

Dragon Gazette

April 24, 2024,

Administrative Day – April 24

The Dragon Gazette team would like to say thank you to all the administrators for all of their hard work and dedication to our schools. This edition of the newspaper is dedicated to them as a thank you!



Interview with Mr. Crawford



By: Brylee Spradlin & Bella Cooper

Have you ever met the superintendent of McCreary County Schools? We had the chance to sit down and have a conversation with Mr. Crawford. He is a very kind person and works really hard to ensure the success of the staff and students of all the schools in McCreary County. Let's us introduce you to our Superintendent, Mr. Crawford.

1. What does a superintendent do?

"They make sure people are successful and do mostly everything. They manage budgets make decisions, and policies that benefit students and staff."

2. What made you decide to be our superintendent for the McCreary School District? "I have done a lot of other jobs, and I thought it would be fun to do a different job. I got

Eighth Edition

offered a job as a superintendent and took it. I enjoy it."

3. Where are you from? "Bell County, Middlesboro, KY"

4. What is your favorite part of being a superintendent? "My favorite part is making decisions, working, and watching kids learn."

5. Is it hard being a superintendent? "Yes, because I make a lot of decisions that affect people's lives."

6. What do you like to do when you are not working? "I like to fish, hunt, spend time at the lake, and watch sports."

After sitting down with Mr.

Crawford, we learned that the superintendent is not an easy job. Mr. Crawford does a great job and makes it look easy. Thank you, Mr. Crawford, for helping us be successful with our learning.



Pine Knot Intermediate Dragon Gazette
Established 2023

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Thank you to Our Principal,

Dr. Cindy Moore



By: Bella Cooper and Isabell Sims

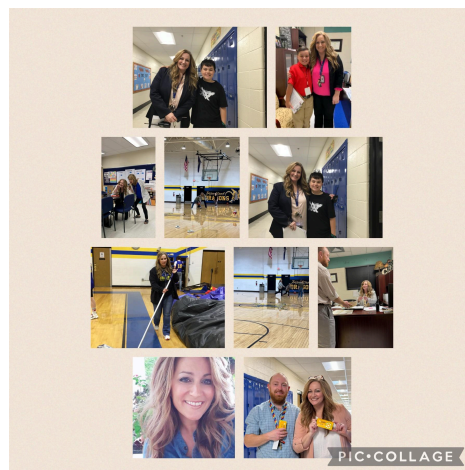
A principal is a person who is responsible for overseeing every aspect of a school, from teacher evaluations to student achievement. Also they manage yearly budgets for the school. Also, principles make sure that the students are happy and ready to learn. Also, principles plan the activities that we do at school.

Mrs. Moore, thank you for being a good principal. We are happy to have you as a principal at PKI. Also, for planning all the events for us, such as the March Madness, Bible Release, Dragon idol, survivor games, Field Trips, and most of all, prom! Also for taking care of students and staff. And for managing the school and ensuring students are ready to learn.

Quotes/Comments about Dr. Moore:

- Miss Coffey - *"Dr. Moore is a great boss!"*
- Mr. Wilson - *"I wish I had her hair! She's a pleasure to work with!"*
- Mrs. Richmond - *"Mrs. Moore is a great principal and leader!"*
- Mr. Owens - *"Thank you for always listening to me and helping."*

- Mr. Austin - *"Thank you for putting up with my dad."*
- Ms. Wilson - *"Thank you for being a wonderful boss and principal."*
- Mrs. Spardlin - *"When I became a teacher, I wanted to be just like you."*
- Mr. Gus - *"Thank you for being a fantastic principal and leader."*
- Gabby Sims - *"I love you; You're the best principal ever."*
- Mr. Hackler - *"Thank you for being such a great leader and supporting all the teachers at PKI"*
- Mrs. Slaven - *"Thanks for being an awesome principal, We appreciate all your support."*
- Mr. Burton - *"Thanks for being such a great supportive boss. I think you are awesome."*
- Maysen - *"She is nice!"*
- Lily - *"She is friendly and always has a smile."*
- Mr. Duncan - *"Thank you for realizing what a treasure I am."*
- Mrs. Tarter- *"Mrs. Moore is a wonderful role model!"*





Thank you to Our Assistant

Principal, Mr. Tim Stephens



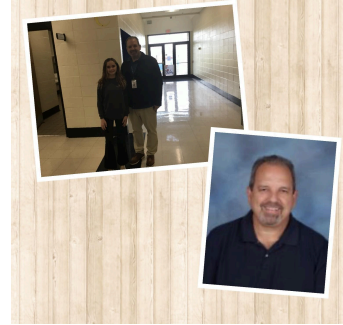
By: Lillian Newman and Aleeya Morrow

An assistant principal is someone who helps the principal run the school and make decisions to help the school. They help make sure the staff and students are safe. The assistant must be a problem solver and look for ways to improve the school's well-being. Assistant principals help with discipline and encourage students to have better behavior. They support teachers and students in the learning process.

Thank you, Mr. Stephens, for being here to help the students. He helps kids when they are sad. He takes care of the students who are not being good. He handles discipline in a way that helps students make better choices.

Comments from Staff and Students about Mr. Stephens:

- ☐ Miss Coffey: "We are lucky to have Mr. Stephens at our school."
- ☐ Bella - "*He is nice.*"
- ☐ Chassity - "*He can always help.*"
- ☐ Mrs. Moore - "*Mr. Stephens is such an important part of our school and helping with behavior and the overall management of the school.*"
- ☐ Mr. Gus - "*Proud to have you as our assistant principal at PKI!*"



! Important Dates !

April 24 - 5th grade touring Middle School

April 29 - KSA Testing Begins

May 7 - 5th-grade prom

May 10 - Survivor

May 13 - Second Grade touring PKI

May 13 - Dragon Idol

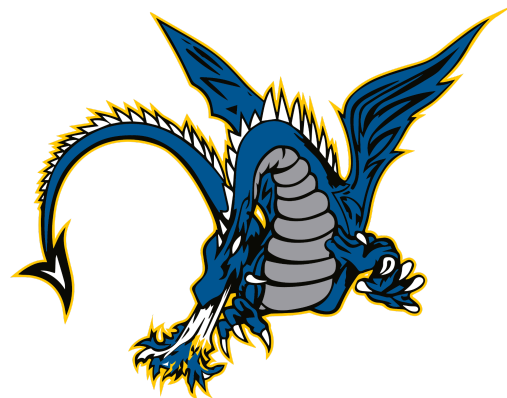
May 13 - Award Night at 6:00

May 14 - Senior Walk

May 14 - Real Men Read Under the Lights
7:00-9:00

May 15 - Last Edition of the School
Newspaper for this school year

May 16 - Last Day of School





Thank you to Our Counselor,

Mr. Colby Wilson



By: Brylee Spradlin and Olivia Ellis

Do you ever feel like you need someone to talk to? A counselor is the person you will seek. A counselor is someone who helps you solve problems. They help you keep your mental health in good shape. A school counselor takes care of students' schedules and places them in a homeroom.

We would like to take a moment to thank Mr. Wilson. Thank you for always being willing to help solve our problems. Mr. Wilson began the leadership club at our school. This was a great idea and allowed new students to meet people who could help them adjust to a new school. We are lucky to have Mr. Wilson as our counselor.

Quotes/Comments about Mr. Wilson:

- Miss Coffey - *"We are lucky to have Mr. Wilson at PKI!"*
- Mrs. Rhonda - *"PKI is blessed to have Mr. Wilson. He is always willing to help students and staff."*
- Tiffany - *"Mr. Wilson is always helping people. He is great with kids. He is awesome to work with."*
- Mrs. Slaven - *"Mr. Wilson always has a smile and is always very helpful."*
- Mr. Toad - *"Mr. Wilson is a friendly, outgoing man."*
- Mr. Birney - *"Mr. Wilson is a super awesome guy. He is very helpful and kind."*
- Bella Cooper - *"He is always very happy and solves problems."*

→ Peyton - *"He is always happy and ready to help."*



Test Tips for KSA Testing

By: Marley Ridener & Kenzlee Stephens

1. Mrs. Karen - *"Eat a good breakfast!"*
2. Mrs. Tammica - *"Get a good night's sleep!"*
3. Mrs. Moore - *"Take your time and Do your best!"*
4. Mr. Sims - *"Take all the time and recheck your work."*
5. Mr. Gus - *"Work hard, get a good night's sleep, and say a pray."*
6. Mrs. Tonya - *"You all have this! Do your best! Love you*





Interview with Mrs. Karen Kidd



By: Kenzlee Stephens and Marley Ridener

Let me introduce you all to the person who helps make sure we are good writers, Mrs. Karen Kidd. She works extremely hard to make sure that we are getting the writing curriculum that will benefit us in the future. We had the opportunity to sit down with Mrs. Karen Kidd for an interview.

1. **What job have you been doing since you left Pine Knot Elementary?** *"Currently, I work at the board office as the curriculum and assessment coach."*
2. **How long have you been working in the school system?** *"18 years"*
3. **What is your favorite part of your job?** *"My favorite part of my job is being able to support school principals, teachers, and students. I love helping others"*
4. **What are your favorite things to do when you are not working?** *"I enjoy hiking, reading, going to the lake, and horseback riding."*
5. **What do you have to do for your current job?** *"I provide support, mentors, and coaching for new teachers. I am involved in the development of an assessment for students in k-2nd grade. I'm part of the district-wide writing implementation using RACE and Smackdown writing. I work with preschool students and staff to meet their needs and help prepare those students for transition to kindergarten."*

She works really hard to help all of us. We would like to say Thank you to Mrs. Karen Kidd for everything that you do to ensure that we get a good education.



Animal of the Month



The Mantis Shrimp is one of the strongest animals in the world. The Mantis Shrimp can punch or jab faster than the sound barrier. If you were to get hit by a Mantis Shrimp, it could break your hands or fingers. The Mantis Shrimp causes its prey a concussion, then kills its prey and eats it. Mantis Shrimp live in warm shallow waters in the Indian and Pacific oceans. Where they dig burrows and ambush. Mantis Shrimp have a low amount of predators, including large fish, cuttlefish, squid, and octopi. Mantis Shrimp mainly eat worms, squid, and fish. These cool but dangerous animals can be kept as pets, but they can break aquarium glass and will eat most other species of marine life.

J. Ball



Thank you to Our Director of District Wide Services, Mrs.

Sasha Taylor

By: Slayd Simpson.



A director of district-wide services is someone who is there to help ensure that all students receive the best education possible. They help teachers with getting curriculum for their students. They are responsible for helping every school in our district. They work with elementary, middle, and high schools. They are very busy to help each of us learn the most we can.

We are lucky because we have the best with Mrs. Taylor. I am extra lucky because she is also my aunt. Thank you for giving every child the best education possible. Thank you for helping our teachers help us.

Quotes/Comments about Mrs. Taylor:

- ❖ Miss Coffey - *"Mrs. Taylor is a wonderful friend and works hard to ensure all students get a good education."*
- ❖ Lillian Newman - *"She is nice and helps people when they need help."*
- ❖ Nakayla - *"She is kind!"*
- ❖ Marley Ridener - *"She is beautiful and great at her job."*
- ❖ Ms. Karen - *"What can I say? I am so proud of Mrs. Taylor and her job opportunity. Her leaving is a bittersweet moment. I cherish the time we had together. Mrs. Taylor will succeed in whatever position she obtains, and I am extremely proud of her. Of course, I miss her*

terribly. She is the most goal-driven person I know."

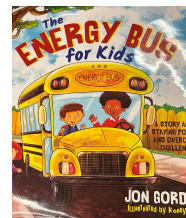


Book of the Month

By: Lillian Newman

Title: *The Energy Bus for Kids*

Author: Jon Gordon



Summary: George is sad and having a bad day. He is late for the bus, doesn't eat breakfast, and has bullies. George meets a new bus driver, Joy, who has positive vibes. Joy

teaches him rules to help him have more energy and a positive view. The first rule is "Create a Positive Vision," which means that you think about having a good day. Rule 2 is "Fuel Your Ride With Positive Energy," which means that you overcome challenges with a positive attitude. Rule 3, "No Bullies Allowed," means you keep your power and do not let the bullies in. Joy tells him to imagine his bus door closing. Rule 4 is "Love Your Passengers." This just means that the people that you allow on your bus have the most influence on you. The last rule is "Enjoy the Ride!"

Why you should read this book: This book teaches you how to be positive and not have negative vibes. You should always get your suggestions from adults and block out the bullies. This book is a great way to illustrate that.



Thank you to Our Director of Mental Health Service Providers,

Mrs. Rebecca Blakley

By Marley Ridener & Bella Cooper



The director of mental health services oversees the counseling services for all students. They work with counselors to provide mental health exercises for all students. They have a team of counselors who help provide students with someone to talk to when needed. They also work with colleges to help future counselors in working with students.

Thank you, Mrs. Blakley, for everything you do. You help us get our mental health in check. Thank you for providing Mr. Wilson with training to help us. Thank you for letting Ms. Casey work with our school and students. Thank you for letting future counselors come into our school to work with us. We appreciate everything you are doing.

Quotes/Comments about Mrs. Blakley:

- Maysen - *"She is nice!"*
- August - *"She is cool!"*
- Miss Coffey - *"Mrs. Blakley is a great person and helps the students to achieve to be the best they can!"*
- Mr. Wilson - *"Mrs. Blakley is the director of the Augment Program, where she ensures that students's mental health needs are met. She is a valuable resource to our district, and I cannot thank her enough."*



Dear Paisley,

"How can I balance multiple sports at once?"

Balancing multiple sports at once can be difficult. If one of your sports is currently in season, meaning you are having games and practices, you should go to that one instead of an open gym for a different sport that isn't currently in season. For example, if you have a game for an in-season sport, then you should probably go to your game.

Then when you don't have a game or practice for an in-season sport, you should go to your open gym or practice for the off

Season sport. However, that's just my opinion, and you should do whatever you feel like doing!

**Until next
time,**

Paisley



Thank you to Our Director of Food Services, Mr. Shane King



By: Jonah Ball and Kayden Ross

The director of Food Services is the one who orders and makes sure the cooks have food to cook for breakfasts and lunches. They help the cooks and provide guidance. They help make the menu for our school breakfasts and lunches.

Let's give applause to Mr. Shane King, our school's Director of Food Services. He has brought new foods with our school breakfasts and lunches. He has made changes to our school menus. Not only is he the director of food services but he started the year being our school assistant principal. Thank you for everything, Mr. King!

Quotes/Comments about Mr. King:

- Chris - *"Mr. King is pretty cool!"*
- Rylin - *"I like the changes that he has made with the food."*
- Nakayla - *"He is nice!"*
- Mrs. Moore - *"Mr. King was a huge asset to me as an assistant principal. He is a hard worker and always puts the staff and students as a priority. He is doing an amazing job as the new Director of Food Service, but he will always be a Pine Knot Dragon."*



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR



Third GRADE TEACHERS!

Mrs. Deborah Slaven

By: Brylee Spradlin

Favorite Subject: "Math"



Why did you become a teacher? *"I became a teacher because I love working with children and watching their eyes light up when they learn something new."*

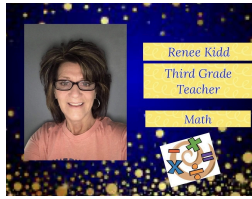
Did you have a job before being a teacher? What was it? *"As a teenager, I worked each summer on the school work program, helping clean the schools for the new year. In college, I worked as a sub-teacher. I have been working as a teacher since 1997."*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"I enjoy shopping and spending time with my family."*

Ms. Renee Kidd

By: Aleeya Morrow

Favorite Subject: "Math"



Why did you become a teacher?
"I wanted a career that let me spend as much time as I could with my daughter. I also love to watch

children learn and grow."

Did you have a job before being a teacher? What was it? *"I was a teacher's assistant for 16 years before becoming a teacher."*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family."*

Mrs. Marta Brown

By: Kenzlee Stephens

Favorite Subject: "Reading!"



Why did you become a teacher? *"I became a teacher because I love to help children. I like to help them grow and learn to read."*

Did you have a job before being a teacher? What was it? *"I did many jobs before becoming a teacher. I have a previous degree in Criminal Justice and worked with at risk youth."*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"I am a reader. I lose myself in books. I also play video games, spend time with family, listen to music, and diamond paint."*

Mr. Joshua Hackler

By: Kayden Ross

Favorite Subject: "Science"



Why did you become a teacher?
"To impact the future generations and inspire them."
Did you have a job before being a teacher? What was

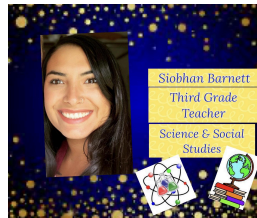
it? *"Worked at Walmart."*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"Singing and watching Scooby-Doo"*

Mrs. Siobhan Barnett

By: Olivia Ellis

Favorite Subject: "Science"



Why did you become a teacher?
"I always loved being around kids. I had some great teachers who inspired me and wanted to do the

same."

Did you have a job before being a teacher? What was it? *"Yes, in college, I was a waitress. I worked as a waitress for a little during my first year of teaching."*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"I love being on the lake with family. I also love reading and drinking coffee. Yum, Coffee!"*

Mrs. Carri Morrow-Strunk

By: KJ Neal

Favorite Subject: "Reading"



Why did you become a teacher?

"I wanted to be involved on the education side to help children."

Did you have a job before being a

teacher? What was it? *"I was a case manager at Phenix Prefer Care"*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"Farming, play with my dog and side-by-side riding"*

Mrs. Megan King

By: Kenzie Clark

Favorite Subject: "Science, all the animal stuff."



Why did you become a teacher?

"To help students love learning and thrive in their lives."

Did you have a job before being a teacher? What was

it? *"I was a stay-at-home mom to 3 children."*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"I love to travel, swim, and go shopping."*

Mr. Devyn Ridener

By: Marley Ridener

Favorite Subject: "Math or Science"



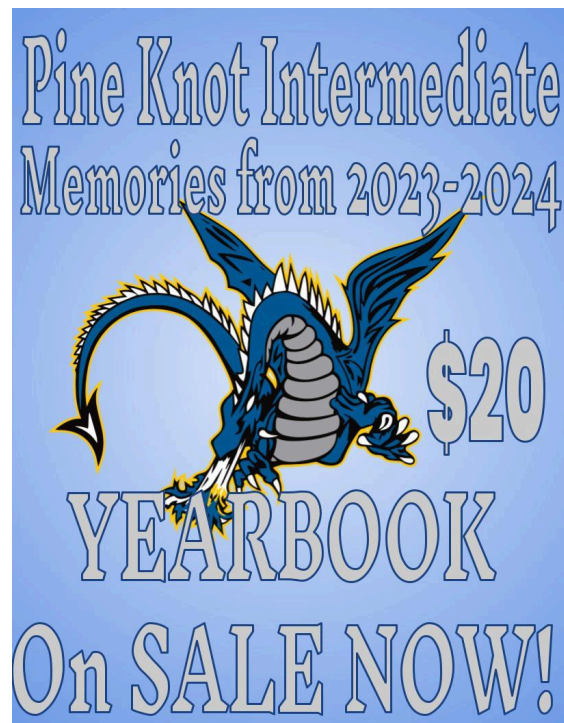
Why did you become a teacher?

"I became a teacher because I wanted I wanted to have a positive impact on students; lives."

Did you have a job

before being a teacher? What was it? *"I worked as an instructional assistant before teaching."*

What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching? *"I enjoy spending time with my family and watching sports. Go CATS!"*



Positive Vibes

By: Kenzlee Stephens

One last Positive Vibe for the year.

This year has been a blast and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to bring positive vibes to you each month. We started the year out by starting a Dragon Gazette paper. We had KONA Ice each month. Real Men Read came to read to us once a month. The Fall Festival was fun and involved our parents in starting our year right. Plus, Mr. Stone put on an awesome play that night. If you missed it, you really missed out. Parents and families joined us for a turkey dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving. We got a week off from school for the first time to celebrate Thanksgiving. Christmas was a giving and receiving month. Each student received gifts thanks to Family Resources. Ms. Tasha and Ms. Rhonda outdid themselves, and we are blessed to have them care for us. We began 2024 in style and had plenty of snow for January. February showed love with Valentine's parties and a special edition of the paper. March brought out the madness across the hallways. The homeroom battled it out in an attendance bracket. Mr. Austin Duncan

claimed the gold. Spring Break gave us that little break in April that we all desperately needed. Our principal, teachers, counselors, and staff at PKI have worked hard to help us learn all year, so now it is time we make them proud by trying our best on that KSA testing. I believe in you all! This has been a great year, so let's finish strong! Fifth graders, we still have a prom to look to for our positive vibe. PKI, let's Survivor games Begin! This is Kenzlee signing in for my last positive vibe!





Former Dragon Returns!!!

By: Kenzie Clark

Name: Mr. Austin Duncan

Who Influenced you the most as a Dragon: *"I had a ton of great influences when I was a dragon. Mr. Duncan and my former principal, Mrs. Stephens, come to mind for always steering me in the right direction. The building was (and still is) full of amazing role models."*

Does being a former Dragon help you in your job: *"Being a former Dragon definitely helps me in my job today. As a former Dragon, I know the high standards we Dragons hold ourselves to and just how great we all can be. It also helps that I was already familiar with the building."*

If you could tell a Dragon one thing right now, what would it be: *"If I could tell you Dragons one thing, it would be to appreciate all the*

people and things in your life while you have them. It will change your outlook on life for the better. Also, don't give up on your goals; put forth the effort now, which will benefit you later. I guess that's two things."

How does it feel to go from being a dragon as a student to a dragon teacher: *"It feels like a huge blessing to become a Dragon once again. I feel right back at home with the amazing staff and students I am surrounded by. It feels like a full circle moment."*

