

White House awards Josh Hale Presidential Freedom Scholarship

In recognition of outstanding service to his community, Joshua Todd Hale, has been named a Presidential Freedom Scholar by the White House, Coca-Cola Scholars Program, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Fewer than one hundred students from across the United States are recognized annually for this national honor. Each of the Presidential Scholars will receive a \$500 scholarship check payable jointly to the student and his/her institution of higher education, a certificate and letter of recognition from

President George W. Bush, and a President's Student Service Award gold pin.

In 2002, President Bush issued a call to all Americans to devote at least 2 years of their lives - the equivalent of 4,000 hours - to serving others. According to Amy Halstead, Program Manager for the program, the student recipients of a Presidential Freedom Scholarship have made a strong and early start on meeting the call. "This scholarship program is designed to highlight and promote service and citizenship by students.

Our hope is that these young people will continue to answer the call to help their fellow citizens and lead in challenging others to serve. Through the efforts of our Presidential Freedom Scholars and the acts of kindness of millions of other Americans, we will create a culture of responsibility and service. These young people are helping to safeguard the freedom that makes this Nation great."

Hale is the son of John and Nancy Hale of Mt. Vernon and a 2002 graduate of Rockcastle County High School. He is currently attending Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky.

Minds in the Middle

Our Spring Open House Parent/Teacher conferences have been scheduled for next Tuesday after school until 6:00 p.m. We invite all parents to stop by and visit the staff and have a free meal! The third grading period ended this Wednesday. Report cards may be picked up during the conferences.

The 8th grade NAEP test that was scheduled for last Tuesday has been cancelled due to snow. That test has been rescheduled for this Friday. Eighth graders have been randomly selected to participate. Parents and students should have received letters informing them if they were selected.

Next Tuesday, February 25th, is our annual Reality Store. This experience is provided to eighth graders to increase their awareness of being ready for the future. The students are given a salary based on their career interests and GPA's. They must then pay all of the normal monthly expenses. It is a very enlightening experience. We would like to thank in advance all of these community members who help to make this possible. They are great year after year!

The RCMS academic team won

the Kathryn Hume Sportsmanship Award at the District Governor's Cup competition last weekend. The Future Problem Solving team consisting of Michael VanWinkle, Anna Reynolds, Ashley Dollins, and Joey Chaston came in second in their competition. Holly Brown placed fifth in the Language Arts written assessment. Josh Blair placed fifth in the math written assessment. Anna Reynolds placed fifth in writing competition. These students will now be participating in the regional competition.

VSC Update

Parental involvement cannot be stressed enough. Research verifies when parents become involved in their children's education at school and in the community, students benefit. Parental involvement is the single most important factor in a student's educational success. Get involved - volunteer at school, read to a class, be a guest speaker, or help in the library. There are many ways to be involved - just ask.

Tuency Diversion kicked off this week. The program is entitled "Whatever It Takes." Nine students have been selected to participate in the program. We would like to thank Judge Debra Lambert and her staff for making this program possible.

Mt. Vernon Message

For the week of Feb. 20, 2003 - Upcoming Events: Our Family Resource Center would like to extend an invitation to parents of 4th graders to attend our Family Art and Literacy Night on Monday, February 24 at 6 p.m.

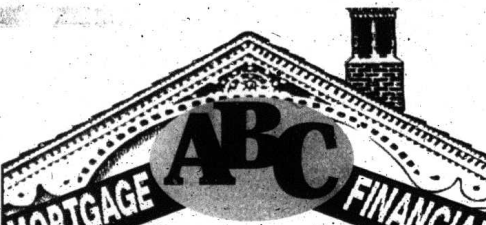
Project Wisdom Readers for the week of Feb. 3-6 were as follows: Emily Roark, student; Katie Cowan, student; Sha Bustle, student; Brandon Baker, student. Readers for last week were: Regina Hull-Brown, Family Resource Center Coordinator; Louise Kirby, custodian and Janet Carter, primary one teacher was our mystery reader.

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