

News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF



SPECIAL TEACHERS & STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Special Teachers and Staff are the unsung superheroes of our schools and we're celebrating them with the Avengers theme in March.

In the next issue, we'll be showcasing our fearless leaders with a Duck Dynasty theme. Principal Day is next and we are happy, happy happy about sharing all the great things that took place in the schools to honor the fearless leaders. Without

them, our schools would be a mess and that's a fact, Jack!

COMING UP
Special Teachers & Services Staff Appreciation Day Avengers Theme March
Support Staff Appreciation Day Once Upon a Time Theme April 9
Teacher Appreciation Day Dr. Seuss Theme May 7

What's In This Issue?

FOOD SERVICE APPRECIATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

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TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT: DON WEATHERS



Don Weathers of Mt. Juliet serves as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Utrust. Weathers is one of two school board members elected to represent Middle Tennessee on the Utrust board.

During the time Weathers has served on the Utrust board, the Employee Appreciation Program was implemented. The program aims to develop student leadership in recognizing and expressing appreciation for what school employees do for students. Schools that participate in the Utrust Employee Appreciation Program have seen the culture of their school become a culture of gratitude where students use a variety of means to express appreciation to school employees who have made a difference in their lives. The students' attitude of gratitude produces improved employee morale.

Weathers also supported the establishment of Utrust mini grants to provide member boards and their

schools and staff members with small grants which make a big difference to students and staff.

"Don Weathers is an extremely valuable member of the board of trustees," said Dr. Dan Tollett, Utrust Administrator. "His experience and knowledge of both business and education help him to be an ideal member of the board of trustees. He is a great help to the Utrust board in dealing with financial issues, particularly the investment of funds. He is dependable, intelligent, articulate and fun. Our board, like the Wilson County School Board, is much better because of him," Tollett continued.

Weathers has served as a member of the Wilson County Board of Education since 2004. He became a member of the Utrust Board of Trustees in 2006 and has served as the Vice Chairman since 2007. He says that he enjoys serving on the Utrust Board because he believes that Utrust is continuously doing everything in its power to help

member school districts make their schools better places for children to grow and learn.

Weathers is a business management consultant. He served as the president of the Tennessee Turnaround Management Association from 2006-2008 and he also serves on the national and international Board of Directors of the Turnaround Management Association.

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Food Service Day Celebrations

Food Service Appreciation Day was a huge success. A big shout out goes to all the schools for making the Food Service Staff feel appreciated and honored in a way that was out of this world. It is obvious the students had fun with the theme by having things like "yoda soda" and "May the forks be with you" signs. We hope you have fun looking at the photos of all the amazing celebrations in the schools.

Anderson County:

Anderson County Career and Tech - The A-Team made cookie containers filled with chocolate chip cookies and thank you cards for the lunch ladies. Mr. Herrell our assistant principal wore his Darth Vader t-shirt so he went with the A-Team to deliver the goodies. They busted in the lunch room playing Star Wars music and gave the lunch ladies their goodies. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Anderson County High School - We started our day with a message of appreciation on our sign and a special announcement over the

intercom. The students made signs & thank you cards. We also made goodie bags. One of our A-Team members gave the sweetest speech about how important their jobs were and that some children would not ever get a hot meal if it weren't for them. A few of the workers actually had tears in their eyes while he was talking. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Andersonville Elementary School - With the help of the A Team, the 2nd grade made a cute "With the Forks be With You" sign for the cafeteria. All of the student's forks contained notes of gratitude and appreciation for all the cafeteria ladies' hard work! The A-Team also treated our lovely ladies to a Light and Dark Side Breakfast treat. The ladies enjoyed donuts and a coffee basket full of yummy treats to start their morning off on the "light" side! The highlight of the day was when our second graders serenaded the ladies with their sweet rendition of "Twinkle Twinkle". It was a great day for everyone! Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Showing Appreciation to the Food Service Workers

Claxton Elementary - Our A-Team kids loved the Star Wars theme, and were thrilled to show our lovely food service workers just how much we appreciate them! **We wanted to get some local businesses involved, so we asked Chick-fil-A and Cinnabon if they would be willing to write some thank you cards. Not only did they do just that, they also donated lots of yummy food!** We were so grateful for their kindness. We had a blast with the Star Wars theme, we made lightsaber napkins, R2D2 cups, and stuffed goodie bags full of candy and thank you cards! We labeled the Cinnabons as "Leia's buns" and the water as "wookie water." Our food service workers enjoyed a stress-free break where they were able to slow down and enjoy a delicious breakfast together. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Clinton High School - For our appreciation day, we made space

themed goodie bags. The bags were decorated, and included Star Crunches, Orbit gum, Cosmic Brownies, Milky Way candy bars, Starburst candy, and Moon Pies. Students made a banner that said, "May the Forks Be With You" and "Best Cafeteria Staff in the Galaxy". They decorated it with Star Wars characters. We also collected thank you notes from the student body. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Grand Oaks Elementary School - Food Service Workers at Grand Oaks were treated to a special day as the best cafeteria workers in the galaxy! They received Star Wars goody bags and were treated to a special lunch. Students shared notes of appreciation with them as they went through the lunch line. Posters welcomed workers and students into the cafeteria and morning announcements recognized them, too. Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Out of this World Thanks for Food Service Staff

Lake City Elementary School

- The celebration for our Food Service Workers was "Out of this World." Our Music Makers (4th and 5th grade students) and Music teacher created and performed a great assembly program for our cafeteria ladies, including a song and description of our wonderful cafeteria workers and what they do for our school. We invited them to sit on stage during the program after being greeted with a standing ovation from our student body as they entered the auditorium to the Star Wars theme music. **Waiting for them on their seats were Jedi Knight Certificates, and personalized aprons that our art teacher, bookkeeper, and A-Team members screen printed with storm trooper faces and monogrammed with their names.** Our cafeteria staff was very grateful for the gratitude shown to them. The "Forks" were definitely with them today! Click [here](#) for the photos.

Lake City Middle School - It was a great day for our Food Service workers. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Norwood Middle School -

Norwood Middle School celebrated our Master Jedi Food Service ladies throughout the week. Monday the students prepared cards and signs. Tuesday they were given Storm Trooper Goodie Bags which included: Princess Leia's Honey Buns, Wookie Cookies, Chocolate dipped pretzel lightsabers, Obi-Wan Kabob-ies, and Water. On Wednesday, the school held an assembly in their honor (we even attempted to sing them the Star Wars song). Batley Baptist Church provided the ladies with a delicious lunch on Thursday to finish the week. The students, staff, and community enjoyed showing appreciation to the Food Service staff for joyfully serving in our galaxy. Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Food Service Appreciation Day Celebrations

Bells

Bells City School - We had a good celebration. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Benton County:

Briarwood School - Students made signs, cards, Robot, and posters. One door displayed each worker as a Star Wars character. Each worker agreed to wear the character name for the day too. The A-Team served the Food Service Staff a meal with tablecloths, candles, Star Wars decor, and Star War foods. Staff was delighted and bragged on the the A-Team's efforts. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Camden Elementary School - We celebrated Food Service Appreciation Day in a stellar way! The lunchroom was decorated with signs and posters, students wore

masks and/or Yoda ear hats, cards and letters were presented to our lunch ladies, announcements were made from our A-Team, and our lunch staff was treated to a 4-star meal including a song presentation. When the festivities were over, a picture was taken of each lady which was transformed into a Star Wars character and given to them for a keepsake. **Our lunch manager commented she laughed so much her side hurt!** All the ladies relayed their appreciation for everything that was done for them on their special day. May the "Forks" be with you! Click [here](#) for the photos.

Camden Junior High School - Camden Jr. High A-Team honored the Food Service Workers. Students gave workers snacks during their break. They also made them a sign to show their appreciation. Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Holladay School - We had a good day. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Fentress County:

Clarkrange High School - Clarkrange High School celebrated Food Service Appreciation Day with a variety of activities. A FCCLA member made an "out of this world" banner with a quote from Yoda. Our CTE Range Time (Team?) members made Star Wars goodie bags filled with Princess Leia's Honey Buns, Yoda Soda, Star Wars Treats, and Chewbacca Chewy Cookies. The JROTC Department recognized our wonderful ladies by placing an announcement on the school marquee. FCCLA members visited the local radio station and made a PSA for broadcasting during the month of January. **Faculty and students dressed in Star Wars themed clothing to show support and Mr. Melton brought in his R2D2 for us to**

use in pictures. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Hamblen County:

Hillcrest Elementary School - Hillcrest has the best Food Service Professionals ever! They really watch out for our students and staff so it was a great pleasure to honor them this day. Our "A" team read a poem over the intercom, gathered thank you notes and decorated the building with posters. **We served Princess Lay(a)s potato chip chicken salad, Obi-wan-kabobbies, wookie cookies and Han Rolos. We had light saber napkins and light saber chocolate covered pretzel rods.** The ladies were great sports and wore the Princess Leia headbands with honey buns attached. After the luncheon, we presented the ladies with Darth Vader gift bags full of goodies. Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Meadowview Middle School -

The Student Council A-Team gave each of our Cafe Ladies a goody bag of sweet treats to let them know how much we love and appreciate them. During the morning announcements a poem was read and students were encouraged to let these ladies know how appreciated they are as they went through the lunch line. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton.

Today we showed how much we appreciate our Food Service Workers. Posters were placed throughout the school, showing what SUPERSTARS, they are to our students and faculty. It was our turn to feed the people who feed us...each Food Service Staff Member was presented with a gift certificate for a meal at Charlies Bar B Que, the best barbecue around! Also, our employees were presented with a bouquet of fresh flowers. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Jackson County:

Dodson Branch Elementary School

- We had a wonderful time celebrating our cafeteria ladies. We only have 3 ladies in our cafeteria, but they do an amazing job for all of us at DBS! We celebrated with Yoda Soda, Galaxy Pizza, and a bag of goodies for our wonderful ladies. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Gainesboro Elementary School

- We fixed lunch and treat bags for our hard working food staff. The kids also sang a song to the nice ladies. Everyone enjoyed the celebration. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Johnson County:

Johnson County High School

- We made each Food Service Staff member a certificate of appreciation, bought their lunch, hung flyers, and made a banner. Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Hawkins County Celebrates Food Service Staff

Bulls Gap School - In honor of our Cafeteria staff we celebrated with delicious cupcakes made by one of our parent volunteers. We are greatly appreciate all that our cafeteria workers do for us throughout the year. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Carter's Valley Elementary School - Students were excited to celebrate the best food service ladies in the Empire. Students made light sabers for each and created a huge banner to honor them. They also adorned the cafeteria with artwork and decorated a special place for the ladies to have an out of this galaxy brunch. **After brunch, the food service workers were invited to be guest of honor at a school-wide assembly complete with light saber battles, Star Wars poetry, a video, and a parade of thanks.** Students and staff alike came together to show Ms. Lori, Ms. Brenda, Ms. Verna, and

Ms. Toni that they're special to us all. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Cherokee High School - At Cherokee, we honored our "out of this world" food service workers. To let the student body know who we were honoring this month, we had help from some of our awesome A-Team members in our CDC classroom. They created Star Wars themed posters. Other **A-Team members brought in and set up goodies for our cafeteria workers. We had everything from Wookie Cookies to Yoda Soda. We loved this theme and we think they did too!** Click [here](#) for the photos.

Clinch School - Cafeteria Day was celebrated with spirit and pride! Children made thank you cards and goodies were collected for treat bags for each of our cafeteria ladies. Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Food Service Staff Celebrations

Church Hill Elementary

School - Our Food Service Staff was treated to a wonderful day. **They were given a collage with special pictures on them and a special gift bag with a throw blanket and scarf to get ready for a Star War invasion!** They had a meal fit for any Star Wars warrior. They had Yoda Punch, Thermal Detonators, Wookiee cookies, Han wiches from Blimpies, Leia's buns, Lukes lays and dip, light sabers pretzel sticks, Hans rolo's and Darth cheddar's they were ready to take on the galaxy. Students wrote thank you cards to tell them how much they were appreciated. We are so thankful for our Food Service Staff, they are the best! Click [here](#) for the photos.

Church Hill Middle School -

Church Hill Middle School celebrated Food Service Appreciation Day by decorating the cafeteria with balloons and posters

made by our students. We also made gift bags for each of our cafeteria ladies and had a cake made for them. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Hawkins Elementary School

- For Food Service Appreciation Day **our students each wrote them a letter that they hand delivered to them at lunch.** They also dressed up in their favorite star wars shirts and costumes and some of the member of the A-Team created a poster. The workers were treated with princess Leia (honey) buns, asteroids made from cracker jacks, yota punch, and treat bags. They were also given a nice lunch that was donated by Miss Bea's a local bakery and deli. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Keplar Elementary School -

We dressed up in Star Wars costumes and sang to the cafeteria workers. Also we made thank you cards and gave them candy. Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Star Wars Themed Thanks for Food Service Staff

McPheeter's Bend

Elementary School - Our Food Service Workers received an R2D2 card signed by all the students and a Star Wars themed bag of goodies to enjoy. **Yoda even made a special appearance on the cafeteria board!** We appreciate all the hard work that goes into preparing hot, nutritious meals for our students! Click [here](#) for the photos.

Mooreburg Elementary

School - We had a good day. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Mount Carmel Elementary

School - MCES went into orbit for our Stellar Cafeteria Staff. **Our students dressed in Star Wars themed costumes and shirts, wrote notes of appreciation, made posters and cards to show our lovely ladies how much we**

appreciate the job they do.

The Galaxy's best staff is found at MCES and we let them know it! The "forks" is always with our Food Service staff. They had Leia buns, Hans solo sandwiches, Yoda Soda, Chewbacca cookies, Vader Veggies for a brunch before they were back at serving our students again. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Rogersville Middle School -

May the Forks be with you! We value our Food Staff at RMS. We showered our ladies with treats and gifts. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Surgoinsville Elementary

School - A brunch fit for any "princess" was provided as well as a celebratory poem and song which accompanied a treat bag filled with goodies for our Cafeteria Stars! Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Food Service Staff Celebrations

Volunteer High School - We celebrated Food Service Appreciation Day with light sabers and a "Yoda Best" cake. Each of our workers received a goody bag that contained out of this world treats. The student body wrote notes of appreciation. We really appreciate all of their hard work. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Sumner County:

Howard Elementary School - Howard's A-Team members made announcements asking classes to make Star Wars-themed cards for our five cafeteria ladies. Additionally, students helped create a special bulletin board honoring their hard work. Students were asked to present their cards to the cafeteria staff when they went to lunch. One A-Team member baked and decorated a cake, which the A-Team presented to the cafeteria ladies after singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, You're a Star." Click [here](#) for the photos.

JW Wiseman Elementary School - Food Service Day was great. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Trousdale County:

Jim Satterfield Middle School - JSMS celebrated Food Service Appreciation Day with a Star Wars Themed celebration. Our ladies were given a goody bag filled with sweet treats. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Trousdale County Elementary School - We celebrated our cafeteria staff by presenting them with Star Wars themed cupcakes, yummy cinnamon rolls, and sweet tea. Each of our nine cafeteria ladies received a Star Wars cup filled with chocolate goodies. Click [here](#) for the photos.

Trousdale County High School - "May the forks be with you!" We celebrated our cafeteria staff with the Star Wars theme and it was a hit! The A-Team made cards, gift bags, and posters to show our appreciation. We also gave them "out of this world" treats like wookie cookies, lightsabers (pretzels), Princess Lays' potato chips, yoda soda (water), and a few other goodies. We have the best cafeteria staff around and they deserved to be appreciated! Click [here](#) for the photos.

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Food Service Appreciation Day LUCKY STAR WINNERS



Congratulations to Hawkins Elementary in Hawkins County and Lake City Middle School and Clinton High School, both in Anderson County, for being the lucky winners of the Lucky Star Random Drawing for Food Service Day. Each school received a check for \$100 to be used by their A-Team for future appreciation days.

Schools that submit at least 5 photos or a video of appreciation day activities are entered in the drawing after each appreciation day.



Congratulations to **Claxton Elementary** and **Norwood Middle School** in Anderson County and **Volunteer High School** in Hawkins County for submitting thoughtful thank you notes and winning the Awesome Notes of Appreciation random drawing. A \$100 check was sent to each school to be used in the cafeteria in whatever way the principal deems appropriate. Way to go!

School coordinators may submit up to three awesome notes of appreciation after each appreciation day. Each note is entered in the drawing after each appreciation day.