

Mt. Vernon Message

For the week of February 17, 2000

Our school Spelling Bee winner is Heather Spies. She will be competing in the District Wide Spelling Bee at Central Office later this month. We are very proud of Heather.

ESS held each Wednesday until Spring Break. This is for grades P3-5.

On Friday, February 11, Ronald McDonald came to school to teach Character Education. There were interactive skits with the school staff and students. The program emphasized Responsibility, Respect, Trustworthiness and Fairness.

Family Resource Center is sponsoring computer classes for The Bank of Mt. Vernon to be held on each Monday in our computer lab. Michael Roark will be presenting lessons on Windows 95, Excel and Microsoft Word.

There will be no school on Monday, February 21. We will be celebrating President's Day.

Many times parents and children don't communicate as often as they would like to. Parents often ask, "How can I get my child to just talk to me?" Mailbox Magazine published Ten Ways To Start A Conversation With Your Child. They are as follows:

(1) On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate today (with 1 being terrible and 10 being terrific)? What made it that way?

(2) What was the high point of your day? What was the low point?

(3) Tell me the good news and the bad news about school today (or soccer practice this week, camp this summer, etc.).

(4) What's a thought or feeling you had today?

(5) What's something you've done recently that has made you proud?

(6) I'm wondering what you're thinking about. Would you like to talk about it?

(7) Tell me something good that's happened since the last time we talked.

(8) What's something you've done recently that has made you proud?

(9) What's on your mind these days?

(10) What are you looking forward to these days?

These certainly sound like good conversation starters. Why not try them with your child?

Thought for the week: A good leader inspires men to have confidence in him; a great leader inspires them to have confidence in themselves.



Mrs. Claudina Cash, America's Promise guest reader, with Mrs. Clark and Atkins' classes.

Roundstone readers take Great Leaps

By Deby Baker

As an Americorps member serving at Roundstone Elementary in Rockcastle County, I work with two second grade classes involving literacy tutoring. A total of forty-three students are aided in their efforts to become better readers.

In Mrs. Michelle Atkin's class, I work with seventeen students using a program called Great Leaps reading. The program is designed to help students improve their fluency when reading as well as their word knowledge and comprehension. The readings are done on a one-to-one basis daily with the child and are timed to encourage fluent reading. If a student achieves the goal set for that day's reading, he or she receives a "great leaps" and charts the progress for themselves in a special notebook.

When I began doing Great Leaps, I noticed some of the children distracted themselves by playing with their clothing or shoe laces which caused poor results for the days' reading. It seemed they needed something to do with their hands. After some discussion and searching, I came up with the "thinking rock," a smooth stone used in planters for decoration. The student accepted the idea and began to show improvement.

Chism named member of quarter

Air Force Senior Airman Franklin S. Chism has been named enlisted member of the quarter. Selection was based on the individual's exemplary duty performance, job knowledge, leadership qualities, significant self-improvement and other accomplishments.

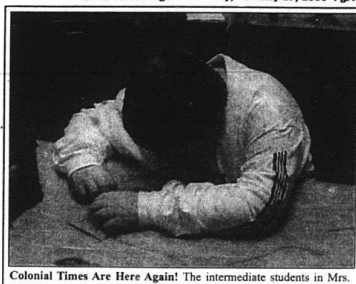
Chism is a security administration clerk assigned to the Aeronautical

from the start. Now, if I forget to bring out the rock, they ask for it.

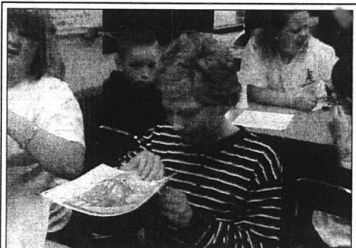
My afternoons are spent in Mrs. Tonya Clark's class of second graders. In this class I work with the students in various ways relating to literacy improvement. Sometimes I call children back to work on retelling questions from their reading books in a one-to-one setting. Other days may be spent listening to a student read over a story or helping the entire class master cursive writing.

Recently, I began reading to this class after lunch. So far, the books have been short stories from my home library which can be read completely in one reading. I plan to use age appropriate chapter books later on. For now, the children really seem to enjoy the stories and often ask me to "read it again!"

Each of these classes participate in the America's Promise guest readers program. Bi-weekly, a reader from the community reads to the students a story related to the unit of study they are covering in class. The program allows the kids to hear and see that people of all professions and backgrounds can and do read, hopefully, encouraging them to do so as well.



Colonial Times Are Here Again! The intermediate students in Mrs. Alcorn and Mrs. Cash's classes have been busy learning about the daily life and customs of the early colonist. Although they find the activities the colonist participated in fun they all agreed that it would be quite difficult to have to do all of these things because there was no other way. Above, Brady Lear is concentrating very hard as he weaves a bookmark he is creating from yarn he help to dye naturally from cabbage, beets, onions and other items.



Josh Cromer is busy cross-stitching the focal point of his colonial life piece of art along with Sarah Day, Steven McKinney and Franzeya Childress.



Some students got into the spirit by dressing in traditional colonial dress. Pictured here is Emily Reddington cross-stitching. Upcoming events are February 21st - President's Day - no school; February 29th - Spring Festival/Parent Conferences; March 9th - PTA Preschool performing; March 28th - Spring School pictures; March 31st - Science Fair Festival; April 17-28 - testing. A special thank you to the Rockcastle Co. Extension Service, Brenda Saylor and Patsy Morgan for the two day program they presented for Mr. Bullen's physical education class.

Minds in the Middle

This Wednesday was our school-wide spelling bee. Each team had one representative to participate. Among those competing were Allison Carter - Enterprises, Lori Miller - Voyagers, Anna Guilfoil - Challengers, Scarlett Frederick - Shooting Stars, Maggie Phillips - Comes, and Brittany Offutt - Adventurers. The winner will compete in the district spelling bee on February 23.

Our Parent-Teacher Conference Day has been rescheduled due to the snow days we have had. This will be held this Thursday night, February 17 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Tutoring has been cancelled for this day. The third grading period has ended and report cards will be available in the team areas at this conference. At 6:00, our Gear-Up program will be sponsoring a Parental Involvement meeting.

The county 4-H variety show will be held at Mt. Vernon Elementary School on Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. Students who wish to participate must register with the county extension office by Friday, March 10 by calling 256-2403. Anyone who is interested in the 4-H sewing project may pick up information in our Youth Services office.

This Friday our 6th grade will be having a World's Fair. All parents are invited to attend and see the students' displays and costumes. This will be from 12-2:00 p.m. Congratulations to the 8th grade cheerleaders who received the Spirit Award at the conference tournament. Also, to the 7th grade boys team who placed as runner's up in this year's tournament after a two point loss Thursday night.

Congratulations to Mrs. Angie Hunt's class. They received a pizza party for having 10 consecutive days of perfect attendance. Mrs. Burton's home room will also be having a pizza party. They have had five days of perfect attendance.

This Friday we will be taking Spring portraits. Dress your best!

Classified Deadline is Noon Tuesday

Remember that Monday is President's Day and school will not be in session. Parents, keep in mind that we do send home a calendar of events each month. This is another great way to keep up with what is going on in your child's school!

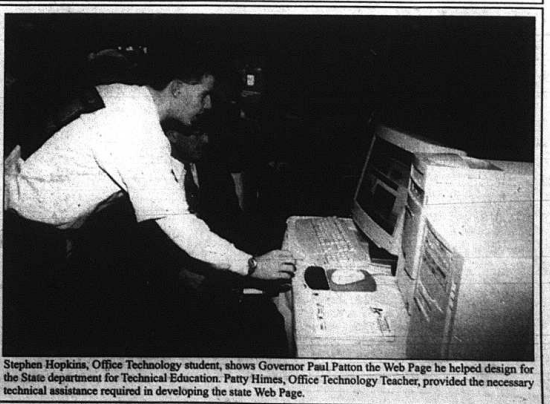
Students participate in \$6 million student showcase

Ky Tech - Rockcastle County Area Technology Center students, faculty, and staff attended the First Annual Ky Tech Student/Equipment Showcase at the Farnham Dugan Civic Center in Frankfort on Tuesday, January 11, 2000. Three students, Eric Hodge, Stephen Hopkins and Joe Saylor demonstrated and displayed student work from Rockcastle County. Patty Himes, Office Technology Teacher and Ralph Baker, Welding Teacher also attended the event and were able to extend their appreciation to the governor's office and members of the General Assembly for the support and com-

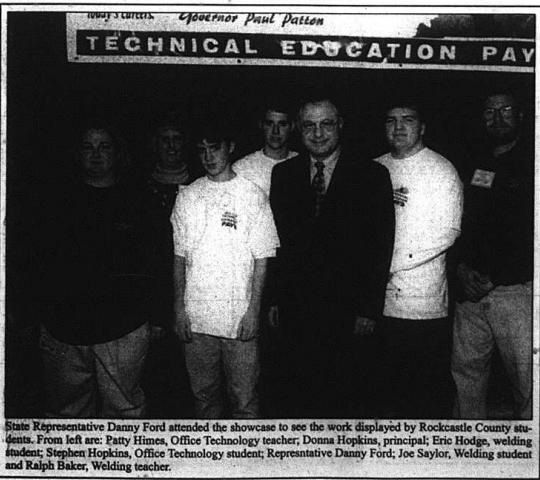
mitment given to technical education. The primary focus of the showcase was to let Governor Patton, Lt. Governor Henry, and all Legislators see the impact the \$6 Million dollars allocated in the 1998 General Assembly for new equipment to technical education programs had made. Also joining the students and teachers from Rockcastle County were Mr. Lee Keene, Administrator, Rockcastle Hospital/Respiratory Care Center, Mr. Larry Hammond, Superintendent, Rockcastle County Schools and Donna Hopkins, Principal, KY Tech.



Governor Paul Patton talks with Welding Teacher Ralph Baker, about equipment purchased for the Welding Program and products that are manufactured by the students. Students Eric Hodge and Joe Saylor are in the background.



Stephen Hopkins, Office Technology student, shows Governor Paul Patton the Web Page he helped design for the State department for Technical Education. Patty Himes, Office Technology Teacher, provided the necessary technical assistance required in developing the state Web Page.



State Representative Danny Ford attended the showcase to see the work displayed by Rockcastle County students. From left are: Patty Himes, Office Technology teacher; Donna Hopkins, principal; Eric Hodge, welding student; Stephen Hopkins, Office Technology student; Representative Danny Ford; Joe Saylor, Welding student and Ralph Baker, Welding teacher.