

**CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
"Make a Mark, Make A Difference"
2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year
February 2024**



Daughters of American Revolution Essay Contest

Sixth grade social studies teacher Erin Brewitt had her FLEX students participate in the Daughters of American Revolution contest this past fall. The following 6th grade students submitted essays; Milla Creamer, Madison Huberty, Mason Picard and Dylan Proulx. 7th grader Violet Lloyd also submitted an essay.

Madison Huberty was selected as the 6th grade Molly Stark Chapter winner and Violet Lloyd the 7th grade winner. The topic this year required students to imagine they were newspaper editors for the Philadelphia Times in 1897 and share what it was like to hear "Stars and Stripes Forever" (later to become the United States national march). Students had to dive into the life of the composer and the political feeling during that time.

Both Madison and Violet will be recognized on Friday, February 16 at the General John Stark House in Manchester. They will read their essays and receive a Bronze American History medal, certificate and monetary award.

National History Day Project

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 yearly 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 schoolwide 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.

The sixth grade students were the first to participate in this event. They began their research with a topic tasting. Students traveled from Social Studies and ELA "restaurants," such as *Mrs. Brewitt's View of the Nile and the Palmer Palace*, to sample various topics from ancient civilizations including China, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, and Egypt.

On February 9, the students held their National History Day Expo. Parents, teachers, fellow students, and other community members were able to see the students' essays, performances, documentaries, and or exhibits. The following 6th grade students were selected to move to the next round; Emma Greenberg, Lyllian Eddy, Paige Reed, Crew Fitzgerald, Tyler Smith, Chris Libby, Rhys St. Onge, Dom Buco, Maddie Greene, Alexis Ah You, Adalyn Tremblay, Piper Stewart, Eli Maron-Loos, Daria Bon, Nick Uribe, Jacob Timpe and Milla Creamer.

Middle School Month

The coming of spring brings with it the celebration of adolescents. March is National Middle School Month. Ten to fifteen-year-old students make a difference in their families, schools and communities, so Cawley designates one special month to celebrate middle school students and who they are and what they have accomplished.

Middle School Month is kicked off with Foreign Language Week after February vacation. The annual school-wide dodgeball tournament where students contribute \$1.00 each to play for their team will be on March 15. The money collected will be donated to a local Hooksett charity.

Throughout the month there will dress up days, homeroom competitions such as pop culture trivia and geography bingo. There will also be motivational quotes and daily trivia. The schoolwide pep rally and evening dance will conclude the month-long celebration on March 22 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm..

Student Led Conferences Presentation

At the February staff meeting the Team Cornell teachers, Paige Benotti, Leigh Gibson, Jeff Hamilton and Melissa Tanguay presented to the Cawley staff on the process for planning and implementing "Student-Led Parent Conferences." Team Cornell successfully had students lead their parent conferences last November. Student- led conferences allow for the students to take ownership of their learning and present their success and challenges for each of their classes. The teachers and students received positive feedback for taking a risk and trying out this new format for conferences.

Advanced Learning Program

Mrs. Yeaton has been supporting students with their National History Day projects, and the Creator Lab opened for Thursday morning free-create time. Students have been working on robotics, roller coaster building, sewing, and jewelry making. In March all Cawley students will be participating in an authentic "problem solving" activity that is aligned with the "Portrait of a Cawley Learner" and "Problem Solving Week" during Middle School Month.

Student Council

The Student Council has planned and proposed the themed dress-up days for Middle School Month in March and is working hard to put together "Public Service Announcements" for all of the fun Middle School Month activities and spirit rally events. The Student Council plays an integral role in promoting school spirit during Middle School Month.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society held their annual Pancake Breakfast on January 27 in the Cawley cafeteria. The event was a huge success and raised approximately \$1,200 which was donated to a local charity or organization. Thank you to all of the Hooksett families for coming out for a great time to benefit the community.

NJHS members are working on additional service opportunities to support the community including Valentine's Cupid Grams, which will be sold during lunch periods, and a book/media drive to benefit the Hooksett Public Library. After February break, students will begin planning for the Cawley Talent Show which will take place in May.

NH SAS Writing Assessments

On March 6 and 7 all students at Cawley will take the NH-SAS summative writing assessment. Students will respond to a text that requires them to use one of the different genres of writing such as narrative, informational or argumentative. Students will prepare a rough draft on the first day and complete their final draft on the second day of the assessment.

Builders Club

The Builders Club started the new year helping at the Hooksett Winter Carnival. Members did a great job at the face painting table. The members have also made dog toys that will be donated to a local shelter. This month the members are participating in the Valentines for Veterans at the Vet Center in Hooksett as well as the Hookset American Legion. March is Middle School Month and the Builders Club will celebrate our middle school teachers at Cawley.

Athletics

The boys basketball team advanced to the post season and lost a close game against Southside. The boys played very hard in their first season in Division 2 earning the 9 seed for the tournament. The girls basketball team won an exciting quarterfinal game 43-40 at Fairgrounds and lost in the semifinals to Bow by a score of 32-23. It was a great season for the girls playing up in Division 2 as they finished 10-4 in league play and 16-5 overall.

The Cawley Lady Hawks Cheer Team has hit the mat strong this season. The team of 15 took to the floor on January 30 at the Hudson Showcase and performed their routine to the best of their abilities scoring 63.2. Cali Silvia was awarded "Best Team Motivator", Sawyer Labreche was awarded "Best Jumps" and Lilly Laplante was awarded "Most Fun To Watch". The Lady Hawks performed on February 2 at Bishop Guertin where they brought home a trophy for 2nd place and increased their score by 9.6 points, scoring 72.8. The cheerleading team took 2nd place out of 7 teams in Division 2 on February 10 at Cheer Madness. The team will have back to back competitions at AstroBlast on February 17 and Tri-County on February 18 to conclude their season.

Co-ed Volleyball: Volleyball is a non-cut sport that began on February 15. Over sixty students signed up to play.

Unified Sports

On February 1, the Cawley Unified Sports Team hosted a basketball competition with Rundlett Middle School. Over 30 athletes participated and celebrated their success with pizza and ice cream. The Unified Sports team will compete against our partner school, Rundlett Middle School on the following dates and times:

February 15: Cawley @ Rundlett Middle School - Basketball

May 9: Rundlett @ Cawley Middle School - Soccer

May 30: Cawley @ Rundlett Middle School - Soccer

8th Grade Musical Update

Quarter three is an exciting time for the 8th grade Unified Arts team. The musical is a collaborative effort with the goal of putting together a theater production which is student led. Mr. Trimmer's team constructs the set and props. Mrs. Fuller's team is responsible for the set design. Mrs. Olsen's team handles all of the costume design and engineering. Mrs.

Meyer's team is responsible for all marketing and promotion of the production. Mr. Davini and Mrs. Vanderhoek are the directors and choreographers who work with the cast for the performance of the play. This collaboration provides students with real world experiences that can be applied in the theater industry as well as various trades.

On February, 9, Mrs. Meyer's marketing team welcomed two professional photographers from Geskus, Mike Karpel and Matt Terrio. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about preparing and coordinating photo shoots. The student-led team is responsible for photographing headshots of all the cast and crew, team photos, and candid, which will highlight the making of the production. Students reviewed the process and techniques to successfully complete these tasks. Providing students with hands-on experience, working with professional photographers was an exceptional learning experience.

Mrs. Olsen's class was visited by Mrs. Betty Lent, Costume Director at The Community Players of Concord. Mrs. Lent set the scene for the costume design students at the beginning of the quarter, brainstorming with students about the look and feel of the play, and helping students with their approach to the design process. Through a variety of props and costume pieces and her detailed slide presentation, she demonstrated how to tell the story of each character on stage by the way they are dressed. Students were guided through the production process from design sketches to the creation of costumes and the electricity of the backstage costume changes during live performances. Mrs. Lent manages the 20,000+ garment inventory in Concord, a facility which generously loans to local schools and theaters, including Cawley Middle School to augment performance needs.

Performing Arts

The music department is working hard to prepare their music for the Large Group music competition that will take place on March 16. Each group is working to improve their adjudication pieces and the students' sight-reading abilities.

Congratulations to the following 8th grade students who have been selected to participate in the New Hampshire Music Educators Association South Central District Middle School Music Festival in the spring: **Band:** Rachel Griffin, Reid Hamilton, Emma Tilton. **Chorus:** Lilah Dugas, Jackson Hayes, Natalia Jasiukowicz, Jonathan Palazzo, and Lorelei Sibona.

Upcoming Dates to Note at Cawley:

February 21:	Cawley Coffee House, 6:30 pm
February 26 - March 1:	February Vacation
March 6 - 7:	Summative NH SAS Writing Assessment
March 11:	National History Day 7th and 8th Grade Presentations
March 12:	Professional Development Day
March 18:	Trimester 2 Ends
March 19:	Trimester 3 Begins
March 22:	Dance, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
March 25:	Trimester 2 Report Cards Distributed to Students

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal