

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



January 2023

December "Hawks of the Month"

Congratulations to the December "Hawks of the Month" who best represented the word of the month, "Charity;" Lily Lever, Jason Gurung, Ryan Gaspie, Jackie Orr, Jon Grana, Ethan Burwen, Emily Little, Ella Liadis, Reese Cook, Ryan Lovejoy, Sawyer Labreche, Lily Magarian, Scarlett Singleton, Cyril Wakim.

Winter Assessments

Starting on February 7, students in grades six through eight will complete the New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System interim assessment for Mathematics and English Language Arts.

This interim assessment will allow math and language arts teachers to elicit evidence of learning to inform teaching and evaluate grade level instructional progress. It is a light footprint and takes less time to administer than the summative assessment, which takes place in the spring. Students identified with severe cognitive disabilities that are eligible for the alternative assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps, will not participate in this winter assessment. In addition, all students will take a quick NH-SAS modular science assessment on a particular themed unit before February vacation.

Professional Learning Teams

Each month the Director of Math Accountability and Assessment, Meghan Largy and Director of Language Arts, Sonia Laliberte meet with the math and language arts teachers in professional learning team meetings either by grade level or by department. At these meetings the aforementioned directors work collaboratively to review formative assessment data to guide their instructional practices during core instruction and FLEX. These meetings are highly effective in developing strategies for instruction and assessment.

FLEX

This school year the Assistant Principal, Karin Rogers has redesigned FLEX to provide targeted intervention in all subject areas. Using the NH SAS modules and teacher pre and post assessments of topics relevant to the current quarter, FLEX groups are designed and scheduled. The instruction involves small group and individual instruction. Mathematics, language arts and special education teachers are also able to provide individualized skill building through the use of on-line tools such as Zearn and Lexia Power- Up.

Support with executive functioning skills is provided by the special education teachers and on Thursdays by health teacher Mr. Clark during FLEX. Each week students receive direct instruction and assistance in skills such as time management, organization, study strategies, note taking and managing long term assignments

Enrichment continues to be a part of the FLEX period as students engage in extension projects relative to the science and social studies curriculum such as rocket building, science labs and research projects and poetry writing.

A new focus group, “Heart of the Hawk”, meets each Wednesday during FLEX with the school counseling team and the School Resource Officer to promote a positive culture among the students. Together the members introduce a monthly characteristic of a Cawley Hawk and design a hawk sticker to give to their peers whom they observe demonstrating that trait. Additionally, the students researched and created a proposal to the PTA to acquire a school mascot costume.

Unified activities “Cooking Buddies” and “Woodshop Buddies” take place each week. On Wednesdays, students in Mrs. Olsen’s FLEX class work with other students baking and cooking simple recipes. On Fridays, students in Mr. Trimmer’s Flex class join with their peers to assist them in designing, crafting and building projects of interest.

Advanced Learning Program

Over the last month in ALPs, students have participated in many different educational opportunities. Sixth grade students have been researching relationships that occur in our natural world and building exhibit pieces to teach others. Some examples of student research topics include: Why do we need parasitic wasps? How do animals use mimicry? How do kelp forests help marine life? How does human use of pesticides affect amphibians?

In 7th grade, students analyzed reviews and listened to advice from critics who write for the *New York Times*. Each student then wrote their own reviews ranging from restaurants, movies, and books. The 7th grade ended 2022 with a STEAM challenge day.

The 8th graders faced off in a mock trial, with the Honorable Matthew Benson serving as Judge. The defense won the case as the prosecution was unable to provide evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. To close out the year, students are participating in the *New York Times One-Page Educational Contest*. Each student was able to select one current news story they found a connection to, and using multiple modalities, they are reflecting on, summarizing, and sharing their thoughts on one page. Students are shared out on a range of topics from Queen Elizabeth, gluten-free eating, World Cup Soccer, environmental issues, gymnastics, floral arts and more.

In FLEX, students are creating 90-second films that encapsulate a Newbery Award winning novel, which they read during November. The students are presenting three different novels with the intent of being the first groups in New Hampshire to enter the 90-Second Newbery Film Festival, a global event.

Looking ahead, 6th graders will be working on writing; 7th graders will be split by period with one group selecting to study Mythology and another Dystopia; and, 8th grade will delve into the art of Memoir.

Pinkerton Academy 8th Grade Electives Information Day

On January 27, only 8th grade students who are attending Pinkerton Academy next school year will be going on a field trip to Pinkerton Academy during the school day to talk directly with other students about their experiences in the areas of Junior ROTC, the Arts, Career and Technical Education, and World Languages. Students will move through these four programs during the full-day activity.

Builders Club

The Builder's Club had a very successful Giving Tree in December. Clothing items were donated to Kids Klotset, food items to the Hooksett Food Pantry, and books to the Hooksett Library. Thank you to all who donated items. In January the members are volunteering at the Hooksett Winter Carnival. In February the members plan to volunteer at the PTA Father-Daughter Dance as well as make and distribute Valentines for Veterans.

Kiwanis Dinner

On February 1, I have been invited to speak at the Kiwanis Dinner at the Tap House about the high school process for 8th grade students and Cawley's academic and co-curricular programs. This is a great opportunity to highlight the amazing things our students and staff do at Cawley Middle School.

PTA Brain Games

This year once again the Hooksett PTA is sponsoring the annual Brain Games. This year the Brain Games will be on January 26 during a whole school assembly.

Student Council

The Student Council will have their Winter Dance on Friday, January 20 and is in the process of planning a February Fundraiser. Members continue to promote student engagement and contribute to a positive school climate every day.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society is planning their next trip to Underhill for the Reading Buddies Program on January 18. They will be reading winter themed books to the 1st grade students and are planning a fun craft activity to do with their buddies. The NJHS members are also working on a Trivia Night to be held in February. This will be a fun event where students and staff can test their knowledge and win prizes. The students are also continuing to look for ways to serve the community. Volunteer opportunities can be shared with Mr. Gregoire (mgregoire@sau15.net) or Mr. Davini (bdavini@sau15.net).

Unified Sports

The Cawley Unified Sports Team under the supervision of health teacher Derek Clark practices each week on Mondays during FLEX. Student athletes work with their buddies on improving their dribbling and shooting skills as well as participate in team scrimmages. The Cawley team hopes to participate in two basketball games with the Rundlett Middle School Unified Sports team in February.

Athletics

The boys' basketball team's record is 6-2 in league play and they are working hard towards a first-round bye. The girls' basketball team is 7-1 and is also competing for a first-round bye. All standings and scores can be found at: <https://www.tricountyathletic.org/>

The cheer team has been working hard getting ready for five competitions that will start in late January.

Co-ed volleyball is a non-cut sport and will begin on February 13. Sign-ups and detailed information will be posted towards the end of January.

Performing Arts

The holidays are over and the Band and Chorus are back to work. All of the students in the band and chorus did a great job in the Winter Concerts at Hooksett Memorial and Cawley Middle School.

Students have begun rehearsing new repertoire for the upcoming Large Group Festival where students will be adjudicated by professional musicians and given a rating on their performance as well as receiving feedback on how they performed.

Preparations for this year's musical "Shrek the Musical Jr." has begun. In a few weeks students will be auditioning for their roles and rehearsals will begin. The Unified Arts teachers and 8th grade students are beyond excited to be able to perform for the community.

The Fine Arts Department is planning a second Coffee House on February 15 where students will select music of their choice to perform for an audience in a small setting. It is always such a pleasure to see the students performing to their strengths and interests. Hot chocolate and other refreshments are also provided to help create a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Upcoming Key Dates to Note at Cawley:

January 16 - No School, Martin Luther King Jr/Civil Rights Day

January 18 - Book Buddies Leave at Underhill

January 20 - Student Council Dance, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

January 26 - Brain Games School Wide Assembly, 8:00 am

January 27 - 8th Grade Electives Day Field Trip to Pinkerton, Bus Leaves at 9:00 am

January 27 - Quarter 2 Ends for Unified Arts Classes

January 27 - Trimester 2 Progress Checks

January 30 - Quarter 3 Begins

February 7, 8, 9 - NH SAS Interim Assessments (Delayed Opening Schedule)

February 15: Cawley Coffee House, 6:30 pm

February 27- March 3 - February Vacation

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal