



RCMS is very fortunate to be able to offer band to our 6th graders. The band program continues to grow and improve under the direction of Mr. Greg Daugherty. Pictured above, front row from left are: Nicky Shelton, Beth Potter, Sarah Ramsey, Brittany Payne, Zach Thompson and Risa Stevens. Back row from left: Tony Potter, Skyler Hayes, Stephanie Graves, Kary McClure, Ronnie Lainhart, Josh Ballard, Dillon Fields and Scott Lawson. Pictured below, front row from left are: Jessi Lay, Hannah Adkinson, Casey Thompson, Jennifer Horn, Chelsey Smith, Samantha Smith and Rachel Woodall. Back row from left: Isaac Edwards, Mickel McDaniel, Morgan Harper, Meghan Nation, Jessica Lawrence, Reanna Hasty, Jeffery Lewis and Kim Stewart. Not pictured: Stephanie Bishop, Garrett Howard and Amanda Hedrick.



Minds in the Middle

Students will have a break from school this week, as we will not be in session on Thursday or Friday. Enjoy this time with your families!

The first grading period will end on Monday, October 7. Report cards not picked up at our Open House on October 15th will be mailed home.

Our 21st Century Community Learning Center, along with Cumberland Valley Health and other agencies, will be sponsoring a Health Fair on the 15th also. Check this newspaper for additional information. Parents of 7th and 8th grade students will also be receiving copies of individual test scores. Parents of students in the gifted education program will be receiving Gifted Student Service Plans. Any questions regarding test scores or gifted education plans may be directed to

Ms. Cromer at 256-5118.

Robinson Scholar applications are available to 8th graders. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to earn a full college scholarship. Applications and information are available in Ms. Cromer's office.

The 6th grade Lady Rockets placed third in a tournament at Lexington Christian on Saturday. The 7th and 8th grade teams will play at Mercer County on Thursday evening, and the football team will play at Corbin.

Several RCMS students will be taking an overnight trip to Asheville, North Carolina on Thursday as part of our GEAR-UP services. Students must have attended the pre-trip meeting held on Monday in order to attend the trip.

YSC Update

There is a new way to find services. Kentuckians need, www.kycares.net. KyCares.net is a service of the Kentucky state agency. Many of the state agencies are working together to provide comprehensive information. This is an electronic gateway to a resource guide of state programs. This is an effort to make services more accessible to every Kentuckian. Check out the website today.

National Lights On will be observed on October 15th. All community members are invited to attend our Health Fair in the gymnasium on this date. 21st CLIC will be sponsoring a free spaghetti dinner.

Cummins attends scholar program

This summer Amanda Kay Cummins, a senior at Rockcastle County High School, completed the five-week Governor's Scholar Program. The Governor's Scholar Program is a stimulating, residential summer program for outstanding Kentucky students completing their junior year in high school. Students must be nominated by their school districts to be considered for admission and then undergo a strenuous selection process.

The Scholar's program seeks to help exceptional high school students achieve their academic and personal potential and cultivate their leadership capabilities; expand students' horizons; develop the students' flexibility, creativity and creative thinking while heightening their sensitivity to future possibilities for themselves, Kentucky and society; and stimulate, encourage and reward excellence in Kentucky schools. The

program offers Scholars a chance to know and make friends with other enthusiastic, energetic students with high intellectual capacities. The give-and-take among Scholars from different backgrounds is one of the most treasured aspects of the program.

Governor's Scholars live in college dormitories. They learn a great deal about themselves and others, as they live in the community and develop long-lasting friendships.

The program provides students, faculty and staff a rare opportunity to share the joy and discovery of learning and to exchange ideas in a warm community atmosphere. A select group of supportive high school and college teachers, chosen from across Kentucky, works closely with the Scholars in classes, seminars and co-curricular activities. Well-known speakers and performers, as well as films, field trips, special events and

a wide range of recreational opportunities, offer an array of stimulating activities that provide fun and enjoyment while Scholars learn. Student-initiated events are encouraged.

Amanda attended the Governor's Scholar Program at Centre College in Danville from June 23-July 27, with a Focus Area in Physical Science and a Minor in Kentucky History. Amanda is the daughter of Earl and Norma Cummins of Mt. Vernon.



Amanda Cummins

Cornelius receives teacher award

Six years ago, Bonnie Allene Cornelius got an unexpected call from Rockcastle County High School. "They had lost a teacher mid-semester, and my former neighbor, who taught at the school, remembered I have an English degree," she explains. Although in the midst of a 23-year nursing career, Cornelius didn't want to appear unappreciated.

"I filled out an application, certain that would be the end of it," she said. "I was called for an interview and hired the same day."

Soon after entering the classroom, Cornelius learned something about herself. "I loved teaching those students," she said. "Nothing was more exciting than seeing someone who had seldom achieved in any classroom realized that they could indeed learn and contribute in a valuable way."

Cornelius' own contributions are recognized as well. She is one of only 19 Kentucky teachers to earn a 2003 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award which qualifies her for the 2003 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award. She will be recognized for her achievements at a ceremony in Frankfort on October 30. Representatives of Ashland Inc., the governor's office and the Kentucky Department of Education will be on hand to honor the teachers and to announce the Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

Cornelius teaches English, arts and humanities courses at Rockcastle County High School. "I have often thought and remarked to others what an outstanding, creative, dedicated and effective teacher Ms. Cornelius

is," notes Rockcastle County High School Assistant Principal Betty Jo McKinney. "In addition to being one of the best teachers I have ever seen anywhere, Ms. Cornelius is also a critical care nurse, a career she continues in her spare time. Her nurturing nature is well-fitted to both professions."

"I know teachers make a difference," Cornelius said. "Many children face enormous stumbling blocks to learning. I was one of those children. Some of my teachers were exemplary role models. They gave me the determination to succeed. Often, the teacher is the only positive role model in a student's life. Teachers help children find alternative paths and the strength to pursue them! What a wonderful service that is!"

Cornelius earned her associate's and bachelor's degree in nursing and bachelor's degree in English at Eastern Kentucky University. Her professional affiliations include the KCTE-LA, KNA and Business and Professional Women's Association. She participates in a variety of staff development and leadership activities and has earned a number of awards and honors, including "Rockcastle County High School Teacher of the Year 2002," a Teaching Excellence Award from Georgetown College and nomination to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. Cornelius further supports her community through involvement in a wide variety of civic-related activities.

The Kentucky Teacher Awards is a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education and Ashland Inc. It combines the best components of the Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards and the Kentucky Teacher of the Year programs.



Bonnie Cornelius

Mt. Vernon Message

We will be conducting bus drills on Wednesday, October 2. Students may be home a few minutes earlier than usual. Also, there will be no school on Thursday and Friday. Have a nice long weekend!

Project Wisdom readers for last week are as follows: Samantha Hasty, student; Morgan Hunt, student and Sara Hammond, student.

Thanks to all who have participated in this project.

The art prize winner for this arts block is Bridget Bullock from Ms. Kincaid's homeroom. She chose glue sticks and pencils as her prize. Congratulations Bridget.

Our quote for this week is "We must use our lives to make the world a better place, not just to acquire things." -Delores Huerta



Bridget Bullock
MVES Weekly Art Prize Winner

**October
15th
3:00-6:00**



Community Health Fair

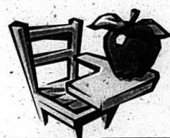
- Free Spaghetti Dinner
- Door Prizes
- Health Information
- Skin Cancer Checks
- Milk Taste-Test Challenge
- Flu Shots \$12

Health Fair sponsored by the
C.V.D. Health Department

Contact Jason Coguer For More Information
Telephone: 606.256.5118

Parent-Teacher Conference and Community Health Fair At Rockcastle Co. Middle School

- Parents, Pick Up Your Child's Report Card
- Visit With Your Child's Teacher
- Visit The Health Fair
- Free Spaghetti Dinner
- Door Prizes



Health Fair
Located in the
Gym at RCMS



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