

RCMS prepares for KYA 2000

By Gina McClure
The entire RCMS Y-Club seems to have KYA on their minds. This is the eighth year that Rockcastle County Middle has participated in KYA, but for this year's sixth graders, it's their first trip to Frankfort as a delegate.

The first question most sixth graders ask is, "Just what is KYA?" It is the Kentucky Youth Assembly and will be held December 7 through 9, in Louisville and Frankfort. The purpose of KYA is to help students obtain a better understanding of the structure and operations of the Commonwealth's government, to acquaint them with local, state and national problems and to provide a forum where the students can create bills aimed at the correction of these problems. KYA is the ultimate government simulation program.

Our Y-Club began preparing several weeks ago for this assembly. All students who wanted to could submit a bill and out of those, ten were selected to be sent to KYA. The 20 bill authors were then began further research on their bills and started writing their persuasive speeches that will be presented before the House or Senate. Our goal is to have the bills from RCMS pass through committees, the House, the Senate and on to the Youth Governor who will hopefully sign them into law.

The Premier Delegates (sixth graders) have been learning Parliamentary Procedure, how to give pro/con speeches, how to properly address the chair, and all the basics of KYA. For the seventh and eighth graders, who are "old-timers," their time has been spent reviewing the basics and researching bills.

Bill authors, Senators and Repre-

sentatives are probably the delegates that the public hears about the most. However, there are a few specialty positions at KYA that are not as well known but extremely important. One of these is the lobbyist position. RCMS is sending two lobbyists to KYA this year. They are Randy

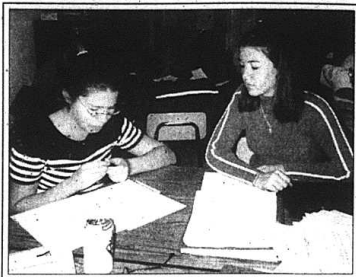
Bussell and Amy Parsons. The two of them are working diligently with our bill authors preparing speeches in favor of their bills. Another position that isn't very well known is that of the Governor's Cabinet and Ronny Lee McClure will be the RCMS representative on this cabinet.

Gina McClure will serve in the Media Corps. Brittany Offutt as a Page, and Brent Clontz and Jackson Bray will represent our school as Youth Advocates in the judicial program.

This year we also have two candidates running for office at KYA. All 92 of our delegates will be vigorously campaigning for Brittany Perkins for the Leadership Team and Kyia French for Chief Justice. These two individuals have been giving a great deal of time and effort to their campaigns. We wish them luck!

Another group that doesn't often receive much credit but really puts an enormous amount of time into helping us prepare for KYA are our advisors. They have gone above and beyond the call of their teaching duty to get us ready. If we could give a 110% award for KYA, it would go to Mrs. Nancy Hale, Mr. Tracy Gubhard, Mr. Scott Parkey and Mr. J.D. Harris.

All involved with KYA at RCMS has committed themselves (and their time) to being the best-prepared delegation at KYA 2000. We are ready to go!



RCMS Bill Authors, Katelyn Cash and Casey Taylor, work on their opening speeches for the Kentucky Youth Assembly.



As a candidate for the Leadership Team at the Kentucky Youth Assembly, Brittany Perkins rehearses her campaign speech before a bill author's meeting at RCMS.

Former RCMS JROTC student at Cumberland

The water is rising, there are no flotation devices and your equipment is in danger. What is a young cadet to do? Cadets involved with the Cumberland College JROTC program would know just what to do. They recently completed a water survival course at the Cumberland College pool. Instructors from the Eastern Kentucky University ROTC program, MSG Dean P. Barnhart and Capt. John M. Cline, trained the cadets in the rigors of basic water survival.

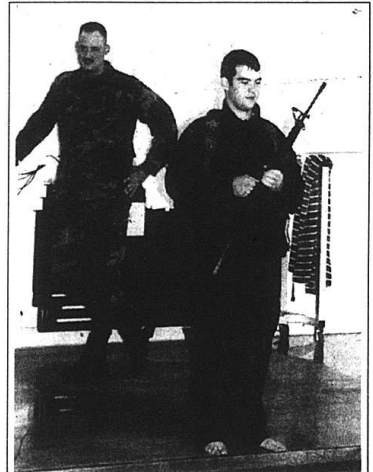
The course, once called "drown-proofing" is training geared toward teaching cadets how to use equipment and clothing to their benefit in aquatic situations. The participants were taught how to use the pants from their uniforms as flotation devices, how to protect their equipment from the water, and the correct way to remove their gear when in the water.

ROTC, which stands for Army Reserve Office Training Corps, is an

active organization on the Cumberland College campus. Throughout the school year, cadets are required to attend weekly classes covering topics such as basic leadership development, military skills, adventure training and life skills. They also have the opportunity to attend the military ball at Eastern Kentucky University, participate in fall and spring military exercises, and attend summer camps. The program is open to all Cumberland students.

Participants in the Cumberland College ROTC program are under the instruction of MSG Ronnie J. Haynes of McCree County, and Col. Michael Colegrove and Capt. Scott Bryant of Williamsburg.

Local resident, Shaun Mark Jones, son of Mark Jones of Somerset and Rhonda McFerron of Orlando, is among the cadets enrolled in ROTC at Cumberland College.



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Randy Bussell and Amanda Wright surf the Internet researching for information to use at KYA 2000. Randy will serve as a lobbyist for Amanda's bill.



Seventh grade KYA delegate, Matthew Taylor, learns to address the chair as part of the RCMS Y-Club's preparation for this year's Kentucky Youth Assembly.

Langford attends CFRCB Training

Sharon A. Langford, representing the Rockcastle County Citizens Foster Care Review Board, attended the 2000 CFRCB Training Conference held in Lexington, November 17-19.

More than 800 volunteers across the state serve as Citizen Foster Care Review Board members. These boards review the case files of more than 10,000 children each year who are removed from their homes and placed into foster care, child care facilities, or with relatives. The reviewers guarantee children receive services while in alternative placement and ensure every effort is being made to locate permanent placement for these children.

Justice James Keller provided a warm welcome and the keynote address to the citizen volunteers from across the state at an Awards Banquet

on November 17, 2000.

The three day conference provided reviewers with the opportunity to develop professional technical training and skills. Workshops, seminars, and small group discussions addressed topics including training for chairs and vice chairs, basic review skills, family court, current trends in care teens in care, Cabinet for Families and Children forms, and timelines and milestones of children in out-of-home placements.

In addition to Justice Keller, speakers included Larry Michalczuk, Michelle Gore, Angie Dehart, Crystal Collins, Duane Osborne, Hon. Megan Thornton, Pam Shrum, and Mike Felts. They joined a host of judges and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff.

Minds in the Middle

The second reading period ended last Tuesday and report cards were mailed out this week. Students who are in danger of failing this year will also be receiving letters in the mail.

Several of our Y-Club members will be attending the Kentucky Youth Assembly. This Friday, November 10, we will be having a meeting for our bill authors. We will be reviewing our bills and discussing the call of their teaching duty to get us ready. If we could give a 110% award for KYA, it would go to Mrs. Nancy Hale, Mr. Tracy Gubhard, Mr. Scott Parkey and Mr. J.D. Harris.

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The Thursday evening boys basketball team will take on Mecca Middle at 7:00 PM. Mecca also will be playing at North Laurel. Both the 7th and 8th grade teams host at the County Fair Thursday. The 6th graders will play Mecca Middle School Saturday at 1:00 noon at our home.

The Parent Teacher Group meet on Monday at 5:30 p.m. New members are welcome.

This Saturday, Gear-Up is sponsoring a trip to Bowling Green. The main items are available in the office.

The Y-Club is once again sponsoring a food drive. Proceeds will go to the Food and Clothing Mission.

The goal is for 2000 items. If each student brings in three items, this goal can be reached. The homework that brings in the most items will receive a party. If the goal is met, Mr. Hale has agreed to kiss Coach Crawford. If Coach Crawford cannot attend a stand-in will be provided.

The annual 4-4 Speech Contest was held on Tuesday evening. Those from RCMS who participated were: Morgan Kinser, Drew Davidson, Victoria Hunsley, Chris Huser, Jack McQueen, Cheri Walker, Chandler Hunter, Meagan Bradley, Lara Cash, Ashley Russell, Michael VanWinkle, Dylan Nolan, Jacob Jones, Anna Reynolds, Michael Campbell, Wendy Stewart, Cody Brunsion, Shawanetha Smith, Kandi Hamilton, Christina Lovary, Allison Foster, Corrie Burton, Bill Douglas, and Sasha M. Home.

The 7th and 8th grade Cheerleaders would like to thank Mrs. Donna Coffey for donating the home-thrower basket at that they raffled. The basket was won by Ms. Judy Bow, II of Berea.

Remember that in addition to those other classes, the 21st Century Community Learning Center is offering a 12-credit bow making class on Thursday in December.

School Menus

- December 11-15, 2000**
- Breakfast:**
Monday: Gravy & biscuit or cereal, biscuit/jelly, juice and milk.
Tuesday: Egg, cheese biscuit or cereal, biscuit/jelly, juice and milk.
Wednesday: Pancakes and syrup or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.
Thursday: Cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.
Friday: Sausage biscuit or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.
Lunch:
Monday: BBQ on bun or sloppy nachos, french fries, carrot sticks,

- peaches and milk.
Tuesday: Sub sandwich (turkey or ham), lettuce & pickles, potato wedges, california vegetables & cheese sauce, apple wedges and milk.
Wednesday: Vegetable soup and crackers, sandwich, veggies and dip, pears and milk.
Thursday: Turkey meat, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, banana pudding and milk.
Friday: Pizza or breadsticks with sauce, garden salad, corn jello with fruit and milk.

Mt. Vernon Message

Upcoming Events

Art Prizes:
At the beginning of each art class Mrs. Schrader passes out weekly prize reward tickets to each student. The student keeps the ticket as long as he/she is on track during class. At the end of the class period tickets are put into a prize box. Each Friday a ticket is drawn and the winner selects a prize from the board. This week's winner is from Mrs. Carter's Primary One Class - Samantha Arthur.

2000 Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest

This art contest is designed for students in grades P1-5. Art entries had to meet the following criteria: must be done on standard art poster board 22x28; any medium could be used, and must be the sole work of the student. Students were to design a poster that would show how trees are Kentucky's renewable resource. Once school winners are determined, a district winner will be determined and then a state winner. Prizes are awarded for each area and a special banquet will be held this spring. Several entries were submitted and the top three entries were created by Joyce Deborn, Sally Mizze and Katie Bardette. Congratulations girls!

PTG Meeting:
Monday, December 11 our PTG will have meeting, fourth grade will perform. All parents are invited to attend. It will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Rockcastle County Board of Education Meeting:

The Board of Education meeting will be held at the Rockcastle County High School on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

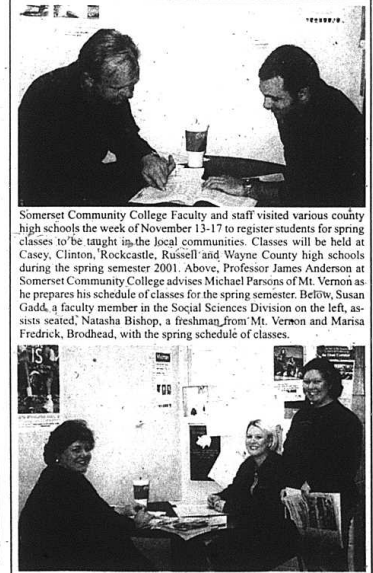
Pentatonics Chorus Concert:
Mt. Vernon Elementary Pentatonics will perform on Thursday, December 14. Performances are as follows: 1:30 p.m. for the student body and 6:00 p.m. for the public.

FRC Sponsored Program:
FRC is sponsoring a music program for our students entitled "Leighton Watts." The program will be at 1:45 p.m.

Thought for the week: If you are too busy to laugh, you are too busy.



Samantha Arthur was the winner in the weekly drawing.



Somerset Community College Faculty and staff visited various county high schools the week of November 13-17 to register students for spring classes to be taught in the local communities. Classes will be held at Casey, Clinton, Rockcastle, Russell and Wayne County high schools during the spring semester 2001. Above, Professor James Anderson at Somerset Community College advises Michael Parsons of Mt. Vernon as he prepares his schedule of classes for the spring semester. Below, Susan Gadd, a faculty member in the Social Sciences Division on the left, assisted, Natasha Bishop, a freshman from Mt. Vernon and Marisa Fretsch, Broadhead, with the spring schedule of classes.