



March 2019

Hammitt News from our Home Interventionists:

Dane Mooney, Becky Jones, Sarah Idleman, Katie Altieri, and Kara Meisenheimer

Due to weather, none of our parents were able to come to parent group so we plan to do the sensory topic at our next parent group, taking place on 3/20/19 from 11-12:30. Lunch will be provided. Hope to see you there!!!

Student Council News:

Due to many circumstances the student council has been un-



able to have a recent meeting but that doesn't mean they still haven't been hard at work!

On Valentine's Day, student council members spread the love to our Hammitt family by giving treat bags to each student AND to each staff member! These gifts were much appreciated by all as they were delivered with smiles and hugs!

In the works, the student council is planning for a March Madness. This will occur the week before Spring Break. Please look for a note soon explaining what each day will bring in forms of school spirit!

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

School Nurse: Nicole McDonald



Important Dates

- ◆ March 23: Report Cards
- ◆ March 25-29 Spring Break; No School
- ◆ April 1: School Resumes

CON 224: Kelsey, Amy Berchtold, Albert, Simona, & Amy Barlin and Jeanelle (ISU student teacher)

Students are learning about a variety of things in math like partial quotients, multiplication, and counting money.

For language arts, we have a group that is almost done with their novel study on *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Students have been working hard on vocabulary and comprehension with the story. Another group has been reading some nonfiction on saving the sea turtles! As a class, we just did a STEAM project where students used foil to build boats to hold as

many pennies as possible.

Our class went to the history museum. We really enjoyed seeing the Abraham Lincoln exhibit and the pedal car exhibit. After-



ward, they were able to order a treat at Coffee Hound and practice holding conversations. We look forward to more community outings.

Students are starting a new unit on healthy eating and grocery shopping. We are excited to put our new skills to the test at the store and in the kitchen. They are also learning about the 5 themes of geography!

CON 137: Billy, Robin, and Cheryl

We are excited to start a physical science month long unit. We will be learning about energy all around us! We will be reading stories, learning key vocabulary, taking quizzes, and writing about what we have learned. We are very excited to be keeping up with our current event articles with

*it takes a big heart
to shape little
minds*

News2You, which is a class favorite.

With warmer weather approaching, we are hoping to get back outside. Every Monday, we plan on keeping up with Movement Monday by participating in yoga or a walk on the trail; being mindful of what is around us!

CON 119: Katie, Bambi, Ramona, and Josh

Con 137 has been busy learning about Space and all that it takes to be an astronaut. We watched videos about all of the training they go through and even tried some space food.

In Community, we are getting farther into our timeline. We just finished learning about the

first heart transplant and the first man on the moon.

In Math, some students are starting some multiplication while others are focusing on addition and subtraction of 2 and 3 digit numbers.

Our trip to the zoo in February

turned out to be a beautiful day and we really enjoyed seeing different animals. We also have some adventures that we are really looking forward to—just hoping for some nicer weather!

PW 133: Bailey and Kristi

In math, Bailey's group is continuing to work on subtraction strategies and Kristi's group has started their multiplication unit by looking at repeated addition as well as arrays.

In ELA, we are learning all about non-fiction and different text features that help us become better readers. One group is learning about penguins and arctic animals while the other is exploring space.

We have been starting our weeks with Yoga every Monday morning and the kids have really

seemed to enjoy learning all of the new poses; ask them about their favorite! If you would like to do Yoga with them at home,



search for Cosmic Kids Yoga on Youtube.com; it is free!

We recently got a very large donation of toys for the classroom and the kids are LOVING our new monster trucks and action figures! They have all done an excellent job of learning how to cooperate and play fair during their free times.

We are all also looking forward to warmer weather and time to play outside! Please be sure to send your child with appropriate clothing for the weather.

MW 141: Emily and Erik

We are busy in room 141. We have worked on basic multiplication concepts such as grouping and arrays. In social skills, we have worked on regulating our emotions and identifying coping skills that help us be our best selves.

In unit, we have been talking all about penguins. We have learned about different kinds of penguins and have made case files about the emperor penguin and little blue penguin.

We are super pumped to be working with our new chrome-

books!! We are learning how they work and how to navigate Google Classroom.

The students had an awesome Valentine's Day party. They loved passing out valentines and playing games. We also learned how to do the cupid shuffle!

PW 129: Suzy, Pat, Grace, and Haley

We have been hard at work learning about winter and dental health. The kids have enjoyed hearing dental stories and facts from Pat as well as on youtube.

In Math and in ELA, groups have been hard at work, learning through games and manipulatives. These groups have turned

into opportunities for social skills as several kids are struggling with getting along with their tablemates. These on the spot lessons tie in nicely with our current social skills lessons on Getting Along with Others.

P.E., recess, and of course, Barbies are highlights for our class

this month; as well as our daily snack!



CHL 139: Linda, Stacia, Brittany, and Kate

Students are continuing to increase their independence doing task boxes that teach pre-vocational skills such as sorting, packaging, and assembly. Several students are able to complete 3 boxes in a 15 minute work time.

We had a fun time celebrating Valentine's Day. We are learning classmates' names and prac-



ticed by delivering our valentines to each other.

We have also welcomed a

new teacher therapist assistant in our room, Brittany.

Next month we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and 2 birthdays, beginning our state testing with our 3rd grader, and enjoying our Spring Break! Hopefully the weather will be more "spring-like" by then!

CHL 202: Rachel, McKenna, Jane, and Jaide

This month our class covered cultural diversity and history using our UNIQUE curriculum. Students learned the story of Ruby Bridges, about using timelines, and cultural changes. In current events, we discussed Esports, Famous Musicians, The Super Bowl, and How to Train

Your Dragon 3. Students practiced selecting winter appropriate clothing, fine motor, and art skills.

In the month of March, we will begin a new physical science unit about energy and electricity. We will cover new current event

topics including: *Amazing Women, and Reading Across America*. We are excited about creating new social opportunities for some of our students to work with other classes during their daily schedules and continuing to see all of our students work hard on their annual goals.

CHL 102: Carol, Tracy, Bonnie, and Bobby

Our ISU field-based student, Allyson, has been with us every day now and will be until early May.

She loved decorating our halls and is getting to know each one of the students and their individual learning needs.

Our March theme is "Energy Around Us." We'll be exploring different forms of energy and how electricity makes things work.

We all worked so hard finishing up the benchmarks for the UNIQUE program that it was

relaxing to focus on our usual work again and make growth on specific skills. As Spring rolls in we'll be starting the state alternate testing, but get to have Spring Break in between for recharge!

UW 217: Morgan and Sheila

We are wrapping up the *The One and Only Ivan* during our reading/language arts time. The kids have LOVED this book that celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendships. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself.

Having spent 27 years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.

Next up, we will be reading one of the "I Survived" series books called *I Survived Mount St. Helen's*. Each book in the series tells a terrifying and thrilling story from history, through the eyes of a 10 year old kid who lived to tell the tale. The kids absolutely love these books! We will dive deep into the science of volcanoes and plate tectonics as well.

We keep learning about all sorts of "sciency" things during unit while reading Scholastic's "Super Science" magazine. March's magazine contains articles on how engineers harness forces and motion to build the world's wildest roller coasters, plant-eating sharks, the Sahara Desert, building hotels for wild bees, artifacts that archaeologists dig up, the Hubble Space

Telescope, 3-D printers, and virtual reality video games.

In math, Sheila's group will be working on area models and partial products. Morgan's group will be working on geometry and studying shapes, angles, and lines.

The classroom is still doing phenomenally with behaviors and completing their work! Overall, they are getting along really well and forming some great friendships. When problems arise, the kids are doing better with problem solving and listening to and understanding teacher's perspectives on the situation, even when they are mad

UW 220: Lauren and Curt

We have taken a break from science and switched to social studies for unit. The students have been having amazing conversations about Black History Month and how our classroom would be so different without the Civil Rights Movement. We have also been playing some fun games about our 50 states, and learning geography around the world.

Our class is working really hard to keep the classroom calm and safe, and doing a great job! We are working towards earning some pretty cool toys and games for both the classroom and prizes to take home.

Hopefully as the weather warms up we

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

will be able to start taking walks to the park, or the Children's Discovery Museum! We will also be able to start more hands on learning about the life of plants, gardening and composting as

we will be able to spend more time outside.

UW 214: Vee and Anna T.

Our class is working on counting money and counting with decimals. In reading, we are reading the book, *The Paperboy*. We are comparing and contrasting the life of the Paperboy with that of his black nanny Mam. The children are learning about disabilities and disadvantages.

I want to spotlight that my class is doing a taste test of foods common in the 1950's. we will be tasting Spam, Vienna Sausages, Ovaltine, canned cheese, and beans and wieners.



**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 our hockey unit and starting our baseball unit.

We are still trying to get the local hockey team to visit here.

We are looking forward to our baseball unit and planning our field day.

CHL 113: Ashley, Jess, Mellie, and Noah

Our classroom will be implementing more activities from our Unique curriculum into the day. In March, the theme of the month is "The Hot, Hot Sun." We will read stories about the sun, things that are hot, activities to do outside in the sun, and how to stay safe in the sun.

We will be singing our song Mat Man to help identify our own body parts. We sing this every single day and show our students where Mat Man's body parts are (head, eyes, ears, etc.) and then help them touch or point to their own. After a few months of singing verses like "Mat Man has one head, one head, one head, Mat man has one head so that he can think!" the boys are pointing and touching their heads with fewer and fewer prompts! Repetition is key in room 113. From not even sitting on their squares for this activity at first, to now sitting and

identifying some of their body parts with the song...It has been so fun to watch them progress!

We ordered a new story board for 5 different nursery rhymes. It comes



with the story and visuals to manipulate as we read it aloud. We are looking forward to using it!

