

## **CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

**"Make a Mark, Make A Difference, Believe and Achieve"**

**2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year**

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#### **October 2018**

##### **Emergency Management Update**

During the months of August and September Cawley Middle School's staff and students attended a presentation from the Cawley administration on emergency management. The administration reviewed drills and procedures that could be used in numerous emergency situations. In unified arts and core classes, students walked to each rallying point and practiced fire drill and emergency drill procedures. There is major emphasis on ensuring that all students and staff fully understand the procedures in place for a multitude of potential emergency situations.

##### **Student Leadership Conference**

On October 2, executive board members from the Cawley Student Council, National Junior Honor Society and the Builders Club will attend the 2018 Middle School Student Leadership Conference at Southern New Hampshire University. The New England League of Middle School's coordinates the events for middle school students. NELMS will once again bring together education and leadership experts along with community partners dedicated to middle level students to provide an innovative and hands-on day of leadership workshops and activities. Students will engage in learning centered on key leadership skills in effective communication, team building and goal setting and organization.

##### **Bullying Presentations**

As required by the New Hampshire State Bullying law, all students attended an educational and informational bullying presentation by the Cawley administration in the month of September. During this presentation students were informed about the bullying law, the definition of bullying, cyber bullying and the requirements for reporting bullying. In addition, students were educated about treating others with kindness and respect.

##### **Bullying Workshop**

On September 19, Assistant Principal Brad Largy attended the MARC-Train-the-Trainer: Faculty Training in Bullying and Cyberbullying sponsored by Primex. This train-the-trainer program from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center offered an opportunity for New Hampshire K-12 educators to become MARC Certified trainers in bullying and cyberbullying prevention training for faculty. The program is concrete, practical, research-based and highly interactive. It was designed to give trainers all of the knowledge and skills they need to use the program with their colleagues. The program covered: specific behaviors that educators need to look for; how to respond and when to report; how cyber-behaviors impact in-

school bullying and cyberbullying; developmental factors that affect bullying; and concrete areas for focus and talking points for use with students.

### **Red Ribbon Week**

This year Red Ribbon Week is being celebrated across the country October 23 - October 31. Cawley 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 "Life is Your Journey, Travel Drug Free." Students will receive themed red ribbons on Monday to display their commitment to remaining drug-free.

Each day a teacher, former Cawley 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 Unified Arts wing. Miss Lander's 6th grade FLEX class is creating posters that will be posted throughout the building. The seventh grade health class is involved in a drug awareness unit as part of the health curriculum. In late October, Captain Joseph Stalker from the Hooksett Fire Department will discuss his involvement in drug prevention to seventh grade health classes.

On Friday, October 26, students and staff will participate in a RED OUT, in which all members of our Cawley community will wear red as a symbol of our whole school commitment to raise awareness regarding the short and long-term effects of drug use.

### **Parent Conference Sign Ups**

Cawley Middle School will be emailing the links to sign up for parent conferences on October 15. Parent conferences are on November 13. The emails will be sent at the following times through the Bright Arrow Notification System:

Grade 6 – 9:00 am

Grade 7 – 9:15 am

Grade 8 – 9:30 am

UA - 9:45 am

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.

### **Washington D.C.**

The Washington D.C. trip is quickly approaching. From September 19 – 26 students were able to purchase raffle tickets for the opportunity to represent Cawley Middle School in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Four students will be selected. Students selected roommates on September 24 and there is a parent information night on October 22 at 6:00 pm in the Media Center.

### **Title 1 Update**

Title I at Cawley is excited to share that 84.2% of students who attended Title I services on a regular basis during the winter and spring of the 2017-2018 school year made significant growth on the NWEA assessment taken in the spring of 2018. This was very encouraging and proved that the work of the students, Title 1 instructors and the Title I Coordinator was ultimately beneficial. In regard to this academic year the Title I team has finished analyzing assessment data from the fall NWEA test. Invitations for students who have qualified for Title I was mailed during the last week of September. The program will be in full swing by the first weeks of October. Title I is offered twice a day, four times a week. These services are provided to all students who have been identified through various data points as needing additional support in math and/or reading.

### **Hip Peas Farm**

Family and Consumer Science Students have #Farmer Fever! Farm to Table took on a whole new level in September at the Hip Peas Farm in Hooksett. Continuing their experiential lessons on Farm to Table, Family and Consumer Science teacher Mrs. Olsen and ALPs teacher Mrs. Tremblay collaborated on the second season of farming at Hip Peas Farm. Students who participated last spring in their 7th grade Foods and Nutrition class were invited to return, along with current 8th Grade Independent Living students. Cindy Nusbaum, Director of Nutrition Services for the Hooksett School District accompanied the students as an enthusiastic chaperone. At the farm, students discovered that many of the seeds they planted in the spring were still yielding produce. Lunch provided by the farm included watermelon, tomatoes and other produce that students had planted during the last school year. Students all got a little dirt on their hands as they planted seven different kinds of garlic and used observation skills to determine that all varieties of garlic are not alike. Students' classroom vocabulary terms and definitions came to life, as the farmers answered questions on concepts like organic farming, hydroponics, and agrotourism. The farmers even showed the students where the high tunnel greenhouses are going to be constructed to extend the growing season at Hip Peas Farm. Cries of "Farmer Fever" were heard as the bus pulled out of the farm.

### **Report Card Parent Information Night**

On October 29 at 6:30 pm in the Cawley Media Center, Principal, Matt Benson, Assistant Principal, Brad Largy, Math Accountability and Assessment Director, Meghan Largy and Assistant Superintendent, Marge Polak will present the new middle school competency based report cards to parents.

### **PSAT 8/9**

On September 28, Cawley Middle School provided 8th grade students with the opportunity to take the PSAT 8/9 assessment. Thirty-two 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the assessment.

### **Study Skills**

The implementation of the study skills program began in September with students identifying their learning style during FLEX. Teachers have also been setting up routines in their classes that focus on studying for tests, note taking, close reading strategies and organizational skills such writing down assignments in their agenda book or using the teacher's websites.

### **High School Fair**

On Monday, September 24 the annual high school fair took place for the Class of 2019. Bow High School, Goffstown High School, Londonderry High School, Manchester Central High School, Manchester Memorial High School, Manchester West High School, Pembroke Academy and Pinkerton Academy all had their own spaces to present and answer questions. The evening began at 6:30 pm and parents and students had the opportunity to attend three forty minutes presentations.

### **Student Council Elections**

Student Council elections were held on Monday, September 24. Fayth Seratt, was elected President, Declan Ryan, Vice President, Reese Hatin, Secretary and Katie Russell as 7<sup>th</sup> grade Treasurer.

### **Builders Club**

On September 19, the Builders Club held its first meeting of the school year. Board members this year are: President - Kylie Barnhart, Vice President - Grace Blackman, Secretary - Wendy Parcel and Publicist - Maeve Gilligan. They did a wonderful job of explaining exactly what and who the Builders Club is to all interested members.

### **ImPACT Concussion Testing**

On September 28, Cawley Middle School offered ImPACT testing for all students free of cost. As of press time 25 students had signed up for the test.

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.

### **Unified Sports**

Unified Sports participants started soccer in the first week of October. The team is made up of 26 students with and without intellectual disabilities that will continue to develop skills and strategies, participate in physical activity and form meaningful relationships. The team meets once a week during FLEX for practice and will compete against Rundlett Middle School of Concord and Mountain View Middle School of Goffstown. Cawley will participate in two competition days in October where the three teams will compete in round-robin style tournaments.

## **Firefighters Challenge**

As part of the Hooksett School Board's goal of, "developing and sustaining partnerships with local businesses, organizations and individuals to reinforce learning," the Firefighters Challenge will once again happen on October 19. 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.

That morning of October 19, 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 2017 - 2018 school year. Cawley Middle School will be recognized on October 26 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. Krysten Apostoles-Dalamangas is the school's volunteer coordinator and she did an outstanding job organizing and securing volunteers.

## **Athletics**

Fall sports season is off and running at Cawley Middle School. The boys and girls soccer teams have been selected and both teams are off to great starts. The cross-country team has had four meets. Aidan Huard, Logan Huard, Julia Salvas and Sarah Rousseau have all had outstanding times for each meet. Field Hockey competition began the week of September 24. The standings and results for boys and girls soccer can be found on the tri-county athletics website. Details for after school sports dates for winter and spring sports are on Mr. Middleton's website.

## **Performing Arts**

Mrs. Gatzoulis and Mr. Davini are incredibly excited to have welcomed in the new school year in the Performing Arts Department. Over 20% of the student body is participating in band, jazz band and/or chorus.

Jazz band rehearsals have begun after school. Jazz band is open to all students. The students will play a wide variety of music such as 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 3rd annual Coffee House will take place on October 24 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.

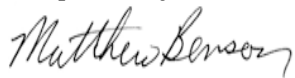
Drama Club's rehearsals for "The Headless Horseman" have begun. This is a musical rendition of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The performance will be held on Friday, November 2nd at 7:00 pm.

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

#### **Key Dates:**

October 8:	No School, Columbus Day
October 9 – 12:	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Progress Checks for Quarter Long Courses
October 15 – 19:	1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester Progress Checks for Year Long Courses
October 12:	High School Selection Forms Due
October 12:	Dance, 6:30 – 9:00 pm
October 15:	Parents Receive Email Link to Sign Up for Parent Conferences
October 17:	High School Confirmation Letters Mailed
October 19:	Firefighters Challenge, 11:30 am
October 22:	Picture Retakes, 8:00 am
October 22 – 26:	Red Ribbon Week
October 24:	Fine Arts Coffee House, 6:30 pm
October 29:	Report Card (Middle School) Parent Information Night, 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal