

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



Kiwanis Educator and Youth Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

Congratulations to Cawley 8th grader Kara McIntyre for being named the Hooksett Kiwanis Youth Volunteer of the Year. Kara has made a profound impact in the Hooksett Community and Cawley Builders Club with her leadership and commitment to volunteering. In addition, congratulations to special education teacher Mark Gregoire as he was named as the Hooksett Kiwanis Educator of the Year. Mark's dedication and passion for supporting all students educationally and socially along with being an advisor for the National Junior Honor Society in coordinating a myriad of events to support local charities in Hooksett make him worthy of this honor. Kara and Mark will be recognized at an awards ceremony on May 15.

New Hampshire History Day State Competition

On April 6, the following students competed at the state National History Day competition at Plymouth State University: Matthew VanWagner, Maxine Ryan-Jacobson, Maggie McAuliffe, Jamie Godbout, Reid Hamilton, Violet Lloyd, Jaelynn Breton, Lucy Callanan, Abigail Brown, Paige Reed, Abby Chambers and Emily Little. All of the students achieved high scores and many placed in the top three of their category.

Congratulations to Maxine Ryan-Jacobson, Maggie McAuliffe, Jamie Godbout, Reid Hamilton, Violet Lloyd, Emily Little and Lucy Callanan who were selected to compete at the National Competition in Washington D.C. The entire school community is proud of all of the students who participated.

Daughters of American Revolution Essay Contest

Congratulations to 7th grade student Violet Lloyd for finishing 3rd place in the Northeast for her award winning Daughters of American Revolution Essay. Violet will be recognized at a special ceremony on May 4. Violet was required to write about John Sousa's life and inspiration for writing the "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Thank you to sixth grade social studies teacher Erin Brewitt for coordinating this wonderful opportunity for her students.

Academic March Madness

March Madness was not only on the basketball court, but also in classrooms at Cawley. In 8th grade science, Lori Adams and Margaret Collins coordinated a "March Mammal Madness" focusing on simulated combat between mammals. The bracket itself was modeled after the NCAA championship, including a Sweet Sixteen, an Elite Eight and a Final Four. The 64 animals were chosen and put into various divisions based on their characteristics. This year the four divisions were: Connoisseur Critters, Rainbow Collection, Epic Animals and Take a Bow. Connoisseur Critters focused on carnivores who have specialized traits for chewing, acquiring or digesting their meals. The Rainbow Collection animals are brilliantly colored. Epic Animals are animals that have been featured in folklore, mythology, or oral stories. The Take a Bow division focused on animals that have tantalizing dances in order to demonstrate intimidating power.

Each student received a bracket to complete and selected their winners from each match in each division. The students researched information about each of the animals. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Collins provided students with basic information such as the animal's traits, preferred biome (habitat), whether they are carnivores, herbivores, or omnivores and their position within the food chain. With this information students were able to make a well informed decision on the mammal who would win the battle. The Great White Shark was crowned the March Mammal 2024 Champion on April 3.

The Advanced Learning Program's FLEX group competed in a Battle of the Books March Madness. All twenty students selected a unique novel, and the genres that battled one another. The first battle was based on novel projects that were explorable by other students. Each student created a manipulative that represented their novel, and contained a non-spoiler summary, and three additional pieces to help build interest in the book. The winners, as voted on by the student body, will advance to the next round until a winning book is crowned.

The sixth grade social studies teachers, Erin Brewitt and Vince Gartland incorporated the NCAA basketball tournament into their study of geography. Working in small groups students identified and labeled each state using its abbreviations. The students were then required to use a 2024 basketball bracket to identify the state each team represented. The objective of this activity was to incorporate current events and geographic awareness.

Cawley Pi (3.14) Day

Pi Day 3.14 was celebrated on March 14 in all three grades. In sixth grade students rotated among all eight core teachers with Pi related activities. The activities focused on exploring digits of Pi and the relationship of a circle's circumference to diameter. Students were able to enter contests for Pi day including best pies, memorization contest and other Pi research projects.

In grade 7, some students ran 3.14 laps around the Cawley bus loop equating to about 2/3 of a mile. There were 3.14 reciting contests and a student from Cornell, Abby Brown was able to recite the digits of Pi to 291 places from memory. Students had choices of activities including seeing how many words they could think of that started with the letters Pi, did Sudokus that replaced the number 1 with the Pi symbol, and did Pi/circle crosswords. Students also visited the website "Mypiday.com" where they entered their birthday to find out their "Pi" day.

Eighth grade students used a variety of objects with circles to measure and record the circumference and the diameter of the circles provided. Once they measured, they divided the circumference by the diameter and recorded the results. Students collected and analyzed the data seeking out patterns. If students measured accurately, all of the quotients were approximately 3.14 (Pi). Students engaged in a discussion surrounding the formulas containing Pi (circumference & area of a circle) and how they were related to the activity. Students also analyzed how many digits of Pi are appropriate when calculating in different scenarios; for example, scientific vs. daily calculations. In addition, students watched a short video about how Sir Isaac Newton discovered a much more efficient way to calculate Pi and its infinite digits.

Solar Eclipse

On April 8, from approximately 2:15 pm to 4:15 pm there was a solar eclipse that was viewable in New Hampshire. The science teachers planned and implemented several engaging learning activities that prepared students for this multigenerational experience. Thank you to the Hooksett PTA for generously donating eclipse glasses for all students at Cawley.

Middle School Month

Middle School Month was kicked off with an opening assembly on March 4. Young college entrepreneurs from Windham New Hampshire, Jacob Parker and Erin Morrow presented their invention, the Finger Flyer, a palm size drone Jake invented while attending Windham High School and that Erin developed a marketing plan while a student at High Point University. Sharing their story, invention and message of the importance of collaboration and problem solving, Jake and Erin led students to experiment with the drones and consider their own creativity and aspirations.

Students participated in Foreign Language Week, Problem Solving Week and School Spirit Week which culminated with a Spirit Rally on March 22. The 7th grade students repeated as champions and look forward to next year in which they will be seeking to be the first class ever at Cawley Middle School to win three Middle School Months in a row.

8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip

One hundred-nine eighth grade students will be going to Washington D.C. April 16, 17, 18 and 19. Students will cruise the Potomac River, take pictures in front of the White House, visit the National Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, World War II and Korean War Memorials and Smithsonian Museums.

8th Grade Science Assessment

Eighth grade students will be taking the New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS) science assessment on May 8 and May 9. The NH Science Assessment is a non-adaptive computer-based assessment in which students must read information or view phenomena, create models, and answer open-ended constructed-response items.

Project Safeguard

This year 7th grade students will once again participate in Project Safeguard which is designed by the school counselors and administration for 7th graders addressing current issues impacting teenagers. This year Project Safeguard for students and parents will be on Wednesday, April 17 during the school day at Cawley Middle School.

Parents are invited to attend two morning presentations at Cawley Middle School. The first is Marko the Magician who has spoken annually to 7th grade students and their parents about making good decisions and goal setting while weaving magic into the interactive presentation.

The second presentation for parents only is by the former School Resource Officer, Angela Bergeron who is now a Juvenile Probation/Patrol Officer for the Southern District of New Hampshire. Angela spoke about cyberbullying, sexting, cell phone apps, things to look out for and what parents can do to help their kids remain safe online.

Class sessions for students addressed mental health, peer pressure, self-esteem, developing positive relationships, Internet safety, college and careers, solving problems collaboratively and developing coping strategies for challenging situations.

Keys to Literacy Coaching Days

On March 27, language arts, unified arts, science and social studies teachers participated in the 2nd training of "Keys to Content Writing." The goal of the day was to support deeper understanding and implementation of the Keys to Comprehension strategies across grade levels and content areas. There was an additional Keys to Literacy coaching day on April 10 that focused on summary writing

ALPS

This April in ALPs, students are exploring poetry and the power of language for National Poetry Month. Additionally, the 7th graders are composing visual essays to analyze common themes found in Ray Bradbury's works. The 8th graders are wrapping up their novel study and will be writing Reaction Books to help synthesize the powerful experience of reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusack. Mr. Palmeri's 7th grade students will be in the Creator Lab for a day of math learning focused on ratios, percents, and proportions.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society wrapped up a very successful book/media drive with 7th grade coming in first place with the most donated items. Congratulations to the 7th grade and thanks to all families who donated items. The members have been enjoying many opportunities to get out into the community to volunteer, and have also been busy helping out at school events like the 8th grade musical, the Book Fair/Literacy Night at Underhill and the Father/Daughter Dance at Memorial. Throughout the month of April the NJHS members will be working on plans for the upcoming talent show in May. All proceeds from this event will go to Honor Flight New England.

Builders Club

The Builders Club is holding their annual "April Showers" event this month collecting personal hygiene items. These items will be donated to the Hooksett Food Pantry to distribute to their clients. Last month, Middle School Month, the members thanked the teachers at Cawley Middle School with a vine in the hallway that recognized them for "Helping us Grow." The members also distributed care baskets including items such as snacks and school supplies. The Cawley Builders Club is so proud of Kary McIntyre, as she was named the Volunteer of the Year, and will be honored at the Kiwanis Community Leader Event in May.

Student Council

The Student Council successfully executed another wonderful Middle School Month Spirit Assembly and Dance at the end of March. Special thanks to Cali Sylvia and Alixandra Daigle for their above-and-beyond help during the day. Additionally, the Student Council is planning to honor the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week upon the return from April Vacation. They have been brainstorming ideas to show their gratitude and are looking forward to presenting their ideas.

Athletics

Spring sports have started and the baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse teams have been selected. Track & Field athletes are still exploring and competing in the various events and golf is waiting for golf courses to open. Most games have been rescheduled to May due to weather and poor field conditions. Feel free to follow the standings: [Tri County Standings](#)

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts and Unified Arts programs are proud to announce the successful performances of the 8th grade musical, The Little Mermaid, Jr. Thank you to everyone for being flexible with last-minute scheduling changes due to the spring storm; both casts had the opportunity to perform. The school community is so appreciative of all of the courage and hard work from the cast members, stage crew and unified arts teachers.

Looking back to March, the band and chorus were successful performing at the Large Group Music Festival. Both performing groups performed for audiences and judges, sight-read new material, participated in a workshop to help improve our ensembles, and had the opportunity to watch other school choruses and bands perform. The band and chorus scored well and look forward to participating again next year. The band, jazz band and chorus will continue their preparations for the Spring Concert in May.

Upcoming Dates to Note at Cawley:

April 13:	Chess Tournament
April 16 - 19:	8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.
April 17:	Project Safeguard, Grade 7
April 22 - 26	April Vacation
May 1:	8th Grade Camp Mi Te Na, Parent Information Night, 6:00 pm
May 3:	School Hero Lunch Day
May 6 - 10:	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6:	Spring Sports Pictures, 8:00 am
May 6:	Trimester 3 Progress Checks
May 8 - 9:	8th Grade NH SAS Science Assessment
May 14:	Cawley Band, Chorus, Jazz Band Concert at HMS, 1:00 pm??
May 15:	7th Grade Field Trip to Pinkerton Academy
May 16:	Spring Concert, Student Assembly, 9:30 am
May 16:	Spring Concert, Evening Performance, 6:30 pm
May 17:	Quarter 4 Progress Checks

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal