

News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF



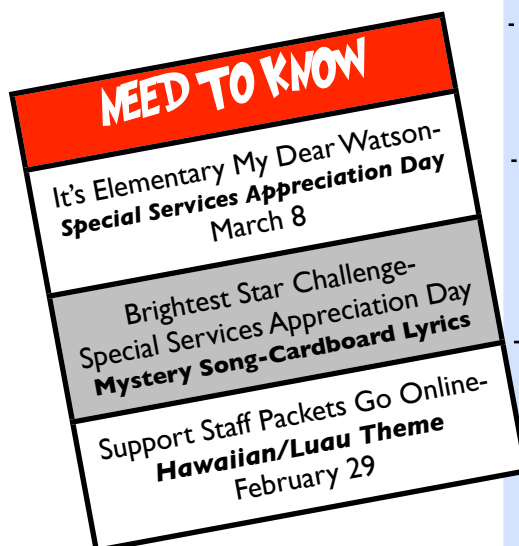
MYSTERY ADVENTURE AHEAD!

Special Services Staff Appreciation Day is just around the corner and it's time to break out your detective gear because we are using a mystery theme! Students will employ their investigative skills to lead in showing their thanks.

March 8th is the designated day and packets are available here so get started with these fun ideas and activities and remember that there are separate packets for Middle and High School with age appropriate suggestions. There are also several ideas that require no cost so don't let anything stop you from celebrating in a special way!

The Brightest Star challenge for Special Services Day is the Mystery Video song with

cardboard lyrics it's a fun, easy way to honor your staff. Click [here](#) to see a sample then let your students imaginations run. This is a fantastic opportunity to earn some cash money for your A Team so give it your best shot and let us know how it goes.



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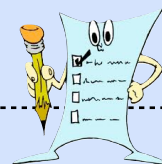
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Wow, Mateys, we at Utrust were blown away by the unbelievably creative things done to honor the great captains of the ships across the State. Treasures were abundant in all the schools. The pirate theme inspired the faculty and students to go overboard showing appreciation to their fearless leaders. All the schools did an outstanding job throughout the day.

In Benton County, **Briarwood Elementary and Camden Junior High School** made Smileboxes to commemorate the special day. Included in each Smilebox were videos of students singing the YoHo song to their principals. Click [here](#) to view the treasures.

Students at **Hampton Elementary and Hampton**

High School in Carter County created adorable posters to decorate the halls. Hunter Elementary had extensive coverage in the local newspaper about all the festivities that took place at their school during Principal Appreciation Day. Click [here](#) to see pictures.

At **Rutledge Primary School** in Grainger County, the principal was given a chest of treasures that included a "telescope to continue looking for young, eager learners and a compass to direct the education voyage of each student". The principal at Bean Station Elementary School was given huge THANK YOU cards as tokens of appreciation. Click [here](#) to see pictures.

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All throughout Hamblen County, principals were being treated to a fun and festive day of appreciation. The fearless leader at **Lincoln Heights Elementary** was given a survival kit because you never know when danger might strike.

At **Lincoln Heights Middle School**, the entire school participated in the special day by writing thank you notes on gold "coins" for their beautiful pirate-themed wall decoration.

The custodian had a good time at **Manley Elementary** dressing up as a pirate to present the special goodies to their "captain".

The students at **Meadowview Middle School** showed their appreciation to their principals by creating banners with special handwritten notes. To see the pictures from Hamblen County, click [here](#).

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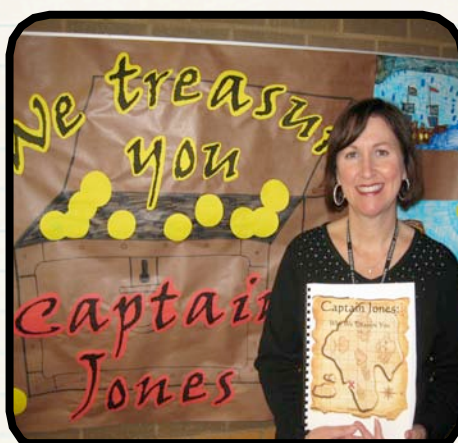
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Hawkins County always amazes us by the creativity and fun they have with the theme of the day. Principal Day was no exception.

A shout out goes to **Church Hill Intermediate** for having a special dress up day to honor the principal; to **Church Hill Middle School** for the beautiful office decorations; to **Clinch School** for the hilarious Top Ten list about their beloved leader; **Mooreburg School** for their "jewels" of quotes; **Carter's Valley Elementary** for the fun "Facts and Opinions" chart. **McPheeter's Bend Elementary** gave their principal a vest to keep warm;

Keplar Elementary treated their leader to a festive treasure hunt; and **Pathways Alternative School** treated their principals to a nice luncheon with fun pirate decorations and pictures of the "crew".

One of the most meaningful things to happen in Hawkins County took place at **Joseph Rogers Primary**. Students and faculty collected needed items such as Kleenex, food, paper products, socks, playing cards, etc., to donate to the local nursing home in the principal's honor. Way to spread the attitude of gratitude, Hawkins County! Click [here](#) to see the inspiring pictures. —cont'd next page



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Several Hawkins County schools participated in the Brightest Star Challenge. **Church Hill**

Elementary sent a video of the students singing a great Thank You song to their principal. When asked how the performance by the 3rd and 4th graders of the Thank You song made him feel, Principal Richard Hutson said, "It was very rewarding to have the students do that for me. The students did a great job as well as Ms. King, our music teacher". When asked about the Employee Appreciation Program at his school, he stated "It is great to have days of recognition for our faculty that work hard all year."

Mt. Carmel created their own tribute song to the tune of "The Beverly Hillbillies" and

Bulls Gap School went way overboard by serenading their principals with 2 songs. Tonya Ely, the school coordinator, said "We are very lucky to have such wonderful people in charge of our school".

The winner of the Brightest Star Challenge went to **Volunteer High School** for their rendition of the YoHo Song by sung by Dalton Cradick and accompanied by Austin Skelton. After being treated to the award-winning performance, Principal Jim Dykes said, "It brought a tear to my 'day'. I didn't know they had so much talent!". Congratulations to all the schools who participated in the Challenge. Click [here](#) to see some of the videos.

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In Jackson County, **Jackson County High School** treated their principals to an ice cream cake in their honor.

Dodson Branch Elementary went overboard showing their principal appreciation by creating a huge butcher paper treasure chest on the wall filled with human treasures...each grade had a student representative that said something kind about their leader. Click [here](#) to see their pictures.

Gladeville Elementary in Wilson County is never short on creativity with posters and bulletin boards. Click [here](#) to see their outstanding work.

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The Trustee Spotlight is on



Roger Greene

leadership. Roger continues to make Utrust better.”

Dale Lynch, Superintendent of Hamblen County Schools, has this to say about Greene, “Having served as a school board member for more than two decades he has a wealth of knowledge and critical experience ever school system needs. When Roger speaks, people listen. One of his strongest attributes is his keen awareness of school finance. Even though he has a tremendous amount of experience, he's always working and studying to be a better and more knowledgeable school board member. I've watched his understanding of pre-K education grow over the last several years, which has led to his local and state advocacy for universal pre-K.”

Lynch also adds, “I believe Roger's most significant asset is that he makes everyone around him better. As a superintendent I will be forever grateful for his leadership and his ability to make me a stronger school leader.”

The Utrust board of trustees has benefited from the involvement and leadership of Roger Greene for the past 21 years and 11 of those he served as chairman. During his tenure on the Utrust board, participating school board members have received over \$4 million more than they have paid in premiums over the last ten years. Utrust has also implemented the employee appreciation program to help school boards honor and recognize school employees.

Dr. Dan Tollett, Administrator of Utrust said, “Roger has been a strong anchor for Utrust. We benefit greatly from his wisdom and experience. He has been instrumental in making Utrust a strong and effective organization. The staff and other trustees respect and appreciate him and value his

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What would you do with the cash? Imagine funding your A Team's efforts like never before. Would you buy supplies to take your appreciation to another level? How much would you enjoy being able to buy nice little thank you gifts for your honorees?

Think about the answer to these questions

because if you complete your entry for the Best EAP then you may win a prize of \$1000. All it takes to be entered is to fill out the self nominating form and submit it by the due date.

Click [here](#) for the form.

Survey Says

Thank you to those who completed our survey! If you haven't had a chance to let us know what you think, click [here](#) to go to the survey for the system coordinator and [here](#) for the school coordinator.

We want to address some questions or issues that we found in your responses each month. Did you know?

- There are always FREE activities to do in each packet. Writing thank you notes and singing songs are a couple of good ones that cost nothing.
- There are separate packets for high school and middle high with age appropriate suggestions and ideas.

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