

# News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF

## GETTING YOUR a-Team Ready

Are you and your A-Team ready for another great year for the Employee Appreciation Program (EAP)? The first appreciation day is quickly approaching. It honors bus drivers with a 70s theme. The most important part of a successful appreciation program is having a strong team of students to prepare and lead the appreciation day activities.

Last year was the first year we had student teams (A-Teams) lead the program and it was the most successful year since the program began. We understand that teachers and other school employees have enough on their plates already. The students have welcomed the opportunity to serve as leaders in the program and have done a great job of it. Even at the elementary level they have shown that they are able to help plan and implement the appreciation day

activities and get other students, staff and the community involved.

Selecting an A-Team works differently from school to school. Sometimes the teachers suggest the students, in others principals or school coordinators pick them, sometimes student groups serve as the A-Team, etc. But most importantly, you want to select students who want to accept responsibility and work hard to make the program successful.

By allowing the students to participate in the EAP, you are helping them develop leadership skills and teaching them the importance of having an attitude of gratitude.

Click [here](#) for more information for the A-Team.

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## A GROOVY BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

For Bus Driver Appreciation Day we are going back to the 70s. Packets for your A-Team to use to honor your bus drivers are [online](#). Our suggested activities will be fun and make your bus drivers day. "We acknowledged our bus drives during Bus Driver Appreciation Week last year and it made a tremendous difference in the rapport between the school, the students, and the drivers. Our discipline referrals for busses went down significantly," Sandra Shockley, counselor/school coordinator in Van Buren County said. "I am excited about our upcoming year and the difference I feel we will make through utilizing these programs," Shockley continued.

Please join schools across Tennessee in honoring our bus drivers. We appreciate all they do!

Our Bus Drivers Are Groovy!



Thanks For All You Do

Bus Driver Appreciation Day 2011



## CREATE AN A-TEAM NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to announce a new addition to the Utrust Employee Appreciation Program(EAP). We are encouraging your A-Team to create a newsletter specifically for coverage of the appreciation day celebrations in your school. The EAP is making a difference in so many ways and the A-Team has a responsibility to let as many people as possible know about the program and the appreciation days they celebrate.

Newsletter templates can be found on the internet or the paparazzi can create one on their own. The newsletter doesn't have to be very long or have a fancy format. It should highlight appreciation day activities and the employees being honored. You'll likely want to use several photos in each edition. In each appreciation day packet, we will include a page of suggested items for inclusion in your newsletter.

For the first issue of your new newsletter, introduce the A-Team, give a brief overview of the program, and list the

appreciation days. We'll send a page of suggestions for the first newsletter soon. Encourage your students, staff and community to get involved in the appreciation day activities and show appreciation to the school employees.

Ask all students, staff, parents, grandparents, etc. to submit their email addresses so the paparazzi can send the newsletter to as many people as possible. By doing this you are giving the A-Team ownership of their program and it can also create positive publicity for your school. We hope that the A-Team will make a special effort to get students to submit names and e-mail addresses of friends and family serving in the military or living in other states or countries. It'll be fun to see how many states and countries your A-Team newsletter can go to.

Use your imagination and have fun with this newsletter. It is a good way to share the great work the A-Teams and coordinators are doing in your school.

## 2011-12 EAP THEMES



Bus Drivers-  
70s

Custodians-  
Wild West

Superintendent-  
Patriotic



Food Service-  
Carnival



Principal-  
Pirates of the  
Caribbean

Special Services-  
Mystery



Support Staff-  
Hawaiian

Teachers- Spring  
Fling

# 2011 Utrust Writing Competition



Click [here](#) for information about the 2011 Utrust Writing Competition.

Have you ever had a teacher who made a difference in your life? How about that sweet lady in the cafeteria who made the best pizza you had ever had and always listened when you had something on your mind? Almost everyone has had someone throughout their school life who has made a difference in their life in some way. But how will those school employees ever know how much you appreciated everything they did for you?

Utrust challenges you to write a story for the 2011 Utrust Writing Competition and tell us about that special person. Each year we receive thousands of entries from students, teachers, administration, parents and even grandparents about a school employee who has/is making a difference.

This year will be the first year we have had an adult and student

division, with a total of 20 cash prizes at stake. A first, second and third place winner for the adult division will receive \$1000, \$500 and \$250 respectively. The student division includes 17 prizes--a grand prize of \$1000, and a \$500 and \$250 winner in each region (west, middle and east Tennessee) and ten \$100 awards for runner ups.

Some teachers assign students to write a story for the competition as part of an English assignment or a writing prompt for test preparation. Please encourage students and staff in your school system to participate in the writing competition. Just think how rewarding this could be for everyone who is involved, because by submitting an entry you agree to give a copy of the story to the person it is written about. What a great feeling for those who receive a story written about them and the difference they have made.



Click [here](#) to read Shaffer's inspiring, first place winning essay.



2010 Winner, Stephanie Shaffer with Christie Glover



Amy Kellogg

# Utrust Says Good Bye to Amy Kellogg and Welcomes Dameron Johnson



Dameron Johnson

Amy Kellogg has resigned her position as Communications and Media Specialist at Utrust to accept another position effective August 12. Amy has been involved in some major developments in the Employee Appreciation Program. "Amy has been delightful to work with and she has helped us to improve our programs while she was here," said Utrust Administrator Dan Tollett. "We will miss her. We know that she will be successful in her new position and we wish her well."

"We are excited about Dameron Johnson joining our staff," said Tollett. "She has been working as a volunteer coordinator with the Employee Appreciation Program at Beech Elementary School. She understands our program and brings excitement and creativity to the job." She will begin her new responsibilities with Utrust on August 15.



1525 Hunt Club Blvd, Suite 300  
Gallatin, TN 37066  
Phone: (615)452-7761  
[www.tnuct.com](http://www.tnuct.com)

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