

ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

September 30, 2016



Remind your children to 'Be the HERO, stop the bullying'



24 Valvoline Teacher Achievement Award winners named



Help celebrate your child's principal



All photos by KDE unless otherwise noted

Additional content:

- Junior Duck stamp contest
- \$2,500 scholarship available to would-be entrepreneurs
- 7 myths about the 2017-18 FAFSA debunked



Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.

Remind your children to ‘Be the HERO, stop the bullying’

Your child can be a HERO during Kentucky Safe Schools week and every day by helping stop **bullying** in Kentucky schools.

Safe Schools Week will be held Oct. 16-22 with the theme, “**Be the HERO; STOP the Bullying!**” The week will focus on everyday heroes, their roles in our lives and how each one of us needs to step up and “Be the HERO” when the opportunities arise both in school and in life.

Students are encouraged to be a HERO, (Honor, Encourage, Respect and Opportunity) either openly or silently by using an online tip line to stop bullying. Being a HERO isn’t just a label – it’s an attitude and a code to live by.

During the week, sponsored by the [Kentucky Center for School Safety](#), all Kentuckians are urged to improve the safety of our schools by educating students, staff and community members about conflict resolution, bullying prevention and relationship building. October is bullying prevention month.

For students who choose to be a silent hero and help anonymously for fear retaliation, the Center for School Safety offers an online reporting tool, the S.T.O.P! TIPLINE. The tip line encourages students, parents or community members who know of an unsafe situation in school to anonymously pass on that information to school personnel by using a digital format.

Check it at the [S.T.O.P! TIPLINE here](#). You also can take an online pledge to be a HERO [here](#).



Junior Duck stamp contest



Photos provided by USFWS

Wildlife Service.

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible. Students

A great way to get kids involved in the outdoors is through the Junior Duck Stamp Art and Writing Contest. The contest teaches students about wetlands, migration, conservation, waterfowl and land stewardship.

The contest, which also fosters an appreciation of art and writing, is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and

just have to create their art and writing (which can be only two or three sentences) and send it postmarked by March 15. Judging will take place the end of March and 600 prizes – including certificates, T-shirts, plaques, money and ribbons – will be awarded.

The best of show will go on to represent Kentucky in the national contest. In the past three years, Kentucky’s best of show winners in the writing and/or art portion were students who didn’t realize the extent of their talent or the possibilities that can come from trying.

For information including tips on drawing a duck and examples of conservation messages, see the Clark’s River National Wildlife Refuge [website](#).



24 Valvoline Teacher Achievement Award winners named

The Kentucky Department of Education and Valvoline have selected 24 outstanding Kentucky educators as recipients of the 2017 Valvoline Teacher Achievement Awards (TAA). These teachers qualify to compete for the 2017 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced Oct. 19.

The 24 winning teachers are:

- Carren Cook, Kenwood Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Kimberly Delaney, Longbranch Elementary School, Boone County
- Donna Howard, Whitesville Elementary School, Daviess County
- Kellie Jones, Taylor County Elementary School, Taylor County
- Stephanie Laird, Heath Elementary School, McCracken County
- Jennifer O'Daniel, Olive Hill Elementary School, Carter County
- Elizabeth Ramey, Elkhorn City Elementary School, Pike County
- Byron Wilson, Kentucky School for the Deaf (elementary school)
- Myra Cowan, Robertson County School, Robertson County
- Jennifer Farley, Farristown Middle School, Madison County
- Alexandra Howard, Barrett Traditional Middle School, Jefferson County
- Sarah Mills, Eastside Middle School, Bullitt County
- Candida Murphy, Robert D. Campbell Jr. High School, Clark County
- Chasity Shipley, Barren County Middle School, Barren County
- Brandi Smith, Madison Middle School, Madison County
- Emmanuel Stone, Shelby County West Middle School, Shelby County
- Tamara Chapman, McCracken County High School, McCracken County
- Cathy Conley, Knott County Central High School, Knott County
- Cheryl Dicken, Campbellsville High School, Campbellsville Independent
- Kip Hottman, Fern Creek High School, Jefferson County
- Ashley Onkst, East Jessamine High School, Jessamine County
- Amanda Ratliff, Johnson Central High School, Johnson County

- Tricia Shelton, Boone County High School, Boone County
- Ronald Skillern, Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green Independent

All 24 teachers will be honored at a ceremony in the State Capitol Building.

Gov. Matt Bevin, Education and Workforce Secretary Hal Heiner, Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt

and Sam Mitchell, chief executive officer of Valvoline, will honor the teachers and recognize the Kentucky Elementary, Middle and High School Teachers of the Year. From this group of three finalists, the Kentucky Teacher of the Year will be named and will represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

This marks the 16th year the Department of Education and Ashland/Valvoline have partnered to honor Kentucky educators. Since 1988, approximately \$776,500 has been awarded to 524 teachers in grades K to 12.



The 2016 teachers of the year were recognized at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort Oct. 20, 2015. Joshua DeWar of Engelhard Elementary (Jefferson County), from left, was named the 2016 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Karen Mallonee of College View Middle School (Daviess County) was named the 2016 Middle School Teacher of the Year and Ashley Lamb-Sinclair of North Oldham High School was selected as the 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. Kentucky Commissioner of Education Stephen L. Pruitt, far right, and Sam Mitchell, senior vice president of Ashland and president of Valvoline, congratulated the winners. Photo by Jennifer Ginn, Oct. 20, 2015

\$2,500 scholarship available to would-be entrepreneurs

AdvertiseMint is offering a \$2,500 scholarship for creative students who show entrepreneurial characteristics. The contest, which is open to students ages 18-25 who are enrolled in an accredited high school or college, requires students to create a video pitch for a company they would like to start.

The entry deadline is Dec. 31. Click [here](#) for more information.

7 myths about the 2017-18 FAFSA debunked



Parents of high school seniors will be happy to know that the FAFSA – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid – will be available on Oct. 1 as opposed to Jan. 1, 2017.

Students who are planning to go to college during the 2017–18 academic year can begin filling out the form Oct. 1.

To help you learn more about the FAFSA, the U.S. Department of Education has debunked

these seven myths about the form.

MYTH 1:

I used 2015 tax information last year and didn't get any aid, so it's pointless to fill out the FAFSA again.

FACT: Not pointless! Your aid award could be different this year.

MYTH 2:

I have to update my 2017–18 FAFSA with 2016 data after I file taxes.

FACT: Nope! You won't need to update your FAFSA since you will be using your 2015 tax information.

MYTH 3:

I can choose which year's tax information I provide on the FAFSA.

FACT: No, you won't be able to choose.

MYTH 4:

I will get an award letter from my school earlier.

FACT: That's really up to the school.

MYTH 5:

I can re-use my 2016–17 FAFSA since my 2015 income and tax information will be the same.

FACT: No, you still need to submit a renewal or a new 2017–18 FAFSA.

MYTH 6:

It doesn't matter to me that the FAFSA is available in October; I still have plenty of time to file.

FACT: States, schools and the federal government **each have their own financial aid deadlines.**

MYTH 7:

I can't file my FAFSA in October because I haven't applied to any schools.

FACT: You can still file as long as you list at least one school on your FAFSA.

To see a full explanation for each myth, click [here](#).

Help celebrate your child's principal



NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

[#ThankAPrincipal](#)

Principals in Kentucky and across the country work hard to establish positive learning environments for their students.

October is National Principals Month, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and American Federation of School Administration (AFSA).

NASSP invites students to make one-to-two minute videos about why their principal is so awesome. Students can submit videos on YouTube for a chance to win a prize. [Watch](#)

[last year's winners and read all the fine print.](#)

Parents and teachers can honor the hard work of America's principals all month long by sending ecards and posting to social media with #ThankAPrincipal.

Here are more ways for students and parents to celebrate National Principals Month:

- Write a thank you note for all that your principal does, with specific examples of how he or she has helped you/your family. Invite the PTA or PTO to participate in this activity.
- Contact local businesses for donations of items such as thank you or blank note cards, which students can use to write thank-you notes to the principal. You might work with the school faculty to add the note writing as a class or club project.
- Contact other parents and arrange to provide a weekly treat for the principal during the entire month. For example, week one can be a hot breakfast; week two can be cupcakes,

etc.

- Negotiate with the local papers to run ads celebrating principals' everyday acts by listing some of the great things going on in the school (include candid photos of the principal being a great school leader).
- Write letters to the superintendent showing support of the principal. Use specific examples of things he or she has done to make the school successful.
- Send flowers to the principal as a way to promote a sense of celebration.
- Write a testimonial about your principal that would be appropriate for use during announcements at the school.
- Contact local businesses to arrange for discounts for principals during October.
- Hold a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to a charity in your principal's name.

For more information, go to www.principalsmonth.org.