

Principals deserve thanks for activities during CATS

by Courtney Alexander

The CATS Assessment, which was given to students April 17-21, turned out to be huge success. Students seemed to put forth a genuine effort on all tests and open responses. The junior class, which completed the task of 7 open responses each day, were especially pressured to do their best work.

By the time Final Friday rolled around everyone was ready to kiss testing goodbye. Thank goodness our administration thought ahead and prepared several activities to keep our spirits high during testing week.

Free breakfast was definitely a plus for all students on the first day of testing! Students had the option of getting free sausage and biscuits for breakfast in order to gain that extra boost of energy for testing. Youth from all grade levels took advantage of this treat.

If you've ever wanted to see the staff of RCHS in action on the basketball court, Tuesday afternoon was the opportunity. Most of our faculty, male and female, laced up their best running shoes to challenge the class of 2000 in RCHS's Faculty vs. The Class of 2000 ballgame. All students seemed to get a kick out of the

action. Plus, the fact that we got out of 4th block that day helped liven up the atmosphere. Our school patrolman, Chuckie Grey, was quite a sight to see in his "ball uniform."

The conclusion of testing on Friday morning was when the real fun began. A school-wide block party was planned for all students as a reward for their efforts during testing. A fun-filled afternoon complete with volleyball, tug-of-war, karaoke, free food, and no classes sounded great to all students who were sick of testing. Ms. Allen even clogged to "Rocky Top" and Mr. Noble sang "Friends in Low Places." Students were entertained all afternoon!

So on behalf of the RCHS student body we would like to thank the administration for all the rewards we received during testing. Appreciation was in abundance that week and it needs to be said. Thanks to each of you who made that week so rewarding. Our job was to represent our school well, and it is obvious that each student did this.

So the administration needs to start planning for next year, because expectations are high to see what new ideas will come about!

Drug testing: good idea but problems need to be addressed

Not every athlete in Rockcastle County High School is on drugs, but, then again, not every athlete is sober. This is why the school board recently instated a drug testing policy for every student involved in an athletic team.

Under this new policy, every student interested in playing a sport will be tested before the start of the season. After that, players will be randomly tested until season's end.

Admittedly, the intentions of the drug screening policy are good, but some of the problem s are not.

By the time many kids reach high school, it's too late. The drug

culture is typically introduced during middle school. If the new rules are intended to curb student drug use, testing needs to be introduced before an athlete reaches the high school level.

Another dangerous fissure in the foundation of this good idea is the action taken in the event of positive test results. When the test reveals drug usage, another test is administered as soon as possible.

The problem is a student who realizes there is a good chance he or she may test positive can go home immediately following the first test and begin to flush out his or her body.

By purchasing common vari-

eties of herbal products, a person can cleanse the body of all illegal substances in anywhere from 24-72 hours. When the second screening is given, the person will show clean.

Finally, too many people are exempt from these tests. The band, dance team, JROTC, and the flag corps are all excluded from drug testing, even though they are voluntary organizations with tryouts and practices just like an athletic team.

While the new drug screening policy is a fine concept, the fear does exist that there are far too many dangerous cracks for those involved to slip through.

Letters: Student says thank you

Dear Editor:

We have just finished testing. It was truly stressful, but I think everyone seemed to manage. The rest of the days during testing weren't that bad thanks to our caring teachers and wonderful administration.

They had many activities during the week for us so that we could sit back and relax after the morning tests. Some of the things were Teachers Vs. Seniors, and for the big event, we had a Block Party. That was really cooooool!!!! Everyone just got to play volleyball, eat pizza and Wendy's hamburgers, and just plain relax.

I believe everyone in the whole school should say, "Thank you," to Ms. Allen, Mr. Noble, and Mrs. McKinney and everyone that made our block party possible.

I know I sure am appreciative for what they have done for us students. So on behalf of the student body, I want to thank you.

Sincerely,
Wesley Falin

Coming Fall
2000

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The Rocket

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It Rocks

Ms. Allen singing "Sweet Home Alabama"

Old, broken-in blue jeans

Being willed lots of great personality traits, athletic numbers, or inside jokes by the seniors

Upgrading of Rocket sports facilities

Memories, photographs, and all the things you know you'll look back and miss 10 years from now

It Reeks

Radio stations that over-play our favorite songs until they're not our favorite songs anymore

Wearing "holey" jeans that reveal far more than people want to know

Being willed your grandma's evil persian cat and its litterbox

People who deface or vandalize the nice, clean school facilities

Doing things that you might regret when you look back in 10 years