

# Hamilton Innovator

Mr. Pfeiffer, Principal

Mr. Fuller, Assistant Principal

Mrs. MacDonald, School Administration Manager, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Site Coordinator

## Here's What's Happening Around Hamilton!

**Kindergarten** – Our kindergarteners have been working hard learning our letters and sounds! We will soon begin *KinderRoots*. Children will be getting shared stories to read and learn literary strategies so they will become strong readers. We have also been learning about different types of bridges. We will soon become civil engineers and design a bridge with our teams! We can't wait to start building! **AWARDS- 12/18 at 9:45am**

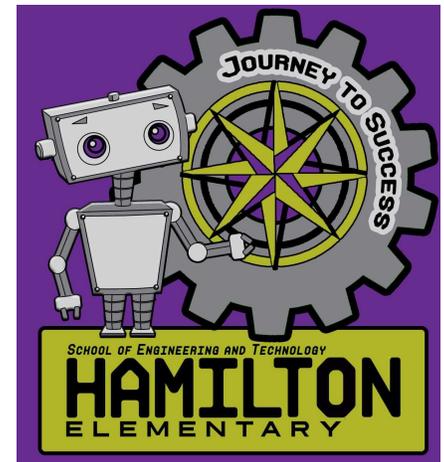
**First Grade**– First graders are packing our bags for a trip around the world! During the next few weeks, we will explore cultures, traditions, and celebrations around the world. Check their 'passport' and ask your learner about the countries they studied. During the winter break, please continue to practice math facts and reading aloud with your child to ensure success. In January, we will observe stars with the Star Lab and on a field trip to the SSC Planetarium. Thank you, Parents, for turning in payments and permission slips. An extra THANK you for volunteer chaperones! **AWARDS- 12/18 at 9:00am**

**Second Grade**– Our second graders are beginning the Engineering Design Process to create a MAGLEV train! Using force, energy, and magnets, the students are working as transportation engineers to create a model train that levitates and safely commutes. Finally, during this holiday break, please make sure your child is reading at least 30 minutes a day to keep up with our fluency goals! Have a great holiday season! **AWARDS- 12/19 at 8:45am**

**Third Grade**– Our third graders are looking forward to an exciting December. We are gearing up for the second iReady diagnostic test in both reading and math. Speak to your student about trying their best. The progress they show can help determine how they will perform on the FSA at the end of the year. In science, we are designing a lighting system for an Egyptian tomb. Students are applying their knowledge of light and reflection to light up the hieroglyphs in their tomb. We are also very excited about our field trip to the Kennedy Space Center. Please sign the permission slip and send it back before we go on break. Third grade teachers wish you a very happy holiday season! **AWARDS- 12/19 at 9:30am**

**Fourth Grade**– Fourth grade students had a wonderful time at the Orlando Science Center! They learned valuable information to support our engineering curriculum. Please continue to support students in completing homework. Students can sometimes start to neglect homework at this time of year. Have students continue to read over break. Strong reading skills help to improve scores across the curriculum. **AWARDS- 12/20 at 9:45am**

**Fifth Grade**– 5th grade is learning space science, and using their understanding of stars and moon phases from previous years to understand our solar system, the Milky Way galaxy, and the universe. Students will also get an opportunity to visit the Star Lab for an up-close space experience. In math, we are continuing our work with multiplication and division of decimals. In ELA, we are working on opinion writing and understanding mythology texts. Please make sure your child is reading at least 20 minutes during the break!  
**AWARDS- 12/20 at 9:00am**



## Upcoming Events

### November 29 - December 7

Hamilton PTA Food Drive

### December 7

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night  
Choir Performance, 7:00PM

### December 8

G.R.E.E.N. Space Garden 9-12PM  
Sanford Christmas Parade, 6:00PM

### December 13

Hamilton Winter Showcase, 6PM

### December 18 - December 20

**Early Release; Dismissal @ 1PM**  
**No 21<sup>st</sup> Century or Tutorial**

### December 21 - January 6

Winter Break, No School

### January 15 & January 17

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip-KSC

### January 21

No School; MLK Parade, 9AM

### January 24

SAC Meeting, 5:00PM  
APTT, Grades 3-5, 6:00PM  
Black History Show

### January 26

Robotics Team Competition

### January 31

APTT, Grades K-2, 6:00PM  
Black History Show

## News and Notes

### Dismissal Information

We have seen an increase in the number of students not picked up on time, particularly on our early release Wednesdays. School dismisses at 3:05 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 2:05 p.m. on Wednesday. Parents, it is your responsibility to arrange for your child(ren) to be picked up at the designated dismissal times. If you need to change your child's dismissal, you must do so in writing in your child's planner. Only **emergency changes** should be called into the front office, and not to the teacher's classroom.

### Music News

In Music this month, our 5th graders will be engineering a working instrument as the culmination of our unit on science and sound. 4th grade has started playing recorder again, so time to find those recorders from last year! 3rd graders are working hard on reading music notation so that they can begin recorder in January. Don't miss our performance groups - Drumline, Choir, Orff, and Dance - as well as some great 3rd-5th grade artists, at our Winter Show on Dec. 13 at 6:00PM.

### Sunshine State Book Brag Tag Contest

Our 3rd-5th grade students have been doing an outstanding job reading this year's Sunshine State Books and earning brag tags. Each earned brag tag represents the SSYRA book they read and is given to them by an administrator or resource teacher that also enjoyed that same book. Keep reading, Hamilton!

### Title I Information

Families and Students, we hope that you are closer to your 60-day SMART goal from APTT #1. Learning gains will be shared at APTT #2 and new activities added to support foundational skills in reading and math. Grades 3 – 5 will meet on Thursday, January 24 and Grades PreK – 2 on Thursday, January 31. We will kickoff our Black History Month at both evening events. We look forward to seeing you at APTT #2!

### Magnet News

**Hour of Code!** Hamilton is excited to celebrate the Hour of Code! We will be joining other SCPS schools in a contest to try and win a coding package for our school. The Hour of Code takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week. This is a unique opportunity to be a part of a global focus on computer science. This year's Hour of Code event will take place any time the week of **December 3rd through 9th**. Our goal is to "out-code" the competition at all other SCPS schools!

We will have our very own Digital Star Lab operational for all of our grade levels to enjoy! Kindergarten will learn about day and night. First grade will observe that there are more stars than anyone can count. Second grade will compare patterns in nature. Third grade will explore stars and the sun. Fourth grade will observe patterns in the stars, as well as the phases of the moon and movements of the sun, moon, and the stars. Fifth grade will explore objects in our solar system, such as the sun, planets, moons, asteroids, and comets.

### Parent's Corner

**PTA**—Thank you to all the families that came out to movie night! It was a fun time! If you haven't joined PTA yet, it's not too late. Dues are \$6.00. We would love to have more families involved! Please come join us for PTA Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A on December 7<sup>th</sup>. **For more information, check out Hamilton PTA's Facebook page.**  
[www.facebook.com/Hamilton-Elementary-PTA](http://www.facebook.com/Hamilton-Elementary-PTA)

Families: Help us stock the Hamilton Food Pantry in time for the holidays. The grade with the most donations between Nov 29 and Dec 7 will win a prize! Here are items in need: canned tuna, canned chicken, body wash, shampoo, grape jelly (plastic jars), pasta, pasta sauce (plastic jars), and cereal. Send donations to the classroom and place in designated boxes. These items will go directly to serving Hamilton Elementary families in need.



### Recent Highlights

#### "Let Us" grow our own food!

3<sup>rd</sup> grade Innovators harvested their first lettuce crop and then had a lettuce tasting party. We sent the remaining harvest home to over 20 Hamilton families to enjoy!

#### Want to see more highlights?

Have you "liked us" on Facebook?

<https://www.facebook.com/hamiltonelem/>

Are you "following us" on Twitter? [@hamiltonengtech](https://twitter.com/hamiltonengtech)

Have you checked out our website lately?

[www.hamilton.scps.k12.fl.us](http://www.hamilton.scps.k12.fl.us)