



Photo by Charles Mattox

### Nicholas County High School Staff

## Essay contest honors teachers

By Stephen Scaff  
Staff Writer  
steves@carlislemercury.com

In November, Nicholas County Schools in conjunction with The Carlisle Mercury challenged students to write essays about which teacher or staff member has helped them the most and has been the biggest support in their education.

The students who participated all did an outstanding job; it was obvious that they took the assignment to heart and did their best to pay sincere tribute to a teacher or staff member who has made a difference - not only in their education, but in their lives.

The essays were filled with examples of teachers, cafeteria workers and bus monitors who have gone the extra mile to help students with their problems - personal as well as academic. Students wrote about teachers willing to help them understand assignments, even if it was not a subject they taught.

Other common themes were staff members' efforts to improve the "complete" student, showing more confidence in each student's abilities than they showed for themselves; challenging to stretch and reach beyond themselves and dare to give up and quit. There were numerous examples of students who had been helped through these challenges by a staff member.

And sharing that knowledge with others.

This concern for students often reached outside the classroom. Many students wrote about personal struggles in their lives - sometimes the loss of a loved one - that made them want to give up and quit. There were numerous examples of students who had been helped through these challenges by a staff member.

Although each of the essays were clearly written from the heart, there were a few that stood out from the rest. It is our privilege to share these with you.

### Winners of the Essay Contest

Austin Allison - "Mrs. Bretz"  
Chris Vice - "Mrs. Duncan"  
The Carlisle Mercury will award prize baskets to Mrs. Bretz and Mrs. Duncan on Monday, Dec. 15th, recognizing them for "going the extra mile."

### Honorable Mention

Kaitlyn Wells - "Mrs. Peed"  
Ebine Hendricks - "Mrs. Plank"

## Teacher of the Year

- Austin Allison -

Mrs. Penny Bretz taught 8th grade Science and is the best Math tutor, free of charge. I have ever had in my elementary and middle school years. She is one of the most awesome teachers.

Mrs. Bretz is a very good teacher. If you ever need help she is always ready. No matter what she is doing,

she can explain everything to my classmates and me so that we can understand what she is talking about. Mrs. Bretz makes class fun even when the subject matter is not at all interesting to me. She is always joking with us, but she knows when to be serious too. Mrs. Bretz treats all students the same. This

shows that she cares for all of her students. Mrs. Bretz is a great disciplinarian. She is fair and punishes each of us the same, no matter who we think we are. If you break a rule, you know before you do it that you will get after school detention. Her expectations are clear. There is no gray area. She has rules to follow



NCHS Principal Joe Crazen

posted in her room for all students to see.

Mrs. Bretz is very intelligent. She knows all subjects very well. If she can't figure something out, she doesn't give up. She will look high and low to find the answer. She helps with homework no matter if it is in the subject she teaches or not. She is a great math tutor. Whenever something is too hard to understand, she put it in terms that seem easy. She explains things so well that it even seems like fun.

In conclusion, as stated above, Mrs. Bretz is a wonderful teacher. She cares about all her students. She is tough, fair and loving all rolled into one. I am glad that I have had the opportunity to be her student.



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### School Board Staff

L-R, Front row: Kathy Fryman, Fay Robinson, Pam Randolph, Shellie Coldiron; Back row: Greg Reid, Hank Bond, Kevin Miller, Doug Buchanan, Corey Mitchell, Jeremy McCord, and Bodie Stephens

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from Superintendent Greg Reid and Nicholas County Board of Education

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## Momma Duncan

- Chris Vice -

I remember the summer day on the way to baseball practice that my Dad told me Mrs. Duncan was going to be our new 5th grade Language teacher. The fear began to set in, because of all the rumors I'd heard about Mrs. Duncan. I'd heard she gives a lot of homework, yells a lot, and is the hard-nose teacher. Come on, her own kids' nickname for her is "Hitler's Mother."

You can imagine the fear of entering 5th grade and knowing at one point in the day you're going to face Mrs. Duncan. But soon reality set in. It was the end of the day and my last class was with Mrs. Duncan; my turn had come. Now that school started, I wanted to see if the rumors were true. I knew I could handle the yelling because my Mom is that way. I guess the thing I feared the most was the massive homework assignments because everyone knows kids dislike homework. Mrs. Duncan is known to

give a lot of homework. As time has gone by this year I have found that Mrs. Duncan had a sense of humor and she inspires us to do our best and pushes us to our limits. She is a tough cookie but it is only to make us better in reading and language. I had to give my first oral report in front of the class and I was shaking in my boots. I know this assignment would only make me a better public speaker and prepare me for my next oral report.

In conclusion I guess some of the rumors were true: she is the most demanding teacher that I have had since starting school and she does like giving out homework assignments, even on fall break, but it is only to see us flourish and do our best. My mom tells us that someday I will think Mrs. Duncan was one of the best teachers I will ever have because she was hard on us. I don't know about her being "Hitler's Mother" but she is a mother who is a teacher and I think that is what makes her special and a great teacher.



Family Resource Center Staff  
Paula Hunter and Susan Flowers



Photo by Charles Mattox

### Nicholas County Elementary and Middle School Staff

## Teacher Essay

- Kaitlyn Wells -

Did you have that special teacher that inspired, encouraged you, to try new things? I have had a teacher that has done these things to me. She encouraged me to read, and got me interested into language arts. I have been in the highest language arts class for a few years now. Now I am interested to learn proper grammar and learn new things.

This lady was my 7th grade language arts teacher. Her name is Mrs. Peed. This year is her first year to our school. Even though I only had her for three months until she was moved to a different area in my school. As soon as I met Mrs. Peed, for than on... she always seems like a bookworm. She has read so many books that I could count! She is not only a bookworm, she can be humorous. She always made us laugh in class. She made activities for us to do to get us into it. She helped us relate to real life things.

She is also encouraging: I will never forget when she made my paper "bleed red", when I saw how many changes I need to make I almost fell over! She showed me many ways to improve my personal narrative. And helped me improve my vocabulary! There are many ways how Mrs. Peed has been an inspiration to my education in my 7th grade year in language arts. We both have had so many funny times together. I would bug the snout out of her just for her to let me play with her "apple" paperweight. When we had free time she would let me play and throw in the air.

On October 30, 2008, Mr. Parrish and all the 7th grade teachers got all of us together in one room. Mr. Parrish announced that starting the next day; Mrs. Peed was no longer going to be my language arts teacher. When I hear those words come out of his mouth, my mouth dropped. I could not believe it! I was speechless! When we were dismissed, everyone rushed to give her a bear hug. I was going to hug her and I was going to cry! I still visit Mrs. Peed and see her almost every day. She told me personally that if I needed any help she was willing to do so.

Mrs. Peed is like my hero. She saved me from getting bored and helping and showing my ways to get involved. I will never forget that Mrs. Peed is such a unique person and teacher and a close friend.

As I said every person has a teacher or staff member they had in school that inspired them. Think about how much one teacher has the power to make you realize the importance of school, make a difference in your education. This is the reason I wrote about my teacher, Mrs. Peed.



NCHS Cafeteria Staff  
L-R: Helen Fryman, Lisa Sexton, Christy Allison and Nancy Curry absent was Tara Sexton.

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Thank You Teachers!  
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