

"Parents On Our Side"

Parent involvement isn't just a nice idea. For the sake of our children, it's essential. The more a parent knows about a child's work at school, the higher the probability for their educational support. The goal of Roundstone Elementary School is to establish positive communication in all aspects of a child's learning.

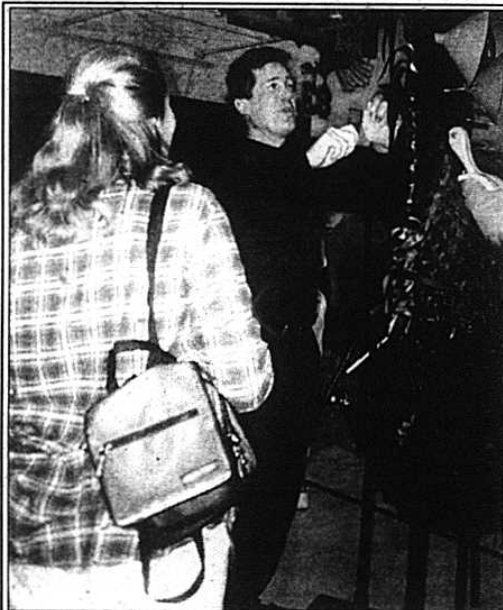
One of the most important components of parent involvement is for parents and students to encourage each other. For the past several years, Roundstone has provided opportunities for parents to participate in activities with their children which include Artist Residencies.

In the fall of each year, parents and students interact together in storytelling, music, and dance programming. In March, as they recognize Youth Art Month, parents, students and teachers create pottery, paintings and drawing in a school-wide celebration. While averaging 4-6 Arts Residencies each year, Roundstone encourages parents to be a part of their child's creative process.

In addition to Parent/Student Art Nights, Roundstone parents have supported their children and their school by participating in Grandparent's Day, Open House and parent conferences, and academic activities. Most recently, "Electric Opera" artist, Michael Kallstorm, conducted a workshop/concert which introduced parents and students to various opera forms and puppet construction.



RES Primary teacher, Janice Davidson, meets with parents during Parent Conference Night.



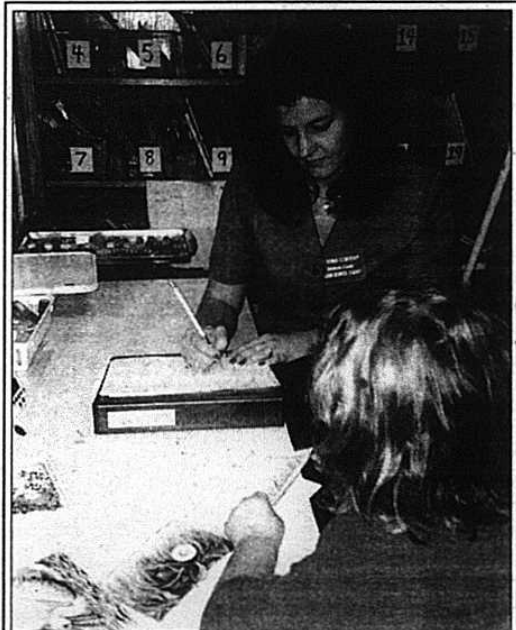
Michael Kallstorm discusses puppet construction with parents at RES Parent/Student Arts Night

MVES--on the track to success

What is Reading Recovery? It is an intense one-to-one intervention program for six year olds in their second year of school. The children meet with a highly trained Reading Recovery teacher for daily thirty-minute lessons. During these lessons, the children learn the kinds of strategies that good readers have in place. The program is designed to emphasize and build on a child's strengths while providing children with the necessary strategies to develop a self-extending system where reading and writing improve every time a child reads and writes.

Children typically exit the program within 12 to 16 weeks reading at satisfactory levels when compared with their peers. This also involves parents of the child. Each evening, parents listen to their child read a book and watch them put a sentence together that has been written on a strip of paper and then cut up by the teacher.

Since 1998 fifty children have been served. Eighty two percent have successfully completed the program and are reading at or above grade level. Mt. Vernon Elementary is a Reading Recovery observations site of Central Kentucky as well as training site and continuing contact site for the following school districts: Bell, Bourbon, Boyd, Corbin Independent, Lewis, Lincoln, Madison, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle and Whitley.



Reading instructor, Sherry Cash, reviewing reading strategies

Mt. Vernon Pentatones



Mt. Vernon Elementary is the only elementary school in Rockcastle County that features a 5th grade honor chorus. The Pentatones, originated in 1994, is an audition choir that is made up of 5th grade students. Our name stands for "Penta", meaning 5, and "tones", focusing on singing. The chorus has grown in size, from 30 members in 1994, to 75 members in 2001.

The Pentatones perform two concerts per year, at Christmas and in the spring. They are also active in celebrating Music In Our Schools Month by performing at the school's "All School Sing".

Mrs. Jamie Cornelius, music teacher and founder of the Pentatones, states that this group is very special in that they perform for area hospitals and nursing homes, as well as for the school and public. Mt. Vernon Elementary is very proud to feature such a fine group of musicians!