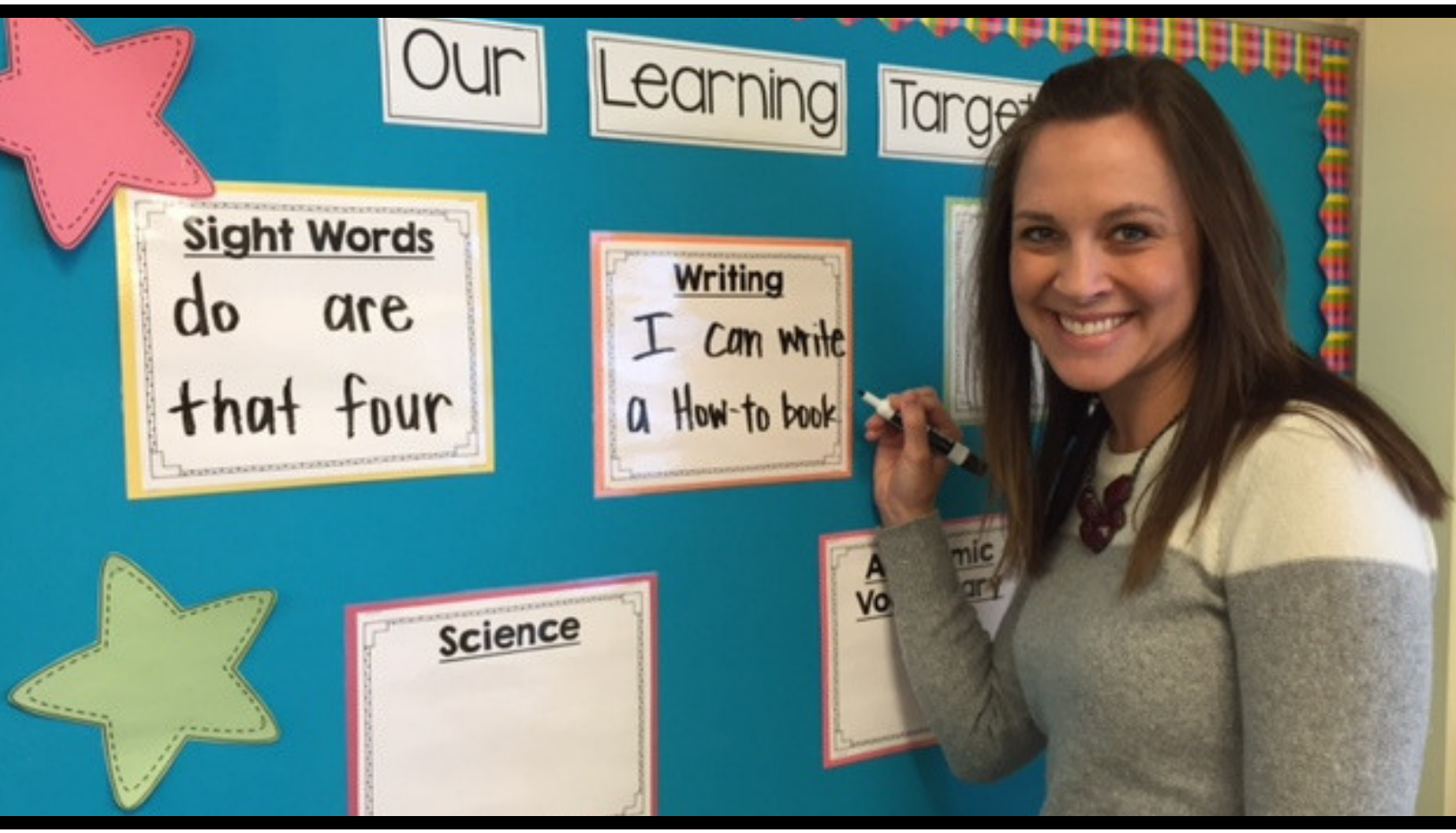
SOAR

THE MONTHLY RECAP OF
HAMILTON SOCIAL MEDIA

MAY 2018

Top Post: Amazing Teacher



More than 217 likes, 34 comments, 5 shares, and 2,193 people reached

Blue Star's Jill Sloothaak was recently nominated and honored as an Amazing Teacher!

The regional promotion was sponsored by the Holland Sentinel and Coldwell Banker - Woodland Schmidt. She was nominated by multiple people in the Hamilton school district.

Congratulations Jill for all your hard work!

MVP Club kicks off @ high school this fall

Does your family love Shark Tank? Does your student tend to have great business ideas? Then have them consider The MVP Club at Hamilton High School this fall, the newest after-school group catering to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Thanks to a unique partnership with Hope College, your student will be coached by young professionals and business experts who understand how to start a business from scratch. The application process for the club is now open. E-mail Jeremy Gonsior at **jgonsior@hamiltonschools.us** for more information!

STREAM releases salmon into K-Zoo River

The most successful release in three years was a "cornerstone of learning"

Mr. Hickok and Mrs. Chamber's 6th grade STREAM students received 200 fertilized salmon eggs this past November. From that point on, the young fish became a cornerstone of learning. The students released 138 salmon into the Kalamazoo River in early May.

"Salmon in the Classroom is a great platform for authentic, hands-on learning," Mr. Hickok said. "Students learned about the nitrogen cycle, the life history of the salmon, and also the importance of the Great Lakes and fishing to Michigan's traditions and way of life."

Middle school students help out, reach out

Robin Maxson's 5th grade class served the community in both Hamilton and Holland on May 3. First, they helped sort food at Hungry for Christ in Hamilton.

Then the students ate lunch at the Holland Rescue Mission. They were asked to sit at tables and make conversation among the mission residents and community members in attendance. Smiles, stories, and even a few photos were shared at the tables. Then the students toured the mission to learn about its vision. Way to help out AND reach out 5th graders!

Camp Geneva perfect spot for annual 4th grade mixer

Fourth graders across the district enjoyed a special field trip on May 16 to mingle with their future middle school classmates! “This whole month is getting more comfortable with the change next year,” said Lindsay Davidson, Blue Star 4th grade teacher.

Middle school students tour Hope College, Davenport University for college advice

Plenty of questions and firsthand learning at both campuses in Holland

How do you know if college is the right path for you unless you experience it firsthand? Hamilton Middle School 7th graders had an interactive, informative and flat-out fun campus tour of Hope College on May 23.

They asked many questions. They learned what it's like to meet new people, try new activities, use new facilities, and have overall less structure in their life.

On the same day, Davenport University Holland hosted the Freaky Sneakers contest. The event gave the students a crash course in marketing before they pitched their own sneaker idea to their peers and judges.

First a problem, then collaboration, a solution, and a presentation - modern learning at its finest. Two colleges, one day, an all-around informative experience for our 7th graders!

818 views for video on Instagram

Filmmakers place at Detroit film festival

Congratulations to our Hamilton High School filmmakers for being finalists and winning awards at the Detroit Country Day School Student Film Fest on May 19.

Will Baker and **Xian Castillo** had a second place finish for their film "EAS" in the Drama category. **Jon Charron, Ryan Poe, Jake Bommarito,** and **Christian Fasbender** took home a third place finish in the Drama category for "Peacekeeper". Finally, **Will Baker** won a 5th place in the Audience Choice category for "Lab".

Greenhouse yields green beans for school

Hamilton Middle School classrooms were flooded with green bean plants on May 25.

The green beans came from the middle school's new greenhouse.

Students tended the plants over many weeks and then made sure the plants were packaged safely.

Finally, they delivered them to classrooms across the school, sparking plenty of excitement among their classmates.

Prep4Success Charette is huge success

Community shares opinions about future of education, skills students need

The Prep4Success program was developed by Hamilton, Saugatuck, and Jenison high school students to make the journey of other students better. Think student agency, flexible learning environments, competency and performance-based, real issues and opportunities, and community connected.

An innovative partnership between Hamilton Community Schools, Saugatuck Schools, Ottawa Area ISD, Lakeshore Advantage, and Grand Valley State University is making it all happen. Stay tuned as Prep4Success becomes a reality!

Sandyview kindergarten teacher Dawn Wedeven leads field trip to her wetlands

Science Olympiad team wins state honors

The Hamilton High School Science Olympiad team achieved historic success at the state level this spring.

Taylor Hofman/Trent VanderKamp placed 1st in Herpetology, Hamilton's first Science Olympiad state champs.

Bryce Hitchcock/Austin Riggs placed 2nd in Game On.

Finally, **Austin Riggs/Ben VanHuis** placed 3rd in Rocks & Minerals.

Mary Pott Foundation delivers new books

Hamilton Elementary students excited to receive them at school year end

The Mary Pott Foundation, set up to honor longtime Hamilton Community Schools teacher Mary Pott, who passed away 16 years ago, has given back to Hamilton Elementary for many years.

This year they tried something new: book talks and a chance for each third grader to choose a new book of their own.

The books were delivered at the end of May to much excitement.

Thank you Mary Pott Foundation!

"Each Will Thrive" unveiled

Our new strategic vision video was released in early May. Produced by three high school students - Will Baker, Jon Cherron, and Ryan Poe - with the help of Teacher Mark Behnke, this incredible narrative introduces our new instructional model: Each Will Thrive.

Here's the YouTube link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCUJARe--fc&feature=youtu.be**

What is an instructional model? Our blueprint for creating a modern learning environment within Hamilton Community Schools. We know the process won't happen overnight, but will require multiple years of learning about the components to implement successfully.

EACH WILL

thrive