

Poorest schools making the grade

By Linda B. Blackford

Three out of four students at Roundstone Elementary are poor enough to get free lunch at school, which, according to most conventional wisdom, would mean the school would trail behind wealthier counterparts.

But as it happens, three out of four of Roundstone's students scores so well in reading and science that the school was among the top 20 in the state for those two subjects.

The school is among a handful in the state that are scoring high, despite the school's long been considered insurmountable odds of teaching poor children.

"This tells us that dedicated teachers can beat the odds," said Susan Weston, executive director of the Kentucky Association of School Councils.

According to data Weston compiled for the second year in a row, six out of the top 20 best schools on the reading and social studies portions of the statewide test has more than 50 percent of their students on free and reduced lunch, the federal definition of poverty.

Ten out of the top 20 schools in science met the same criteria, as well as 11 schools in writing.

In math, only two of the top 20 schools, Western Elementary in Anderson County and George F. Johnson Elementary in Pike County, have a free-lunch population above 50 percent.

Wealth continues to be an important factor in school performance - the majority of the top 20 elementary, middle and high schools are fairly wealthy by Kentucky's standards. And although the main tenet of the Kentucky Education Reform Act says that all children can learn, a recent study by University of Kentucky

professor Phillip Roeder found that under-performing schools were much more likely to be disadvantaged.

But even the group singled out by Weston has real significance for national educational reform, said Patty Barth, a senior associate, with the Education Trust, a Washington, D.C. think tank that advocates for poor and minority children.

"From a national perspective, it's more proof that when poor students are held to high standards, they meet them," Barth said.

Educators are still suffering from the legacy of the Coleman Report in the 1960s, which first linked poor achievement to poverty, Barth said.

"What a lot of people don't see is that it doesn't have to be this way," she said.

Roundstone Principal David Pensol says that poverty is never mentioned among teachers.

Instead, he said, teachers concentrate on helping students individually meet the state's standards of what they need to know in every subject.

"We feel like we knew what we were supposed to work on, we felt like we knew what we were supposed to teach, and we've never considered ourselves at a risk school," Pensol said.

A refusal to think about the problems of poverty is crucial to school success, said Jacqueline Howard, a science teacher at Millard Heights Elementary in Magoffin Elementary.

"More than anything, I won't listen to teachers who have these kids the year before and say 'so and so is a low achiever,'" Howard said. "You have to think all kids can learn."

Test scores tell only part of the story of any school. The reasons for their achievement may become more clear in coming years, thanks to legislation expected to be signed by the governor that will require schools to analyze their test date by gender, wealth and ethnicity.

But even this preliminary data can

be an inspiration for teachers and administrators who are frustrated by their perceived limitations, Barth said.

"This blows the lid off people's misconceptions and it can be very liberating for teachers who have been told kids can't learn because they are poor," Barth said.

(Reprinted from the Lexington Herald-Leader)

Rockcastle wins \$3,000 in PRIDE grant funding

U.S. Representative Harold "Hal" Rogers has announced that Rockcastle County has been awarded \$3,000 for cleanup activities associated with the Kentucky PRIDE program. The City of Mt. Vernon has won a \$3,000 PRIDE grant to clean garbage and debris from the shoreline of Lake Linville.

The funding is from a competitive grant program, using federal funds secured for PRIDE by Congressmen Rogers. More than \$47.7 million in funding for PRIDE related projects has been distributed throughout the 40 county PRIDE region since the program began.

"These grants are a critical part of the Kentucky PRIDE cleanup because they help communities defray the expense of cleaning up our roadsides, riverbanks, streams and solid waste dumps across southern and eastern Kentucky," Rogers said. "It's vitally important that we clean up the trash and garbage from our lands

and waters so we can promote tourism and economic development. This PRIDE grant funding will help us continue to achieve the goals of this important clean up campaign."

Kentucky PRIDE - Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment - was launched in 1997 by Congressman Rogers and Kentucky Secretary of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Jim Bickford.

PRIDE is the region's first comprehensive, region-wide effort, combining the strength of local, state and federal authorities, to address the challenge of cleaning up the region's rivers and streams of garbage and sewage. The program aims to end illegal trash dumps, promote environmental education and awareness, and renew citizens' pride in eastern and southern Kentucky.

For more information about local PRIDE activities, contact Mt. Vernon PRIDE coordinator Dennis McClure at 256-3440.

Workshops help solve Kentucky's Waste Water problems

Kentucky suffers from a number of water problems, not the least of which is contamination of waterways with human waste materials. "Straight pipes" are often considered the only waste water disposal option for many Kentuckians, but these are contaminating our waterways.

The dry composting toilet is an ideal environmental answer to this problem, since it is well suited to be used in such locations. The dry composting toilet (DCT) used in conjunction with the artificial wetlands is the best answer to Kentucky's rural domestic waste water problems.

Two workshops sponsored by Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest (ASPI) on the theory and construction of the dry composting toilet and artificial wetlands will be held on June 1-3, 2000 near Livingston (Rockcastle and Laurel Counties) and June 22-24, 2000 near Baxter (Harrison County) Kentucky. Call 256-0077 for more information.

ASPI makes science and technology responsive to the needs of low-income people in Central Appalachia through appropriate technology demonstration, environmental resource assessments, a sustainable forest project and ASPI publications.



Newly elected officers of the Rockcastle Middle School Y-Club were announced at the club's annual banquet last week. The 2000-2001 officers are, from left: Allie Mink, publicity chairman; Gina McClure, secretary; Brittany Offutt, treasurer; Kayla Bryant, president; Casey Taylor, vice president; Amanda Wright, Chaplain and Brittany Perkins, historian. Members of the executive council are, back row from left: Amy Parsons, Jackson Bray, Ryan Graham and Matthew Whitaker.



James Brock, left, London, and Brent Asher, Mt. Vernon, were two of the many Eastern Kentucky University students who took advantage of the University's Spring Job Fair. The annual event gives students of all levels and majors valuable exposure to employment opportunities and career possibilities. More than 70 employers from a wide range of career fields participated in the event.

Come See The Difference • Bottom Line Deals • Come See The Difference • Bottom Line Deals • Come See The Difference • Bottom Line Deals

NEAR NEW AUTO INC.

NO BULL
Just Good Deals!

COME SEE THE DIFFERENCE
No pressure • Top Trade Allowance • Free Warranty
CARS ON SALE NOW!

2000 Nissan Maxima Alloys, Power, 16K	\$19,990
2000 Pontiac Grand Am 2 Dr. V-6, Alloys, All Power, 15K	\$16,550
99 Chevy Cavalier 4 Dr. V-6, Power, Air, Spoiler	\$10,990
99 Dodge Intrepid 4 Dr. All Power, 16K	\$16,250
99 Ford Taurus SE Spoiler, Power, Alloys	\$13,990
99 Mercury Sable GS Just New, 17K	\$14,450
99 Pontiac Bonneville SE Alloys, Spoiler, P-Seat	\$16,990
99 Pontiac Firebird Alloys, 1-Tons, Stereo, Auto	\$18,990
99 Pontiac Grand Prix 4 Dr. Fully Equipped, Just New	\$16,990
99 Pontiac Sunfire 4 Dr. Spoiler, Air, Power	\$11,990
99 Toyota Camry LE All Power, Spoiler	\$16,990
99 Pontiac Grand Am 2 Dr. V-6, Auto, Air, Alloys, 16K	\$10,990
98 Chevy Malibu 4 Dr. V-6, Auto, Air, Loaded	\$10,990
99 Ford Contour SE 4 Dr. Auto, Air, All Power	\$10,800
98 Chevy Cavalier 2 Dr. Air, Power, Spoiler	\$9,950
98 Chevy Cavalier 4 Dr. Auto, Air, Low Miles	\$8,990
98 Chevy Lumina All The Buttons, Must See!	\$10,990
98 Dodge Avelon ES Leather, Sunroof	\$11,990
98 Dodge Neon 4 Dr. Auto, Power, Air, Spoiler	\$8,990
99 Ford Taurus SW SE Alloys, 7 Passengers, All Power	\$10,990
98 Mitsubishi Eclipse Sunroof, Alloys, Black	\$12,750
98 Pontiac Grand Am 4 Dr. Power, Air, Auto	\$10,990
98 Pontiac Grand Am 4 Dr. V-6, Power, Air, Spoiler	\$11,500
98 Pontiac Grand Prix 4 Dr. Has It All! Special	\$11,550
98 Pontiac Grand Prix 2 Dr. GT, Alloys, Spoiler, Air, 16K	\$16,990
98 Pontiac Sunfire 2 Dr. Auto, Air, Power, Spoiler	\$10,990
98 Saturn SL2 2 Dr. Sunroof, Auto, Air	\$12,990
98 Toyota Camry LE Leather, Roof, Alloys	\$16,990
98 Toyota Camry XLE V-6 Leather, Roof, Alloys, CD	\$18,990
97 Toyota Corolla DX 4 Dr. Auto, Air, All Power	\$10,990
96 Cadillac Eldorado Touring Coupe Has It All!	\$23,900
97 Dodge Intrepid All Power, Extra Nice	\$8,990
97 Ford Taurus SE Power Seat, Alloys, Nice	\$9,990
97 Saturn SL2 4 Dr. Alloys, Air, Power	\$10,500
97 Toyota Avalon 18K, Has One Of Everything, New!	\$20,990
97 Toyota Terrell 2 Dr. Auto, Air, Power	\$9,990
96 Buick Roadmaster Collectors Edition, 20K, Must See!	\$14,990
96 Chevy Cavalier 2 Dr. Auto, Sunroof, Nice	\$7,450
96 Chevy Corsica V-6 4 Dr. Nice Car, Red	\$6,450
96 Buick Regal Coupe, 4 Dr. Auto, Air, Loaded	\$7,990
94 Pontiac Sunbird LE Convertible, V-6, Auto, Red, Only	\$7,990

Our 23rd Year

SPORTS UTILITIES!

99 Chevy Blazer LS 4x4, 4 Dr. Save Thousands	\$19,990
99 Ford Explorer XLS 4x4, 4 Dr. Has It All	\$21,990
96 Grand Cherokee Limited V-8 4x4, Leather	\$16,990

VANS!

99 Dodge Grand Caravan SE 4 Dr. V-6, Loaded	\$16,990
98 Dodge Grand Caravan 4 Dr. Loaded	\$15,990
98 Dodge Caravan SE 4 Dr. V-6, All Power	\$14,990
97 Chrysler Town & Country 4 Dr. Quat Seat, Must See	\$16,990

TRUCKS!

99 Chevy Silverado LS 4x4, All The Buttons, 9K Miles	\$21,700
99 Ford Ranger XLT 4 Cab, 4 Dr. V-6, 7K	\$13,990
99 Ford Ranger XLT Has It All! 16K	\$10,990
98 Mazda Xcab V-6, 4 Dr. Auto, Air, 16K	\$13,990
2000 Chevy S-10 LS Auto, Air, Tire, Cruise	\$12,990
98 Ford F-150 Flareside XL 6 Cyl. 5 Speed Air	\$13,990
98 Toyota Tacoma SR5 4x4, V-6, 16K	\$16,900
98 Ford Ranger XLT Power, Air, Alloys, 16K	\$9,990
98 Chevy S-10 Air, Power, Sport Package, 20K	\$9,650
97 Toyota Tacoma Air, Power, Nice Little Truck	\$9,450
96 Ford Ranger XLT 4 Dr V-6, Loaded, Must See	\$8,990

WEEKLY SPECIAL

1984 Chevrolet CORVETTE

MUST SEE! NICE!
Was \$9,990
NOW
\$8,990

No Reasonable Offer Ever Refused ... WE WON'T BE UNDERSOLD!

Fully Serviced

Ready To Drive

Safe Checked

No Down Payment Needed
*With Approved Credit, Prices Thru Weekend
U.S. 26 North, Berea KY
986-8888
toll free 1-800-735-1028

Top Quality

Extra Clean

Only The Best

Just Remember "Price Sells". Good cars make happy customers. We have both!

Our Reputation is Your Guarantee

Come See The Difference • Bottom Line Deals • Come See The Difference • Bottom Line Deals • Come See The Difference • Bottom Line Deals

Gospel Meeting

at the
Blue Springs Church of Christ
with
Ronny Wade of Springfield, Mo.

April 9 - 16

Services: April 9th - 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
April 16th - 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
7-30 Nightly

Located 7 miles south of Mt. Vernon
on Hwy. 1249

Year-round protection for your outdoor equipment & furniture

Starting at \$880 delivered to your site

	Barn	Quaker
8x8	\$880	\$1060
8x12	\$1100	\$1320
10x12	\$1300	\$1530
10x16	\$1540	\$1820
12x16	\$1760	\$2060
12x20	\$2070	\$2440
12x24	\$2370	\$2780

Five styles, including a garage, in 14 colors

Standard Features

- All Wood Construction
- Extra Heavy Duty Hardware
- Awning windows with screens
- 25-year shingles

Woodland Buildings
KY Hwy 3245 Crab Orchard

355-0011

From Hwy 150 at Crab Orchard, go south on Hwy 39 five miles. Turn left on KY 3245. Go 0.4 mile to business on right.