

**CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT  
"Make a Mark, Make A Difference:  
2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year**

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**October 2017**

**Unified Sports**

All students were given the opportunity to sign up to be mentors for soccer, basketball or track. The first season is fall soccer and students will participate in weekly practices and two soccer games. Mr. Largy will host a Unified Sports informational Night for parents of students who participate or are interested in participating. The date for the Unified Sports Information Night has not yet been determined.

**Parent Conference Sign Ups**

This year Cawley Middle School will be changing the way parents sign up for parent conferences. Rather than having parents call and make appointments, parents will receive an email with a link to sign up for conferences. Grade six and seven parents will receive the link by email on October 11 and grade eight parents will receive the link by email on October 18. Parent conferences are scheduled for November 14. If a parent does not have access to an email or the link they will still be able to call the office and set up an appointment.

**ImPACT Concussion Testing**

On September 29, Cawley Middle School will be offering ImPACT testing for all students free of cost. ImPACT testing is a computerized exam that measures cognitive functions such as memory, processing, and reaction time. This test is used by healthcare professionals to determine a child's readiness to return to play after a head injury. This first test provides a baseline that is used for comparison if a head injury is suspected. At press time over 50 students were signed up for testing.

**Firefighters Challenge**

For over twenty years either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders have participated in the Hooksett Middle School Firefighters Challenge. Firefighters Challenge was created as a way to continue the process of educating children about fire safety in an age-appropriate way. Members of the Hooksett Permanent Firefighters Association volunteer their time and expertise to work with Cawley 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a very special event that seventh grade students and teachers look forward to every year.

Homeroom classes will compete against each other in individual categories, as well as the title of overall winner. Firefighters Challenge consists of preparatory work in homerooms including the selection of a boy and girl runner, and a selection of an alternate to run a modified obstacle course that is used for Firefighter training and certification. There is a great deal of decision-making and the democratic process

flourishes in this setting. This is a tremendous team-building and leadership opportunity for our students.

This year's Firefighters Challenge will be held Friday, October 20. That morning the runners and alternates will meet with the firemen for a pre-event check-in. The firemen will join eighth grade students for lunch. At 11:30 am the homerooms will march outside to the soccer field in the "Parade of Colors." The runners will each run the obstacle course while the homerooms perform their cheers and songs, which will encourage runners to do their best. The unified arts teachers will judge all the categories, and the scores will be tallied. After the runners have completed the obstacle course the entire class will gather where presentations will be made including the announcement of the winning boy and girl runner and the winning homeroom. All parents are invited to attend as spectators.

### **Blue Ribbon Volunteer Award**

Cawley Middle School was selected as a Blue Ribbon Award winning school for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Cawley Middle School will be recognized on October 25 at a special event in Concord. The award recognizes the plethora of volunteers and hours they dedicated to our programs and students at Cawley Middle School. Tanya Tarbell was the school's volunteer coordinator and she did an outstanding job organizing and getting volunteers.

### **Summer Reading Program Results/Student Choice Awards**

There was an *incredible* response to our summer reading program with over 230 responses regarding summer reading and 26 students who earned VIP status at the Student Choice Awards on October 13. All students will be voting for their favorite books in each category for the summer reading list. Eighth grade math classes will be tabulating the results to be announced LIVE at the red carpet event. Art students are creating the logo and industrial tech classes are designing the trophies. Video Production classes are creating the nominee videos and other students are writing the scripts and designing the Hall of Fame.

Please contact Mrs. Piccolo with any questions: [lpiccolo@sau15.net](mailto:lpiccolo@sau15.net)

### **Red Ribbon Week**

Red Ribbon Week is October 23 - October 27. Students and staff will participate in a week full of activities that will bring awareness to the benefits of making healthy lifestyle choices and remaining drug-free. The week will focus on the Cawley Community taking a school-wide stance against drugs.

The national theme for the week is "Your Future is Key So Stay Drug-Free". Students will receive themed stickers during the week to display their commitment to remaining drug-free.

Each day a teacher, student or community member will read an announcement that promotes healthy living and provides facts and information about drug awareness.

Posters will be displayed throughout the school to promote a healthy lifestyle, including a bulletin board in the main hallway created by Cawley Middle School students.

Throughout the week, Cawley Middle School counselors will be in the cafeteria during lunch periods. Students will be encouraged to make the commitment to a substance free lifestyle. The Video Production class will be presenting information on HawksNews to the Cawley Community and the health classes will have lessons focused on bringing awareness to the subject.

On Friday, October 27 students and staff will be participate in a RED OUT, in which all members of our Cawley community will wear red as symbol of our whole school's commitment to raise awareness regarding the short and long term effects of drug use.

### **Athletics**

The Cawley Athletic Program has begun with fall interscholastic sports. Cross Country practices has already had several meets. Our runners have competed at a high level at each of the meets. Both soccer teams have started their games. The girls are 2-0 and they boys played tough against South Meadow in their first match and drew a 3-3 tie. The field hockey team has been working hard learning the game and won their first game of the season.

Girls and Boys basketball as well as cheer tryouts will all begin on Monday, Oct.30. Specific days and times will be posted on the website and in the cafeteria over the next few weeks.

### **Performing Arts**

The jazz band began rehearsal after school on Monday, September 18 and is open to all students. They will be playing a wide variety of music including swing, rock, Latin, and other genres. Students will also be learning how to improvise cohesive solos which boosts confidence, develops creativity, and challenges developing musicianship. The jazz band will have some unique performance opportunities this year, in addition to the annual performance for the Hooksettites in May.

Hawk-Apella rehearsals will start up in October and 10-15 choral students will be invited to participate based on in-class assessments over the next couple of weeks. Last year the small ensemble performed at our school concerts and other special events.

The 2nd annual Coffee House will take place on October 25 at 6:30 pm. Students in the Performing Arts program will share their musical interests and talents through pieces that they have selected and rehearsed independently or in small groups.

**Upcoming Key Dates to Note at Cawley:**

- October 9: No School, Columbus Day  
October 10 – 14: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Progress Checks  
October 11: 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Receive Email Link to Sign Up for Parent Conferences  
October 13: High School Selection Forms Due  
October 13: Student Choice Reading Awards Assembly, 1:00 pm  
October 13: Dance, 6:30 – 9:00 pm  
October 17: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Receive Email Link to Sign Up for Parent Conferences  
October 18: High School Confirmation Letters Mailed  
October 20: Firefighters Challenge, 11:30 am  
October 23: School Picture Re-Takes, 8:00 am  
October 25: Fine Arts Coffee House, 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal