

November 2011

News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF

WRITING COMPETITION—DEADLINE EXTENDED!!

Due to some technological glitches and the possibility that we did not receive some of the entries, we are extending the deadline to November 30, 2011. We will also be accepting entries in either hard copy at our office or by email. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to tell your story of how a school employee has made a difference in your life and also the chance to win great cash prizes!

With exciting prizes and new entry rules, we at Utrust have great expectations for the writing competition of this year's Make a Difference Program! It is open to students and adults who are willing to share their story of a school employee who has made a difference in their lives.

Two separate divisions and seventeen cash prizes, ranging from \$100 to \$1000, mean more opportunities to win so be sure and check out the complete contest rules and regulations at www.tnuct.com.



Remember that when you take the time to show appreciation, everyone wins. Get involved and encourage those around you to share their experiences of employees who have made a difference.

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS'

By: Rachel Lovingood



Superintendent Appreciation Day is just around the corner and we are using a patriotic theme to honor our fearless leaders. November 17 is the special day, so make plans now to get the celebration going strong.

Since there is just one superintendent for multiple schools, the suggested activities for this day are slightly different and take into account the fact that he or she can not make it to every school personally. Check out a short video tutorial to

help make this appreciation day simple and effective for every level: [elementary](#), [middle](#) & [high](#) school.

We have rewritten the words to three popular patriotic songs to honor superintendents. We have presented them in karoake style so your [elementary](#), [middle](#) and [high](#) school students can sing along.

These activities built around a patriotic theme will be a perfect salute to your superintendent.



A WAGON LOAD OF THANKS TO CUSTODIANS

By: Dameron Johnson

Yee haw! It looks like all the schools that participated in Custodian Appreciation Day had a great time lassoing their custodians to show 'em a little gratitude for their work on the range.

“Wanted” posters were hung all over the schools in the wide-open State of Tennessee, and custodians were being honored as “deputies of clean” for the day.

Western Union telegrams were hung on middle school classroom doors with students' urgent messages of appreciation for cowboy custodians.

Custodians were provided western lunches and the students helped clean up their own messes.

Some schools, including Beech Elementary's Gratitude Gang used Utrust's rewritten lyrics to Home on the Range and sang it to the custodians while they were enjoying a BBQ lunch.

Connie Moffitt, Carter's Valley Elementary had this to say: “We are so thankful to all of them for always keeping our school clean and many other things that are unseen.”

Howdy Utrust Partners,

It's been a rootin' tootin', rip roarin day here at the Clinchville Corral. Sheriff Barton tried to maintain order here but had trouble corralling in the “clean up gang”, aka Tom and The Troublesome Twins. They are wanted for killing germs, scuffing out black marks and scouring out commodes.

Several of the sheriff's deputies tried to capture the gang, as pictures will show, but were unsuccessful. One of the gang members, Desperate Deborah, aka as several other names such as Cleaning Clara, escaped before the law could get on her trail. Some of their comrades brought them a bag of vittles and the last we heard they are holed up in their hideout. We will keep you posted on the progress of getting this gang under control.

The Clinchville Gazette



KNOX DOSS MIDDLE



PATHWAYS ALTERNATIVE



BEECH ELEMENTARY



CLINCH SCHOOL

AN EVENING ABOARD THE



It's going to be a special evening aboard the General Jackson Showboat on Sunday November 13. The boat will leave the dock at 7pm and dinner will be served as soon as everyone is seated. Utrust will have a short program after dinner followed by some excellent entertainment. Tickets may be picked up at a table outside the showboat for those who have registered. Someone from each school system will need to pick up a packet at the registration desk and distribute tickets and name badges to each person from that system who has registered.

The General Jackson dock is in easy walking distance from Opryland Hotel but a bus will leave from the Magnolia lobby at 6:30 and another at 6:45 for those who prefer to ride. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact Kristi Coleman at 615-714-4190 if you have questions or if you have cancellations by November 10.

Best! STORIES, PHOTOS Events

We want to know what happened in your school system during each of the appreciation days. We ask you to pick your best to share with us and the rest of the state.

Send us your best stories, your best photos, your best quotes and an account of the best events that happened in your school.

E-mail them to
djohnson@tnuct.com.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY JOINS THE EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PROGRAM

By: Dan Tollett

We are pleased to welcome Cumberland County as our first non Utrust member board to membership in the EAP.

Because we believe that appreciation is vital to the health of school systems, we are encouraging non Utrust members to join the School Employee Appreciation Program. With a nominal yearly fee, any school system can [join](#) the EAP and access the employee appreciation packets and get started on the program.

Here is the great news for EAP members. If you recruit

another school or school system you get rewarded!

New members get half off the membership fee for the first year and that reduced payment goes to the recruiting school or system to be used by their A-teams.

Find another school or system that needs to be involved in appreciation and let them know how valuable you have found the program to be.

Let's work together to make our great volunteer state the "**Grateful Volunteer State.**"

Be TENNESSEE's BEST

Now's the time to set your sights on being TENNESSEE's BEST. By planning ahead and making the most of every appreciation day during this school year, you can be awarded with the honor of being declared TENNESSEE's BEST EAP school or school system.

A little healthy competition can bring out the best in each of us so we are offering monetary awards to be used by the A-team of the winning school or each A-team of the winning school system. Go to www.tnuct.com to find an evaluation form that will be used for judging this contest. We will be accepting self nominations at the end of the school year so plan now how to be a contender and keep up with the criteria that will put you at the front of the pack. The deadline is June 15, 2012.

Monetary awards are as follows.

Best EAP School Program- \$1,000 to be used by A-team.

Outstanding EAP School Program-\$500 to be used by A-team

Best EAP School System- \$200 for each A-team in the system

Outstanding School System- \$100 for each A-team in the system

Remember that the contest runs for each school year and not the calendar year. Good luck and don't forget "It pays to be thankful"!



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