



May 2019

Hammitt News: Our 3rd and up students recently finished their required state testing! Both staff and students handled the process so well and some classes had special pizza parties for their hard work.

Recently, we had the family of one of our Connection students, Danny, provide the entire elementary school with a pizza and chips lunch. Staff enjoyed this just as much as the kiddos and we can't thank them enough! Some

might remember Danny as he often helped interview teachers for this newsletter!



Student Council News: Prior to spring break, we had a March Spirit Week that was organized by the student

council. The students dressed in their class chosen color, enjoyed a special snack day, decorated capes for an upcoming event, and wore hats one day and pajamas another!

The students especially had fun decorating their individual capes and really can't wait to see what these capes are going to be used for at the end of May. We are so thankful for Sheila Teplitz-Crawford, the student council staff helpers, and the student council students!!!

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

- May 17: Graduation 12:30
- May 23: Student Council Surprise
- May 24: Talent Show 12:30
- May 28: Last Day
- June 10: 1st Day ESY/Summer School

CON 224: Kelsey, Amy Berchtold, Amy Barlin, Simona, and Jeanell

One of our language groups have begun to learn about different types of poetry and then practice their own. They are getting creative in the ways they are expressing themselves and the subjects of their lives! Our other group also learned about poetry. They also learned about writing a letter and they practiced writing one.

For math, student are all learning individually. Students are learning about fractions, money, multiplication, division, and so much more!

During our writing time, most of our students are focused on using transition words correctly in



their writing. We are continuing our study of other cultures and focused on different types of government and how their voting works.

Our room has been doing a great job of working on their social skills. We have students that join our classroom for a variety of activities and students are being very inclusive. They are receptive to staff's feedback and continue to work on friendship skills!

CON 137: Katie, Bambi, Ramona, and Josh

We finally reached the 2000's on our timeline. It's been fun learning about events that shaped the world we live in today. We even discussed the clothing of the different decades and all have different periods we would have enjoyed wearing the clothing.

In reading, we have continued to work on our fluency and so many of our students have made huge gains in their reading.

Last month, we hatched out baby chicks. They were precious like always and we learned so much about the little nuggets (no pun intended).

We are sad having to say goodbye to our two ISU student teachers but we wish them the best in their education. We learned so much from them and hope they come back to visit when they can.

Our class is teaming up with another

for the Talent Show and we have been working so hard each day.

...umm, yeah...SUMMER BREAK IS COMING! I think we are all ready for some R&R but the students have been talking about summer school since January. We have lots of fun activities planned for June and July including CAMP WEEK!

CON 125: Billy, Robin, and Cheryl

We are continuing our healthy unit by planting a root vegetable garden in the classroom. We are going to use a "Root-View" garden to see how different types of root vegetables grow underground. Once these grow we

are going to have a taste test.

Once the weather gets nice, we plan to take our move-



ment Mondays out to the trail to get in touch with nature. We will use the sounds, sights, and smells of nature to help work on coping and calming strategies that can be used in the classroom.

PW 129: Suzy, Pat, Grace, and Haley

We are saying goodbye to our AMAZING ISU student teacher Haley soon. She has done a super job and the kids have fallen in love with her. We will miss her and the addition she has been in our classroom but we wish her the absolute best and hope to see her again!

Speaking of students, we have had some art students come to our room on a couple of occasions. They brought materials and fun for the kids. Each student made an incredible mask for themselves to take home!

We have changed around some of our schedule and some of our activities allowing some whole group art, cooking, and science. The change has led to some great whole group participation and some fun ways for the kids to be creative.

We also have finally put together some academic groups that are working out well for the students. More reading and math is getting done at each student's level with peers that they are helpful to and willing to work with.

The nice weather has been bringing more opportunities for outside recess which the kids absolutely love. We get to play with students from other classrooms while practicing our social skills and burning off some energy. We are hopeful that we can lunch with some of these new friends and practice some conversation skills over lunch!

In social skills, we have practiced kindness and giving compliments. We are now working on whole body listening skills.

PW 133: Bailey and Kristi

This year has flown by and we have had so much fun with all of the amazing kiddos in our room! They have grown so much over the past year and we couldn't be more proud of the progress that each child has made. In reading, we are continuing to learn about different genres including fantasy and adventure, mystery, folktale, realistic fiction, and many more! Ask your student about their favorite genre. In

math, we are still working on mastering subtraction strategies in Bailey's group and Kristi's group is loving learning about all of the different ways to solve multiplication problems. Last week, you may have noticed a flyer in your child's folder that provides login information to a website called Xtra-Math.com. This is a website the students are very familiar with and practice daily in class. It is used to help

them master basic addition and subtraction problems using instant recall. This is completely optional at home and was sent because some of the students had requested it. Please do not feel as though you need to implement it at home. It's hard to believe that it is May already! Just a reminder that the dentist will be here to visit on May 2nd. The annual Hammitt talent show for the students and staff will be on May 24th.

MW 141: Emily and Mike

We have been working on comprehension, poetry, math properties, multiplication, fractions, and world disasters. The kids did an awesome job building volcanoes out of scratch play-dough. The students also built a replica of a tsunami. ISU art students came to visit and the kids had a blast. They learned how to make art from "mistakes" on paper. They also made cool jungle creatures for our classroom from water

color and crayons. For social skills, the students are really getting the hang of a compliment circle. We are working on identifying small problems and big problems. For upcoming unit, we are learning about all things space. We are planning a field trip in May to take the kids to the planetarium. Students also have some fun acts for the upcoming talent show. One group is using cool techy stuff with chrome books in their

act and another group is busting out a showstopper!



CHL 139: Linda, Stacia, Brittany, Kate, and Eryn

We are excited to notice all the signs of spring, like the green grass, buds on the trees, and warmer weather! It's great to get back out on the playground! We took advantage of the warm weather this week and took a walk on the Constitution Trail to Uptown Normal. We were disappointed that the water display did not have water flowing yet, but we will go back again when

it is ready.

We recently had a group of administrators from Thailand visit Hammitt School and our classroom. They are just beginning to address the need for special education in their country. They were excited to see what we are doing and busily took pictures of our visual schedules, data sheets, and other systemic procedures.

Spring is a busy time in our classroom. One of our students recently completed the state DLM testing. Soon we will begin the Unique Learning System benchmarking for all of our students.

We are busy planning our Extended School Year (ESY) programming, otherwise known as summer school.

CHL 113: Ashley, Mellie, Jess, and Noah

We have switched up some things during our Circle Time. We have new visuals and run two separate calendar times. This allows us to focus on certain tasks and skills with just two students at each group, rather than all four at the same time. We are working on identifying

who is in our classroom. Students use their talkers or other visuals to show who is at school each day. We had two ISU art students come teach art lessons twice during April. This meant two unfamiliar faces

and a big change in our routine. Our boys rocked the lessons and handled the change SO WELL!

We were so proud of them! We are excited to be able to go outside again! We have been going out twice a day!



*Teaching is my super
power*

CHL 102: Carol, Bonnie, Bobby, and Tracy

Our ISU field-based student, Allyson, has been teaching the UNIQUE literacy lessons and will keep it up until her last day, May 9th. We just finished learning about consumers and producers and the production of goods. We had fun learning about how Max and Ruby spent their money and then it was gone.

Our classroom has a Smartboard now to make daily lessons interactive and help capture the students' attention with added visual support. Bobby has helped us get a good start using it and individual students are very willing to participate in morning calendar.

The May UNIQUE theme is "Making It Last". It is a science

unit that focuses on renewable and nonrenewable resources and how we can conserve them. We'll learn what we could try to recycle in our classroom and wherever we go.

We all worked very hard finishing up the state DLM tests. Everyone is thrilled with the warm weather and getting to go outside again for sensory walks or motor skills outside.

UW 217: Morgan and Sheila

During reading/language arts, we are diving into the “I Survived” series of books. The most terrifying events in history are brought to life in this New York Times best selling series by Lauren Tarshis. They always involve a 9/10 year old main character who is resilient when dealing with a historical catastrophe. Right now, we are learning about the 2011 tornado that ripped through Joplin, MO then taking that into Unit time with learning about weather, clouds, tornadoes, and tornado safety, all the while focusing on compre-

hension and writing skills. Next up, we will be reading *I Survived the Destruction of Pompeii, AD79* and learning about volcanoes.

In math, one of our groups will be working on simplifying and adding/subtracting fractions while the other group works on time and money.

We are always working on reading fluency skills during our 6-min fluency time, while learning about science or a historical event. The kids have been working hard and learning about a

wide variety of topics this year!

Now that the weather is warmer, we will plan on getting out of the school on Fridays and head up to Uptown Normal to check out the library, Children’s Discovery Museum, go to lunch and/or check out the stores while working on social skills and all necessary skills to be a consumer.



UW 220: Lauren and Curt

We just finished up a geometry unit that finished with an awesome project taught by volunteers from ISU’s art department. The students made really neat structures by making shapes and were able to decorate them! We have also started reading a new book called, *The Landry News*, and while reading the students will be collaborating to make our own class-

room newspaper.

Our class did an awesome job during the Easter egg hunt and Easter party. They were so appreciative of the volunteers that put the hunt together for them.

We are very close to filling up our

*You are their
role model!*

puff ball jar for keeping it calm and safe in the classroom! This means we will have a breakfast treat party in our near future!

UW 214: Vee and Anna T.

Currently we have embarked upon a unit featuring the book, *Numbering the Stars*. We have made it an inclusive unit featuring social skills on human rights and social studies on World War 2. We were also able to have the art students from ISU teach an art activity based on human rights. The students made posters of things that

made them special.

We are going to have a nutrition unit based on the foods of the unit. We will be doing foods from Denmark, Germany, and the Jewish culture. We are looking for someone of the Jewish faith to do a spotlight on Jewish foods. That is the item we are having the hardest

time finding.

We will be culminating the unit with an expo of all of the things we learned in the unit at the end of the year. I will include a panel discussion of the book, food fair, art display, and a short book trailer made by the students. The expo is set for May 10th.

**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

Right now, we are having our baseball unit; working on hitting, running bases, and handling the baseball.

We are working hard on preparing for a fun Field Day in May!



CHL 202: Rachel, McKenna, Jane, Jaide, and Neysha

Rachel and staff have been super busy with their kiddos, recently wrapping up their testing for the state!

They have welcomed Neysha to their classroom to work 1:1 with a student and continue to have staff become affluent dog whisperers with a service dog named, Hooley.

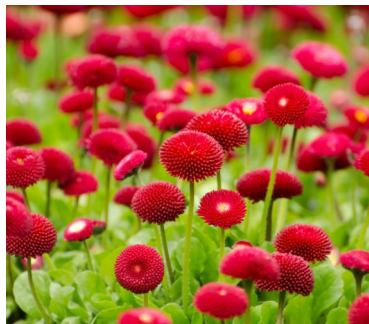
All of the students, staff, and Hooley have enjoyed the warmer temps as it means more time outside enjoying the playground!

News from our Home Intervention-

ists: The most recent parent group had a guest speaker, Dr. Rob Lusk, our Clinical Psychologist for The Baby Fold. He talked about

the impact of trauma on our students and their families, and how past traumas from earlier in life can still cause triggers for people today.

The last girls' lunch included pizza and the girls had the opportunity to practice their public eating manners. The girls will be taking these manners on and up the road to a local pizza restaurant in May.



*Happy Mother's
Day from Hammitt*