it will

specifically say Hammitt Elementary! Your home district, if closed, may not transport but you are always welcome to bring your student in if we are remaining open!



### Student Council News:

Our student council met again and have planned an all school event for students on

December 21st. It will be Polar Express day with the movie and treats in the gym. All students AND staff are asked to wear their pajamas that day!

Classes will be in and out of the gymnasium all morning at their leisure. Some classes will remain partying in the gym in the afternoon while other classes will celebrate their Christmas Parties in their classrooms; check with your student's teacher!

# December 2018

THE BABY FOLD

## Hammitt School Staff

- Academic Director: Dr. Rhonda Howard
- Principal: Melody Donnelly
- Supervisor of Program Services: Nancy Stevens
- Intake Coordinator/Supervisor of H.I.'s: Dane Mooney
- School Psychologist: Dr. Kelli Brown

## Important Dates

- Dec 20: Christmas Program 12:30
- Dec 21: Christmas Parties 12:30
- Dec 21: Last day before winter break AND Polar Express Day—kids wear PJs
- Dec 22-Jan 7: No School—Kids return Jan 8th



## CON 224: Kelsey, Amy, Albert, and Simona

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We are in the middle of our culture project! Students are researching different cultures and are going to do a final presentation next week! They have been working hard and are excited to share!

During our unit time, we are studying the United States government. Stu-

dents are working hard to create visuals to help



them study later on.

Some of our students have started to read The Lion, the Witch, and the

Wardrobe. We are working hard to do an in-depth novel study.

We are excited for the upcoming Christmas Program. Our class has begun brainstorming for ideas. We hope to see you all there for our performance!

## CON 137: Katie, Bambi, Amy Berchtold, Ramona, and Josh

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Our room has been having lots of fun working on our US timeline and learning about Native Americans.

We are looking forward to Christmas Break but until then we will be doing 12 Days of Christmas activities. Each day will be a fun surprise with a focus on something

*"it takes a big heart to  
shape little minds"*

“Christmassy”.

We welcomed a new staff member into our room this month! Josh has jumped right in and we are very excited to have him as part of our team!

Merry Christmas Everyone!

## CON 125: Billy, Robin, and Cheryl

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We are working on sensory exploration. We have a weekly sensory project to have the kids experience a new sensation and look at different ways to regulate. We also do art every week. We have been using liquid watercolors lately to create our own masterpieces.

We have a picture wall outside of our classroom. We like to capture moments throughout the year for all to see. The collage grows bigger with bright smiles!



## PW 133: Bailey and Kristi

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In math, we are working on part-part-whole addition and balancing equations. The kids are also working on XtraMath daily and making progress on their recall of addition facts.

In ELA, we are finishing up our unit on fiction and reviewing the elements of fiction (character, setting, plot, theme, etc). We are also working on comprehension strategies using our just

right books.

We have had lots of changes in PW133! We have had



several new students start and others move up to the upper wing. Our kiddos are

so welcoming to the new students and are being great role models.

The Hammitt Christmas Program is December 20th and we are working on “Our Favorite Things” during unit.

In January, we will begin our non-fiction unit in ELA.

## PW 129: Suzy and Pat

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It was fantastic to see so many of you at the Thanksgiving Feast. Our kiddos love that you all are a big part of our class and school families!

We have started a unit on the Llama, Llama books which the students love! Soon you will

also be seeing more holiday projects.

Our sneaky little elves, Layla and Stewart, have returned to bless us with various treats and some giggles throughout December. We

*STRIVE FOR  
PROGRESS, NOT  
PERFECTION*

don't focus on the spying for Santa but instead, incorporate their actions into our journal writings while watching the magic of Christmas in the eyes of our kiddos!

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

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Thanks to all of you for sending in those box tops!! When sending them in, please check dates on the box tops because they do expire (definitely check that collection you have been saving!).

Also, we do have a staff member, Bambi, who collects them. She will get them cut for you if

you do not have the time. If you cut your own, make sure any important parts are not cut off. Box Tops for Education is a little picky about what they will accept!

Thanks again for the response to this, this year! We couldn't do this without you! Just keep

sending those box tops in!!!



## CHL 102: Carol, Tracy, and Bonnie

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This month, our whole class is working on identifying letter sounds in words with visual supports. We are focusing on shared reading and being able to answer questions about what we have read. Every day, each one has a class job to do and we're learning how to be more independent in each step of getting it done.

Our December theme is



Holiday Traditions. We'll be learning about how different people celebrate important days this month. To experience a common Christmas tradition, our class is planning to make a gingerbread house and bake some gingerbread cookies to illustrate the stories we are reading.

## CHL 139: Linda, Kate, Tia, and Stacia

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We have welcomed a new student, Braedon. You can say "hi" to him if you see him in the hallway.

This month, we are learning about family traditions. We're also getting ready for

Christmas by making ornaments that are put on our Christmas tree on the wall in the hallway.

We are thinking of ideas of how we

might be able to participate in this year's Christmas program. It will be December 20th at 12:30 and we hope to see some of you there!

*Teachers plant seeds that  
grow Forever*

## CHL 113: Ashley, Jess, and Mellie

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We have been working so hard to utilize our talking devices and communicate with our friends and teachers! Greeting people and saying goodbye is a little of what we work on with some of the kiddos.

Everyone is continuing to adjust to the changes in our room;

teachers included! We all enjoy savoring those moments with



these littles that keep us smiling! We will especially enjoy all of the activities for the month of December, including the parties and projects. We hope to enjoy the Christmas program on December 20th and are looking forward to spending the break with our families and friends!

## UW 220: Lauren and Curt

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We are beginning to work on different comprehension techniques as we improve our reading skills. We kicked off compare and contrast by using a Venn diagram to compare Thanksgiving Traditions: Past and Present.

Also, the students branched out and tried leftover celery from an exciting experiment with Curt to show how water moves through the parts of a plant.

This Thanksgiving showed us

that we have a lot to be thankful for! Our students were so excited to share their Thanks-



giving traditions and loved talking about all the fun they had with their families.

We have been “Goal Getters” this year and have been set-

ting goals for ourselves each week. As a class, we have met our goals for four weeks in a row! We celebrated the last goal we achieved with a pizza party.

We are very excited for the upcoming Christmas season and as part of our celebration, we will have an “Elf”, the movie, themed day! We will even taste test Buddy’s special additions to his spaghetti!

## UW 214: Vee and Anna T.

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Currently we are still working on Orphan Island. We are studying the orphan trains of America to understand how being an orphan may make you feel. We are pairing this with the story.

We have added two new students into our classroom. Both students transitioned well into our school.

*Be the change you want  
to see in the world*

We are preparing for Christmas by doing a Christmas brain break. We will be doing “It’s Christmas time

Chicka boom”!

## UW 217: Morgan and Sheila

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We have been so busy this past month, welcoming new students and focusing on some important social skills such as calming techniques. Many of our kiddos continue to love our yoga time and we all have enjoyed getting to know one another better.

In December, we will be work-

ing hard from Scholastic News and our GO math books but taking time to have a little holiday fun as well!

We look forward to the Christmas Program on the 20th—rumor has it, our class might be doing “Run, Run, Rudolph”. We also will be in our PJs with

the class on the 21st for Polar Express Day!



**HAMMITT ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL@THE BABY FOLD**

Hammitt Elementary  
108 E. Willow  
Normal, IL 61761

To reach our school switchboard or to discuss picking up your child early, please call (309) 452-1170. DO NOT leave a voicemail or call the attendance line for early pick ups.

If your child is sick or needing to be absent, please call our attendance line at (309) 451-7227.



## *P.E. with Mark and John*

We will be finishing up our basketball and football unit. We have been playing games like pin knockdown and also learning how to shoot baskets properly.

We will be moving into our kickball unit and using all types of equipment to bring a big variety of games to the students this month.

We have enjoyed getting to know and integrating several new students into our program!

## *CHL 202: Rachel, McKenna, Bobby, Jaide, and Noah*

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During Unique, students are finishing our transportation unit 'On the Move'.

In the month of December, we will begin a new unit called 'It's a Tradition'. In this unit, we will be learning about the history of holiday traditions and discussing the holiday traditions we have within our own families. We will also cover News2You current event articles Santa Paws, Hour of Code, and more.

Many of our students have recently started working toward new annual goals and

objectives. We are very proud of the progress they have made and look for-



ward to seeing all of our students continue to grow into the New Year!

In the month of December, Classroom 202 is looking forward to getting into the holiday spirit! In addition to our seasonal unit, on December 21st, we will celebrate the holiday season with our Classroom Christmas Party!

