

Hawks Free Press

The Student Newspaper of Hunter Middle School

Issue No. 2

Jan. 6, 2016

Welcome back, students and staff! We hope you enjoy our second Fall edition!

Turkey Drive brings in feast of cans

By Olivia Simpson
& Megan Harrell

Gobble! Gobble! Hunter Middle School's Turkey Drive took place in November, and this year students had a feast of cans! Student Leadership has been in charge of the fundraiser since it began two years ago. The Turkey Drive took place Nov. 9th through the 19th, and over that two-week period the students at Hunter Middle School brought in more than 3,500 cans.

Student Leadership had many things to do in order to get ready for this big fundraiser. "We had to cut out feathers and make the giant turkeys and posters," said seventh grader Emily Fischer. They also had to collect the cans on the Friday the Turkey Drive ended. Sixth grader Benjamin Nielsen stated, "It was fun to see how many cans everybody brought in."

As many people may know, seventh-grade teachers Mrs. DuBose and Mrs. Underwood had a rivalry going on last year with the Turkey Drive, and that rivalry continued this year. Mrs. DuBose lost last year to Mrs. Underwood's homeroom; this year she was

determined to win. Mrs. DuBose said her goal this year was to "beat Mrs. Underwood, and yes, we did that." Mrs. DuBose's homeroom brought in 585 cans, beating Mrs. Underwood by only 126 cans! Overall, the seventh grade Flying Aces team brought in 1,409 cans all by themselves.

Mrs. Higginbotham's homeroom was the winning homeroom for the sixth grade, bringing in a grand total of 425 cans. Her homeroom decided to do something a little different instead of getting a pizza party. "As a matter of fact, they are forgoing the pizza party," Mrs. Higginbotham stated, "and they want that money to be given back to the people that need food instead of us taking the food." They have decided to just do a small party where they bring in their own snacks.

The cans that are donated go to the Highway 58 Fire Department. They then take our cans to help the immediate community. "It's good to think about (donations) at this time of the year, for



Photo by Brianna Paige

Leadership students sort cans at the end of the Turkey Drive.

people who are struggling or just need help with a meal or two," said Mrs. Grainger, the Student Leadership advisor.

All in all, the Hunter students and Student Leadership did a great job of

bringing in and collecting cans for the Turkey Drive. The whole school came together to make this happen this year, and hopefully it will keep on going for years to come.

BETA students attend annual convention

By Abbey Brewton &
Daniela Covarrubias

On November 22nd, the Hunter Middle BETA club members attended the Tennessee National Junior Beta Club Convention at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

They attended in order to participate in competitions against students from other schools, to learn more about BETA as a whole, and to grow closer as a BETA club.

This year's BETA officers included president Maggie Wilkinson, vice president Hailey Moro, secretary Chel-



Photo by Mrs. Barrett

This year's BETA officers are Maggie Wilkinson, Hailey Moro, Chelsea Childress, and Ellie Raughton.

sea Childress, and treasurer Ellie Raughton.

When BETA club attended the convention known as

"BETAcon," they participated in competitions such as Photography/Art, T-Shirt, Talent, Tower of Power,

Academics and Poetry. BETA advisor Coach Richardson sponsored the Tower of Power group.

"The Tower of Power is a competition that requires a team of five students to construct a tower made of straws and masking tape," Richardson said. "The tallest tower that can support a tennis ball at the top for 60 seconds wins."

The BETA trip was very fun, and even though the team didn't win any awards, they tried their best to succeed at the competitions.

Eighth grade explores new territory

**By Sarah Miller
& Zoe Evans**

The Explore test is one of the most important tests eighth graders will take. Our eighth graders at Hunter Middle School took this test on Friday, October 16 to help them prepare for the ACT test that many of them will take in high school. The ACT, along with the SAT, is one of the major tests you take in high school to get into college.

The Explore test is meant to help you plan your high school courses, get you ready for the ACT tests you will be taking in high school, and guide you to any future careers you may be interested

in. After he took the Explore test, Logan Siatkowski, an eighth grader on the Talons, said, “I think it did help me prepare for high school.” At the end of the Explore test students took a survey on their likes and hobbies. This will be used to determine some careers that student will most likely be interested in.

The Explore test is the first part of the ACT. The Explore test is the eighth grade version, the Plan is the tenth grade, and the ACT is the big one you take in eleventh or twelfth grade. The ACT measures your readiness for college and students’ gen-

eral academic level. It was first administered in November 1959 by Everett Franklin Lindquist to compete against the Scholastic Aptitude Test, now the SAT. Both tests are currently used in high schools to determine a student’s readiness for college.

The Explore test was not designed to be difficult. It was made to test the academic level of students in these four categories: math, science, reading, and writing.

The test was mostly common sense and figuring things out, but it did have more advanced questions than eighth graders were

used to. Falcons’ eighth grader Ellie Raughton said, “(The Explore Test) wasn’t really that hard, but what I had the most trouble with was time management, especially in math.” She also said, “It took me a long time mainly because I wanted to make sure I got (everything) right.”

In conclusion, this test was built for aptitude not difficulty, and the test went well based on the feedback from eighth graders. The eighth graders are glad they are finished with the Explore test, but this is just the beginning for them. They’re off to high school next year!

EXAMINING THE ISSUES: Start time

**By Blake Godfrey
& Jace Ruiz**

If you are reading this article, you likely have been up since at least 6 a.m. Is that a problem for kids your age?

Here is some feedback from that question: seventh grader Carter McKinney said, “If I could change the early start, I would change it to 9 a.m.”

“The schedule starts too early,” stated student Alec Williams. Many students appear to dislike the early wake-up time and believe it should be reconsidered.

Mrs. Cox, the Assistant Principal for Hunter Middle School this year, gave her opinion stating, “The county uses the same buses for all of the schools,” she said. “We don’t have enough buses for everyone to start at eight o’clock.” Mrs. Cox expressed that she would like all students to start at 9:45 a.m., but she said that that is not feasible. “Research shows the older the students, the later they need to start school,” she said.

According to an article titled “Aren’t Getting Enough Sleep?” by Jessica Lahey in The Atlantic Magazine, “Chronic sleep loss contributes to higher rates of depression, suicidal ideation, and obesity.”

In conclusion, not only can the early wake-up time make some students tired, it can also cause health and mental problems. So where do you stand? Should the hours be changed?

Bullying

**By R.J. Knaggs,
Blake Brown
& Christopher Thomas**

Bullying is a problem that affects people everywhere, including Hunter Middle School.

Bullying can cause dilemmas in school for children that have to face it on a daily basis. It can cause mental and/or physical pain.

There are many cases of bullying that have caused the person being bullied to commit suicide or perform painful acts on themselves. There are multiple actions that can be taken to stop bullying, but “it’s all in the kids,” Hunter school counselor Mr. Jacobs said.

Bullies will target one or more people and harass them. Mrs. Cox stated, “Bullying is always hurtful and it is always intimidating, and makes people not want to come to school. Bullying is making someone become the main target. To stop it we need to let an adult know when people are being bullied.”

Students who are being bullied can turn in a BINT form, which stands for Bullying Is Not Tolerated, to Mr. Jacobs. He said he gets around 40 to 50 of these forms each year.

“Some kids just want to say you need to stop, but they feel that they will get bullied so they don’t say anything,” he said.

Students enjoy final Hunger Games movie

**By Jennifer Etheridge
& Shelby Thomason**

Katniss, Peeta, Gale, Prim: Do these names sound familiar? If you watched the movie or read the book, then you know they are the main characters in the Hunger Games series. Hunter students attended a school-wide field trip on Nov. 20 to see Mockingjay: Part 2, the final movie of the series. “This year the movie was relevant to the book,” Hunter SRO Officer Walls stated.

Some students agreed with Officer Walls, and many gave the movie two thumbs up. Sixth grader Cameron Legge said, “They missed a lot of action, but I liked the ending.” But eighth grader Erika Ryabchuk stated, “The movie was good, but some parts were cheesy.” Finally, Officer Walls stated, “I think the movie went really well, but it missed a lot of action. Also, I think this year the movie was more relevant to the last part of the book.”

Hunter librarian Mrs. Hall organized the trip, and she said students’ behavior this year was great. “I think the trip went very well and behavior was excellent,” she said. This year Hunter Middle School took exactly 701 students and teachers on the trip. Mrs. Hall just wants to say, “I couldn’t have done it without the staff. Thank you!”

This year the Hunter Games was where students would answer questions on WHMS about the Hunger Games Series. The Hunter Games lasted about three weeks, and there were about 30 winners in total. Most were sixth graders, while eighth grade had the least number of winners. Winners got various prizes that have to do with the Hunger Games. “I never won, but I did answer a lot of questions,” Legge said.

An annual part of the Hunter Games tradition is selling a school T-shirt, and this year two types of shirts were sold. There was a black one which was also sold last year, and a new blue shirt for this year. The shirts were being sold for \$15 each, and Mrs. Hall still has some available, so get them while you can.

Overall, this year’s trip was amazing. Even though the movie may have missed some action, students and teachers loved the ending of the book series.

Student Life

Cheerleaders take first at state

By Emma Denham
& Jada Royval

Hunter Middle School cheerleaders stunted and tumbled their way to first place in the Tennessee State Championships on Nov. 14 at Middle Tennessee State University.

It was the cheerleaders' first-ever official win, and team members said they were astounded and ecstatic to go through this experience as a team.

"I was really excited because I have competed before, but never with a school cheer team," sixth grade cheerleader Calle Arnold said.

When the cheerleaders first arrived at the university for their competition, filled with anticipation and anxiety, they prepared for their final routine. After getting their hair and makeup done, they went to practice their routine, which they performed perfectly. Eighth-grader Alandra

Campbell shared what it felt like to win in her first full year of being a Hunter Middle School cheerleader.

"Well, before I've only competed in gymnastics, which I won by myself, but with cheerleading, you win as a team," she said. "So when you compete, you're

doing it together, and that makes it a lot more fun."

After they practiced their first-place routine, they went to perform it officially.

Seventh-grade cheerleaders Kendall McGuffee and Gracie Mathis said the competition was fun for everyone because it made for a great experience with the

announcing that the small division East Tennessee first-

place winners were the Hunter Middle School cheerleaders.

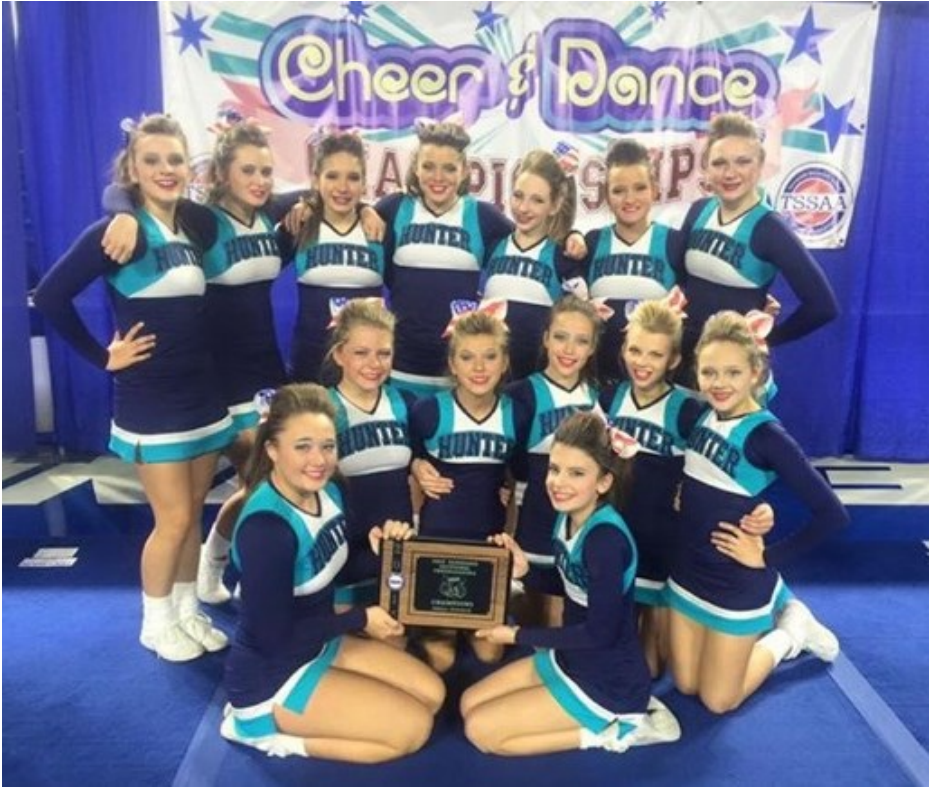
After countless hours working on their routine, our cheerleaders were thrilled to hear that all their hard work had paid off with a state championship.

team that they will never forget.

After they performed their routine, they anxiously watched the teams they were competing against perform.

Then, they went to awards, filled with apprehension and uncertainty of what was to come.

That was when the announcer's voice came over the intercom,



Hunter cheerleaders won the TSSAA state championship for their division.

Contributed photo

Meet Mr. Jimmy

By Alana Anderson, Maria Bougrat & Autumn Suchy

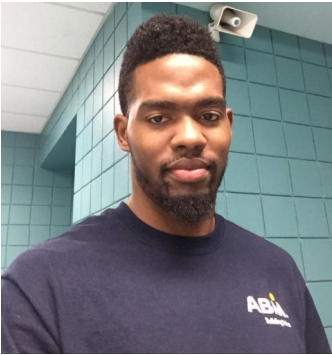
Most people don't know much about Mr. Jimmy, the school custodian/janitor. Mr. Jimmy does many things here at Hunter, one of which is making sure the school stays nice and neat.

He also helps people with anything that they need. This includes cleaning up spills, and helping people lift heavy things.

"I maintain the school, and keep it sanitized and good for other people at the school," Mr. Jimmy said.

He said he doesn't have a favorite grade here at Hunter, but he does have a least favorite part of his job. "My least favorite thing to clean up would have to be throw up," he said.

Mr. Jimmy also shared some facts about his life outside work. "I have been married



for almost one year, and I have a five-month-old son," he said. "My favorite basketball player is LeBron James. I played a lot of different sports like basketball, football, softball, kickball, and boxing. I also used to work at Amazon."

Emma Riden, a student here at Hunter Middle School, stated "I really like having him around because he helps me a lot. I would rate him a 10 out of 10 because I really think he does really good at his job."

Ask Heather & Harriet Hawk



Q: I want to try out for track, but I'm afraid I will look stupid. Should I go for it even if I fail? Sincerely, Track Wannabe

A: Dear Track Wannabe, Sometimes it is good to go with your heart. If you really want to try out, then go for it. If you love running, then do it!

Q: My best friend is upset with me. What do I do?! Sincerely, Hurting

A: Dear Hurting, First ask your friend what is wrong. If she gets mad, just say "I'll talk to you later," and give her some space. Next, when she is calm, talk to her and try to work it out. We hope you guys make up!

Q: What are some good study tips? From, Fearful of Failure

A: Dear Fearful of Failure, If you study, you won't fail! You could try giving yourself a treat at the end of studying. Also, you could study with a friend to make it more fun. What we're trying to say is, try to have fun with studying. Don't make it boring!

Thanks for your questions! We look forward to hearing from you next semester!

Sincerely, Heather & Harriet Hawk

Congratulations November Students of the Month!

Starhawks: Kendra Jones

Hawkeys: Emily Fischer

Heroes: Cora Brock

Aces: Carter McKinney

Raptors: Jennifer Etheridge

Falcons: Ellie Raughton

Nighthawks: Alex Neely

Talons: Jazmynn Ball

Aviators: Austin Everett

CDC: Montrell Banks

Hawks Athletics

Hawks basketball teams finish seasons

By Brianna Paige
& Sierra Holder

Another successful basketball season at Hunter Middle ended with the HCAC tournaments the second week in December.

The girls' varsity team was playing with no previous varsity experience from any of the players currently on the team, and had only two eighth graders on the team. Despite this, the team still had a great season with a 5-7 record.

"We have not won all our games, but we have won some, and the ones we didn't we could've played better," varsity player Hannah Irwin said.

The girls' varsity team ended its season in the HCAC tournament. A loss to Red Bank on Dec. 8 dropped them out of the tournament.

The boys' varsity basketball team also ended its season Dec. 8 with a loss to Tyner in the HCAC tournament. The boys' team finished with a 3-13 record.



Hunter boys' basketball players talk during a timeout in one of their games this season.

Contributed photo

"We put in all we can, and we try hard each game we play," varsity boys' player Steven McHone said.

The Hunter junior varsity girls' basketball team also had a good season, finishing strong with a record of 3-7. With more than half of the JV team being sixth graders,

Coach Bacon said her team learned a lot this season.

"Every win we have had, we fought hard for it, and with each loss we learned something new and have grown as a team," Bacon said.

The boys junior varsity team had a record of 2-12,

with the two wins coming against Sale Creek and CSLA. They had many close games, and played hard throughout the whole season.

"We started out pretty slow, but as the season went on we progressed as a team," sixth grader Tyler Mullins said.

Soccer ends with success for Hunter teams

By Ellie Raughton
& Lili McDaniel

Both girls' and boys' soccer teams had outstanding seasons for Hunter Middle school this fall. The girls finished off their season second in their division, and second in the county tournament.

The girls' team ended with a record of 7-1. Their only loss was East Hamilton, but in the second round of the tournament, the Hawks triumphed with an ending score of 3-0.

"I love it," Mr. Jacobs said on coaching the girls' team this year. "I love being with them to watch them grow and have fun. They were great."

The team set their goal to win big in the tournament.



The Hunter girls' soccer team finished with a 7-1 record.

Contributed photo

Seventh-grader Ashley Pearlman said, "I think we will do well. We have definitely gotten better, but some of the other teams we've beat have gotten better also."

The boys finished fourth in their division, but didn't place in the tournament.

"I'm very proud of them," Coach Browder said. "They worked hard, and played hard. They were probably the most physical team I've ever coached."

The boys' team ended with a record of 6-3. Even though they didn't go far into the tournament, seventh grader

Jacob Harney said, "We did better than last year. We really grew as a team. We got better throughout the whole season."

In their first game against East Ridge, the boys had a great victory. The score was 1-1 in overtime when Rubin Goni scored the winning goal.

"We were all pumped up when the goal was scored," eighth grader Tyler Ryan said.

Overall, both teams had a great season, and both coaches are very proud of their teams. "Everyone improved over the course of the season," Coach Browder said.

"I'm very excited for next year," Jacob Harney said.