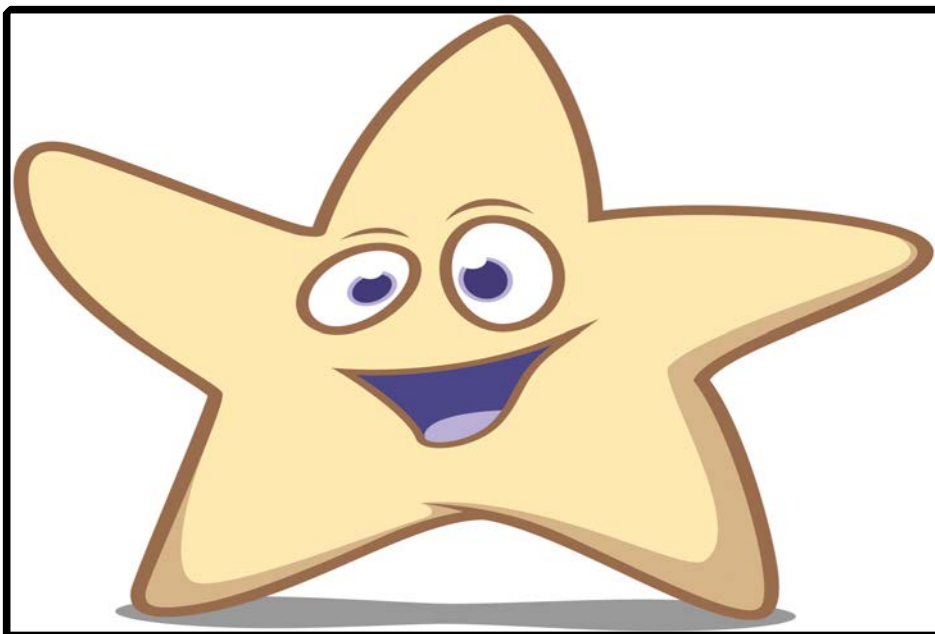


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APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF



Exciting News! Introducing the Lucky Star

The Employee Appreciation Program has always stressed the importance of sincere expressions of thanks and in keeping with that philosophy we are introducing the Lucky Star.

did celebrate the different days.

So watch for news about the Lucky Star and let us know how your appreciation days go--you very well may win \$100.

It is your opportunity to win \$100 for your A team just by doing what you have been doing. Instead of picking out the best celebration for each day, you will be entered into a random drawing just by letting us know that you

COMING UP

Principal Appreciation Day
Medieval Theme
February 7

Special Teachers and Staff
Appreciation Day
March Madness Theme
March 7

What's In This Issue?

Food Service Appreciation Day Celebrations:

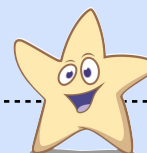


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IT PAYS TO SAY THANKS!

The 2012 Make A Difference Writing Competition was a huge success. In both the adult and student divisions, we received numerous stories of school employees who went above and beyond to positively affect others. Reading these entries is encouraging and inspiring. Here is a list of this year's winners:

Student Division:

\$1000 Grand Prize Winner-

Derek Shane Mabe wrote honoring teacher Christy Thacker

East Tn Winners

\$500- Bailey Schwartz wrote honoring teacher Mr. Johnson

\$250- Emily Jones wrote honoring teacher Mr. Ben Boggs

\$100- Savannah Flynn wrote honoring teacher Mrs. Haley Prickett

\$100-Jodi Horton wrote honoring teacher Mr. Marty Schism

\$100- Jessica McVay wrote honoring teacher Ms. Pam Griffin

\$100- Brianna Ennis wrote honoring teacher Miss Brennan

Middle Tn Winners

\$500- Sydney Ann Beaver wrote honoring Vice Principal J. Brim McCall

\$250- Samuel Mitchell wrote honoring JROTC Chief Dempsey

\$100- Ambri Willson wrote honoring teacher Coach Brent Cothron

\$100- Sarah Henry wrote honoring Superintendent Clint Satterfield

\$100- MaryJo Ann Spears wrote honoring teacher Ms. Lindsey Lankford

\$100- Mason Quinn wrote honoring football Coach Jackson

\$100- Salem Sullivan wrote honoring teacher Mrs. Walczyk

West Tn Winners

\$500- Heather Boyd wrote honoring teacher Jennifer Shifflet

\$250- William Futrell wrote honoring teacher Musa Manneh

\$100- Samuel Cole wrote honoring Band Director Mr. Cook

\$100- Dana Bombe wrote honoring teacher Mrs. Jeannine Stokes

Adult Division:

\$1000 Winner- Jessica Drinnon wrote honoring teacher Mrs. Rebecca Bowman

\$500 Winner- Carrie Tinsley wrote honoring bus driver Bob Bell

\$250 Winner- Megan Sturgill wrote honoring Food Service Manager Betty Sandidge

You can view all of these stories online at <http://www.tnuct.com/stories.php.html>.

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A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS... FOOD SERVICE APPRECIATION DAY

We do not want to be late to tell you what a "tea"-rrific job the A-Teams did showing appreciation to the Food Service workers using the Alice in Wonderland theme. What great celebrations. We had so much fun viewing the pictures, watching videos and reading summaries of the days. Thank you for making these hard-working employees feel honored and appreciated during their special day. Here's a list of our favorite things...

Benton County

Briarwood - handmade placemats, crowns and personalized purses for each of the workers.

Big Sandy School - 1st graders sang to the workers and gave big hugs to show appreciation

Holladay School - poster-size thank you cards and rainbow of appreciation of plates

Camden Elementary - tea served out of china cups and cupcakes made by a parent in the community

Camden Junior High - sent a picture letting us know they participated

Camden High School - the entire school was involved by including many different classes and clubs in the celebration

Cumberland County

Homestead Elementary - creative slogan: "We are all mad here" - HES is mad about their lunchroom crew. They feed us all without a fuss. Even after a long day, they still have a smile for us!

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HAWKINS COUNTY WASN'T "LATE" IN SHOWING THEIR APPRECIATION TO THEIR LUNCH LADIES.

Bulls Gap- homemade chess squares. Yummy!

Carter's Valley Elementary - big, floppy hats made for each worker and dresses used as chair covers..brilliant!

Church Hill Elementary - treated their workers with their own special tea set as a keepsake.

Church Hill Intermediate- adorable treat bags wrapped in a muffin tin

Church Hill Middle School - used bright colors for the party.

Hawkins Elementary - involved all the grades in showing appreciation.

Joseph Rogers Primary - thanked their workers over the PA system for everyone to hear.

Keplar Elementary - Alice and the Mad Hatter greeted their workers.

Mooresburg Elementary - some of the best pictures ever. The colors of the tea party were spectacular.

Mount Carmel - thank you cards and banners strung all over the entire cafeteria.

Pathways Alternative School - huge, hand-drawn banner of appreciation.

Rogersville Middle - workers wore their crowns all day to remind everyone how special they are.

Surgoinsville Elementary - great student body participation in Mad Hatter Day.

Volunteer High School - wrote their very own song and sang it to the workers.

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HATS OFF TO FOOD SERVICE WORKERS ACROSS THE STATE

Hamblen County

Union Heights Elementary - personalized aprons made by a member of the community.

Hancock County

Hancock Middle-High School - students cleaned up, wiped off tables and swept after lunch. What an inexpensive but priceless act of kindness!

Jackson County:

The Director of Schools, Joe Barlow, and Freda Hammock visited the schools to say thank you to each worker.

Sumner County:

Knox Doss Middle - A-Team members served the workers food and drinks throughout the entire tea party.

Trousdale County:

Trousdale Elementary - adorable student-made signs reminding everyone to stop and say thank you to the Food Service workers.

Thank you for making Food Service Day such a great success. May you be just as valiant in your efforts honoring the principals during Principal Appreciation Day using the Medieval theme. May your sword be mighty and your shield be light as you honor our special leaders for everything they do to impact our schools and students. They are our heroes. Let's honor them that way!

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TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT: JOEY COOPER



Joey Cooper has served as a west representative on the Utrust Board of Trustees since 2006. In 2007, he was elected to a three-year term by the membership of the Trust and has been instrumental in the implementation of the Employment Appreciation Program.

Joey has served on the Benton County Board of Education for 19 years and has held both vice-chairman and chairman positions on the board. He was the driving force behind bringing the EAP to Benton County where they have seen a huge positive impact on their community.

He is a DCS Technologist at Dupont in New Johnsonville. Joey is very active in his church where he teaches a co-ed Sunday school class and is a deacon. He is on the United Way Board of Directors, Drug Court Advisory Committee, and

has been on the Eagle Review Board of the Boy Scouts.

Utrust Administrator Dan Tollett said, "Every board needs a member like Joey Cooper. Joey loves children and is committed to doing what he can to make their lives better. He appreciates employees who are dedicated to making schools better places for children to learn. He is a strong supporter of the Utrust Employee Appreciation Program and he was instrumental in implementing it in Benton County, his own school system."

"Joey is an excellent member of the Utrust Board of Trustees. We can consistently depend upon him being present and prepared for every meeting," Tollett continued. "He is committed to making Utrust and its programs continuously better. He doesn't just talk about it, he rolls up his sleeves and does what he can to accomplish its goals."

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

FOOD SERVICE APPRECIATION DAY BRIGHTEST STAR WINNERS

Congratulations to Briarwood for treating their "Briarwood Babes" to a tea party complete with handwritten invitations, student-created colorful posters and decorations. The bright colors on the table with flowers, handmade placemats and crowns for each of the workers were special honoring touches. As a keepsake for the day each worker was given a personalized purse and photo album.



Big Sandy School in Benton County won the K-12 division because of the tremendous attention to detail they paid to the tea party honoring their ladies. They used bright lights, bubbles, background music and aromatherapy to create a sanctuary for the workers to enjoy. All grade levels participated in the celebration. The high school students made posters, the 1st graders sang a song; and students from the other grades decorated the table and escorted the workers to their seats. Fantastic.



Volunteer High School in Hawkins is the Middle/High School winner because of their creative, outside-the-box participation. All the A-Team dressed in full character, a song was re-written and performed by 2 talented ladies in front of the workers to show appreciation; the video and pictures told the story of the great day; and each worker was presented with their own "silver" tray filled with themed-goodies.

