

Hawks Free Press

Issue No. 3

The Student Newspaper of Hunter Middle School

March 24, 2016

Eighth graders take on Washington, D.C.

By Brooke Bledsoe
& Adrianna Morgan

The eighth grade trip to Washington D.C. was a fantastic experience. This year 128 students attended the trip the week before Christmas break.

"It is a phenomenal trip and a great opportunity for students to learn more about our country," said Mrs. Singer, the Falcons eighth grade history teacher.

"It increased their knowledge of our government, and I wish all students could go there."

The Washington D.C. trip was well-planned. It took Mrs. Camp, the Talons team leader, nine months to plan because she had to follow a process.

First, she had to request an approval for the trip. Once the trip was approved, she had to make reservations at the hotel and the places they planned to visit.

Then she had to get permission slips for students and hand them out at the beginning of the school year. The number of students filled up three buses.

"The students always behave really well. I'm always proud of our students," explained Mrs. Camp. "Hunter is a good school to take."

While on the trip, the eighth graders toured lots of exciting places.

The trip included visits to Arlington Cemetery, Ford's Theater, the Pentagon, the Capitol, Union Station, the Library of Congress, Smithsonian museums, the National Cathedral, and the Lincoln, Jefferson, Korean, Vietnam, Martin Luther King, Jr., World War II and Roosevelt memorials.

They also visited the Pentagon City Mall and the White House, although they weren't able to go inside.

By visiting these places, the students learned more about our nation's history. Mrs. Singer said those places were chosen "to give the kids better respect for our country. The Capitol building and war memorials represented their importance to us."

The students who went on



Contributed photo

Eighth grade Hunter girls snap a picture in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

the trip enjoyed the things they saw and the places they visited. Eighth grader Lauren Turner said her favorite place was "the Lincoln Memorial because it looks across from the Washington Monument and the water." Both Blaine Gilreath and Jacob Bastien enjoyed vis-

iting the Pentagon because it was a neat place to see, and family members have worked there.

Overall, the eighth graders had a wonderful time in Washington D.C., and the seventh graders should look forward to going next year.

Hunter students shine in spelling bees

By Jackson Antuna
& Rashun Evans

Hunter Middle School's spelling bee, with 23 participants who competed, was a success. Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Baker, who organized the bee, said that it took some time to set up but was ready when it was supposed to be.

"I was very proud of how the students did," she said. "The students did so well we had to go to the really hard words."

The top three finishers from Hunter advanced to the zone bee at Wallace A. Smith Elementary, and according to Mrs. Baker, three of the top five students in the zone were from Hunter. She also was not surprised about how well the students did because she knows that all of our students are very smart.



Contributed photo

Left to right: Keown, Phillips, Steves

After many rounds of the spelling bee, there were three Hunter students who rose to the top of the competition: Matthew Phillips, Luke Keown and Chloe Steves.

Matthew Phillips, the winner of the school spelling bee and

the third place speller in the zone, was very proud of how he did in both competitions. Like many other spellers there, he was nervous but became relaxed as he got further in the competition.

"It was very challenging for me, and I was pressured pretty much the whole time," Phillips said. "But I got more laid-back as the competition went on."

Phillips added that he also had to study a lot, but it wasn't as hard as he thought it might be.

Sixth grader Luke Keown got second in the school spelling bee and fourth in the zone. Keown also said he was nervous going up because he was

the first one to go spell a word, but he ended up with a very strong finish, especially for a sixth grader.

"I studied hard, but I still got a little nervous once I got up there," he said. "But since I studied hard, I was pretty confident."

The amazing speller who got first in the zone and third in the school spelling bee was eighth grader Chloe Steves. She was also very confident and proud of her work. Steves said she studied a lot after she and the other participants were given words to practice.

"We got a list before winter break, and I mainly studied that list for the zone spelling bee," she said. "I just went over the words again. I was laid-back and relaxed the whole time, until it got to the final two participants."

Students struggle with locker issues

By Emilia Pastusic
& Madison Johnson

Many Hunter Middle School students struggle with their lockers. Some common problems are that they can't open them or that people are blocking others' lockers. "It's hard to reach over people," said sixth grader Natalia Englemann.

For Hunter students, lockers are important—they hold all of our stuff, after all. But should it be a struggle? Some students said they struggle with their lockers, whether it's getting them open, or getting to them.

Eighth grader Rachel Trotter expressed another issue with lockers altogether. "People throw stuff down, and I get hit with it," she said.

Space is another problem for students. Organized or not, things don't seem to fit, causing lockers to get jammed.

"They just need to learn to organize," said Mrs. Stone, a seventh grade science teacher who opens lockers at least once a week due to over-stuffing,.

While organizing could work, others thought differently. "It's too small," seventh grader Harlee Keith said.



Eighth grade students rush to their lockers at the end of the school day.

Photo by Mrs. Barrett

When lockers jam, the office tends to take care of it. Clerical Assistant Mrs. Forgey said, "The biggest problem is jamming. Ninety-five percent of the time it's a coat or a backpack strap that is hung up and stuck."

The keys used to open these lockers hardly ever break because the office aides are taught how to use them correctly, but sometimes they still do. Mrs. Forgey added, "The keys break about once a year."

Lockers also pose the problem of making students late

to class or to a bus, causing the students' agendas to be signed or making the students wait until someone can come get them.

Seventh grade student Alana Anderson said, "I didn't get my locker open, and they were about to leave," referring to the buses.

Many students said they only get about four minutes at lockers before teachers start rushing them, causing them to forget things.

Talking about her locker, seventh grader Bailey Lantman said, "Funny story: For

the first half of the year, I put in my passcode wrong, and it was still opening until just recently."

This could pose a problem. If lockers are opening with a different combination than the assigned one, things could get stolen.

The main issues students said they have with lockers are either technical or a problem getting to them. These issues, though, are typical of any school with around 800 students.

Hunter weighs in on cell phone policy

By Jordan Lowe
& Ina Henderson

Hunter Middle School students have many opinions on the school's cell phone policy. According to the school policy, students aren't allowed to have their phones out at any point in time unless teachers allow them to be out.

Even though this is true, students argued that cell phones could be very helpful during an emergency.

"We should be able to keep our phones out, because if we are having an emergency with the weather or something, it would be helpful," eighth grader Lindsey Meisheid said.

Students can use their phones in many useful ways. Assistant principal Mrs. Cox said she feels that the cell phone policy depends on whether or not the teacher

allows students to use cell phones in particular situations.

Mrs. Cox explained, "I think that's appropriate because they're very helpful academically, if the teacher is able to monitor that the students are able to stay on task using them. So I think they're very helpful, meaning that the cell phones could be good for certain things that could help students academically, such as the apps."

Not many teachers allow cell phones to be out, but

Hunter Middle School Cell Phone Policy

- Devices must be turned off and should be kept in lockers.
- School administration is not responsible in the event of lost, stolen or misplaced cell phones.
- 1st offense:** The device will be taken up and held for 10 calendar days.
- 2nd offense:** The device will be taken up and held for 20 calendar days.
- 3rd offense:** The device will be taken up and held for the remainder of the semester.

there are some teachers, such as Spanish teacher Mrs. Goode, who do. Many of Mrs. Goode's tests/quizzes can be taken on a cell phone. Cell phones can be useful in the classroom if students use them properly.

Another thing that students argue about is if they should be allowed to have their phones out when they are not in class. In most cases, students are not allowed on their phones unless it is a special occasion.

Sixth grader Abbey Brewton said she thinks that

if students could have them out when not in class, they would be less tempted to have them in class.

"Cell phones could be used when we are not in class or at lunch so that they aren't a distraction in class," she said.

Even though most students disagreed with the cell phone policy, some students agreed that taking up the cell phone is necessary if students aren't doing what they're supposed to be doing.

Seventh grader Madelynn Bryan said, "If students are not doing what they are told, and are on their phones, teachers should be allowed to take their phones up, but only for the rest of the day."

Overall, the cell phone policy can be flexible depending on the situation and the teacher.

Student Life

Meet Mr. Jacobs

By Emily Childress
& Chloe Johnson

Hunter Middle School guidance counselor Mr. Jacobs is a fun and upbeat person who takes his job very seriously. Mr. Jacobs graduated from UTC in 2008 with a master’s degree. He then started working at Valley Hospital with adolescent kids ages 13-18 years old.

In 2012 he continued working with adolescents, starting a job as a guidance counselor at Hunter. There are many challenges to being a guidance counselor.

When asked what the most challenging part of the job is, Mr. Jacobs said, “Time. My most important job is to be with the children. Part of that is that I don’t want to take time from the teachers.”

Students also recognized how challenging being a guidance counselor could be.

“I think it would be hard to be a guidance counselor because kids come to you with all of their problems, and you have to solve it,” said eighth grader Grace Warner.

But in the face of challenges, Mr. Jacobs is a very hard worker who always wants to help the kids at Hunter.

His favorite part of being a guidance counselor is getting to work with the kids. Mr. Jacobs said the middle school age group speaks to him.

He also loves being one of



Photo by Emily Childress

the soccer coaches for Hunter. He thinks soccer teaches valuable lessons such as integrity.

Warner, also a Hunter soccer player, said, “I like his coaching style because he can be calm and strict at the same time.”

Mr. Jacobs wants to be able to eventually coach his son’s and daughter’s teams. When he’s not coaching and counseling, he loves to walk his dog and to do woodwork.

When asked whether or not the eighth graders are ready for high school, he said, “Overall, yes. For some it’s going to be a bit of a shock. For others, they’re going to get knocked down a few poles.”

But they will get right back up and try again. The eighth graders are going to miss Mr. Jacobs very much as some of them have been with him for three years, and it will be a big change for them.

Students share good things about Hunter

By Tiana Lockhart
& Anshul Patel

Hunter Middle School has changed in many ways over the years, and the changes are making the school better than it was before. Some changes are favored by many of the students, but, as always, there are some things people just don’t like. But on the bright side of things, Hunter has many good qualities that students enjoy.

Many people tended to say that the teachers are their favorite thing about the school. Eighth grader Zoë Evans explained, “I like the teachers and the friendliness—the teachers standing out in the halls and greeting us.”

Many students said they love the teachers for how nice they are and how they are willing to give students a good education.

The staff members aren’t the only good thing about the school, though. People also like the classes! Many students said they like having activity period because it gives them a chance to socialize with people from different grades.

Seventh grader Chapel Shortt said, “I think it’s good because it’s helpful for the WHMS group.” Either way, several students agreed that activity period is a good opportunity to really get to know people and have fun.

Hunter isn’t just a good school because of teachers and time to socialize. Overall, the school also positively affects students’ lives.

Eighth grader Heather Fisher claimed, “Being at Hunter helped me get better grades and have a better education.”

She isn’t the only one who said that the school has given her a better chance at education. Many students said that the school has helped them get a good education and great grades.

Of course, there are some things students said they would like to change about the school, but that is expected. Sixth grader Bo Casil-



Contributed photo

Drama students enjoy participating in activity period.

las said, “Making lunch longer would be better.” This is something that many students agree on. Also, several students said they wish to sit with other teams at lunch again, simply because they miss the company of their friends on other teams.

Although most students had something that they would like to change about the school, Zoë Evans had a different opinion. “Not necessarily. There’s not really anything I would change. The school isn’t really that old. I like all the teachers.”

We all hear our friends down the hall complaining about the school and things that should be changed, but does anyone ever focus on the good things? Next time you hear your friends explain what they don’t like about the school, maybe you should voice your opinion about what is good about the school.

Congratulations, Students of the Month!

JANUARY

Starhawks: Cesar Arellano
Heroes: Sean Helferic
Raptors: Anna Frazier
Nighthawks: Scarlet Sodergren
Aviators: Makayla Ervin

Hawkeys: Dylan Cox
Aces: Allison McGlohon
Falcons: Andrew Merriweather
Talons: Chandler Cate
CDC/MHC/DCC: Abigale Banther

FEBRUARY

Starhawks: Olivia Brackett
Heroes: Kendall Johnson
Raptors: Molly Trent
Nighthawks: Beth Hodge
Aviators: Ruben Goni

Hawkeys: Annalee Moore
Aces: Justin Proctor
Falcons: Mayra Salgado
Talons: Tyler Mullins
CDC/MHC/DCC: Braxton Williams

Restroom rules raise questions

By Devon Cook
& Madelynn Bryan

For the past few months, the restroom policy at Hunter has been an issue, and students and teachers gave their opinions.

Computer technology teacher Mr. Richardson has a policy that requires students to take a partner with them to the restroom. He said that his policy has been working great, but that he thinks it's unfortunate that his students have to follow such a strict policy.

Mr. Richardson said he thinks that if more than one or two people need to go to the restroom at a time, then the teacher should just take

all of them to the restroom.

Seventh grader Trystan Brumlow said, "It's not fair because I think that we should be allowed to go to the bathroom."

Many teams provide students with a certain number of restroom passes to use each quarter.

Brumlow stated that restroom passes are fine and could be used, but that she thinks students should have more of them.

"I think that we should [have them], but I also think that we should be allowed to have more than 10 passes for nine weeks," she said.

Seventh grade student Bob

Deitch also gave his opinion, stating, "I think we should be able to go during class."

He also said he thinks that after students use all of their passes, they shouldn't get their agendas signed for something so simple as going to the bathroom.

Guidance counselor Mr. Jacobs said that if certain students are going to have passes, then all students should have passes.

"Not all students can be trusted by themselves, so I see the reason behind passes," he said.

However, he also said that he doesn't believe that all students were the cause of the restroom issues.

"No, I think that 99-percent of the students are trustworthy and could be trusted without passes, but it is fair for all students to have passes," he said.

Sixth grader Calle Arnold expressed that she's against the passes that most teams have and use often. She said that she thinks the policy that her team has to follow is unfair and shouldn't be followed.

If there have to be passes, Arnold said she believes that the amount should be raised.

"If we have to use passes, I think that the amount should be raised from 10 every nine weeks to 20 every nine weeks," she said.

Hunter celebrates Valentine's Day

By Hunter Hill,
Tess Kendall,
& Lauren Mullins

Valentine's Day has been a tradition for many years, and some Hunter students celebrated this year.

On Feb. 14, you might have found some students at the movies or out eating with their families.

"I think Valentine's Day should be celebrated outside of school, and not around students and teachers," seventh grader Christian Light said.

Other students like eighth grader Ashley Montgomery disagreed, saying, "It's romantic, and love is romantic."

You might have also found students at Hunter's Valentine's Day dance, hosted by the sports boosters. The dance began at 2:30 and ended at 5:30. This was a time for

students to hang out with friends and have a good time.

Many of Hunter's teachers also celebrated Valentine's Day. Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Higginbotham said her deployed son sent her flowers, and her husband hand-delivered her a dozen roses to the school as well. Later that day, she had a big dinner with her stepdaughter.

On Feb. 14, you might've looked up on the walls of the Hunter hallways and noticed the hearts with the names of each and every student and teacher. The leadership class was responsible for making and hanging the hearts. The hot pink hearts represented the eighth graders, the dark pink was seventh, and the sixth graders were red.

"Students had fun searching for their hearts," sixth grade leadership member Scarlet Sodergren said.

But what was the purpose of these hearts? Since the leadership class had to cancel its connections test, they decided to celebrate in a different way.



Photo by Chloe Johnson

Leadership students hang hearts for Valentine's.

"Since the match tests didn't work out, we decided to do the hearts," Sodergren said.

Students, staff consider the cost of free time

By Owen Kreuger,
Cameron Legge,
& Carys Oppedisano

It's confirmed: Most students and teachers at Hunter Middle School have a strong opinion about having recess or free time.

Hunter principal Mr. Alford said he thinks that students need time in their day to do nothing. "The problem is that there is not enough time in the day," he said. "I do believe that we need time to

relax."

However, eighth grade student Donovan Walker disagreed with students having recess or free time.

"School is about learning, not fun," he said. "We need to start preparing for life."

On the other hand, sixth grade student Charlie Pirtle said, "I need time to relax because I get jumpy in class."

Some teams at Hunter

already offer free time to students. For example, the eighth grade Talons get free time at the end of the day on Friday. If all of their work for that week is done, they get to go outside for 30 minutes.

Eighth grade Talons teacher Mrs. Camp said she appreciates that free time.

"I enjoy our free time very much because I get to get all my work done. Students also get to finish work and relax,"

she said.

Eighth grader Emily Hall said she believes that recess and free time at the end of her Friday is an outstanding addition to her school day.

"I enjoy my free time on Fridays," she said. "I think it's a great way to end the week."

In conclusion, teachers and students have different opinions about having free time. So, do you believe students at Hunter Middle School should have free time?

Hawks Athletics

Volleyball wins HCAC championship

By Emily Matlock & Julia Arnhart

The Hunter Middle volleyball teams both finished very successful seasons, with the varsity team winning the HCAC East division tournament and having four players selected to the All-County team.

The Lady Hawks ended the year with a 26-6 record, with one of the highlights being a first place win in the HCAC tournament.

They were undefeated in league play throughout the season, and won the tournament with a huge win over Ooltewah by a score of 25-18, 25-22 in the championship match.

Eighth grader Kendall Smith was named the MVP of the HCAC East division, and Smith also made All-County, along



The Hunter varsity volleyball team celebrated a win in the HCAC East tournament final.

with teammates Riley Nayadley, Ellie Raughton and Kaylee Jarnagin.

Whitney Tryon, Emily Matlock, Nayadley and Raughton were also picked for the HCAC All-Tournament team.

“This year we had a great group of girls that worked hard every day,” Coach Moses said. “They improved throughout the year, and these girls were very successful. This eighth grade group has had a tremendous

career at Hunter, and I am very proud of them.”

The junior varsity team also went undefeated in league games under Coach Flynn, who was in her first year coaching at Hunter, and won the JV Ooltewah Invitational.

Player Natalie Smallen stated that Coach Flynn is very loved, saying she “is a good coach, and she’s nice to us even when we mess up.”

Eighth grader Jarnagin said the team feels the same way about Coach Moses.

“I love the coaches,” she said. “They push us, but it’s good.”

Contributed photo

New coaches lead Hunter wrestling to strong season

By Chelsea Childress & Jordan Parks

The Hunter wrestling team finished the regular season with an 8-2 record and a fourth place finish in the HCAC tournament.

Seventh grade wrestler Bob Deitch finished the year with an unbeaten record at 13-0, and was an HCAC tournament champion and an All-County selection.

The team also had several new coaches this year, and Coach Manley said he was very proud of his group of wrestlers.

“Twenty-eight young men worked super hard this season to learn the sport of wrestling,” he said. “They came together as a team, supporting one another to represent Hunter Middle School admirably. It was a joy for the coaching staff to

work with such a great group.”

Coach Manley’s assistants were Coach Boone and Coach Thomas, and the wrestlers said they enjoyed working with the new group of coaches.

“I like Coach Boone,” eighth grader Taylor Swartout said. “He’s a really good coach. It seems like he has been coaching us for three years, but he hasn’t.”

Part of the wrestling season was cut short due to weather and difficulties from the other teams, but that did not stop their drive to win.

“This wrestling season will turn out good because most of our guys have been practicing harder than usual,” eighth grader Jack Neely said. “The ones who do, it pays off at matches.”

The wrestlers also had to adjust to new practices, but sixth grader Josh Deitch agreed that the hard work paid off.

“They’re actually pretty hard when you start out, but once you do practices over and over every day, they start to get a little easier,” he said.

Overall, the boys on the wrestling team have worked very hard this season. Even if they were losing, they never gave up

and always kept good sportsmanship.



Hunter wrestler Bob Deitch was an HCAC champion.

Contributed Photo