

News Utrust

SPECIAL EDITION: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Time Out to say Thank You

School districts across the state took time to thank those who always help out in a time of need. The professionals in our schools, like the school nurse, SRO, guidance counselor, speech therapist, etc., all play very important roles in keeping students, staff and faculty safe and on track. School professionals not only

help heal, they become confidants, mentors, and sometimes even friends. From thank you cards to on stage performances, schools took a moment to thank those who sometimes truly go beyond the call of duty. These employees make a difference in the lives of students.



An Early Celebration in Jackson County

For many school districts, Professional Services Appreciation Day fell right in the middle of Spring Break. Jackson County was one of several districts that didn't let that stop them from celebrating! Schools there wanted to do something special for their school professionals, and they did!

Professional services staff were honored with parties, certificates and notes of thanks. Diagnostician Terilyn Jenkins said "this appreciation day was the best compliment I have received in 30 years of working". Special Education Supervisor Danny Holder was pleased that so many on his staff were honored. "These individuals perform their service to the Jackson County School System largely by working behind the scenes to ensure special need students receive appropriate educational services...they deserve our heart-felt appreciation for a job well done". This big "thank you" was a great way for Jackson County to send its employees off on Spring Break with a smile!



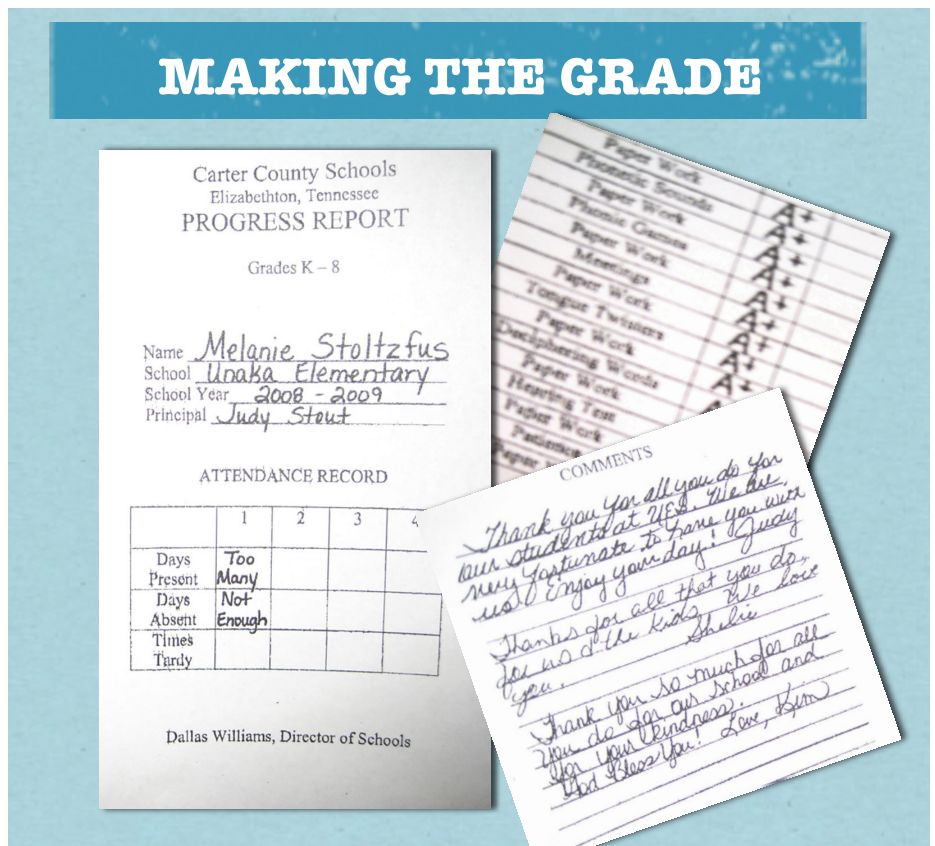
Carter County Professionals get an A+ for Excellence!

An East Tennessee school proved that professional service staff members make the grade! Unaka Elementary gave each employee a progress report that included thank you comments from other faculty members. The report card was filled with A's and an exceptional attendance record.

Other schools in Carter County honored their professionals with a catered lunch, marquee messages, flowers bouquets, and gift certificates. Carter County Assistant Director Pat Hicks said "One of our speech pathologists had tears in her eyes when she spoke of what her school had done for her. The professional services

employees with whom I have spoken, feel that the recognition provides a measure of validation for the work they do with our students."

Cards, candy, lots of hugs and students saying "thank you" make it truly an A-plus day in Carter County.



A FIRST AT ROGERSVILLE CITY SCHOOL

"It was wonderful!" "Everyone has made me feel so special today!" "This is the first time ever that I have been recognized for the work I do." These were just a few of the comments that came from professional service employees at Rogersville City School.

Employees were recognized for their dedication with a special musical called "Share A Dream", performed by third graders. "It's so important that we do not forget to show our appreciation to those who work so hard on behalf of our students," Superintendent Dr. Sherry Terry said. "Thanks, Utrust, for reminding us to recognize these valuable employees."

Prior to the celebration day at school,



the Rogersville City School Board recognized this distinguished group of employees with a resolution, certificate and small token of appreciation.

For some of the employees, the appreciation day was a first, but not likely to be the last, and the memories made from this day are sure to last a lifetime.

Thank You: Simple, but Strong in Hancock County



Sometimes a simple thank you is all it takes to make someone feel good. School officials in Hancock County did more than just give a verbal thanks to their professionals, they also catered a lunch in their honor and presented them with a certificate.



Central office staff and principals held a special meeting in the school cafeteria to thank these employees. School Resource Officer James Williams said it was the first time he had received this kind of attention in his two and a half years of working at the school. "I don't need it, but I certainly enjoyed it, I thought it was nice".

With just this quiet gesture, Hancock County officials spoke volumes to its employees and made them feel like they were truly appreciated.



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

It was rewarding to see the superb job some of our schools and school systems did in recognizing and appreciating school resource officers, guidance counselors, school nurses and other professional service employees. Using our suggested theme--- People Who Help in Your Hour of Need--- school boards, administrators, other school employees, students and parents joined in celebrations across the state. Thank you for sharing stories about what you did to express appreciation in your school system. We appreciate your efforts to make this a special day for these dedicated employees who seldom get praised for their enormous contribution to the success of our schools. They have long been appreciated but unspoken appreciation isn't worth nearly as much.

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