

working extremely hard at their throwing accuracy, batting, and base running skills to catch up with the other counties who have had a softball team for years. The team is coached by Paul Coulter with the assistance of Steve Seger.



Tiffany Mullins rounds a base.

WCMS mixes it up all year long

By Leo Lyvers

Washington County Middle School made the commitment again this school year to make a move and cross the lines that divide our school. Last year we participated in the Mix It Up Day program in November. We are in good company. This year more than 4 million students in 10,000 schools are expected to participate in this national event.

Washington County Middle School will be taking it one step further. We will be making Mix It Up a monthly event. Each month the Middle School Student Council will make plans, decorate the cafeteria and get the students involved in mixing it up.

During the month of October students came prepared to tell a Halloween joke to someone other than their normal friend. It's great to see the kids interact with someone other than their normal peers.

During November students sit according to their birth month and had to tell two lies and a truth. The other kids born in the same month had to figure out which one was the

truth. Students can get really creative with this activity. More activities will be planned for each month throughout the school year.

Research shows that Mix It Up at Lunch Day produces powerful results. A scientific survey shows that:

- 99 percent of Mix It Up at Lunch Day organizers said they recommend the program to other schools.

- 95 percent said the day prompted students to interact with people outside their normal social circles; nearly 100 percent described those interactions as positive.

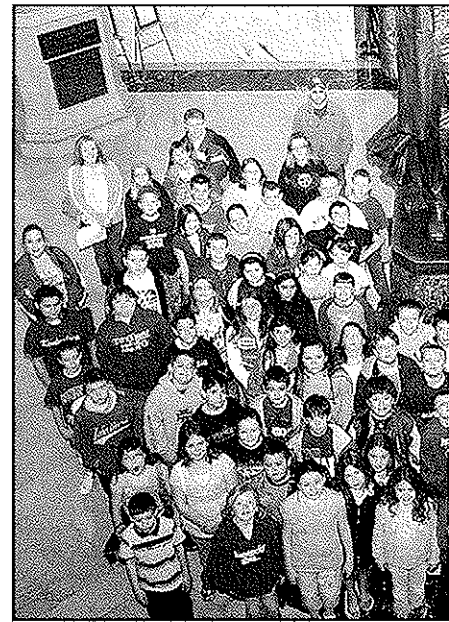
- 87 percent said the event fostered school spirit and unity.

- 83 percent reported the day helped students make new friends.

The survey also showed that Mix It Up at Lunch Day has more powerful outcomes when it's treated as more than a one-day event.

For this reason Washington County Middle School will continue to Mix It Up each month to reduce prejudice among our youth and improve intergroup relations.

Social Studies. Haley Wright and Haley Grigsby received a medal for fourth and fifth place finish. In Art and Humanities Katie Cambro placed first with David Haydon coming in with a third place and Clar



On March 27, the fourth and fifth grade elementary students visited Frankfort, Kentucky, and caught a glimpse of the capitol. They also had the opportunity to visit the Kentucky History Museum. The students seemed to really enjoy seeing the settlement.

Reading Recovery teachers committed to literacy intervention

Reading Recovery® is an early intervention designed to help children in their first year of reading instruction, who are experiencing difficulties learning to read and write. The highly-trained teachers that implement this intervention across the state receive their instruction from Reading Recovery Teacher Leaders. This group of 23, representing over 80 counties, was recognized by the Kentucky Senate in Frankfort on Feb. 28, 2008.

Judy Embry, Ed.D, Director of the Reading Recovery Center at the University of Kentucky, and the Teacher Leaders visited Frankfort to share the success of Reading Recovery. Parents, administrators, teachers, and children shared their testimonials, depicting the tremendous progress made in the intervention. After just 12 to 20 weeks, more than 75 percent of these lowest students reached grade level standards.

Sen. Dan Kelly (District 14) and other legislators honored the Teacher Leaders for their outstand-

ing commitment and work in literacy. Among those recognized was Kathy Mattingly, Teacher Leader in the Washington County Public Schools and Lindy Harmon, Teacher Leader at the University of Kentucky.

Reading Recovery, a short-term intervention, is designed to accelerate the literacy learning of first-grade students who are experiencing difficulty, bringing them to the average of their classroom peers. It has been implemented in over 80 school districts statewide, with over 400 teachers. The Reading Recovery Center is a part of the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, a collaboration of eight state universities, and is operated by the University of Kentucky's College of Education. More information may be found at www.readingrecoverycenter.org and www.kentuckyliteracy.org

For more information about this topic, please contact Dr. Judy Embry, Director, 859-257-5069 or joan.dunning@uky.edu.

Children receive free dental treatment

Friday, Feb. 1 local dentists and hygienists gave over 300 children a new smile! The children received free dental treatment as part of Smile Kentucky! The treatment took place at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry.

Smile Kentucky! is a community partnership to address what the U.S. Surgeon General calls the "most common unmet health need," dental decay. The children receiving care came from 30 elementary schools in Bullitt, Jefferson, Nelson, Shelby and Washington Counties (Fredericktown Elementary). Their dental needs were discovered during free screenings at school. Many of the children have never visited a dentist; others have problems that have gone untreated. Smile Kentucky provided over \$120,000 of dental services.

Kentucky's dental health ranks as one of the poorest in the nation. Local data from Smile Kentucky shows that 33 percent of the children screened had obvious decay.

In addition to the free treatment all students at the participating schools received dental education in their classroom, toothbrushes, toothpaste and Pure Tap water bottles.