



# March 2020

## Hammitt News from our Family Advocates:

Each month the Family Advocates host a Girl's Group (there are so few girls here so we have created a social time for them to share and enjoy) and a Parents' Group. This month the girls did a painting of someone in the Hammitt Family. In the past, they have talked about hygiene, done nails, and just had some fun with their friends!

The Parent Group met with a lawyer to talk about future planning for children with special needs. This was very well attended and the fam-



ilies went away with some very valuable information for their children's future.

## Student Council News:

Student Council will be doing a spirit week the week before Spring Break that coincides with the agency's spirit week for all staff. Thinking this will be a fun time for all, this has now been turned into March Madness. Wear crazy socks, don the color green, bring in your favorite book, and tons of other fun things for the month of March. Please refer to the attached March Madness Calendar!

## Hammitt School Staff

Academic Director: Dr. Rhonda Howard  
Assistant Academic Director: Sarah Boitnott  
Principal: Melody Donnelly  
Supervisor of Program Services: Nancy Stevens  
Intake Coordinator: Dane Mooney  
Supervisor of F.A.'s: Kathy Case  
School Psychologist: Dr. Kelli Brown  
School Nurse: Elena McMillin



## Important Dates

- ◆ March 13: Report Cards
- ◆ March 23-27: Spring Break; No School
- ◆ March 30: School Resumes

## CON 224: Lauren W., Amy, and Cheryl

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February is known as Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Once February came, our class dove right in! In fact, we are diving so far down that we continue learning about some of the many influential people of our past through March.

Some people we have learned about are Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tubman, Sarah E. Goode, and Frederick Douglass

just to name a few. We have also learned about some of the laws and movements that made an impact



which include the Jim Crow laws, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and the March on Washington.

We just finished up personal hygiene and have moved onto "How Our Bodies Process Food." We have some really cool videos that

show the digestive process in a unique fun way to understand what is happening in our bodies after we eat our food. We also have a fun experiment at the end of this unit to further our knowledge and understanding of this process!

We are looking forward to the weather getting nicer (hopefully sooner rather than later!) so that we can get outside and enjoy some fresh air! We hope to spend some time on the trail and even getting Uptown Normal to do some exploring with perhaps a stop at Emack and Bolio's ice cream:)

## CON 141: Emily, Leah, and Simona

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Room 141 has been working on adding and subtracting, skip counting, and counting money. Students have showed great progress in reading their CVC books.

For social skills, students have been working on team building activities in which they make an art project with lim-

*it takes a big heart  
to shape little  
minds*

ited supplies with a friend.

For community, we have focused on how to clean our teeth and take care of our teeth.

For Black History Month, we have learned about Martin Luther King, Jr., and his famous "I have a dream" speech, Ruby Bridges, Harriet Tubman, and the Underground Railroad.

## CON 137: Katie, Bambi, Ramona, Robin, Mike, and Maddie

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In math, students are working on money. In unit, students are doing a research project on famous inventors.

We continue to work hard on learning new spelling words so we can improve our writing. Our student teacher has found fun new ways to help them study them each day and our students are en-

joying the activities!

Our class has been very motivated to earn their Book-It pizzas each month. We read books from the library and each month we add 1 minute to our total read time. For March, we are up to 15 minutes. We hope after Spring Break, we will get out in the community as well as we finish up the month.

In February, we said goodbye to our teacher Josh who had to move out of state. He had such a heart for our kids at Hammitt. He fit right in from the moment he arrived and always made sure the students felt cared for! It has been a big change without him in our room and he will be greatly missed!

## PW 133: Alexis, Kristi, and Marsha

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In reading, we are continuing to learn all about dinosaurs and will be finishing up our nonfiction unit within the next couple weeks. Ask your child about their favorite dinosaur! They should be able to tell you what the dinosaur looked like, ate, and what time period they lived in.

In math, we are learning to identify and build fractions, as well as reviewing place value.

We have also started doing a chapter book read aloud after

lunch and the kids (and staff) are loving it!

This school year is flying by



and believe it or not, Spring Break is coming up in just a few short weeks!

We are also looking forward to warmer weather and time to play outside! Please be sure to send your child with appropriate clothing for the weather. If it does warm up sooner rather than later, we will all be prepared to head to the playground and burn off some of that energy!

## Staff Appreciation: Our Lunch Staff

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Our staff appreciation for February goes to our Kitchen Staff: **Rachel Rees, Daniele McGill, Suzanne Smith, Millie Thrasher, and Lori Mason.** We are so grateful for all that they do in order to help breakfast and lunch run

smoothly!

It is a very challenging job as they prep food for 3 different buildings now. They put in so much hard work to make it happen! The students (and sometimes staff) especially

appreciate the after lunch treats rewarded for taking the lunch carts back to the kitchen. Thank you for all you do!



## PW 129: Suzy, Pat, Taylor, and Alexa

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The month of February was a whirlwind of love and kindness by many of our students for Valentine's Day. We are really seeing some of our students embrace the relationships they are building with one another and with the staff, leading to some really sweet moments!

In March, we look forward to participating in the March Madness activities and tying these days into curriculum as much as possible. We continue to focus on our ability to break apart, build, and read words at many different levels while participating in our small groups and 1:1

academics. Some of this is being reflected in increased fluency!



## CHL 139: Linda, Ashley, Brittany, and Kate

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We read a story called, *A River*, that goes along with our Unique story about man-made and naturally occurring places. Our story, *A River*, was about imagination and exploring the world.

We have all been try-



ing some new tactile sensory activities and made some “snow

slime” during group.

Our practicum student, Bobbi, has been working with all of our students on various goals and leading some group activities.

## CHL 202: Rachel, McKenna, Rebekah, and Jaide

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In the month of February, Classroom 202 covered geography of the United States during Unique. In social skills, we practiced many skills; asking for help, having a conversation, asking for permission, and perspective taking. We also learned about several current events including: the

Super Bowl, women astronauts, and important leaders.

In the month of March, our Unique unit will discuss a science unit on the movement of lights and sound. In life skills, we will talk more about coping with stress, and in current

events, we will begin the month by talking about women’s history.

Robert, our ISU student, will lead the students in game play skills, as well as, explore more social skills using The Social Express.

## CHL 102: Carol, Tracy, Bonnie, and Bobby

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In March, we are taking a look at *Light and Sound on the Move!* We’ll read stories and do fun experiments to understand that sound is created by vibrations that travel through matter to our ears and light actually bounces off objects and goes into our eyes.

We love ART in our room too! In March, we’re doing spin art, making shamrocks, and creating a leprechaun hideaway.

We will celebrate two birthdays in March—Landon will be 9 years old and Bobby will

reach a special milestone birthday during our Spring Break. We’ll celebrate when we all get back to school the following week.

*Happy Spring Break!!!*

## UW 217: Morgan and Sheila

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During reading/language arts, we will be working on comprehension skills along with social skills (differences in people, bullying, etc.) while reading the book, *Wonder*.

During snack time, we read to the kids and are excited to read, *Touching Spirit Bear*. This story's synopsis: "Cole Matthews is a teenage delinquent who's in big trouble for beating up a kid named Peter Driscall. He's unrepentant and even though he is facing serious jail time, his kindly parole officer, a man named

Garvey, gets him into this Native American justice program called Circle Justice."

During math, we are working

inhale  
exhale  
repeat

hard at multiplication facts, which will be helpful when we head back into fractions.

In unit, we will be working on geography, starting off with learning the 50 states and capitals then learning about geographical features (landforms and ecosystems).

During social skills, we are still focusing our energy on emotional regulation, deep breathing, and practicing yoga and calming strategies.

## UW 220: Lauren, Curt, and Mitchell

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We are currently working on fractions for math. We were able to begin the unit with Hershey's candy bars! Who doesn't love chocolate?

We have also started a unit on Greek Mythology. The students have had a lot of fun learning

about each God and Goddess.

We wrapped up a unit on Black History Month full of influential stories, great conversations, and lots of good music.

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

We are so close to filling our puff ball jar which means a cool surprise is in store for students, rewarding their positive interactions, coping skills, and awesome behavior!

## UW 214: Vee and Anna T.

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Currently, we are working on the elements of literature and number systems.

We have a student transitioning back to public school and it is very exciting to hear him talk about how his new school will be so different.

The winter is just about over and the kids are so glad to be able to go outside.

All of us are ready for a little Spring Break!



**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*

- With spring right around the corner, baseball is up next!!!!
- We have an abundance of ISU volunteers that are playing with our students and the kids love it!
- We continue to look at and try new activities for the younger and challenges students!

## **CHL 113: Joan, Jess, Mellie, and Stacia**

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We are focusing on our individual lessons and all of our students are improving daily in their learning new math skills such as independently completing 1:1 correspondence, matching money, or sequencing numbers. Our afternoon group focuses on letter of the day and multiple communication skills. We can now verbalize and identify lots of fun new words!

We have welcomed two new students in the past month and everyone is having a great time getting to know each other. We have rearranged the

room and students are sitting in pairs. We also are all eating lunch at a table together and modeling some good social behavior.

Each month we pick 1 or 2 topics to explore; we are finishing up with Dr. Seuss fun stuff, beginning St. Patrick's



Day activities, and by the end of the month, it will be Spring Break!!!!

Our year is flying by!!!!

