

## CELEBRATING THE UNSUNG HERO

### CIARA SIKORSKI

Have you ever wondered who keeps this school running smoothly? Most of you walk past her every day, but do not notice what she does. If you have not guessed, it's Ciara Sikorski. She is also known as Ms. Ciara, Ms. Sikorski, Coach, and many more. She is the Administrative Assistant to the Principal, but she does a lot more than just that. She does more than just day-to-day tasks, she works to make sure every student has the chance to succeed. Ms. Sikorski goes above and beyond in every aspect of her job, making sure students enjoy our school environment. On top of that, she is also a coach to two of our school sports teams: Soccer and Cheer. As you can see she cares about more than just students' academics. She cares about their personal development too. From getting up at 5am, to coming to work at 6:00am-2:10pm she will often stay after school until 4:30 for soccer or 5:00pm for cheer. As soon as she gets into school she makes sure every kid has the opportunity to learn even when their teachers are out. She is also very dedicated to the work she does working all day every day even into the summers. The only days she takes off are holidays. While we get to enjoy our breaks she is at school doing many different things to keep this school running. She schedules events for our principals while they are helping our school in their own special way.



While she continues to do that she is also keeping track of bank statements. She also helps with money. One of the more difficult things she does is supervising students during lunch and flex detentions. She is definitely a perfect match for this because of her great communication skills. She makes sure everyone is aware of what's happening in our school. She also communicates with parents, teachers, and staff on a daily basis. Whether it's on the phone or over parent square she makes sure everyone has an understanding of what is going on at our school.

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## POSITIVE PAGE

School years are never fun without a positive environment and you can see that this year! There are many different things our school has done. For example, the girls basketball is crushing it on the court! This team has been winning almost every game they participate in, and the girls are unstoppable. We have a couple of fun things going on this week, including our reading scores, days off, switching quarters, and last but not least i-Ready testing is coming to an end! Let's start by talking about Monday. It was an amazing day to recognize MLK Jr. and his achievements! Monday also doubled as a snow day! We're doing great with our reading goals and currently have 498 books read out of 2250! 6th grade is also in the lead with the most footballs. The next fun thing we have going on is switching up quarters. It's always fun to have a change and can help students as we will have a fresh start. Students are looking forward to this as well as the teachers. There were some super cool projects and activities last quarter, and were excited to see what this one brings around. We're around halfway through the school year which means our pep rally is coming up! Keep the spirit up Hale-Ray!

## A TRIP TO QUEBEC

This week, we're excited to talk about the upcoming Quebec trip that some of our 7th and 8th graders will be going on from April 30 to May 3, 2025. This adventure promises to be an unforgettable experience! Students will have the chance to try delicious Québécois dishes like poutine and crepes, then they will dive into the local culture, and explore some amazing attractions. Some highlights of the trip include visits to the Cooper Museum, a spooky and fun Crimes of New France Ghost Walk, and an enchanting fairy ride. They'll also experience the Ohiowa Lumina, an immersive 3D Native American night walk, and end the trip with a spectacular performance by the French version of Circus Soleil-Cirque du Soleil. Not only will students get to enjoy these incredible activities. They'll also be immersed in the French language, surrounded by French speakers throughout the trip. It'll be a great opportunity for them to practice their language skills and speak with the native speakers! This trip is shaping up to be an incredible opportunity for students to step outside the classroom and experience a new culture firsthand. From the exciting activities to the chance to practice French in real-life situations, it's sure to be an unforgettable adventure for everyone involved.

## GRADE BY GRADE UPDATES

### 4TH GRADE

This week fourth-grade is moving along! The students worked super hard last week and got a lot accomplished. In Math class they're working on rounding multi-digit whole numbers and adding and subtracting multi digit whole numbers. In Language Arts they are continuing reading in they're book clubs which are going great. Currently they are reading Mr. Lemoncello's Library. This book is written by Chris Grabernsrein. In Science class students are still continuing to learn about animal adaptations and how to make opinions based off of observations. The teachers always make sure to include an enjoyable activity to keep the students motivated, and they are enjoying their annual Friday raffles. Students are also looking forward to their mid-year testing raffle. There are some new and exciting prizes so it is definitely something to look forward to. Overall it has been a productive week for the fourth-grade. Keep it up!

### 5TH GRADE

The 5th grade is learning so much even with last week being shorter! In Math students are still continuing to calculate using decimals. In Social Studies they did a Edpuzzle about Martin Luther King, Jr. This sounds like a great activity to learn more about him! In LA they are continuing to learn about vocabulary and are reading. Lastly, in Science they are learning about how and why we have day and night in East Haddam. As well as why we have seasons. With this they will be also making models. To help them they are using key terms. Some of the terms are Hemispheres and axes. These are Key teams because the axes of Earth plays a big role in how we have day and night. Hemispheres are something that helps us have seasons. Last week was very cold so 5th graders had to stay inside but they still had a great time. The teachers made sure of that. As you can see the 5th grade is definitely keeping busy.



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## GRADE BY GRADE UPDATES

### 6TH GRADE

This week sixth grade is cruising through the week at full speed, with each day packed with excitement and new challenges! In Mr. Miller's Science class students are finishing up their interactive models that explain their claim about cells. They have also started a giant animal cell that they will make out of chicken wire and paper mache. Sounds interesting! All sixth grade students will be able to work on it once they finish their work and once everyone moves onto the next unit. In math, sixth graders learned the standard algorithm for dividing fractions, which some people might call "Keep, Change, Flip," but sixth grade math students call it "Kentucky, Chicken, Fry!" "Kentucky, Chicken, Fry," is a strategy that they use to multiply by the reciprocal. In ELA, students have started to work on their Hero's Journey wheels. For this project, they are looking back at the events of *I Am Malala* and analyzing how her life follows the structure of a hero as she starts off on an adventure, faces challenges, overcomes them, and returns. They are also discussing subject pronouns vs. object pronouns. Bringing up the rear, Ms. Braza's Social Studies classes are still working on religion and focusing on close reading strategies. They are also working on written responses. Sixth grade is making great strides, and it's exciting to see all the progress they're making across their subjects.

### 7TH GRADE

This week in 7th grade has been zooming through the week. It was all go-go-go, with classes moving at lightning speed. In Science class students are working on measuring in beakers. They are also in the process and learning about molecules and matter. The 3 pieces of matter are liquid, solid and gas. Sadly, Ms. Sullivan was not here Wednesday through Friday with the flu. We hope you get better. In Social Studies class the 7th graders are working on role plays involving 3 different settlements which are Jamestown, New France, and New Spain. All of the 8th graders loved it. They get to pick one of the three settlements and act it out; they get to make props and pick their groups. On Wednesday they went down to the library and found books to research in the books. In Language Arts class the students are working on writing their final essays. They could have chosen The Touching Spirit Bear and Ghost Of Spirit Bear to be their main topic. For their project they are practicing writing a thesis and body paragraphs in ICE format. In Mr. Mayhews Math class the 7th graders are working on percentages. On Thursday the students had their final unit quiz. Hope everybody did great. Overall the 7th grade wing is doing great this week. keep up all the great work.

## GRADE BY GRADE UPDATES

### 8TH GRADE

This week, 8th grade has been hard at work and making impressive progress in all their subjects. In Social Studies, they're kicking off their National History Day Project, where they'll choose topics and start learning how to ask critical historical questions that will drive their research. This long-term project will span several months, with a new focus each week, and we'll keep you updated on their journey. In Science, students are getting ready for the NGSS test with short, 10-minute tasks exploring topics like how wolves change rivers, the evolution of life in 60 seconds, and discoveries from the Curiosity Rover on Mars. Once the test is behind them, they'll dive into a new unit exploring why some traits are passed down through generations and others aren't, starting with a fun discussion about a modern-day Jurassic Park. In Language Arts, students are creating symbol diagrams for books like *Lord of the Flies*, *Anthem*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Speak*, and writing thoughtful responses to explain the meaning behind each symbol. In Math, Intro to Algebra students are working on proportional relationships by creating visual representations for real-world scenarios, like drink recipes and money earned from various jobs. Meanwhile, Algebra 1 students are tackling linear equations by writing and solving them. The 8th graders have been doing a fantastic job staying engaged and putting in their best effort across all subjects. They definitely deserve a big round of applause for their dedication!

### ARTS & LESIURE

This week, we're excited to talk about the upcoming Quebec trip that some of our 7th and 8th graders will be going on from April 30 to May 3, 2025. This adventure promises to be an unforgettable experience! Students will have the chance to try delicious Québécois dishes like poutine and crepes, then they will dive into the local culture, and explore some amazing attractions. Some highlights of the trip include visits to the Cooper Museum, a spooky and fun Crimes of New France Ghost Walk, and an enchanting fairy ride. They'll also experience the Ohiowa Lumina, an immersive 3D Native American night walk, and end the trip with a spectacular performance by the French version of Circus Soleil-Cirque du Soleil. Not only will students get to enjoy these incredible activities. They'll also be immersed in the French language, surrounded by French speakers throughout the trip. It'll be a great opportunity for them to practice their language skills and speak with the native speakers! This trip is shaping up to be an incredible opportunity for students to step outside the classroom and experience a new culture firsthand. From the exciting activities to the chance to practice French in real-life situations, it's sure to be an unforgettable adventure for everyone involved.

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Most of the time she is informing about future or on going events that she has planned or helped out with. Ms. Sikorski goes above and beyond in many different ways. The fact that she balances all of this while planning field trips that every grade level enjoys. This really shows just how much heart and effort she puts into her job. When she is not at school she enjoys traveling. One of her favorite places she's visited is Alaska. Her personal goal is to visit all 50 states before 30 and has already completed 32 of those. This is a reminder that she values adventure and new experiences, just like how she encourages her students. It's rare to find someone who wears so many hats with such detection and determination! Thank you, Ms. Sikorski, for all that you do!

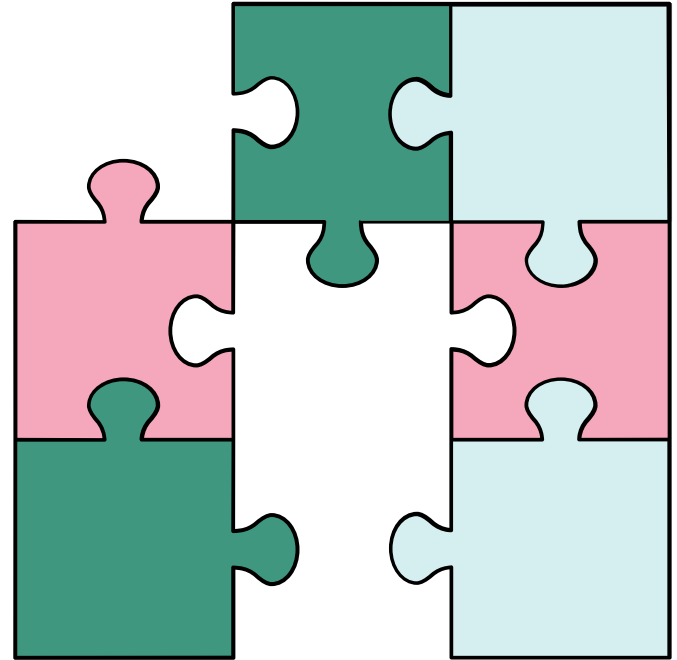
## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HALE-RAY?

Starting off strong, here's a little recap of what went on last week! Starting off, we had a long weekend which was a break for not only the students, but I'm sure the teachers as well. Our Monday off was not only a little break but it also snowed. Other than that, Mock Trial is up and running. They are working hard to prepare themselves as their first competition is booked for March! We're excited to see how far they can get because they have an amazing team this year! The team is great but Ms. Masterson is an even better coach! A couple of our teachers are beginning a parent workshop. They will be talking about students with technology, and other things along that line. Also the math team is going super strong. Although they didn't get to see a win they are more dedicated than ever to try harder and destroy the competition the next chance they get! Quick shoutout to the girls basketball team because they are currently riding on a huge winning streak! We will begin SBAC testing grades 5-8. That will take place January 28th through the 31st. Wow! Hale-Ray has so much going on and so much upcoming.



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## SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD



“Believe you can and you're  
halfway there”  
Theodore Roosevelt

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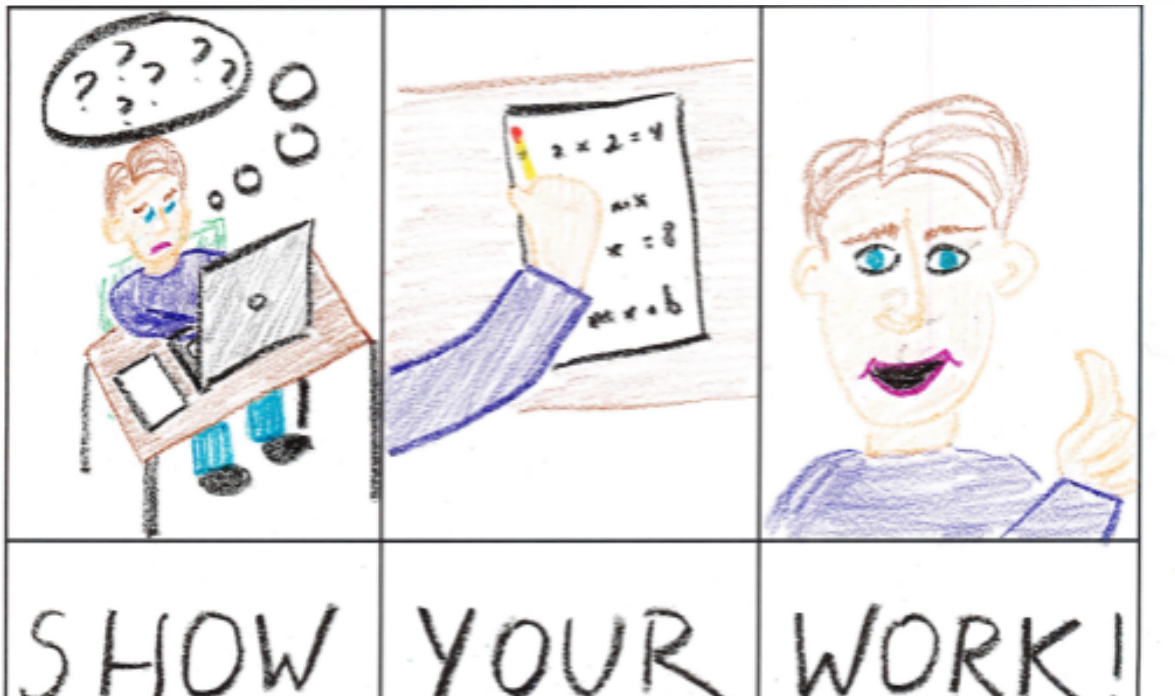
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## SPORTS

This week Hale-Ray sports was packed with excitement and some great performances! Let's start with the girls' amazing victory last Friday. They dominated the game against East Hampton with a final score of 39-26, even though it was an away game. Special shout-out to Pippa Thomas, a 6th grader, who scored an incredible 19 points. That's a huge achievement, especially for someone so young. For the boys' JV team, it was a tough match against East Hampton, and they unfortunately lost 15-47. However, they gave it their all and played hard, so great effort, guys! On Tuesday, January 21, the girls had another impressive win, this time against Eliot (Clinton), finishing 50-14. What an amazing game! Keep up that winning streak, girls! The boys faced Eliot as well, but came up short, losing 47-65. Keep pushing, boys; your next win is just around the corner. Thursday, January 23, brought more excitement with the girls' home game against John Winthrop. They crushed it with a 66-27 victory! Another big win. way to go, girls! The boys had a tough away game at John Winthrop and narrowly lost by nine points, 56-65. It was a close one, but you all fought hard. Keep your heads up, boys—there's always next time! As for cheer, the girls are hard at work practicing their new dance for the upcoming competitions. It's looking awesome, and we can't wait to see them shine! Overall, it was a loud and action-packed week at Hale Ray. Let's make next week even louder and keep supporting each other. GO HALE RAY!

## COMICS

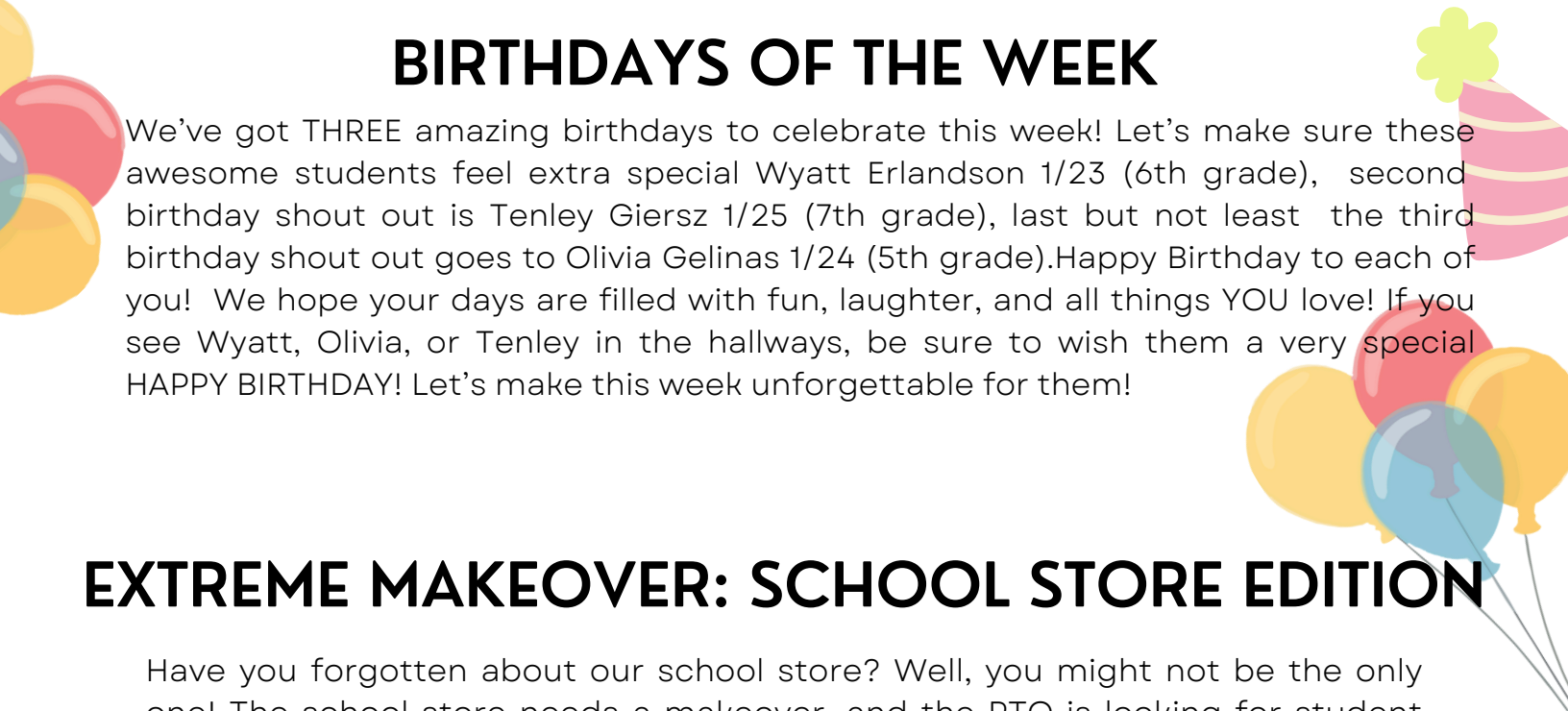
Mr. Anderson- 8th grade teacher



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## BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK



We've got THREE amazing birthdays to celebrate this week! Let's make sure these awesome students feel extra special Wyatt Erlandson 1/23 (6th grade), second birthday shout out is Tenley Giersz 1/25 (7th grade), last but not least the third birthday shout out goes to Olivia Gelinas 1/24 (5th grade). Happy Birthday to each of you! We hope your days are filled with fun, laughter, and all things YOU love! If you see Wyatt, Olivia, or Tenley in the hallways, be sure to wish them a very special HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Let's make this week unforgettable for them!

## EXTREME MAKEOVER: SCHOOL STORE EDITION

Have you forgotten about our school store? Well, you might not be the only one! The school store needs a makeover, and the PTO is looking for student volunteers willing to get the job done! Teachers, please ask your students if anyone would be interested in adding some pizzazz to the school store! The NHRMS school store provides a variety of great products that are perfect for students, staff, and anyone looking to buy themselves a little treat! The school store is located right outside of the cafeteria and is run by members of the PTO: Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. Waltamath, and Mrs. McVerry. The school store is available in the hallway every Wednesday. They have things ranging from notebooks, pens/pencils, fidgets, and even hats, cups, and shirts with the NHRMS logo! By supporting the school store, you're also helping to fund school activities and projects. So come on down and see what they have to offer—you might just find exactly what you need, or discover something new you didn't even know you wanted! And remember, the store needs a facelift... so if you know of any artistic students who are willing to take on this project - reach out to the Noisy News team for more information!

## NEW WRITERS

If anyone is interested in writing a paragraph for the newspaper please email us at [noiseynews2024@gmail.com](mailto:noiseynews2024@gmail.com).