



# FRYSCKY BUSINESS

*The Official Newsletter of the Family Resource and Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky, Inc.  
Bridging Barriers and Changing Lives Since 1991*

**Fall 2011**

## *It's What Lays in Between that Matters the Most*

*by Michael Flynn, President, FRYSCky, Inc.*

Irvine (KY) • Greetings friends!! The summer of 2011 is quickly coming to a close as the signs of fall start creeping in more and more every day. Our summer camps and programs are mostly fading memories of children who were served with educational and enrichment activities that ensured that they were remediated, fed, and entertained in a safe, caring, and loving environment. Furthermore, summer vacations have been spent hopefully with personal and family time doing whatever it is each of us enjoys the most.

As we embark upon this new school year I want to encourage and challenge each of you to continue to do the work that you are doing to improve the quality of life and educational success of Kentucky's children and families. Challenging economic times continue to plaque our Commonwealth and our nation, which means our efforts and programs are as important, if not more important, than they ever have been. As each of you continues to serve your children and families to the best of your abilities, the Coalition pledges to continue to serve you through continued legislative monitoring and awareness programs.

However, we do need your assistance in these efforts as well. Please be mindful of requests from your regional representatives and most important; please continue to stay in regular contact with your legislators about the programs and services being provided by your centers and how these are impacting student achievement.

We hope that each of you will mark your calendars now for the 2011 Fall Institute. This year's conference planning committee has been working very diligently to put together a conference program that will be entertaining, informative, and educational for all attendees. There will be a wide arrange of speakers and presenters coming to us from all across the nation. So, please join us as we reflect on how we are and will continue "Changing the World of Tomorrow, Through the Children of Today."

Two thoughts come to mind as I close. First, I would like to say that I do understand that these are troubling times for our families, our centers, our schools, our communities, and our nation. It is far too easy to say I've done all I can do and I can do no more. In times like these people find themselves feeling

vulnerable, isolated, and alone; weary from hard work with little or no return. We find ourselves in situations that make us think that it could be better or even necessary to scale back our efforts or to even look to another career path with more security. However, I say that it is times like these that we need to reflect upon the words embossed upon our state seal, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." Let's continue to unit, support one another, and thrive for the sake of those whom we have served these last 20 years.

My final thought is that of Linda Ellis's poem, The Dash. Which begins:

*I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From beginning to end.*

*He noted that first came the date of her birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years...*

The poem goes on to state that what matters the most is how we spend the time in our dash. Reflecting upon the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers we all know when and where we began. I challenge each of you to remember this as we move forward in our jobs; that what matters the most is not when our program began or even if or when it will end, but rather the important part is what we do to sustain and support our students and their families during our dash.

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## ***Regional Roundup***

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Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ *Camp Storm 2011 (Southern Middle School)*



*New 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Alexia Garner Leon signs in for Camp Storm with her father.*

Lexington (KY) • The YSC at Southern Middle School hosts a transition camp for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders every summer. Camp Storm gives the incoming middle school students a chance to get comfortable in their new school environment. In addition to meeting new friends and seeing old friends from elementary, the students get a chance to meet and spend time with their new teachers. 6<sup>th</sup> graders get their schedule, their locker, and they learn what it takes to be successful in middle school. Teachers and staff have found that Camp Storm helps to alleviate fears and worries about starting a new school chapter for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. These SMS students start their first day of school with confidence.

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## *Regional Roundup*

### *Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ Happy Brains...Happy Kids in the "Use It or Lose It" Program*

Lexington (KY) • For 5 weeks this summer, 11 rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Russell Cave Elementary School in Fayette County got up early 2 days a week to keep their brains happy. They read (and dissected) the novel "Charlotte's Web" chapter by chapter, practiced Rocket Math, cooked lunch for all as Chefs in Training, learned the basics of playing the recorder and took field trips on the city bus to discover new things about their city while learning about geography. The program, "Use It or Lose It" was a collaborate effort of the Family Resource Center Coordinator and 2 fourth grade teachers who didn't want their students to lose their learning momentum over the summer months. With help from other volunteer teachers, the students learned valuable, hands-on lessons in a relaxed, yet enthusiastic manner. The program culminated in a trip to a bookstore where each child chose a book that interested them, then had lunch at a nice restaurant where they were able to practice their table manners.

Comments from the students revealed that they loved the program. We ALL had a great time together and were sorry when it ended. Now we will get to see if the work paid off in some increasingly competent 5<sup>th</sup> graders!





## *Regional Roundup*

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Region 9 (Williamsburg Independent) ~ *Williamsburg Students Enjoy A Summer Camp Adventure*

*by Tammy Stephens, Coordinator, Williamsburg Independent Schools*

Williamsburg (KY) • Each summer students from Williamsburg Independent School District are offered the opportunity to attend Laurel Lake Baptist Camp for a week at no cost. Students are identified by the WISD Family Resource/Youth Services Center and are linked to a scholarship provided by the camp. The FRYSC provides transportation to and from the camp, as well as assistance with much needed camp supplies for the week.

The summer program at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp is designed for children with an emphasis on spiritual, emotional, social and physical growth. While at the camp, students have opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy the various recreational activities that the camp has to offer such as archery, fishing, horseshoes, hiking, swimming, volleyball and softball.

This program is executed as a way for the FRYSC to answer the need for after-school/summer activities for students.



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## *Regional Roundup*

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Region 9 (Rockcastle County) ~ *Brodhead Students Help Others*

*by Satica Morgan, Coordinator, Brodhead FRC*

Brodhead (KY) • Back-To-School Night at Brodhead Elementary brought an unexpected yet welcome bit of information. Two BES students, Kayleigh and Jakob, along with the help of their mother, held a yard sale for charity this summer. They donated part of their proceeds to the Brodhead FRC weekend backpack program. The \$200.00 donation will buy food that will be sent home with students at Brodhead Elementary that are in need of a little extra help. A BIG "Thank You" to these students and their family. What a wonderful way to teach children about helping others.



*Ms. Satica Morgan, Coordinator of the Brodhead FRC, is pictured with Kayleigh and Jakob.*

*They're Coming....*

FALL INSTITUTE 2011

NOVEMBER 1-3

LOUISVILLE, KY

*Don't Miss Some Very Special Guests!!!*

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## *Regional Roundup*

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### Region 2 (McLean County) ~ *Chefs of the Future*

*by Becky Atherton, Coordinator, GRO FRYSC*

Calhoun (KY) • GRO FRYSC collaborated with the McLean County UK Extension Services to provide a two day camp on July 11-12, 2011. "Chefs of the Future" was held for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The two-day activities all centered around the food pyramid. Day one students learned about the food pyramid, food labels, and how to make healthier choices in eating and physical activity. The afternoon students got to cook with the Pyramid. We had four stations based on the food pyramid groups. Students learn how to properly slice and peel vegetables, and how to make fruit kabobs, smoothies, English muffin pizzas, and colossal cookies. Part of their education in the kitchen was not only safety in the kitchen, but how to clean up our messes.

On Day Two of camp, students learned about table etiquette. This included how to properly set a table casually and for a banquet-type event. Students were educated on how to use the utensils and manners at the table. After practicing their skills, students were taken to a local restaurant to try out their new etiquette skills.





## *Regional Roundup*

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Region 11 (Adair County) • *Summer Camp Transforms School*

*by Debbie Cowan, Coordinator The Community Connection FRC*

Columbia (KY) • Going to school in the summer may not sound like fun to most students, however, Adair County Elementary students might argue that school is the place to be for one week each summer. During this week, the cafeteria becomes a “mad science” lab as students build rockets from recyclable materials and learn fun scientific facts. The art room transforms into clay and pottery paradise and guest artist and craftspeople’s help students weave footstools and design hand-painted clipboards. Students also have time to learn new games in the gym and enjoy free time on the playground.

This annual day camp is a collaborative effort between The Community Connection Family Resource Center, Adair County Cooperative Extension 4-H Program and volunteer teachers. Funding for the camp is also provided by the United Way of South Central Kentucky and a 21<sup>st</sup> Learning Center grant. There is no cost for students to participate and they receive free meals and snacks each day. The goal of the program is to provide safe, structured enrichment activities for students during the summer months. Students and parents love the camp and are amazed at the variety of activities that are offered. For additional information, contact Debbie Cowan, FRC Coordinator at 270-384-9112.



*Adair County Elementary School students display personalized clipboards that were created as part of a summer day camp offered by the Family Resource Center.*

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## Regional Roundup

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### Region 11 (Glasgow Independent) • *Cram the Cruiser Back to School Event*

*by Laura Cotton, Coordinator, Glasgow Middle YSC*

Glasgow (KY) • The 2nd annual Cram The Cruiser event was held on July 29th at area Dollar Stores, K-Mart, and Wal-mart stores in Cave City & Glasgow. Glasgow, Barren Co, and Caverna FRYSC's teamed up with local law enforcement officers-KSP Trooper Biven, Barren Co. Sheriff's Dept., Glasgow Police Dept. & Cave City PD--to collect donations of school supplies to help area students succeed academically. More than \$2,600 worth of school supplies were collected.



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### Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ *ESL Summer Enrichment Camp*

Lexington (KY) • Each June, the Lafayette High School Youth Services Center collaborates with the school and district ESL department to offer an ESL summer enrichment camp. Approximately 25 students from 9 different countries participated in this year's 16 day camp. Transportation to and from school is provided as well as lunch. Mondays through Thursdays, students participate in English enhancement classes, science classes, worked on Rosetta Stone, and recreation activities such as softball and yoga. Field trips are offered on Fridays and include such places as Mammoth Cave, Blue Lick State Park, and the Salato Wildlife Center. Advanced ESL students participate as well as mentors and this experience is essential to their leadership skill enhancement. The camp is staffed by two certified teachers and the YSC coordinator. This camp fulfills the educational enhancement component and is an extension of the year round International Tutoring Club.





*Students from the Fayette County ESL Summer Enrichment Camp*



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## *Regional Roundup*

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### *Region 6 (Casey County) ~ Casey County FRC's KidsTeam Summer Kamp*

Liberty (KY) • Kids Team is for girls and boys between the ages of 3 and 12 years of age. Our summer theme this year was geared towards learning a little history. Daily activities at the camp include things like arts and crafts, sports/athletics, games, water day, preschool circle time, along with group activities based on our theme. Our trained staff works to ensure each child has a fun and rewarding summer experience. We host several Community Volunteers such as the County Extension Office, Home Health Volunteers, and Local Law Enforcement just to name a few, to come and participate in various activities.

Campers go on field trips during the summer that coincide with the theme. We also have water day activities (weather permitting), weekly walks to the local Library for reading activities and much more!

Campers have 2 meals and a snack provided through our local feed the children program. Each camper was provided with one tee shirt to be worn on field trips.

Two educational and fun filled trips were as follows:

- 6/10/11 Green River Tourist Center in Campbellsville. There we experienced hands on learning of aquatic and wild life systems, water safety, and explored a little bit of history by visiting an original historic log cabin that was used as a Civil War Hospital.
- 7/19/11 Cinemas, Millennium Park, and Constitution Square in Danville for a movie and a tour of the historic Constitution Square.



*Pictures from the Casey County's FRC KidsTeam Summer Camp's Educational Field Trips*

*Region 6 (Pulaski County) ~ Programs Support Back to School Efforts*



*Pictured at Left ~ Southern Middle School Youth Services Center, in collaboration with our feeder elementary Family Resource Centers, hosted an incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had 152 students attend and receive information from three different workshops on the subjects of Cyber Bullying Prevention, Making Friends, and Staying Healthy. Officer Scott Harvey presented to all the students during lunch on Bullying Prevention. Students also took part in some team building exercises, allowing them to get to know each other. Information on drug use prevention and the importance of hygiene were also given to those who attended.*

*Pictured at Right ~ Victory Christian Church in collaboration with the FRYSC's from Somerset Independent, Science Hill Independent, and Pulaski County Schools hosted their annual Back To School Extravaganza on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The church raises money for this event and the FRYSC assist them in the planning and organizing for the big day. All children in the county are invited to come whether they attend, private school, home schools, or are in the public school systems. The day is fun filled with clowns, inflatables, sno-cones, popcorn and vendors. There is no cost to the children or their families. There are also free haircuts and*





# Regional Roundup

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## Region 6 (Taylor County) ~ FRYSCs Support Numerous Community Programs and Efforts



### *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Baby Shower July 12, 2011*

*Sponsored by Taylor County Family Resource Center & Campbellsville FRYSC*

*A parenting workshop for new and expectant parents. Guest speakers Taylor Regional Hospital, Kentucky Injury Prevention Center, LCDHD HANDS program & Adanta RPC.*



### *Back-to-School Picnic Tuesday, August 2, 2011*

*Sponsored by: Taylor County Family Resource Center, Cardinal Station (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) & RTA-2*

*A picnic was held at the Taylor County Elementary School the evening before school started. All students and their families were invited for free hotdogs, chips and drinks. Campbellsville/Taylor County Fire Department set up their "fire truck" inflatable slide for the students' entertainment.*



### *Kindergarten Camp & Kick-Off Activities Friday, July 29, 2011*

*Sponsored by: Cardinal Station (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) & Taylor County Family Resource Center*

*The camp first provided transition activities for entering kindergarteners and later, the kick-off event gave parents an opportunity to meet school staff and become familiar with school procedures/activities. All in-coming kindergartens received a free t-shirt and free Summer Snow (shaved flavored ice). Free haircuts, health screenings and face painting were among the other services offered.*



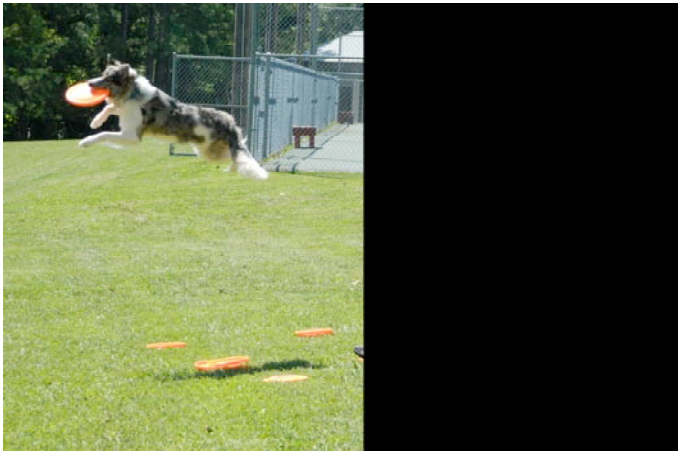
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## Regional Roundup

### Region 2 (Hancock County) ~ Camp Vastwood Full of Exciting Opportunities



Lewisport (KY) • Summertime in Hancock County brings Camp Vastwood, an exciting camp opportunity for 9 to 12 year olds. The Family Resource Center at North and South Hancock along with the Youth Services Center at the middle school and high school collaborate with several community agencies to sponsor a week long summer camp at the local county park. This camp is always a popular camp serving approximately 50 kids each summer. This summer campers participated in a wide variety of activities. Starting off the week the students learned some "old school" dancing....break dancing 90's style! Students took a field trip to the Owensboro Museum and the RiverPark Center, where they were given backstage tours of how shows were put together. The "Flying Hounds" Frisbee dogs provided an exciting and entertaining show of animal acrobatics. Elvis even showed up one day to sing. Other activities that the students enjoyed were swimming, tie dying and other crafts, water balloons and park wide "capture the flag" games. High school students assisted with the camp, earning volunteer hours for community service credits.



*REGION 8 - Lee County RediFest draws large number of participants in need of learning more about programs, resources, and information regarding the start of a new school year. Each year RediFest or Back-to-School programs across Kentucky attract many students and families to the schools prior to the kick-off of a new school year and begins the process of engaging parental involvement in their child's education process.*

## *Regional Roundup*

*Region 2 (Ohio County) ~ Ohio County FRYSCs: Achieving Great Results; One Program at a Time*

*by Dennis "Dee" Donlon, Coordinator, Western Elementary FRC*

### *Summer Home Visits / Book Giveaway:*

During the summer vacation, I take the opportunity to visit all the students and families of Western Elementary. I don't go with any school business or issues in mind. I just visit with the students and families to chat and socialize. I have books in the trunk of my car that I give to each student. I purchase the books from Scholastics. They have a clearance catalog where you can purchase boxes of 180 books – 30 books each for grades first through sixth. I also have information about our Back to School Open House / Cookout that I give to the families. The students are always glad to see me and I think the parents appreciate a friendly home visit without any issues to discuss. It seems to help school / parent relationships and school climate. I have also found that it helps if you need to make a home visit during the school year. I have been doing this for twelve years and I estimate that I have made around 2,500 home visits during that time.

### *Longest Day of Play*

The Ohio County FRYSCs collaborated with Ohio County Hospital, Ohio County Family Wellness Center, Ohio County Board of Education, Perdue Farms, Cooperative Extension Service, Walmart, and Together We Care to provide the "Longest Day of Play". There were over thirty activities for the families to participate. The event was a success with 347 participants and 81 volunteers donating approximately 500 volunteer hours.

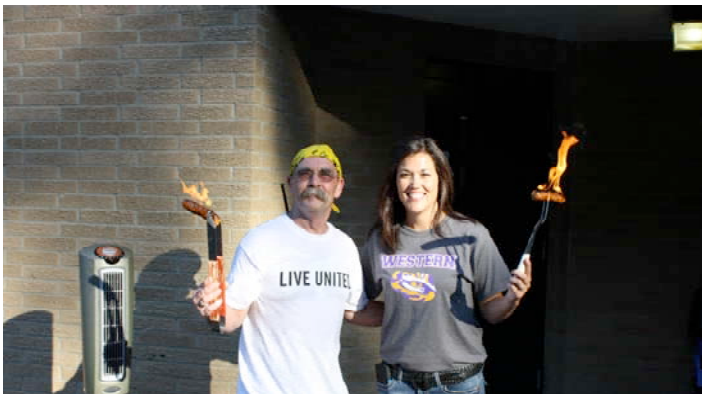
### *Open House / Hot Dog Cookout*

The Western Elementary FRC and the Parent Involvement Committee collaborated to host the annual Open House / Hot Dog Cookout. Parents and students first assemble in the gym where they are introduced to the staff, given information on the Title I Compact and information on how to become a school volunteer. From there, the parents and students proceed to the classrooms where they meet with their teacher and fellow classmates. After a brief meeting in the classrooms everyone is treated to a hot dog cookout catered by Dee's Dogs and Bait Shop. The dogs are served either very, very well done, blackened, burnt, extra crispy, charcoaled or incinerated. Dee's Dogs has the best bait in the county and the hot dogs are almost as good. Approximately 300 people attended.

### *Stuff The Bus Was a Great Success*

On August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio County FRYSCs joined forces with the United Way of Ohio County, Ohio County Board of Education, Ohio County Hospital, Perdue Farms, and Walmart to launch the first ever "Stuff the Bus" event. Dozens of employees and other community volunteers came together and offered an opportunity for shoppers to help "Stuff the Bus" with school supplies.

Shoppers were greeted by volunteers, offered a list of school supplies and invited to purchase a few items. Some shoppers gave school supplies and some gave cash. All cash donations were then used to purchase additional supplies. A total of 3,903 items were donated at a value of \$5,572. The supplies were then divided between the eight centers in the county.



*Principal Amber Vincent carries the torch in support of her FRC Coordinator, Dee Donlon (pictured with her) and other FRYSC programs in Ohio County. Dee says, "The Torch was also handy in cooking hot dogs during the Open House."*

## Region 11 (Barren County) ~ YSC Promotes Physical, Mental, and Emotional Well-Being with Variety of Programs

by Brenda Chaney, Coordinator, Barren County High School YSC

2011 Y.E.S. Group of the Year: Barren County High School's SADD Chapter

Good news awaited members of Barren County High School's SADD Chapter when they returned to school this year. They were selected to receive the 2011 Y.E.S. (Youth Empowerment System) Group of the Year Award for their prevention efforts in regard to underage drinking and other drug use, seatbelt safety, and texting while driving.

"Together we can make a difference!" This is the message that SADD Chapter members put on the back of the t-shirts they designed and the banner they had made to represent their club and "together" they have been doing some awesome things!

During our 2010-2011 school SADD Chapter members visited the elementary schools in our district sharing an underage drinking prevention message with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students by means of videos, presentations, and hands on activities.

In October for Red Ribbon Week students set up informational tables in our high school and Trojan Academy (9<sup>th</sup> grade center) to share the message of living a healthy life by making good choices and not becoming involved in drug use/abuse.

In addition, our SADD Chapter partnered with our GOALS program (Giving Options and Awareness to Living Successfully) and KY ASAP which allowed SADD Chapter members to obtain materials and visited 9<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms with a presentation on the danger of underage drinking, driving impaired, and binge drinking. Prior to classroom visits, students received training conducted with Dallas Cline, Director of GOALS which is an underage drinking prevention program in the Barren County Schools. SADD chapter members also participated in a Town Hall Meeting to address underage drinking that was hosted by KY-ASAP.

SADD chapter members hosted a 5<sup>th</sup> quarter event that followed our senior night football game. This gave all our high school students the opportunity to participate in a safe, structured, and drug free event following the game. Fun games, food, prizes were available throughout the evening.

Barren County High School SADD Chapter members were also involved in Kick Butts Day which is a tobacco prevention event. Information tables with anti-tobacco props were available for students to visit. All students at BCHS were invited to enter an anti tobacco poster contest with winners receiving prizes. These posters were displayed throughout our school during this week.

Students traveled to Georgetown and attended a SAVE US Youth Conference and upon their return began to work on a Teen Traffic Safety presentation. A presentation was presented to all 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students during assemblies which were followed by a Mock Car Crash for seniors. The assemblies were held the week of Prom and After Prom. Prior to the assembly SADD chapter members encourage fellow students to take a pledge not to text and drive or ride with others who were texting and driving. Informational tables were set up to hand out no texting thumb bands with the message "U TXT UR NXT". During the assembly students partnered with the Transportation Department and used the Crash Dummies and KY Safety Bear to convey the message to students that they must always buckle up when in a motor vehicle.

SADD chapter members volunteered at After Prom to help with a station that incorporated a fun activity with an underage drinking prevention message. During the activity students participated in the Speed Stacking game with and without drunk vision goggles and prizes were given out in this area throughout the night.

In an effort to obtain much needed funds, our SADD Chapter members held a Spring Craft Bazaar. This gave students the opportunity to use the leadership skills they have used as being part of our SADD Chapter.



SADD Chapter members and sponsors are so appreciative the great community partners that have provided grant funds that have given our students the opportunity to provide education and raise awareness among fellow students of the dangers that face youth today.

We are very proud of the 115 students who are a part of our SADD Chapter. We look forward to continuing our efforts to increase awareness regarding the importance of making good choices in life. And yes, "Together we do make a difference everyday!"

For additional information contact: Brenda Chaney, Barren County Youth Services Center Coordinator at [Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us](mailto:Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us)

#### Barren County Stride Running Club

We hear each and everyday the troubling news about our children being overweight and many times to the point of obesity. Even more troubling is the fact that these rates continue to increase among children and adults. In an effort to turn this disturbing trend around Western Kentucky University Social Work student interns Aundi Thomas and Ponniece Champlin, while completed their field practicum with the Barren County Youth Services Center, implemented a Barren County Stride Running Club to promote health and wellness in our school. The WKU student interns partnered with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center and Barren County's Barren Beyond the Bell after school program to provide this program to all students at Barren County High School.

The BC Stride Running Club was offered to students twice weekly after school from 3:00 until 5:00 pm with bussing being provided home if needed. To begin each meeting students meet in a classroom where they had group discussion on issues such as: self image, mixed messages, healthy habits, healthy foods, healthy food budget planning, relaxation techniques, and 5 K here we come! After group discussions students met in the gym for warm up and stretches and began their journey on their goal to run a 5 K run.

The year ended with students participating in the Butterflies for Maddie 5 K Run/Walk. Students shared with their sponsors that they had learned so much about the benefits of eating healthier and being more active. A huge thanks to our WKU student interns for helping us all become more aware of the importance of health and wellness!

For additional information contact: Brenda Chaney, Barren County Youth Services Center Coordinator at [Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us](mailto:Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us)

#### FOCUS DAY at Trojan Academy ~ (Freshman Orientation Centered Upon Success)

A week prior to the start of the school year Barren County High School's Trojan Academy hosted a FOCUS (Freshman Orientation Centered Upon Success) Day to assist students with the transition from middle to high school. All incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents were invited to be a part of this educational and fun filled day.

The day began at noon with students assembling in the cafeteria for lunch. The Summer Feeding Program provided a tasty lunch for our students. Students had a great time visiting with friends and catching up on things that happened over the summer. After the meal our administrators, teachers, and staff welcomed our students. Following the welcome students then accompanied their teachers on a tour of our school. Upper classman representing various clubs and organizations in our school were stationed throughout our building to give incoming students helpful information about our school. In addition, information was provided on the many great extracurricular activities that are available and each freshman was encouraged to become a part of at least one.

On completion of the tour students followed their class schedule meeting briefly with their teachers for the upcoming year. Teachers discussed class content, expectations, grades, study skills, organization, and overall school rules and policies. When classes ended students met in the gym for fun games!

Parents joined their students later in the day where they too enjoyed visiting with teachers and hearing about all the great things that are planned for the upcoming year. Parents were encouraged to become part of a new group that has been formed this year -FOCUS (Families on Campus Uplifting Students). This is a great volunteer opportunity for our parents as the main purpose is to encourage our students to achieve in academics and other school related activities.

What a great day was had by all with over 200 of our students participating in the days activities. The Youth Services Center and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center were one of many proud sponsors that partnered together to provide this great opportunity for our students.

For additional information contact: Brenda Chaney, Barren County Youth Services Center Coordinator at [Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us](mailto:Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us)

#### Barren County JR Guard ~ "Be a Hero Everyday, Be Drug Free"

The Barren County Youth Services Center in partnership with the Kentucky Army National Guard are proud sponsors of Barren County Middle School's JR Guard program. The program is open to all Barren County Middle School students and is designed to prepare students for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their responsibilities and privileges as American citizens. The National Guard provide instruction that include strategies to help students improve communication skills, enhance social and ethical values, promote character development, promote physical fitness, and help develop an appreciation of teamwork through instruction in drill and ceremonies. JR Guard members are active in community service projects throughout the year. One service project the JR Guard is very proud of is their "Be a Hero Everyday, Be Drug Free" presentation for our elementary schools.

The "Be a Hero Everyday, Be Drug Free" project gives JR Guard members the opportunity to visit each of the district's seven elementary schools in the spring of each year and speak to incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders to help ease their transition to middle school. JR Guard members provide information on the clubs and organizations that are offered to students at BCMS, discuss the importance of and encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities, answer any questions students may have about coming to our Middle School next year, focus on things that make our school and community great, present a video on patriotism, talk with student about the importance of making good choices, provide information to students regarding the dangers of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use (with a specific focus on smokeless tobacco), and encourage students to, "Be a HERO Everyday, Be Drug Free!"

The presentation is dedicated to all our Veterans and military men and women who have served and are serving our great country!

For additional information contact: Brenda Chaney, Barren County Youth Services Center Coordinator at [Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us](mailto:Brenda.chaney@barren.kyschools.us)



## Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ Middle School Transition Program: *Where Everybody Belongs*

by Stephanie Hayes, Coordinator, Hayes Middle School YSC



Lexington (KY) • "The first day assembly set a good first impression of Hayes Middle School and helped me feel like a Panther and not just another student. My WEB leaders were awesome! I met my best friend on the first day of school," said one 6<sup>th</sup> grade student looking back on his first year of school.

WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is yearlong program wherein 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Leaders conduct experiential activities to prepare incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders for middle school. Activities include: A high-energy, inspirational Day 1 Assembly, monthly group activities, peer mentoring/tutoring, structured gatherings and leadership development.

At its very core, WEB is a program designed to help incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students feel *safe* and welcome in a setting that may otherwise feel overwhelming, intimidating and scary.

Edythe J. Hayes is home to students from more than a dozen different countries, from a variety of different life circumstances and experiences. WEB strives to foster a climate of respect for others, not in spite of their background, but *because* of it. Since every 6<sup>th</sup> grader is served, students will have the opportunity to interact with those different from themselves. Through structured activities, students will learn to celebrate their individuality, while embracing the unique culture and characteristics of others.

The WEB Leadership Academy provides a diverse group of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students with the skills to help hundreds of incoming students feel safe and supported at school. Eighth Graders will learn team building skills, peer mentoring skills, presentation skills, etc. Many of these WEB Leaders will work with 6<sup>th</sup> Graders before or after school during their own free time to help "their WEB kids" be successful.

At Edythe Hayes, we have three WEB Coordinators: the YSC Coordinator, the Behavior Intervention Specialist and the Associate Principal. We all work together to make WEB successful.

When surveyed at the end of the year, and asked what their favorite part of the WEB program was, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader said, "That they are 8<sup>th</sup> graders instead of adults, so they know what it feels like to a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, so they help us." When asked the same question, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader said, "'Getting to develop leadership skills and getting to help them have a smooth adjustment."

The WEB program helps 6<sup>th</sup> graders transition to middle school while simultaneously empowering 8<sup>th</sup> graders to lead. For more information about bringing WEB to your school (or LINK Crew for high schools), visit the website: <http://www.boomerangproject.com/>





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