

Cameron School District

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Notes From Mr. Leschisin

By now, our taxpayers have had ample time to look at their property tax bills from 2023. As it is in many states, most of the funding for Wisconsin public schools comes via property taxes. In Cameron specifically, roughly 16% of operational funding comes from local taxes. While nothing is simple when discussing school funding, there is one clear and short answer when it comes to the school tax increase from 2023. The increase did not come as a result of our April 2023 referendum. For the current school year, the District levied \$2,181,040 specifically for debt payments. This compares to \$2,184,348 that was levied in the previous year. As such, the amount of school tax stayed constant, and this had no tax impact within our school district.

In short, the school tax increase in Cameron is a result of the State of Wisconsin allowing districts, such as Cameron, who were collecting \$10,000 per student for operational purposes to increase to \$11,000 per student. In comparison, the following amounts are collected by neighboring school districts as compared to the \$11,000 in Cameron:

Cumberland = \$12,480.78

Barron = \$11,721.81

Chetek/Weyerhaeuser = \$12,196.34

Rice Lake = \$11,951.60

As with many places within our society,

the pandemic created additional strains to public school funding. In 2020 the ESSER I Grant Program was established to provide funds to help our public schools respond to COVID-19. However, in 2021 the Wisconsin Legislature passed a budget that froze public school revenue increases for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. This freeze forced schools to rely on the federal COVID funding for operational purposes and, in effect, created a fiscal cliff for our Wisconsin school districts. The recent per student increase of \$1,000 in operational funding was provided largely to make up for the loss of COVID funding for our public schools and is the reason for the 2023 property tax increase.

Since Act 10 was passed in 2010, several other funding decisions at the state level have negatively impacted public school funding. Annual increases have generally been minimal and in some cases have been frozen. In 2010-11, the Cameron School District received \$9,623 per student within the state's revenue limit process. Fast forward to the 2023-24 school year and Cameron is at \$11,000 per student. Over this thirteen-year period, Cameron increased by a mere \$1377 per pupil within this funding process. This has amounted to an annual increase of roughly \$90,000 per year in general revenue for the Cameron School District. A \$90,000 increase presently amounts to a less than one percent (.6 %) increase in revenue for our district. This in no way comes close to covering annual inflationary operational increases.

Upcoming dates and events

March 23-28 HS Music Trip to San Antonio TX

March 25-29 NO SCHOOL-Spring Break

April 8 & 9 FBLA State @ Green Bay

April 12 F Listing run and letter sent to parents

April 17 FBLA Blood Drive

April 19 & 20 State Forensics

April 27 PROM @ The Church Barn

May 4 State Solo & Ensemble @ UWEC

May 6 Spring HS Concert Band 6:00 pm

May 13 Spring Choir Concert 6 pm

May 15 Senior Banquet and Awards Ceremony

May 17 Community Service Day

May 21 Last Senior Day

May 22 Senior Trip

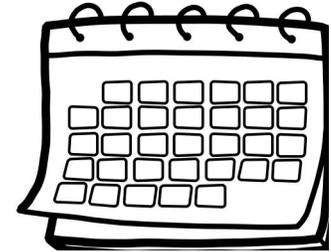
May 24 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – 7:00 pm

May 27 NO SCHOOL- Memorial Day

May 27 Memorial day Service 11 a.m.

May 29 Last day of school for students

May 30 Snow day make up (if needed)



UW-Stout Teach Day

by Caitlin Quarders

Future teachers!

Students in the high school hopped on a bus and headed for UW-Stout to attend their biannual Teach Day event. Prior to attending, students registered for one of the education cluster groups that the school provides: art education, early childhood education, family and consumer sciences, marketing and business education, math education, special education, and technology education. Once at the event, the nearly 100 students from eleven different schools

went into breakout groups to discuss the specifics of their education cluster.

The breakout groups were led by active college students of each education cluster. They told the students about everything regarding college life, joining clubs, jobs on campus, food in the cafeteria, and of course, the workload. Each group had to choose representatives to give a presentation on the project they did in the breakout rooms. There were a few groups that made videos

explaining their field, and others did service projects for the community.

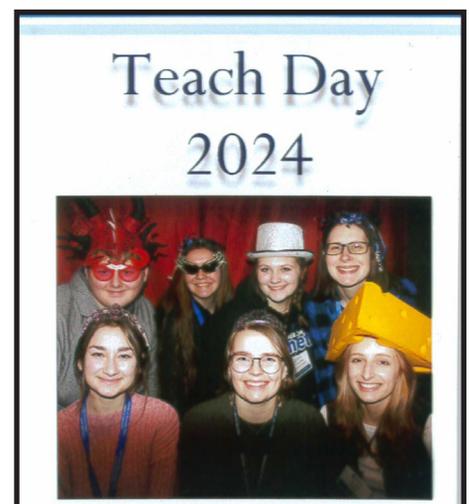
In addition to the break

out groups, students were given tours of the campus, they received plenty of UW-Stout merchandise, and they had a nacho bar lunch!

Our students greatly enjoyed the experience, and they would highly recommend that future students attend if the opportunity is still available. Even if you don't want to be an educator, the trip provides a free opportunity to explore a college and talk to active college students.



Photobomb! Mrs. Adams and Ms. Wanink accompanied the students on their education exploration fieldtrip to UW-Stout.



Sports Update

by Keara Butterfield

This winter we would like to acknowledge sports of all ages! The elementary school at this time has no sports going on.

7th grade boys basketball had an



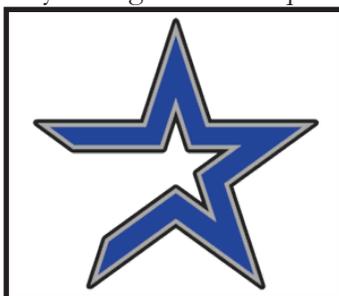
amazing season with 9 wins and 1 loss. They had such a big team of 15 kids, that they had to split into three, where two teams would play a night. They were coached by Mr. Brett Sauve. The 8th graders were coached by Mr. David Martin. They worked hard the entire season to gain valuable skills and experiences used out on the court. This season the 8th graders had six wins. The 7th grade girls are coached by Mr. Brett Sauve. They beat some pretty big teams this year and had a record of 11-1. Way to go! The 8th grade girls team is coached by Mr. Charlie Rohety and they had a successful season as well. So far the middle school wrestlers, made up of 13 boys and 4 girls, have competed in four meets. Six middle schoolers participated in the regional qualifier, and four of them made it. Congratulations to Corbyn Holdemen, Valencia De La Torre, Javen Nord, Jason Saffert and

good luck. The middle school dance team competed at the Prairie Farm Dance Competition and placed 1st. They also performed at some middle school basketball games. They are coached by Mrs. Melissa Longmeyer and Ms. Angelica Greenwold.

This year Cameron High School wrestling grew with the addition



of girls to the team. Seven boys advanced from regionals to sectionals, they were Zach Zappa, Sawyer Ebner, Connor Carlson, Westin Candler, Garik Block, Colt Mickolon, and Lukas Simenson. Five girls advanced from sectionals to state. Keara Butterfield, Keirra Scheubel, Grace Dexter, Reyanna Ladd, and Alyssa Sagen. And for the first time ever we had a girl place at state! Keirra Sheubel came back to Cameron with a 4th place finish. The boys basketball came back with these season highlights. They are conference champs, losing one game against Ladysmith. They were regional champs beating Spring Valley. They battled against the Unity Eagles and won to advance to sectional finals where they lost against the Aquinas Blue-



golds. We thank the seniors for their time and effort



put out on the court. They are Kory Murray, Tyson Lucas, Brady Quinn, Kobe Sevals, and Tyrise Brooks. The girls basketball team is under new management this year, coached by Miss Chole Wanink and Mr. Joe Leschian. The girls won 20 games and only lost six. They placed second in conference with a three way tie between us, Hayward and Barron. The girls played hard and made it to regional finals, losing in overtime to Phillips. This year there were no seniors, so we expect to see you all back next year! The high school dance team competed in three dance competitions and came back with multiple awards. They also performed at halftime of multiple home basketball games. They competed at WACPC Regionals where they missed state by 6 points. We thank our lone senior Aubrie Valdez!

Thank you to all the athletes from all 3 schools for your time and effort put into your sports!



Basketball Regionals

by Katie Shilts

Once again, the Cameron boys basketball team had their season end in the sectional final game, one game away from State.

Cameron received a two seed in the Division Four playoff bracket and had a first round bye. After defeating Shell Lake 69-42, they hosted Spring Valley in the regional final game. After pulling away after halftime, they cruised to a 75-54 win.

Next they took on Unity, a familiar postseason foe. The past two years, Cameron has gotten the best of the Eagles in a sectional semifinal game, and this year was no different. In front of a sold-out crowd of more than 1,500 people, the Comets beat Unity 61-45.

On Saturday, March 9, the Comets and their fans traveled to Eau Claire North High School to take

on the Aquinas Bugolds for a trip to the State tournament in Madison. Despite only being down by three points with three minutes left in the game, the game did not go Cameron's way and they lost 62-46.

Even though the season did not end the way they wanted it to, the basketball team had a very successful season to be proud of. They won three regional titles in a row for the first time in school history. Head Coach Troy LaVallie wants to commend the team on a great season and thank the seniors for their contributions to the program. "This group of boys represented Cameron so well and with so much heart and hustle! Thanks to our seniors, you will be missed. What a fun ride you took us all on the past few years—thank you!"

Congratulations to the Cameron boys basketball team on yet another great season.



Regional champs. Mr. Troy LaVallie and the other coaching staff are extremely proud of their boys.

Lakeland Music Conference

by Nicole Kargus

The yearly Lakeland Music Conference honors band once again took place on Monday, November 13. Cameron had 28 all conference nominations. The conference band was held at New Auburn High School.

The students are as follows:

Piccolo: Nicole Kargus

Flutes: Lauren Pearson and Reyna Ladd

Oboe: Hailey Hince

Clarinets: Sam Bryngelson, Kaylynn Ewald, and Matt Pond

Alto Saxophones: Anna Baribeau, Jamyne Schofield and Hannah Tadlock

Trumpets: Maddie Gilles, Katie Shilts, Ashlyn LaBrie, Jordyn Lundequam, and Anthony Demulling

French Horns: Jacob Lembke and Jami Folz

Trombones: Seppie Pica, Kyra Schofield, Abby Kuchera, and Dakota Thompson

Euphonium: Kierra Schuebel

Tubas: Jayton Silvernail and Garrett Givens

Percussion: JJ Martinson, Tanner Saffert, Ellie Gerber, and Aiden Hawkins.

Tasked with playing four different pieces of music, they worked hard



Cameron musicians. The Cameron High School students loved the opportunity to play with many other students from across the area.

and performed with a variety of students from other Lakeland Music Conference schools. With a day of practice with a new conductor and fellow musicians, they performed that night at the New Auburn High School for families and other attendees.

Multi-Talented

by Jacob Meznarich

Although Cameron High School volleyball ended a long time ago, there is still more to say about these athletes. They had a tough schedule throughout the season and still ended up winning eleven of their games. The volleyball team boasts six seniors that are going to graduate. Seniors Jami Folz and Kallei Stovern were All-Conference Honorable Mentions. Junior Lauren Pearson was selected First Team All-Conference for her efforts.

These were not the only awards that were given out for the season though. Every season the Wisconsin Volleyball Coaches Association grants awards to players that prove



Playoffs. The Cameron High School volleyball team lines up for their Regional game against Ladysmith.

themselves not only on the court, but in the classroom as well. In order to receive All-Academic honors you need to maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher throughout the volleyball season. Seniors Keara Butterfield, Jami Folz, Sommer Pittman, Kal-

lei Stovern, and Mykala Stovern; juniors Layla Gagner, Jaden Jackson, and Lauren Pearson; sophomores Natalie Guider and Jadyn Siemers; and freshmen Kira Cook and Taryn Schnider all received this award for their season.

Abundant Activities

by Nicole Kargus

Despite the name of the day, this year's Winter Carnival was sunny and warm! On January 31, all high school students were given the opportunity to attend one of seven fun activities instead of a regular school day. The available activities were bowling, touring college campuses, ice skating, roller skating, ice fishing, going to Action City, or going to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.



Starstruck. Five of the band members and band director Mr. Halverson get to meet one of the actors of the Jersey Boys musical.

Bowling at Rands Lanes in Rice Lake provided three games, pizza, and pop for the students. Ice skating at the barron ice arena also provided free pizza for students. Students who prefer roller skates could instead go to Skate City if they wished. If students chose to go with Ms. Abbatocola and Mrs. Hagen-Salm, they had the chance to visit the UW Eau Claire campus and Chippewa Valley Technical College. Ice fishing brought along the chance of winning a prize in addition to the free lunch. Action City provided lots of fun opportunities including the fun center, trampoline park, and all-you-can-eat pizza and pop for lunch. For the second year now, choir and band students could also attend the Chanhassen Dinner Theater where they could enjoy a meal and watch a live performance of Jersey Boys.



Lacing up. The high schoolers are getting their ice skates on before they start heading out to the ice rink.

As Cameron continues to provide this fun day in the coming years, we hope that students will be able to have an enjoyable time and take the given opportunity to make new memories with friends that will last a lifetime.

Powerlifting

by Abigail Altizer

As the 2023-2024 Cameron powerlifting season is coming to an end, we got to say that it was another successful year. The powerlifting team, now in its sixth year, had 31 members compete in regional meets. Of these 31, six qualified for the Wisconsin High School Powerlifting Associations State Meet. One impressive young lady took home a medal.

Powerlifting consists of three different lifts; bench press, squat, and deadlift. Each athlete gets three attempts in these three different lifts. The best of three attempts of each lift are combined for each athlete. They then compete against other athletes in their own weight class. In order to qualify for the state competition, there are predetermined standards for each gender and weight

class.

Osceola, New Richmond, Elk Mound, and Cameron is where the Cameron Powerlifting team competed in regional meets. The 2023-2024 team consisted of 31 members including 6 seniors (Sean Oliver, Dan Nichols, Westin Candler, Logan Simenson, Lucas Simenson, Jamyne Schofield, and Caden Daniells).

The following competed at the state powerlifting competition: Anna Baribeau, Alyssa Sagen, Kierra Scheubel, Taya Jossart, Jacob Meznarich, and Garrik Block. They all performed very well. A new personal record was set by Jacob Meznarich, with a 275 pound deadlift. Alyssa also set new personal records in every lift. A new bench press and squat personal record was set by Kierra, Anna moved up 13

spots from last year's placing. Garrik moved to 6th and just missed the podium. Ending up on the podium, medaling in fourth place in the 114 pound weight class was Taya Jossart.

All six of the state qualifiers, along with other returning athletes, including freshman, will carry on the successful tradition of the Cameron powerlifting. The future is looking very bright, Go Comets!



Taking home the gold. Elk Mound Regional. Jacob Meznarich, Kierra Scheubel, Julien Foster, Dan Nichols, John Raisch, Taya Jossart, Ava Lussan, Anna Baribeau.

Public Speaking Scares Us All

by Keara Butterfield

Forensics is all about public speaking. And did you know most Americans have a fear of speaking in front of crowds? This year 37 kids chose to rise above that fear and join the Cameron Forensic team. Forensics is where you have a speaking piece and you go in front of a judge and other peers doing the same category as you. The judges listen to you and proceed to judge you in four sections, and each is out of five points. Making the highest score to be 20. You have to do this three



Bold Speakers. This group of kids decided to stand up to the fear of public speaking. Meet the 2024 Forensics team. Thank you to the Barron News-Sheild for the picture.

times in one night. In Cameron, we have 6 different categories in which we compete in. To go on to district, kids need to receive two scores of 16 or higher. Then to go on to state from district, kids need to receive

two scores of 21 or higher. Everyone advanced from sub-districts in Chetek, to districts in Eau Claire. 34 people advanced on to state. This year, state will be on April 19-20 in Madison. Good luck forensic kids!

Vamos a Casa Mexicana

by Caitlin Quarders

Cameron High School's Spanish IV club hopped on a bus and headed for Casa!

After six years of Spanish with Mrs. Tamara Pacholke, the class earned a trip to Rice Lake.

First stop, Casa Mexicana! The waiters were asked to speak solely in Spanish, so the students had to put their skills to the test.

Second stop, Los Angeles! The crew also stopped at a Hispanic store to buy different types of candy and drinks.

And to top it all off, the group each receives twelve college credits for completing the course!



CTE Month

by Abigail Altizer

February is considered Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. It raises awareness of the role of CTE in readying learners for career success. CTE largely focuses on practice and hands-on experience so that students can engage with others and learn more about their future careers.

CTE teaches students life and career skills at the same time. Teaching these skills can start as early as kindergarten through post-secondary institutions. With CTE, students can develop a specific set of skills that are open to a range of real-world situations which is making them

employable in a variety of fields.

CTE is becoming very essential throughout the education world. It is also taught by teachers and instructors with particular experience. We would like to give recognition to the teachers here at Cameron High School involved in CTE: Mr. Jeffery Ladd, agricultural science; Mrs. Laurie Adams, family and consumer education; Mrs. Angie Leschisin, art;



**CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!**

CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION MONTH

**CTE
EMPOWERS
STUDENTS
FOR COLLEGE,
CAREER AND
BEYOND!**

#CAMERONCOMETS

Mrs. Emily Taylor, business; Mr. Jay Cornell, tech ed. We thank all the teachers involved in CTE month.

Helping Hands

by Nicole Kargus

Community members and the Cameron Spanish Club joined together to help many people in need and make an impact not just in town but around the world.

Along with the many other things that the Spanish club does to stay busy, on Friday, February 16, six of the club members volunteered with the club's leader, Mrs. Pacholke, at Rice Lake High School from 5-7



Lead. *The Spanish club goes to the Rice Lake High School to volunteer with Feed My Starving Children.*

Game Time

by Kennedy Ladehoff

Many people go to sporting events, but not many will be able to be recognized during the game's halftime. Cameron Middle School's student council was able to attend the Milwaukee Bucks basketball game on March fifth. They were even able to be recognized during halftime. The student council received an award along with recognition.

The Spirit of Excellence award was given to the student council while they were being recognized. In January, the student council submitted material that presented Cameron Middle School as a great example of leadership, service, sportsmanship, and positive school culture. This

for a MobilePack. After listening to how the process works, they donned gloves and hairnets and got ready to pack the bags of food. Joined with many other people of all ages, they were stationed at a table and packed many boxes of food. Along with volunteering some of their own time, they also raised money to donate to the organization.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a charitable nonprofit organization, with a mission to, "Feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit." They travel across the United States to places where volunteers hand-pack the meals, consisting of soy, protein, veggies, and rice. The meals, once packaged and boxed, are sent around the world to children who are starving.

If anyone is willing to donate or

submission allowed them to receive the prestigious Spirit of Excellence award in their region. This award was given out during halftime of the Milwaukee Bucks game.

Receiving such an award isn't easy, but the student council admirably proved themselves worthy. The student council enjoyed their time at



Hard at work. *The students work together to fill as many bags as they can in the available time.*

is interested in learning more about FMSC, you can visit the website at <https://www.fmsc.org/>. Thank you to all parents and teachers who encourage the Cameron students to participate in many different community services and clubs. Additionally, a big thank you to Mrs. Pacholke who puts much of her time to helping the students and leads many fun events.



Basketball game. *The Cameron Middle School student council attends the Milwaukee Bucks basketball game to receive the Spirit of Excellence award.*

the game as well. The memories they made while receiving recognition are sure to last a lifetime. Congratulations to the Cameron Middle School student council for the award!

Superb Spellers

by Caitlin Quarders



Kudos to our stellar spellers!

A special shoutout to Ryder Armstrong, the 5th grader who emerged victorious as the 2023-2024 Spelling Bee champion!



Spelling bee contestants. Elliot Duff, Wesley Martinson, Ryder Armstrong, and Stevie St. John competed for the title of champion.

Dude, Be Nice

by Jacob Meznarich

The Cameron Middle School student council along with others planned and sponsored an awesome event for the students as well as to honor the recently retired custodian, Kenny Keef. On January 31st, the students were called into the auditorium for an event of the year. The students were met with some famous people for their Dude, Be Nice kickoff. Former pro football player and motivational speaker Cory Greenwood spoke to the students about life and how to deal with some of the problems. Some of the main points of his speech were the following: show who you really are, have someone that can catch you if things start to go bad, life has lots of highs and lows, and we should make



Rock on. American Idol singer Hannah Nicolaisen kicks off the event with a song.

school a place where everyone wants to go to.

Cory Greenwood, however, wasn't the only esteemed person to be present at their event. American Idol singer Hannah Nicolaisen got

students and staff into a good mood by singing to them. After the inspirational speech, she got back on the stage and sang to everyone to conclude the day the students won't likely forget.

Elementary Notes

4-Year-Old All Aboard Preschool Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

Cameron Elementary School is compiling a list of potential 4-year-old kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Children who will be four on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to attend. Please call 458-5710 to receive registration papers.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

Cameron Elementary School is compiling a list of potential kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year. Students that do not currently attend the Cameron School District All Aboard Preschool should contact the elementary office for registration paperwork at 715-458-5710. Children who will be five on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to attend. Students that currently attend All Aboard Preschool received their kindergarten packets in February and do not need to call unless their student will not be attending school at Cameron Elementary next year.

Skyward Family Access

Reminder – Keep important numbers and emails updated in the Skylert tab in Family Access.

The Cameron School District will be using the Skylert/School Messenger that is tied to the Family Access/Skyward student database. This messaging system allows the District to quickly send out notifications in an emergency situation, school closing and reminders from individual schools.

Contact the elementary office if you have questions or problems logging in.

Famous Artists

by Kennedy Ladehoff

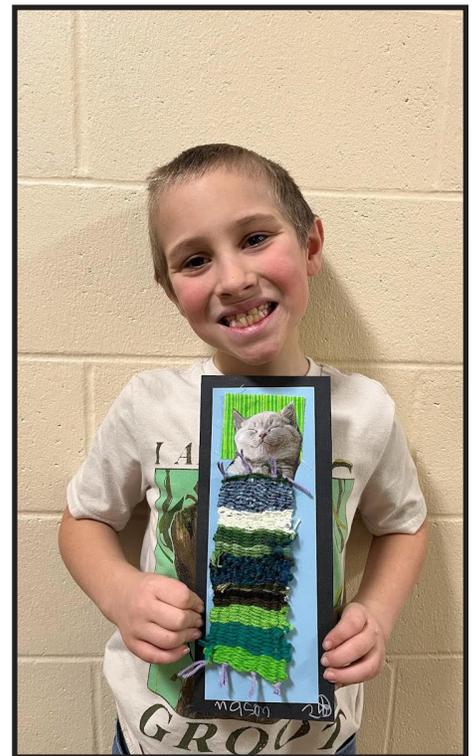
It takes a lot of creativity to make art. Elementary students are naturally creative, so they demonstrate



Owl art. An elementary school student made an amazing art piece of an owl.

this in the art room. The students of Cameron Elementary School are great artists and they are recognized for it. Some Famous Artists of the Month are selected among these students.

Students who demonstrate high levels of craftsmanship and creativity in their art pieces can be named as a Famous Artist of the Month. Various students can receive this title every month. The most recent set of students to achieve this honor are Wesley LeRoy, Liam Crotteau, Mason Mathews, Talia Maki-Foust, Tori Hollingsworth, Harper Swan, and Charlton Longmire. Congratulations to these recipients who were selected in February! Congratulations to any other students who have received this honor over the course of the year as well!



Cute kitten. Mason Mathews demonstrates his weaving skills in a kitten art piece.

Youth Art Month

by Kayla Schullo

Youth Art Month is celebrated throughout March every year. Art allows people to express themselves in many different ways that is unique to them. Creating helps ease the mind and clarify your thoughts. To showcase all the wonderful artists from Cameron School District, Mrs. Angie Leschisin and Mrs. Sara Cornell displayed pieces at Northwood Tech college. It was a grand showcase with over 300 outstanding pieces. The students were proud to show off what they made to friends, family, and others. We are looking forward to continue this tradition in the future years, and excited to see what these amazing kids create!



Seuss-Mania

by Kayla Schullo

“Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive who is You-er than You!” - Dr. Seuss, Happy Birthday to You! March second is a day widely celebrated by many schools to honor Theodor Seuss Geisel, also known as, Dr.



Live in action! Mrs. Coy's students celebrated by immersing themselves in the BACC's presentation of the *Seussical*.

Seuss. This day is also nationally known as Read Across America day. It is celebrated to recognize the importance of reading. Reading is not only a form of entertainment, it also helps increase creativity, cognitive development, vocabulary, mem-

ory, and concentration. To celebrate these national holidays Mrs. Coy's first graders went to the Dr. Seuss play at the BACC. In school, the 4k



Kids in the Hat. Cameron Elementary students celebrate Dr. Seuss Day by wearing the famous red and white striped hat and crafting their own Horton the Elephant.

classes could be seen reading some of the many works of Seuss and getting in touch with their crafty side.

School District of Cameron

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Our school, where staff, students excel... parents and community care.

A Hundred Days in!

by Kayla Schullo

With their foot in the door, Cameron Elementary School students celebrate their first hundred days at school. This milestone is important because students are more than half way through the school year. It originated in 1979 by a teacher, Lynn Taylor. She believed that it would help her students understand the concrete lesson of the number one hundred. Kids enjoy looking back and seeing their progress, growth, and achievements throughout their time in school. Mrs. Matyska challenged her students to complete a hundred acts of kindness. To say the least, they went above and beyond. They did things such as: hold-



Holiday One Hundred. Mrs. Matyska's class celebrating throughout their various hundred related activities.

others, and thanking their teachers. Other activities held were: cup stacking, crown making, and chart

analyzing. Congratulations to all the students who have completed their first hundred days of school!