

CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

"Make a Mark, Make A Difference:

2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year



March 2018

Hooksett Kiwanis Teacher of the Year

Family and Consumer Science teacher, Mrs. Bernadette Olsen was selected as the 2017 Upper Elementary Kiwanis Hooksett Educator of the Year. Mrs. Olsen has worked in the Hooksett School District for five years. She continually engages students with innovative and creative authentic learning experiences. As a classroom teacher and advisor for the Builders Club Mrs. Olsen has developed community relationships with the New England Tap House, Bellwether Credit Union, parents and grandparents that enhance student learning. Bernadette will be honored at the April 3, Kiwanis Dinner.

Emergency Management

I am deeply saddened by the tragic events that happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. My thoughts are with the victim's and their families, as they cope with this tragedy. Our school remains committed to student safety. I feel that it is important for me to highlight sections of the Hooksett School District Parent/Student Handbook with regard to emergency management at our school.

On page 7 under the heading **Emergency Building Evacuation Drills** it states:

"Over the past several years, there have been incidents across the country in which students have been placed at risk while attending school. These have been the result of natural disasters, hazardous materials and sometimes violence or threats. While schools are statistically the safest place for students to be, preparedness for any emergency situation is the most effective way to keep students and staff safe. Should it be necessary to evacuate the building during the school day for any reason, the staff will institute the emergency management plan."

On page 24 and continuing on page 25 under the headings **Emergency Management Team, Student Reunification and School Resource Officer** is states:

Emergency Management Team

"All Hooksett Schools have established Emergency Management Teams. The purpose of the EMT is to organize and coordinate an appropriate response to any crisis, which may have emotional or physical consequences for the student and faculty population. The EMT is designed to manage public situations, which may have either a short or long term impact on the entire student body or staff. These situations include, but are not limited to the following: death or serious injury to a faculty person, staff

member or student; death or serious injury to a famous political individual; community, environmental or natural disaster emergencies; and violent act in the school or community which may have an immediate impact upon the student body and school staff.

The membership of the EMT includes the principal, assistant principal, school counselor, faculty member, school secretary and school nurse. The EMT consults with the maintenance director, representatives of the Hooksett Police and Fire Departments and the transportation supervisor on an ongoing basis. Other individuals and organizations are brought in as needed.”

Student Reunification

“In the event of a lockdown or off-site evacuation Hooksett Schools may enable their Student Reunification Plan. Parents should not come to the school to pick up their children until cleared to do so by school personnel or law enforcement. Student/Parent Reunification may or may not take place at the school. In the event of a lockdown or off-site evacuation, parents should regularly check the school website or (if necessary) the Hooksett Police Department website for information. School personnel will do their best to communicate with parents via Bright Arrow or the school website, but please understand that your child’s safety takes precedence over all other functions during an emergency. Parents should not call or text their child’s cell phones directly during a lockdown, as complete silence is imperative for your child’s safety. Thank you for your understanding and compliance with these guidelines.”

School Resource Officer

“The Hooksett Police Department assigns a School Resource Officer to provide enhanced safety for all Hooksett schools. The officer supports school administration, regarding safety or truancy issues, consults with the building Emergency Management Team and serves as an accessible resource to children, parents, and school staff. Specific and detailed contact information for the Hooksett School Resource Officer is available by contacting the schools or via the district website.”

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society raised \$165.00 selling Valentine lollipops in February. The money raised will be used to purchase toys and games for the Boston Children's Hospital. Members will also be running a toy/game drive to collect items to donate to the hospital.

VEX Robotics

The Cawley Vex robotics team had an overall good performance at February’s New Hampshire and Vermont state(s) championship meet. The event took place at Manchester Community College and there were 37 teams that participated.

The Cawley team had a tough start to the day and found themselves in 30th place by the end of the morning session. However, the team made a major design changeover

at the lunch break and had a terrific afternoon. The team had a number of high scoring matches including a score of 119 on their second to last match of the day. The team ranking continued to improve throughout day and ended up finishing in 19th place for the team challenge and 10th place for the skills challenge.

The team once again displayed good citizenship, as they loaned a motor to another team who had motor failure and would have been unable to compete. The coach of the other team was extremely grateful for their generosity.

Middle School Month

The coming of spring brings with it the celebration of our adolescents. March is National Middle School Month. Ten to fifteen year olds make a difference in their families, schools and communities everyday, so we designate one special month to celebrate middle school students and who they are and what they've accomplished. At Cawley, we have a variety of activities throughout the month that include dress up days, trivia questions, bulletin board competitions and a culminating spirit rally and dance which is scheduled for March 23, from 6:30 – 9:00 pm.

Middle School Month is kicked off with a school-wide dodge ball tournament where students contribute \$1.00 each to play for their team. The money collected will be donated to charity.

National Foreign Language Week will be observed March 12 - March 16. In recognition of National Foreign Language Week, the pledge will be recited in English as well as five different foreign languages. Literacy Week will be observed March 19 – 23.

Sigmund Brouwer the best selling author of nearly thirty novels, with close to 4 million books in print will be at Cawley on March 16 presenting to the student body. Sigmund will also be visiting classrooms. Sigmund has won the Christy Book of the Year and the Arthur Ellis award, as well as being nominated for two TD Children's Literature Awards and the Red Maple Award.

Builders Club

The Builders Club offered babysitting services to children whose parents attended the "Meet the Superintendent Candidates" evening. Members planned activities that included basketball, dodge ball, volleyball and kickball. On February 2, the Builders Club assisted with the making of paper corsages for the younger girls who attended the Father/Daughter Dance at Memorial School. The Lip Sync Battle took place on February 8. There was a great turnout of spectators and six terrific acts.

FISHERCATS

The PTA is hosting the Fishercats Reading Challenge in the month of March. Students will have the opportunity to complete an official form in language arts classes. Once five books have been read and titles are listed students can select a game they would like to attend. Two free tickets will be sent to their homes about two weeks prior to

their selected game. The following dates for games that are available are: April 14, April 15, April 28, April 29, May 27, June 5. Please email Mrs. Piccolo with any questions: lpiccolo@sau15.net

BANANAGRAMS

Over 20 sixth grade students have begun competing in the annual Bananagrams Challenge. Competition rounds are held Mondays during FLEX. Cawley's "Top Banana" will be announced in March. In addition, our school has entered the decoration contest for the room that goes "the most bananas."

PTA Reflections Contest

The following students have placed at the statewide level of the PTA Reflections Contest. These students will be featured at an official exhibit in March. First place winners will be advancing to the National Competition.

Abbigail Stark - 2nd Place Middle Visual Arts

Ryan Griffin - 2nd Place Special Artist Visual Arts

Sam Plessner - Honorable Mention Middle Photography

Athletics

Congratulations to the Cawley cheer team who won the Astroblast Cheer Competition in February. In addition, the team placed 3rd in Cheer Madness.

Co-ed Volleyball is off and running with over 50 student athletes participating.

Spring sports will be here soon:

Boy's baseball, girl's softball, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse tryouts will start on March 26. Athletes can start trying out for their track and field events the week of April 2. Golf will start towards the end of April once the courses are playable.

Performing Arts

March is a very busy month for the Fine Arts Department. On March 10, chorus and band students will be participating in the NHMEA Large Group Festival. Students will observe other local middle school performances, perform three prepared pieces, and sight read. Site reading is when students have to perform a new piece of music for the first time and decode on the spot. This will all be performed in front of adjudicators who will judge the students' performances as ensembles, give them a grade, and most importantly provide valuable feedback. The students have been preparing for this performance for months and are excited to show off their hard work.

The musical is well underway and students have been working on singing in harmony with proper technique, physical acting through blocking and character work and adding movement to music through choreography rehearsals. Regardless of their experience levels in music and/or drama the growth in their confidence and performing abilities is incredible. Please put the show dates April 5 and April 6 on your calendar.

Upcoming Key Dates to Note at Cawley:

- March 5 – 9: Progress Checks for 3rd Quarter
- March 9: Middle School Month Dodge Ball Tournament
- March 12 – 16: Foreign Language Week
- March 13: No School, Voting, and Teacher Workshop Day
- March 19 – 23: Literacy Week
- March 23: Middle School Month Assembly, 1:00 pm
- March 23: Student Council Dance, 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal