

Freshmen win at UK Engineering Day

BY JESSICA THACKER

Freshmen Nikki Mullins and Stephanie Proctor defeated high school teams from around the state and even teams made up of university students in the Bridge Building Contest for UK's Engineering Day which was held February 23.

Who said freshmen were only dorks that don't account to anything?

Proctor and Mullins prepared for this contest during Rockcastle County High School's after-school programs sponsored by Innovative ESS and the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

The bridge had to follow strict guidelines. It had to be constructed from newspaper and tape and could weigh no more than three pounds. They got their idea on how to build their bridge from advice given to them by Mr. Greene.

"We spent about four and a half

hours working on the bridge and we didn't have to do any research, said Mullins. "We just read the requirements that were given to us."

Proctor commented that she had taken a class with Mr. Greene in the fall and enjoyed building the bridges, so she decided to try the contest.

Greene said that, "It was very fun to work with them on this project."

"With students like these the Rockcastle County Project Lead The Way [program] will be a huge success," Greene commented, referring to a new set of courses that will begin next year at RCHS.

Linda Parsons commented that the accomplishment that Mullins and Proctor has made with this contest is great and she believes that it will make students more aware of what is going on with all the after school programs.

Courier-Journal writing contest winners honored



Winners in the Courier-Journal's annual water conservation writing contest were honored March 21 at an awards banquet held at Pizza Hut in Mt. Vernon. From left, Shaina Lewis, third place; Chris Settles, second place; and Tammy Peyton, first place and District Winner. Winners received t-shirts, certificates, and cash prizes. Peyton also received a plaque and a \$50.00 savings bond.

CATS preparations begin after spring break

BY KARAH BOWLES

Next week is spring break—time to sit back, relax, and forget about homework. However, almost as soon as students return to school, it will be time to get their minds back on track and on state testing.

On Tuesday the 9, students will begin to prepare for the CTBS (California Test of Basic Skills) and KCCT (Kentucky Core Content Test), said Assistant Principal Betty Jo McKinney.

Most students will know the KCCT by CATS.

"This will give students one day after spring break to get back on schedule."

Because of complications students and teachers had with last

year's test prep and testing schedule, all department chair members met to think of an easier and more productive schedule for 2002.

"This year we hope to have review that will affect each department," said Debbie Coleman, chair of the Social Studies department. "Thus helping the school to accomplish their goal for this year's testing scores."

In order to bring up test scores from last year, the department chairs began reviewing surrounding counties' testing techniques.

"After searching, we found that Lincoln County schools had higher test scores when students of their own age taught them. This allowed

test scores to raise 15 to 19 points," said Coleman.

Though some scores did increase, such as reading and writing, a look at last year's test scores shows RCHS dropped a drastic six points in social studies, and four points in mathematics. This year, the math department will be using Lincoln County's idea, and use students as teachers in the hopes that it will bring up Rockcastle's test scores.

"This year each department had to make their own goal," said Coleman. "For example, Social Studies's goal is to raise test scores 10 points. The overall goal for this year's test scores is to gain back the

points that each department lost," said Coleman.

Starting on Tuesday, April 9, each grade will review for a 40 minute period. The freshman will be reviewing for the CTBS, while sophomores will review math and language arts for the CTBS and Reading, Practical Living and Vocational Studies for the KCCT. Juniors will review math, science, social studies, and arts and humanities for the KCCT.

"During test prep seniors will have time to work on their portfolios. Three labs and every computer available will be open for the senior class," says Coleman.

Seniors who are finished with

portfolios will be sent to the library. Co-op students who have completed portfolios will continue their Co-op schedule."

In addition to the writing portfolio, seniors are only responsible for the On-Demand writing. They will not review for it until April 16, which is one day before the test.

Testing this year is also set up differently. Instead of testing being over a two week period like before, hopefully all test will be completed in one week.

According to McKinney, "Having testing over a two week period cut out alot of teaching time, that's one main reason why we changed it this year."



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