

Second Annual Alumni Basketball Games

Once again, the Russellville Panthers versus Logan County Cougars Alumni Basketball game, held at RJSHS on Nov. 25, created some excitement throughout the gymnasium, with the end result being Russellville 2 games won, Logan County 0. Not only did several former high school players come out of retirement, but a coach as well...AKA Coach Phil Todd, you guys remember him, right? Those named to the All-Tournament Teams were Cedric Boyd, Demetrius Bell, Jerrell Mayo, and Teco Dickerson for Russellville; and Marcus Mason, Jason Hendley, Robbie Osborne, and Lorenzo Garcia for Logan County. It was a fun night, and we are all looking forward to the next rematch!

Alumni Clash of the Cats



Community Education Spring Classes:

We will be offering Spring Classes in 2018 In February and March, be listening to WRUS, reading the News Democrat, checking for flyers at the Public Library, searching the Logan Journal, word-of-mouth from former students, possibly receiving an email from me, or check our school website (www.russellville.kyschools.us)! We must have a minimum of 5 to offer the classes, so as soon as you see a class you would like to take, please contact me! Penni L. Nugent, CED, (270) 726-8405, ext. 4313, to register, or email

penni.nugent@russellville.kyschools.us Thank you!



Wanted: Caring Adult role models (ages 18+) interested in participating in the "Lunch Buddy" program at SES. Most of our boys and girls can truly benefit from this, making the need for male and female "Buddies" especially critical. As a "Lunch Buddy," you will share a 25-minute lunch period the same day per week each week (your day of preference) throughout the school year at the students' lunch time. Note: All Lunch Buddies must have a current background check. If you'd like to make an important difference in the life a child, please complete and return the Volunteer Application that can be located in and printed from the "Volunteer Handbook" on our website: www.russellvilleindependentschools.us. For more information, call Penni L. Nugent, Community Education Director, at (270) 726-8405, ext., 4313, or email penni.nugent@russellville.kyschools.us. **Make a difference in the life of a child and maybe yours too!**



This edition of the AWARE Newsletter was completed by Alescia Ward.



Just a reminder...
Russellville Independent Schools has a website where you can find the latest news, forms, an event calendar, and other helpful information? It's www.russellville.kyschools.us.

You can also find us on Twitter at "rvkschools" and on our Facebook Page "Russellville Independent Schools".

For Sports updates:
www.russellvilleathletics.com

Quick Glance of upcoming dates and events:

- Tues., 12/12, District Board Meeting., 6pm
- Tues., 12/12 - Band Christmas Concert, 7pm
- Mon., 12/18—01/01/2018, Christmas Break!!
- Wed., 12/20-12/22/2018—Boys Basketball Tournament @ Hancock County
- Wed., 12/27-12/29/2018—Boys Basketball Tournament @ Allen County
- Sat., 1/6—Archery Tournament @ RJSHS
- Fri., 1/12—2nd Senior Deep Dive Day
- Tues., 1/23— District Board Meeting, 6pm
- Fri., 1/26—Hall of Fame
- Tues., 2/20 — District Board Meeting, 6pm
- Tues., 3/20 — District Board Meeting, 6pm
- Wed., 3/28—Operation Preparation RJSHS
- Thurs., 3/29—3rd Senior Deep Dive Day

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

The Stevenson Elementary Family Resource Center hosts the area's Grandparents as Parents Support Group funded through the Barren River Area Development District. This support group is for anyone in Russellville and Logan County raising their grandchildren and/or other relatives. The group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Stevenson Elementary Library/Media Center. Childcare is provided. Each monthly meeting begins at 5:30 providing a guest speaker or presentation, light refreshments, and door prizes. The formal meeting usually concludes around 6:30. Debbie Elliott, Assistant FRC Coordinator, is the GAP Coordinator for Logan County. Please feel free to contact her for any additional information at 270-726-4798.

CharacterWorks Word of the Month:

December: Compassion— Helping those in need.
January: Positivity— Maintaining a good attitude, even when faced with difficulty.

Russellville Independent Schools



AWARE



Sara Jennings, new SES Interim Assistant Principal



On Tuesday, Nov. 21, Superintendent, Bart Flener, stated with great pleasure the announcement that Mrs. Sara Jennings has accepted the position of Interim Assistant Principal at Stevenson Elementary. Mrs. Jennings has served as a Literacy Coach with the Russellville Central Office since November, 2016. This is Mrs. Jennings 17th year in Education. She has taught grades 2-6 at Caneyville, Morgantown, and TC Cherry Elementary. She worked for KDE as an Education Recovery Specialist at Caverna High School and as a Professional Learning for Educator Effectiveness Coach in the Southern KY

Region. She is President of the Western Kentucky reading Council and serves on the KRA Board. She has worked with the Writing Project as Outreach Coordinator and has completed the Kentucky Reading Project. She has a Master's Degree in Library Media Education and is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education Administration. Her work here at Russellville High School has been a wonderful learning experience that she is saddened to leave, but she is excited to take this next step on her education journey. RISD is very pleased to welcome her as our new Stevenson Elementary Interim Assistant Principal.



A BIG THANK YOU!!!

Faculty and staff gathered Wed., Nov. 29, at Stevenson Elementary to honor Mrs. Greta McKenzie on her retirement. Mrs. McKenzie has taught in the Russellville Independent School System for 25 years. She states, she has made lifelong friends through the years and will miss them all. She also wishes to thank everyone for celebrating her retirement with her. Congratulations!

Russellville Independent Schools Mission

At Russellville Independent Schools, we are committed to insuring that all students achieve at their highest potential, all teachers teach with relevance and rigor and all teachers establish meaningful relationships with students, parents and the community. Every Child Every Day.

I understand it—A Teacher's Musings...

I understand why this school has such a high turnover rate. I have been disrespected more in the 3 months since school started than I have in my whole life prior. I've been yelled at. I've been cursed at. I've been called a racist because I told a student of a different ethnicity than my own to put away his phone while I was teaching. I've been told "give me my points" after a student did a depthless and incomplete assignment, as if I was supposed to praise them for doing 1/3 of the work assigned. I've had students get angry and walk out of my class because I challenged them to actually put pen to paper. I've broken up fights. I've almost had a student take a swing at me because I stepped in to keep them from hurting each other while fighting. I've had parents complain that I'm not doing enough to help their student that refuses to do anything in my class, even when I stand at their desk, prompting, rephrasing, and all-but writing things down for them. I've had parents request that I call them from my home at 9pm to help their child study for a test the next day.

I've seen co-workers berated by adults and hated by students because they desperately want to see kids grasp their content. I've seen students disrespect principals and administration.

I've heard students brag about having a teacher quit mid-year every year they've been in school. I've seen students quit on themselves. I've seen students encourage others to quit on themselves too. **So I understand it... I understand** why I'm the 4th teacher to be in this classroom in 3 years. I understand the allure of walking away and never coming back. I can honestly say the thought has passed through my head a few times.

But I also understand something else...

I understand the need for consistency, the need to have someone believe in you. I understand that when a student disrespects me in my classroom, it could be because they are disrespected in their home. I understand that when a student talks about how excited they are for graduation, it could be because they never thought they would make it there, and no one else did either. I understand that having someone push you is uncomfortable, and that life is hard. But I also understand the feeling of understanding something you never thought you would.

I understand the thrill of finishing a task I had thought would be impossible. I understand how it feels to have someone love me and believe in me, even when I don't believe in myself... And I know what that means for me.

I know that because students don't believe in themselves, I have to believe for them. I know that because students are so ready to quit on themselves, I have to refuse to let them. I know that because I am different than they are, they expect me to disrespect them, so I can never show them anything but love. I know that I need to be the one celebrating graduation with my students that are so unsure about the adults in their life that they use "if" when talking about me being here by the end of the year...And I know there is no way I can quit.

Because I can't be another adult that has said they care and then walks away when it gets difficult. Because life is a difficult course, that doesn't come easily to many. Because I am their teacher. They have things they need to learn from me, and I have so much more than just my content to teach them. *Anonymous*

Please know we are so grateful for all our dedicated teachers and staff here at RISD. We are glad they are here and that they choose to love, teach, and stay here for our students. We R a Team! Every Child Every Day!



The annual **Presents for Parents** will be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, December 4, 6, and 7, during regularly scheduled library times, at Stevenson Elementary. For those who are new to Russellville Independent Schools, this program allows every student in the building to choose one gift for a loved one and to have someone help with wrapping their chosen gift, to take home for the Christmas holiday. This is a very exciting time for our students, and they absolutely love the opportunity to place a little something under their tree for their special someone, exclusively from them. This program would not be possible without our community's assistance. So many contribute to this worthy effort. As you go through this holiday season and find items in your home that you may have purchased or have items that have been gifted to you, but you may never use, please consider donating them to SES Family Resources for future use.

Pictured above is Jesse Anderson as she chose her gift last year.



Russellville Reads! Book Mobile

Special CHRISTMAS Schedule

Date: December 23rd

Place: 9th Street & Fuqua

Time: 10:00am—11:30am

Date: December 30th

Place: Robinwood Apartments

Time: 12 noon—1:00pm

AND

Place: Peyton Street

Time: 1:15pm—2:15pm

AND

Place: Post Oak Baptist Church

Time: 2:30pm—3:30pm

Books and Candy Canes will be given away at all locations; while supplies last.