

Fred C. Underhill School

Principal's Report

March 2025



Invention Convention Winners

Underhill's Invention Convention was held on February 18. We had another great showing! Thank you to Mrs. Ruest, Hooksett ALPs Teacher, for her coordinating efforts and to our guest judges and volunteers for their support.

We had 23 inventions that first and second grade students showcased this year. All students who participated in the Invention Convention were recognized for their efforts. At the end of the Underhill Invention Convention, awards were presented for each grade. The Invention Convention winners were nominated for the regional competition at the Northern New England Regional Invention Convention on March 22nd at the University of New Hampshire. Best of luck to the inventors moving on to regionals!

First and Second Grade Winners



First Grade Participants



Second Grade Participants



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Artist in Residence Wrap-Up

Theo Martey, a West African Drumming and Dance performer, spent a full week (Feb. 17-21) with Underhill School as part of the Artist in Residence program. Theo and the Akwaaba Ensemble kicked off the residency with a whole school performance on Feb 17.

The students were engaged in learning about the different types of drums, the songs, the dances, and the culture. Over the course of the week, each class worked with Theo to learn more about West African drumming and dance.



On February 21, we ended the residency with a grand performance by our second grade students led by Theo. They did an amazing job with their songs and dance in front of the rest of the school. Thank you to Theo for sharing this experience with us!



Early Release Day Recap

On the February 21st Early Release Day, Dr. Brent Conway led the K-2 Teachers in a comprehensive review of the mid-year DIBELS 8 assessment data. Dr. Conway worked with the staff to highlight key trends in students' performance data. He also demonstrated the use of data decision trees to identify instructional focus areas for all students. We will use this approach at our upcoming PLC meetings in March to adjust our instruction for the next 6-8 weeks.

March 11 Professional Development Day

We focused on emergency management and safety topics on the March 11th Professional Development day. SRO Carleton, LT. Bradley, and Officer Underwood from the Hooksett Police Department led a presentation on Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. They also incorporated table top exercises with the staff to incorporate safety procedures.

Captain Stalker and Assistant Chief Nadeau from Hooksett Fire and Rescue led the staff in CPR and Stop the Bleed training.

The staff also completed a Cybersecurity Basics webinar offered through Primex.

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Spring Book Fair and Storytime

The spring Scholastic Book Fair will be on Thursday, March 20th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We will also have storytimes and crafts with our principal, Mr. Loi, Miss Heather from the Hooksett Public Library, and School Resource Officer Carleton. This is sure to be a fun evening and a great way to support Underhill School.

Upcoming Author Visits

Three amazing authors will be visiting Underhill this spring. Chris Van Dusen, an award winning author and illustrator of many books including If I Built a Car, Circus Ship and Big Truck, Little Island and the illustrator of the Mercy Watson series, will come to Underhill on March 25th. He will teach our first and second graders about what it is like to be an author and illustrator and what the book making process entails. He emphasizes the importance of revising and editing to produce the best work possible.

Then, on April 4th, author and illustrator, Marty Kelley, will return to Underhill to meet with our second graders. He has written and illustrated over twenty children's books and will provide a fun and fast paced explanation of how he makes his books. He will discuss how the writing and illustrating processes are linked.

Finally, on April 10th, Scott Canning will be working with our kindergarteners. He is an author and photographer whose stunning photographs of wild animals found in Africa and Borneo are sure to delight and inspire our students.



Coming Soon: The Magic of Reading!

Magician, Tommy James, will be bringing his Magic of Reading program to Underhill on April 3, 2025. His program aims to promote READING and BOOKS in a 45-minute magic show that inspires children to turn OFF their iPads, cell phones and video games and turn ON to the thrill of reading! Thank you to the Hooksett PTA for funding this event!



Upcoming Events

March 20 - Trimester 2 Ends - Grades Close

March 20 - Spring Book Fair and Storytime Read Aloud - 6:00-7:30 PM at Underhill School

March 21 - Trimester 3 Begins

March 22 - Hooksett PTA Father-Daughter Dance - 5:30-7:30 PM at Hooksett Memorial School

March 25 - Chris Van Dusen, Author Visit with 1st and 2nd Grade

March 27 - Report Cards Go Home

April 1 - Reading Challenge Kick-Off Assembly

April 3 - Magic of Reading Assembly

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April 4 - Marty Kelley, Author Visit with 2nd Grade

April 7 - Spring Picture Day

April 10 - Scott Canning, Author Visit with Kindergarten

April 22 - Grade 2 Concert - 6:30-7:30 PM at Cawley Middle School

April 24 - Reading Challenge Finale Assembly

April 24 - Grade 1 Concert - 6:30-7:30 PM at Cawley Middle School

April 25 - Early Release Day - Dismissal Begins at 12:20 PM for K-2, AM Preschool dismisses at regular time, No PM Preschool.

April 28 - May 2 - April Vacation Week - No School

May 8 - Mid-Trimester 3 Progress Reports Go Home

May 21 - 2nd Grade Pollinator Project Presentations (Classes TBD), 9:30-10:30 AM at Underhill School

May 22 - 2nd Grade Pollinator Project Presentations (Classes TBD), 2:00-3:00 PM at Underhill School

May 26 - Memorial Day - No School

May 28 - Grade 2 Field Trip - Capitol Center for the Arts

June 13 - Fun and Games Day (Rain Date - June 17)

June 16 - 2nd to 3rd Grade Step Up Day - 9:15-11:30 AM at Hooksett Memorial School

June 20 - Last Day of School for K-2 - Early Release - Dismissal Begins at 12:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Benjamin Loi'.

Benjamin Loi, M.Ed.
Principal