

News Utrust

SPECIAL EDITION: ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF APPRECIATION

DAY

A Salute To Support Staff

They are the front faces of our schools and the back brace that supports each classroom. That's why on April 16th school districts across Tennessee recognized administrative and instructional support staff with a big thank you. Schools celebrated in a variety of ways. In Grainger County, Director of Schools, Terry Acuff presented each staff member with a certificate of appreciation as well as a special luncheon.

Hawkins County celebrated with a marquee message, cards, flowers, as well as one big cookie! Staff at various schools were also treated to breakfast biscuits and lunch.

The special day was a way that office staff, operators, bookkeepers and teacher assistants could feel appreciated for the hard work they do.

Grainger County Schools Director, Terry Acuff, presented each staff member with a certificate of appreciation as well as a special appreciation luncheon.

"We gave everyone a long lunch to eat anywhere they liked"
"We provided flowers to each worker, sent cards of appreciation, provided free lunches" ~Wilson County



Putnam County Celebrates in Style!

Administrative & Instructional Staff Appreciation Day happened at just the right time in Putnam County, because it was the same week as Homecoming. This gave schools double the reason to celebrate, and boy did they! Each day of the week, schools celebrated with a different theme such as

"We Will Rock You Day" and "Camouflage Day". Support staff were treated to a formal luncheon, and appreciation certificates. Other gifts from plants to pedicures were also given. "In Putnam County, school operations are not possible without our support staff" said Dr. Kathleen Airhart, Director of Schools. "We were glad to have the opportunity to say thank you to the people in our system who make it a better place to work everyday, they really make a difference". The week was truly a homecoming to remember!

Wilson Co. School Director takes on new role to show appreciation

While Wilson County schools celebrated Administrative & Instructional Staff Day in various ways, the central office had a festivity of its own. Administrative staff were treated to a hearty breakfast and a big “thank you” from school director Mike Davis.

To make sure receptionist Mattie Gregory also enjoyed a break from the constant phone ringing, Mr. Davis took on the role of



Receptionist Mattie Gregory gives Director Mike Davis a lesson on answering phones before going to an appreciation breakfast.

ON THE JOB



receptionist and answered phones. Concerned about the superintendent, Gregory cut her celebration short to go back to work, but Mr. Davis assured her he was doing just fine, and sent her back to the party. Gregory

commented that she thought it was a very nice gesture.

This director not only gave a verbal thank you, but stepped in for a quick crash course on the job to make sure his staff felt appreciated.

A Bit of Trickery in Hancock County

One by one, receptionists, operators and teacher assistants filed into the Hancock County Central Office meeting to meet their fate. Many of them thought they were about to get the bad news of a layoff with the current state of the economy.

Then came the news...no, not of a layoff, but a “thank you”. Everyone was surprised!



These employees were all given hugs and a gift card to Subway for lunch. The sandwich shop even got in on the action and gave each staff member a cookie. Employee Laura Lamb said she was “really surprised and pleased that the Board of Education had done this for her”.

Administrative & Instructional Support Staff in Hancock County may have gone into the meeting with a heavy heart, but left with one full of joy.

A Big Day of Recognition in Rogersville

The Rogersville City School Board recognized April 16th as Administrative & Instructional Support Day in a variety of ways. These hard working employees were showered with sweets, shirts and plenty of thank you messages.

Students in some classrooms even created posters and banners to hang in the hallway to showcase their appreciation.

School board chairman, Frank Testerman said, "This board wants to thank these employees for their dedication to Rogersville City School System. The board understands that there services and efforts are critical to the success of our schools system".



Teacher Assistant Pam Ritenour receives a card and chocolate from teachers Robin Bowman and Jennifer Smith



Jack Hicks and Hattie Potter proudly wear their new shirts that read "Taking Pride in Doing the Job Right"



Jo King with her rose at Jackson County H.S.

Taking Time to Smell the Roses in Jackson County

Support staff were treated in a number of ways, from tasty treats, to sing-a-longs conducted by Superintendent Joe Barlow. At Jackson County High School, staff like bookkeeper Jo King were given roses.

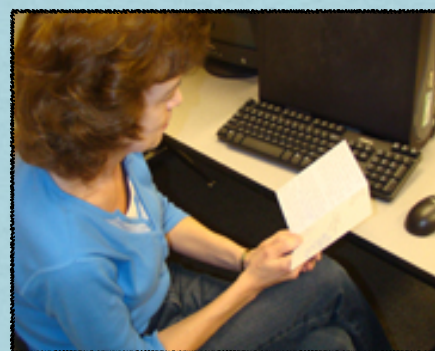
King has worked in the office at JCHS for 22 years. She's worked with six principals during her tenure, including Mr. Barlow who was the principal before his current position as director. "I came in worse than a green horn

at Jackson County High School, and Mrs. King guided me through all the legalities of the day-to day workload in the school system," Barlow said. "Mrs. King is very much appreciated and is a great asset to Jackson County High School!"

King along with fellow staff members enjoyed that the school district not only took time to smell the blossoms of their hard work, but to give them a few as well.



Students at Rogersville City School create a display that "gives a hand" to those being recognized.



Computer lab manager Maxine Burton reads a card full of thank you messages from fellow RCS co-workers.



Make A Difference!

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Administrative and Instructional support staff are truly the faces and hearts of our schools. The first person a visitor to a school usually encounters is the receptionist or school secretary. We have heard many comments from parents, students, teachers and visitors to our schools about the warm welcome and friendly faces they have found in the front offices of our schools. Watch "The Extra Mile" video on the Utrust website to see the remarkable things that school secretaries are able to accomplish in a day. Talk to a teacher about how valuable a teacher assistant is to the teaching and learning process. Ask a student about how much difference an instructional assistant makes in helping him to learn. Talk to an administrative or instructional support staff member about her job and you will quickly detect a love for students that motivates much more than salary. That's why we say they are the faces and hearts of our schools.

We commend school boards, superintendents and others who have taken some time and made some effort to recognize and express appreciation for administrative and instructional support staff this month. We're privileged at Utrust to have the opportunity to join with you in saying thanks to this awesome group of invaluable employees who make our schools better places for children to learn. You are making a difference.

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