

**CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT  
"Make a Mark, Make A Difference"  
2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year  
December 2023**



**Robotics**

The Cawley Robotics teams performed exceptionally well in the Manchester Robotics Tournament in November. Team Red Square placed in the top four in the robot game, making it to the second round of the playoffs. Team Yoinky Sploiunkle quietly improved their scores each match and had their high score for the day in their last and final qualifying match round. As a result of their success both teams earned a spot in the state tournament on December 2.

Both teams were commended for their outstanding performances at the state tournament. Team Red Square finished 10th and Team Yoinky Sploiunkle finished 29th. Team Red Square wowed the judges in their innovation project, earning the Innovation Project 1st place award.

Congratulations to the following students who represented Cawley at both Robotics Tournaments:

**Team Red Square:**

Gavin Allen  
Jaime Godbout  
Jackson Waddington  
Nick Zagaria  
Reid Hamilton  
Owen Vincent  
Nick Mason  
Andrew Mason  
Cyril Wakim

**Team Yoinky Sploiunkle:**

Matthew VanWagner  
Thomas VanWagner  
August Weirich  
Rachael Greenland  
Benjamin Poste  
William Mackey

**7th Grade Supreme Court Field Trip**

In the month of December, fifty seventh grade students were able to participate in a field trip to the NH Supreme Court. On the trip students simulated the proceedings and arguments in two landmark Supreme Court cases: Tinker v. Des Moines and New Jersey v. T.L.O. To prepare for the simulation at the Supreme Court, students met with a former state attorney and former NH Chief Justice Robert Lynn who explained the cases to the students and helped them develop their arguments that they presented in front of the court. All of the staff at the court, including current NH Supreme Court Justice Patrick Donovan were very impressed with the students' knowledge of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and their ability to present their arguments and respond to the justices' questions.

**Cawley Wellness Update**

Cawley's Wellness Committee has focused on creating two separate events, one for the staff, and one for the students. The staff event, "12 Days of Cawley," is driven by a calendar of team building and healthy eating during the 12 Days prior to the winter break. Each day offers a different activity in which the staff may participate. The first week staff can build their own

holiday trail mix treat from various items provided by the committee. In the second week the staff can participate in an after school Christmas Carol Karaoke contest. The Sunshine Committee has planned an activity in which staff compete against each other in building gingerbread houses. The last week will mirror the activities that the Student Council has planned for students by encouraging the staff to engage in school spirit such as *Sweater Tuesday* and a hot cocoa social.

The student Wellness Week is being designed to energize and inspire a healthy lifestyle. Wellness Week will be January 8-12. There will be two activities each day that promote healthy eating and physically moving.

One day the students will play “Captain Hawkins Would You Rather,” by following a We Video designed by one of our student Wellness Committee members, Stewart Gregory.

Another day the students will move to the Captain Hawkins Portrait of a Learner Dance, created and videoed by student Wellness Committee member, Hannah Russell and members of the Cawley Dance Club.

Seventh grade science teacher Jeff Hamilton will introduce the Healthy Lifestyle Bingo Card Challenge to students and Mr. Benson will facilitate a “Screen Free Day” by having all members of the school sign a pledge and engage in a day of screen free learning.

The Cawley Wellness experiences are designed to support a healthy mind and body and promote positive school culture in which all members make responsible choices, collaborate, communicate, problem solve and persevere while reflecting on the five tenets of the Portrait of a Cawley Learner.

### **National History Day Program**

The National History Day Project is an academic program for middle and secondary students across the United States. Students select historical topics related to the theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research projects

This year the Social Studies Department has made it their curriculum goal to have all students, in grades 6-8, participate in this school wide and potentially state and national competition known as National History Day.

Their projects will reflect the theme of “Turning Points In History.” Students can choose to create their project in the following formats; essay, performance, documentary, website, or exhibit.

### **Christmas Trees**

Michelle Fuller’s art classes created ornaments for Christmas trees that are on display at the Hooksett Town Hall. The students used the technique of quilling “that involves the use of

strips of paper that are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs. The top of the tree had an ornament that modeled the Cawley Hawk.

### **Advanced Learning Program**

As December began the ALPs program wrapped up National Novel Writing month. The 14 students involved all seemed to have a great month filled with creative writing and growth. The Creator Lab debuted eight S.T.E.A.M. stations and every student in the building was able to participate in a day of learning. In the next few weeks ALPs students will be engaged in winter themed readings and activities focusing on the author's craft and how an author uses language to create an effect and distinguish their voice.

### **Student Council**

The Student Council's Executive Board was elected and the following students will represent the board; 8th Grader, Cali Sylvia and 7th Graders, Lucy Callanan, Alixandra Daigle, Stewart Gregory, and Hannah Russell. The Students Council has planned a fun-filled pre-holiday Spirit Week including festive dress-up days, a Hot Chocolate Social for students and staff and a spirited game of Holiday Song Bingo. The Student Council is busy planning ideas for the next school dance on January 19 which will take place directly after school from 2:45 - 4:45.

### **Discovery Educator Network**

In early December, 8th Grade social studies teacher Sarah Piana was accepted into the Discovery Educator Network (DEN). This is one of the longest running networks of top educators from around the world. DEN provides their members with many resources and opportunities such as research cohorts, professional feedback sessions, exclusive professional learning opportunities, events, early access to resources and more. This network will support Mrs. Piana and in turn the social studies department in using the Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook.

### **National Junior Honor Society**

The National Junior Honor Society students are looking forward to their next trip to Underhill for the Reading Buddies program on December 20. The members will be reading winter themed books to the 1st grade students. The members are also working on holiday cards to bring to nursing homes and volunteering their time by ringing bells for the Salvation Army. The next big NJHS event will be the annual pancake breakfast which will be held on January 27 at 8:00 am. Students are working on ideas for gift baskets to be raffled off during the breakfast to help raise money for the Hooksett community.

### **Title I**

This year Cawley has a full time Title I math teacher who has been providing targeted instruction using the "Do the Math" program. Jennifer Fay has 15 students across all grade levels who attend Title I math class each day. In addition Mrs. Fay pushes into math classes in all grade levels supporting students in the Title I math program. The students have been working on the foundational skills of multiplication, division and the use of fractions.

### **Builders Club**

The Builders Club has been very busy within the Hooksett Community. The members have made food baskets at the Hooksett Food Pantry for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The members helped at Light up the Village and the Hooksett Library Christmas party. The students shopped for four Hooksett children and made 100 candy cane reindeer for the children of Hooksett. The annual Giving Tree event where members collect used books,

gently used clothing and food for the food pantry is happening from December 11 - 15. The members have also been bell ringing for the Salvation Army in Hooksett.

### **Athletics**

The boys and girls basketball teams have entered league play in the Tri-County Division 2. Both teams are improving at a nice pace. To view scores and standings go to:  
<https://www.tricountyathletic.org/>.

The cheer team has been working hard and began cheering at home games. The team brings great energy to the crowd from their cheering during the game and at halftime with their routine. The team has been preparing for their cheer competitions in January and February.

Co-Ed volleyball will start in February. Sign ups will be available the second week of January. Any questions regarding sports please contact Garrett Middleton @ [gmiddleton@sau15.net](mailto:gmiddleton@sau15.net).

### **Performing Arts**

December is a busy month in the music department. The band and chorus started it off on December 1 by providing entertainment at the "Light Up the Village" townwide event, with band soloists playing a variety of holiday tunes and the chorus leading a sing-along as the tree was lit.

On December 12, the band and chorus traveled to Hooksett Memorial School to perform for the Winter Concert. On December 13 they performed in an assembly for the Cawley students followed by an evening performance for friends and family.

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

December 13:	Trimester 1 Report Cards Distributed
December 14:	Make Your Make A Difference Awards Distributed
December 18:	Cawley Winter Sports Pictures, 8:00 am
December 21:	Quarter 2 Progress Checks
December 25 - Jan. 1	Winter Vacation
January 8 - 12	Wellness Week
January 15:	No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19:	Brain Games Assembly, 8:00 am
January 19:	Student Council Dance, 2:45 pm - 4:45 pm
January 22:	8th Grade Trip to Pinkerton Academy's CTE Program
January 22:	Current 7th Grade Washington D.C. Informational Night, 6:00 pm
January 23:	No School, Presidential Primary
January 26:	Quarter 2 Ends
January 26:	Trimester 2 Progress Checks
January 27:	Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 am
January 29:	Quarter 3 Begins
January 30:	8th Grade NAEP Assessment

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal