

RCCHS joins Schools of Promise initiative

By Audrey Burke

RCCHS has joined in league with other schools across the country to participate in a new program, Schools of Promise.

America's Promise

formed by

Secretary General Colin Powell,

was created in response to a

challenge set forth by America's

living presidents for America to

take responsibility for its youth.

One of the suggested methods

for accomplishing the five promises

is to create school/community

partnerships. According to

Principal John Hale, those

relationships existed as part of

RCCHS's co-op program, even

before joining with SoP.

An example of this relationship

is the high school's connection

with the county hospital, where

many students work during and

after school.

"There's even a class at the

vocational school that sends

students there," commented Hale.

In return for keeping up the five

promises, the school receives an

annual newsletter.

Schools of Promise is in partnership with that program, dedicated to fulfilling five promises:

1. An ongoing relationship with a caring adult.
2. Safe places to be after school hours with structured activities.
3. A healthy start and future.
4. Development of marketable skills through effective education.
5. A chance to give back through community service.

Through their newsletter we get information about grant opportunities, resources, and internet sites that assist with planning," he explained.

One of the other things the school hopes

for is to learn through the "network of information," as Hale referred to it, which will be established through the newsletter.

"Hopefully we will come up with some new ideas, and improve our school environment to make it a more inviting and safe place," says Hale.

Students may not see direct actions through the participation, because their assistance will be indirect. Through the program RCCHS would possibly assist with career fairs and access to resources, but their involvement "won't jump out at you."

Hale has high hopes for how the new partnership with this program will help the student body.

"Any time we can help students make a connection with school and reaching their goals, it's good."

Seventeen students begin PRIDE book project

By Bonnie Briggs

Once again Mr. Allen Pensol, Arts and Humanities Director, and Mr. Les Scaff, RCCHS art teacher, have put pen to paper in starting another book project at Rockcastle County High School.

Last year, several students assisted by Allen Pensol and Les Scaff created a book called *There's Music in Kentucky*. Students were able to get most of their materials from Renfro Valley as well as the surrounding rural countryside. The book was a success and is now displayed at Renfro Valley.

The new project is entitled *Vanishing Water, Vanishing Lives*. It will be a collection of short stories, poems, pictures, and some research material on the importance

of keeping a fresh water source for Rockcastle County.

The book will be used to "take a page from history to show how necessary a fresh water supply was," said to Mr Pensol. "We need to see the buildup, show the slow pace [of pollution] as well as draw parallels between us and the environment."

Supervisors of the project intend to educate the public and make them more ecologically aware of the importance of water. This will be accomplished by expressing themselves through art and words.

"We have students in every grade [at the high school] level that are very talented and can express themselves well," comments

Pensol.

Thus far, students have had assistance from Pat Banks who heads Shaped by Water. The high school students also took a field trip to the Rockcastle River where they conferred with different consultants. Supervisors were pleased, feeling that the students knew what they wanted to do after this trip.

Vanishing Water, Vanishing Lives is made possible through an environmental educational grant from PRIDE.

"Because the environment was touched on last year, we thought it was a good opportunity to work with the environment this time," says Mr. Pensol.

School to provide student email access

By Jenny Smith

Every student in Kentucky schools has to have e-mail access, according to a state mandate and a KETS (Kentucky Education Technology System) Phase 1 completion requirement. The deadline was June 30, 2003, however, Rockcastle County completed the project by April 9, 2003. Rockcastle District Technology Coordinator Trent Clark was in charge of the project.

"I coordinate all district wide technology projects for Rockcastle County Schools," says Clark.

Not only was Trent Clark involved with this on-going project, but numerous others were involved, as well.

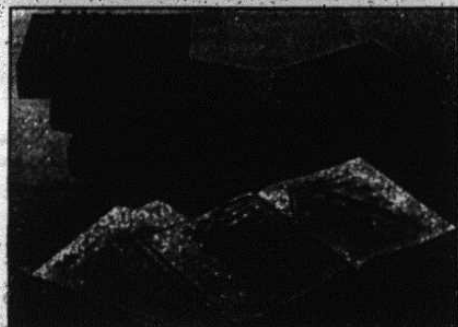
"There are many people who are involved with the project for example, principals, school technology coordinators, teachers, and most importantly students who

are becoming aware that this resource is available for student use," said Clark.

Every student will have an account, however, "student accounts will be deleted after graduation. It would be great if we could provide this service for our graduates, but there would be legal

see EMAIL on back page

The Value Of A Good Education Can Not Be Overestimated.



"Education is a social process,
Education is growth.
Education is not a preparation for life,
It is life itself."

-John Dewey

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