

Minds in the Middle

RCMS began RAP sessions on Wednesday. This is our new advisory program. Josh Blair was awarded with a new bicycle after his RAP idea was selected as the name of the program (Rocket Advisory Program). Congratulations Josh! Permission forms are available in the office for GEAR-UP Bicycles. This experience is open to sixth graders only. The event will be next Saturday, September 7th.

The FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) will have their first meeting on Wednesday, September 5th. This group is open to all RCMS students. The meeting will begin at approximately 7:50 a.m. in the gymnasium and will include a time of devotion and prayer.

The Voyagers team recognized Nicky Shelton as their "Random Acts of Kindness" award winner last week. Nicky made his teachers proud by choosing to clean up the softball field during his incentive time.

Remember that school will not be in session on Monday due to Labor Day.

This Thursday evening the RCMS football teams will take on Madison Middle at home beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The 8th grade Lady Rockets basketball team has been competing this week in a series of games at Madison Central. Members of this year's team are Samantha Doan, Lara Eash, Ashley Stewart, Megan Griffin, Ainsley Russell, Anna Reynolds, Meredith Robinson, Kayla Stewart, Hollie Barnett, Leann Holden, and Jill Owens.

The sixth grade Lady Rockets team has now been selected. Those team members are: Sara Barnett, Tamara Blalton, Brooke Bowlin, Sasha Bullock, Brittany Calhoun, Kayla Cameron, Morgan Collins, Rachel Cash, Jalisa Lay, Nicole Locklear, Pamela Johnson, Sara McKinney, Katy Mattingly, Megan Mazurek, Ashley Robinson, and Mary Saylor. Team managers are Stephanie Graves and Rochelle Bullock.

YSC Update

Due to a scheduling conflict the Advisory Council meeting has been changed to September 5th at 11:30 a.m. at Kastle Inn Restaurant.

All the best to Mrs. Onna K. Owens on her retirement. She is retiring September 1st after working in the school system for 34 years; 8 years at RCMS, 1 year at Livingston, and 25 years at BES. She will certainly be missed!

A special thanks to Lisa Clontz and Joann Guilfoill for their donations to our clothes closet.

The enrollment at RCMS is up this year to 745 students. Student attendance is crucial. If students are not going to be at school, please call the school and let us know. The truancy program will begin on September 17th. The court, involving Judge Lambert and Brad Mounce, is used to resolve attendance problems. The program is held each Tuesday morning. Ten students will be invited to participate, with parents also being encouraged to attend.

We may be contacted at (606) 256-5484.



Rockcastle County Middle School mathematics teachers who participated in an Action Research Project sponsored by the Eisenhower Regional Consortium for Mathematics and Science at AEL are pictured above. Front row from left: Jill Whitaker, J.D. Harris and Cayci Beaver. Second row from left: Sheila Johnson, Terry Parkey and Theresa Davis. Third row from left: Jennifer Cook, April Harris and Robert Phillips. Back row is Scott Parkey. Not pictured were Gina Nicely, Brenda Ballinger, Mark Brunett and Patty Reese.

Action Research Project improves classroom instruction

Rockcastle County Middle School mathematics teachers are in their second year of participation in an Action Research Project sponsored by the Eisenhower Regional Consortium for Mathematics and Science at AEL. The project focuses on using assessment data to improve classroom instruction and student learning. The teachers began the project in the fall of 2000 by analyzing data from the Kentucky Core Content Test and the CTBS in order to choose a target content strand to improve student achievement. The 7th and 8th grade teachers chose the core content strand of algebra and the 6th grade teachers chose division. A "research partner" provided by AEL convened the action research group monthly after school to plan how to incorporate research-based strategies into instructional units, share student work and address ways to bridge gaps in student learning. In addition to the monthly meetings, the teachers did individual research for instructional strategies and shared their research with the rest of the team.

"The Action Research has helped me with additional support and resources. It has also allowed the math department at the middle school to bond and share similar concerns as well as ideas on improving instruction," states Robbie Phillips.

Theresa Davis adds, "The AEL venture has been a wonderful project that has provided the time and materials needed to improve our teaching of mathematics at RCMS."

The teachers began the 2001-02 school year by analyzing data from the Kentucky Core Content Test and the CTBS and again chose Algebra and division for improvement. The teachers and research partner continue to examine mathematics education research and best practices that the teachers can incorporate into classroom instruction.

Sixth grade teacher, Brenda Ballinger, explains, "being a part of the Action Research Team has been beneficial because it has allowed much needed time for all the math teachers in the school to plan together and discuss different strategies. More importantly we have been able to study our math scores and determine areas of need and develop a plan to improve those needs."

"This year the teachers will also participate in professional development activities related to the chosen content strands," Gina Nicely relates, "I am pleased with the variety of strategies using manipulatives I learned that are beneficial to my students."

The teachers are paid an hourly stipend through the Kentucky Teachers Professional Growth Fund for participating in the project.

Sheila Johnson adds, "AEL provides the support and practice in techniques to improve student learning as well as the time to collaborate and discuss these techniques."

The math teachers have also developed an observation instrument to be used in their classrooms for ob-

servation and analysis of instruction. By the end of the school year they plan to have completed an online mathematics curriculum for grades 6-

8. For more information about the project, contact Terry Parkey at Rockcastle County Middle School.

Tiger Pause

Please mark Monday, September 2 on your calendar as there will be no school due to the Labor Day holiday.

The next Brodhead SBDM meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, at 7:00. Our next PTA meeting is Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00. The first meeting of the 2002-03 Brodhead Family Resource Center Advisory Council will be held at 6:15 on Tuesday, September 17.

Several questions have come up concerning breakfast/lunch prices. Following is the cost of all categories. Elem. Breakfast - .30 reduced, .75 paid and 1.25 adult. Elem. Lunch - .40 reduced, 1.00 paid and 2.00 adult.

Please note that newsletters will be coming home with students on Friday's this year. Be sure to read each one carefully as they contain very important information.

Anderkin named National Award Winner in History

The United States Achievement Academy announced that Megan Anderkin of Mt. Vernon, has been named a United States National Award Winner in History and Government.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students.

Anderkin, who attends Rockcastle County Middle School, was nominated for this national award by Ms. Melissa Singleton, a social studies teacher at the school.

She will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement

Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of the United States Achievement Academy.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Megan is the daughter of Rick and Cindy Anderkin of Mt. Vernon and the granddaughter of Wayne and Christine Taylor of Quail and Jim and Perlina Anderkin of Mt. Vernon.

Mt. Vernon Message

We have just completed our first week of school. Students and staff are adjusting to our new start rotation. We will rotate the next block of Tuesday, September 3.

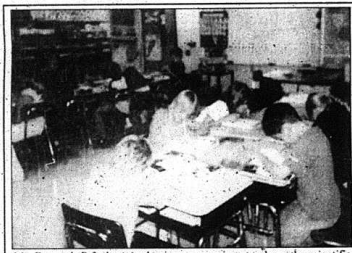
Mark your calendars for a long weekend. There will be no school on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

Project Wisdom readers for last week are as follows: Mary Ann McNew, reading recovery assistant; Shelley Parkerson, reading recovery teacher; Sherri Cash, reading recovery

teacher; Cindy Anderkin, counselor and Larry Lee, teacher. Thanks to all who have participated in this project.

Our quote for this week is "When one is not doing good himself, he likes to talk of what is wrong with others."

Our Family Resource Center is sponsoring after school enrichment classes and adult computer classes beginning on Monday, September 9. For more information, contact Regina Hull-Brown, coordinator or Vicki Chasteen, secretary.



Ms. Brewer's P-3 class conducting an experiment to learn the scientific process using oil, water and food coloring.

School Menu

September 2-6, 2002

Breakfast

Monday: Labor Day - No School.

Tuesday: Pastry or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast pizza or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Thursday: Pancake and syrup or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Friday: Egg and cheese biscuit or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Lunch

Monday: Labor Day - No School.

Tuesday: Pizza or breadstick and sauce, corn, garden salad, fruit dessert and milk.

Wednesday: Sub sandwich, lettuce/pickle, California vegetables and sauce, corn chips, dessert and milk.

Thursday: Fish sandwich or corn dog, macaroni 'n' cheese, fries, shape-up juice bar and milk.

Friday: Hamburger on bun, french fries, lettuce/pickle, fruit dessert and milk.

Joanie Alexander attended U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama the week of August 18th - 23rd. Joanie's trip was made possible thru Shoprite IGA of Brodhead. Joanie wrote an essay to earn her trip. Thanks to IGA, Joanie had a great time! Joanie is the daughter of Jack and Sandy Alexander.



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