

Teachers, Parents and Technology: A Cooperative Approach

By Jane Platt

Who knows more about computers, you or your six year old? As technology becomes more and more a part of our lives, it is imperative that we prepare our children to be able to thrive in this new environment. Children today are bogged down with technology everywhere they turn. Therefore, it is our duties as parents and teachers to teach them how to succeed as adults. If we all "work together to accomplish this, there should be no reason why we cannot accomplish this goal. However, we each have a part to play in this lesson and if we understand our roles, together we can accomplish anything.

As a fourth grade teacher I am seeing the need for learning more about technology on a daily basis. Every year it seems that the children come to me with a broader knowledge of how to use the computer than this generation has grown up with. Therefore, I must learn how to take these students to the next level of learning by using the tools they seem to be more and more familiar with. Teachers of today need to understand that it isn't enough to know how to use the computer ourselves. Certainly there are many things we can (and are) learning to do with our computers.

For example, newsletters and teacher led multimedia presentations, however, because of the knowledge level of even the youngest students (my seven-year-old knew how to shut our computer down by the age of four) we must make our own efforts to go beyond our current comfort level. As teachers, we need to step out a little and start allowing our students to create their own PowerPoint presentations etc. in order to display their knowledge of core content. We need to learn how to integrate the computers into our curriculum and

not just use it as a tool. This can only be accomplished by seeking out the excellent training opportunities that are available both in our own districts and on the web.

Many districts across the state are doing a great job of moving from simple "tool training" to integration training. I myself have seen that teachers are now more and more comfortable with the computers themselves. They know how to use the basic programs offered and can create their own projects for their own uses, but now they need to concentrate more on integration. Integration occurs when we use the computer as a tool in our daily lessons. There are various ways to accomplish this. Teachers can check out the many free offerings available on the Internet, from online courses to integration to their own district's offerings. Many districts are also now putting many training documents right on their web sites, available for anyone wanting to learn. I recently completed a KVHS (Kentucky Virtual High School) online course on Integrating Science and Technology into the classroom. I know that I would not have found as many of the excellent sites I did without this class. I really do encourage this as one way to go. Teachers need to check all their options out and find the ones that work best for them. Then they will be able to help their students soar into the world of learning through technology.

Parents reading this article may be wondering what it has to do with them. Well, I am not a teacher but a parent of two elementary students as well. I see the need every day for helping my children learn how to use technology to increase their knowledge base. One way parents can help is by allowing their child supervised access to computers after school. Please understand

that supervised access is the only way to go. Making sure our students have access to computers and technology should always take place in a safe environment for our children.

Some parents may say that they don't have a computer in their homes so how can they help their child grow in this area? Well, almost every public library now has free Internet access. Also, most libraries have computers set aside with educational software games on them as well. So, parents can do their part as well in this learning process by exposing their child to computers even after the school day comes to an end. This could also be something that is a shared interest for parent and child. If you are a parent who already

knows a lot about computers and what they can do for your child, share that knowledge with them. Maybe you are a parent who is new to computers yourselves. You could look at this as something you are your child can learn together. Remember, it is never too late for any of us to learn. I am also quite certain that your son or daughter would love the experience of teaching their parents a few things as well.

Finally, I feel that as teachers, parents, and students, we can do nothing except benefit from this cooperative approach to learning more about this wonderful tool we have before us. I know that we all can both learn and teach each other many things so that we all learn and grow.

New funding program for low income rural septic systems

"The Cumberland Valley Area Development District has available \$800,000 thanks to Congressman Harold Rogers and the PRIDE program to be used to eliminate straight pipe and failing septic systems in our area," Judge-Executive James Garrison, Chairman of the ADD, announced last Friday. "A top priority of the ADD, the new grant program, partnering with PRIDE to clean up our streams and improve the livability of our area, will enable a large number of people who have wanted, but been unable to afford a good system, to go on a septic system rather than pollute their stream." The eligible CVACC counties are Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle and Whitley.

The program, which will pay the cost of installing an approved septic system for qualifying families, was made possible by a federal grant to PRIDE that was arranged by Congressman Rogers. To be eligible, the program requires that family income not exceed the limits established by HUD guidelines for participation in HUD Low/Moderate Income programs. Eligibility can be determined by a call to the ADD office. Applications for the grant program may be picked up at any county health department, the County Judge office or at the Cumberland Valley

ADD office. This grant program is replacing the earlier PRIDE loan program provided through the ADD. Borrowers from that program are required that under this new program, if they are current on their loan payments, the balance of their loans may now be forgiven.

For additional information or assistance contact the Cumberland Valley Area Development District in London, phone (606)864-7391.

In and Around Mt. Vernon

By Vallie Burton

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Robinson visited their mother, Mrs. Ora York last weekend.

Ruthie Mink, of London, and Patricia Holland were in Lancaster and Berea recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Danny Sargent have returned home after spending several days in the Ephraim McDowell Hospital in Danville. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Danny Petrey of Somerset visited their mother, Vallie Burton recently.

Mrs. Harris Burton and Vallie Burton were in Somerset recently. Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Coulter of Mooreville, are the proud parents of a son born April 27th at the Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. He has been named Benjamin Kevin. Grandparents are Mrs. Gail Coulter and the late Benjamin Coulter, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Eaton, II and great-grand-

mothers, Patricia Holland and Ruth Parsons.

Mrs. Angie Eaton of Midway, and grandmother, Patricia Holland visited Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Coulter and baby of Mooreville Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Linda Eaton, has returned home after spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Coulter and baby of Mooreville.

Mrs. Dorothy Rideout of Henderson visited her mother, Lillian Anglin and brother, Bobby Anglin during the weekend.

Angie Eaton and Patricia Holland visited Mr. and Mrs. Mark Eaton and children Sandra afternoon.

We extend deepest sympathy to all who have lost loved ones recently. May the Lord comfort each one.

Vallie Burton has returned home after spending the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Danny Dale Petrey of Somerset.

Poplar Grove Flower Shop

Now Open

Large assortment of Memorial flowers to choose from. Reasonable prices.

Turn left off Hwy. 70 at Williams Grocery and go one mile on Poplar Grove Rd.

Open Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

758-8420

Rockcastle Telecommunications Center

Public Access Computers are available at the Telecommunications Center located in the Courthouse

Starting May 7-June 4, 2002

The center will be open from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



Form more information contact Diane Smith at 256-2125.

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

Sponsored By
Cox Funeral Home
Family Owned & Operated Since 1907
80 Maple Drive, Mt. Vernon, Ky. Ph. 256-2345
Toll Free 1-888-825-2345
www.coxfuneralhome.com

JobStart

CAP JobStart - let us help you to prepare for a good job. Join us to learn new skills such as computer skills. For more info, call Jeanne at 256-9012. Classes are free. Supplies are furnished.

TOPS

(Take off Pounds Sensibly) TOPS meets Thursday at 6 p.m. at Brookhead Christian Church located on Main St. in Brookhead. For more info, call 1-800-932-TOPS or locally 256-0789.

Narcotics Anonymous
Tired of drugs and/or alcohol controlling your life? Come join us at Narcotics Anonymous, every Thursday at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church, located on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon. For more info, call 256-9263.

Al-Anon
Al-Anon and Alcohol Anonymous meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon. For more info, call 256-2129.

Republican Party Meets
The Republican Party meets the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Kastle Inn.

Bookmobile Schedule
Mon., May 13: Scaffold Cane, Disputanta, Anglin Falls, Clear Creek, Wildie.
Tues., May 14: Buffalo, stops off Old 461, Negro Creek.

Smoke Detectors
Rockcastle Hospital Home Health, with the assistance of local volunteer fire departments, is distributing smoke alarms to the citizens of Rockcastle County who are over age 60 or disabled, and do not have a smoke detector in their home. To apply call 256-1808. Necessary information: Name of applicant, address, date of birth, phone number, nature of the disability (if under 60 years of age).

Clothing Donations Needed
The Rockcastle County Migrant Program, 245 Richmond St. (across from the Board of Education) is in need of clothing of all types. Call for a pickup (256-2157) or bring your donations by the Migrant Office any week day 8:00-3:00.

Center Hours
Rockcastle County Senior Citizens and Day Health Care Center hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mon-Fri.

Project Graduation

Project Graduation Meeting will be held Mon., May 13 at 6 p.m. at RCHS.

Retirement Dinner

Packer Seal Retirement Dinner will be May 14th at Dinner Bell in Berea.

Fish Fry

Cartersville Ruritan Fish Fry, all you can eat, May 18th from 4-8 p.m. Adults \$6, children, \$3. Cartersville Ruritan Park, Harmons Lick Rd., 1/4 mile off Hwy. 954, 4 to 8 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Retired Teachers

Rockcastle Retired Teachers Meeting will be Thurs., May 9th at 6 p.m. at Renfro Lodge. Special meeting to tour new Music Hall of Fame. All retirees welcome.

Portrait Fundraiser

MVED Portrait Fundraiser \$10 contribution or more, receive an 8x10 Family Portrait. Photos will be taken May 31-June 3.

Step-Up Night

8th grade Step-Up Night at RCHS has been postponed until next Monday, May 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Fish Fry

All you can eat fish fry Saturday, May 11th starting at 5:00 p.m. at the first station in Conway. Adults \$5 Children \$3. Carry outs available. Call 256-0000. All proceeds go to the Brindle Ridge Volunteer Fire Dept.

Election Meeting

An Instructional Meeting for all Election Officers and Alternates will be held Tues., May 21, at 7 p.m. at the courthouse. All Election Officers and Alternates must attend this meeting in order to serve at the May Primary Election. Also the public is invited to attend this training. Election laws will be discussed and everyone will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

Brown Precinct

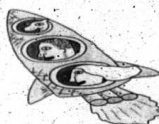
The location of the Brown Voting Precinct has been changed beginning with the May 28th Primary Election. The Brown Precinct has been moved to the lot beside Williams Greedy off Hwy. 70.

Board Meeting

The Rockcastle County Board of Education will meet in regular session on Tues., May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Rockcastle Co. Board of Education Administration Building. The public is welcome to attend.

Reunion

Barnett-Thomas
The children and grandchildren of the late Conrad and Mary Barnett Thomas would like to invite you to dine and be with us in a family pot luck dinner, to be held at the Family Life Shelter located about 2 miles north of Renfro Valley on North Hwy. 25 on May 26, starting at 10 a.m. Please bring any family photos (especially older ones) to share and help compile a family scrapbook. Hope to see you there for food, family & fun! Paper products will be furnished.



All Incoming 6th Grade Students to RCMS:
You and your parents are invited to attend the second annual

Movin' to the Middle Night!

SET THE SKY AS YOUR LIMIT!

At
Rockcastle County Middle School

On Thursday, May 23rd, 2002

Free Pizza!

From
6:00-7:30 P.M.

Meet RCMS Staff!

Learn about exciting activities at RCMS!

Incoming 6th graders will receive a "Movin' to the Middle" T-shirt!

Win Door Prizes!

Enjoy free refreshments!

Sponsored by Gear-Up, RCMS Youth Services, and the RCMS 21st CCLC.