

**CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
"Make a Mark, Make A Difference:
2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year
February 2018**



The National Writing Project in New Hampshire

Congratulations to seventh graders Makenna True and Janvi Thorn for being awarded the silver key in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, Middle/High School Voices and the National Writing Project in New Hampshire. Seventh grade language arts teacher Ashley Jones help coordinate the submissions of the "This I Believe" essays.

The committee received a record number of submissions this year. A panel of New Hampshire writers, teachers and literary professionals selected both students' work from among the many outstanding works submitted as the most exceptional in the state. New Hampshire students sent more than 780 submissions to The Scholastic Writing Awards this year. Ninety-eight Silver Keys were awarded for distinguished works from New Hampshire.

MaKenna and Janvi are invited to attend the Middle High School Voices celebration and the New Hampshire regional awards ceremony to be held at Plymouth State University on May 3 at the Savage Welcome Center and Ice Arena. The girls' writing will be published in this year's edition of *Middle/High School Voices*.

International Space Station

Eighth grade science teacher, Margaret Collins applied for an "ISS Above" device through her NSTA (National Science Teacher Association) membership. Cawley was chosen to be one of 100 schools to receive an "ISS Above." ISS stands for International Space Station. Once connected to a monitor the "ISS-Above" which is a Raspberry Pi – Model 2B has software installed on it that will allow students to continuously track orbits, speed, position, current crew, news updates in addition to live video from the Space Station's external cameras when in daylight.

Cawley Vex Competition

In the VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the [Robotics Education & Competition Foundation](#), teams of students are tasked with designing and building a robot to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge. Classroom STEM concepts are put to the test as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications, and more. Tournaments are held year-round at the regional, state, and national levels and culminate at the VEX Robotics World Championship each April. Students at Cawley competed in their first competition in January.

“Learn by doing” was the theme of the day. Members of the team were able to see how the robotic competitions worked and then started developing a strategy for how to best compete. The robot went through a couple of design variations during the day as students problem solved what worked and what did not (in one of the early matches their claw attachment actually fell off). Cawley finished in 11th place overall. The top 10 teams qualified for the state meet. Cawley did finish 4th for the skills competition.

Unified Sports

Cawley is currently participating in their third year of Unified Sports. There are 25 students with and without disabilities participating in weekly practices focusing on skill development, sport specific rules, and physical fitness in the sport of basketball. These student athletes are having a great time developing new relationships and learning from each other at every practice. The first basketball competition will be on February 8 at Rundlett Middle School against Rundlett and Mountain View Middle Schools. Cawley will host the two other schools on February 16.

Builders Club

The Cawley Builders Club ended 2017 with a very busy schedule. The club made 65 holiday cards for Hooksett families along with 54 reindeer candy canes. The members teamed up with the Salvation Army for a Saturday of bell ringing. About 60 cookies were made for the Friendly Kitchen in Concord thanks to Mrs. Olsen's resources and Mrs. Kahn's time. Students helped at the Hooksett Public Library for the “Countdown to Noon” party. Members are working hard to plan for the Lip Sync battle contest on February 7.

Lynn Lyons to Present

Lynn Lyons who is an anxiety expert who has appeared on television, radio and podcasts in which she delivers strategies that parents and teachers can use to help children with anxiety is presenting on February 13 at 6:30 pm at Hooksett Memorial School. The Hooksett PTA is paying for renowned author and psychotherapist to present a workshop titled “Strategies for Managing Children with Anxiety in School and Home.”

Athletics

Congratulations to the boys and girl’s basketball teams in advancing to the quarterfinal round of the Tri-County playoffs. The boys finished with the four seed after playing lights out the second half of the season. They hosted South Meadow on January 29. The girls finished with the seventh seed and showed a great deal of improvement throughout the season. They girls traveled to Nashua Catholic on January 29.

Cheer has been working hard gearing up for their upcoming competitions in February. Co-Ed volleyball will start practice on February 5 after school. Volleyball is a non-cut sport and open to all students.

Performing Arts

The Cawley chorus and band students are gearing up to participate in the New Hampshire Music Educators Association Large Group Festival at Goffstown High School on March 10. At this event other music educators in the areas of performance and sight-reading will adjudicate students.

The Fine Arts department is excited to announce that they received a generous grant from the Maud T. Kernan Trust. The Fine Arts department purchased a new marimba for the band, folders for chorus and ukuleles.

The cast list for this year's 8th Grade Musical, "Guys and Dolls Jr.," is out. Students have begun rehearsals and production staff projects in preparation for the shows on April 5 and 6 at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm.

The Drama Club students, under the direction of Angelica Rosenthal are in the process of selecting the show for their spring performance. They have been busily engaged in ensemble building and acting exercises, and can't wait to share their creative talents.

Upcoming Key Dates to Note at Cawley:

January 29 – Feb 12:	Magazine Drive
February 7:	Builders Club Lip Sync Battle, 6:30 pm
February 13:	Lynn Lyons Presentation @ HMS, 6:30 pm
February 26 – March 2:	February Vacation

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal