

News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF

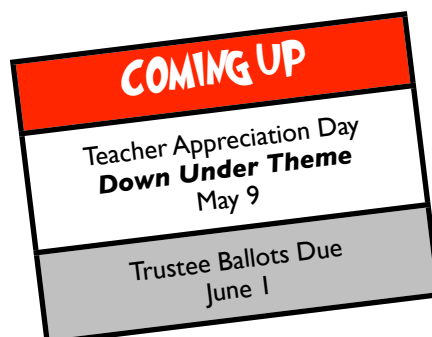


IT'S TIME TO GO DOWN UNDER

G'day mates it's time to get ready for Teacher Appreciation Day on May 9. Using an Australian theme will be fun for our teachers and students as they share ab 'original' expressions of thanks to honor their teachers.

One thing we know about appreciation is that it 'boomerangs' back and blesses the giver as much as the receiver so get ready for a great day!

Check out the packets online and be sure and watch the Thursday Tip of the week for some fun and easy ideas of how to make your teacher appreciation day a hopping good time.



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Celebrations:



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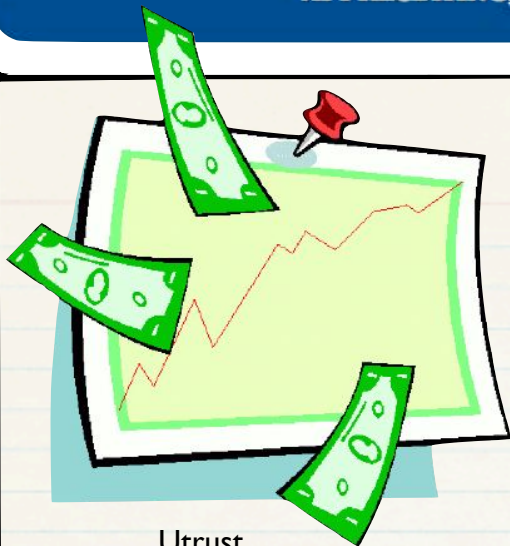
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Utrust

Mini grants may be available to member school boards and their employees as early as 2014 under a program approved by its trustees on Saturday, April 28. The mini grants are designed to help boards control the cost of unemployment through excellent employee practices and improved relationships with employees. Under the program, mini grants may be made to individual employees or schools to enhance teaching and learning or the school board may choose to trump the process and use the funds available to the board for one or more larger projects.

The application process will be extremely simple and limited to no more than a single page according to Dr. Dan Tollett, Utrust administrator.

“Essentially, the application will consist of why the funds are needed, how they will be used and contact information about

the administrator of the project,” he said.

“We anticipate that we will be able to fund projects next school year if superintendents and school boards will help us control unemployment costs in their school district,” David Jones, chairman of the Board of Trustees emphasized. “The better job school boards do with controlling unemployment costs, the more money will be available for mini grants.”

Because the primary purpose of the mini grants is to help local school boards control unemployment compensation costs, only school boards which meet five standards of excellence in employment practices will be eligible to receive mini grants after the first year. That will not be a requirement during the first year of the mini grants so school boards will have an additional year to meet the five standards.

Each board that meets five standards will receive a Five-Star Award. Each superintendent and school board will be responsible to assess whether or not it

meets the standards. If it does, the board chairman and superintendent simply sign a statement saying that the board has met the five standards and qualified for the Five-Star Award.

To view the five standards, click [here](#).

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SHARE APPRECIATION LETTERS

Do you ever wonder why you do certain things or why other things are worth your time? That's good to do every now and then because it helps us evaluate our priorities.

Here at Utrust, appreciation is something we spend a lot of time on. Those of you involved in the EAP know what we mean and it is always a good idea to remember why we do what we do. It's that moment when a custodian, with tears in her eyes, says "I guess you don't have to be a teacher to make a difference in a kid's life". Or that time when a librarian shares "Seeing those students holding thank you notes they had written and hearing them read aloud to me words of gratitude, reminded me of how great it is to do what I do." It might be the teacher who was feeling down and out about some things who

after being thanked by students, realized that maybe, just maybe she was in the right place doing the right thing.

Appreciation matters. We want to not just remind you that what you are doing is so important but we also want to ask for your help. If you have received any letters, notes or emails from students or honorees that are encouraging and inspiring, we would love to see those. We are looking at adding a section on our website devoted to real life responses and reactions to the work we do through the EAP that will serve to help us all remember why we do what we do.

Please send us anything you have along those lines and we may just share them on the website. Send to djohnson@tnuct.com

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Singing in the Rain

Well we aren't actually singing in the rain but we need to know if you are doing any of the songs we write and put in the packets. These songs are super fun, cute and easy to perform and best of

all they are FREE! Check out this [link](#) to see just how easy it is to do the songs that will make your honorees feel blessed beyond measure.

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A FEW OF OUR SWAG BAG FAVORITE FINDS... SUPPORT STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

The Hollywood stars were shining brightly in the sky during Support Staff Appreciation Day. It is obvious the students had a fabulous time honoring these special staff members. There were so many red carpets, paparazzi, "limos" and adoring fans it would make Hollywood blush. Thank you for going over-the-top to show your appreciation to the Support Staff. They are obviously the shining stars of the school. Here are a few of our favorite finds in our swag bags:

Benton County

Briarwood had a "limo" deliver their staff with paparazzi waiting to take their pictures. The photos submitted are

some of the best pictures we've ever seen. Several of them are worth 1,000 words showing the fun and excitement that took place on the special day.

Camden Junior High School featured large star with thank you messages for each of the workers.

Camden Elementary went all out to honor their support staff with special announcements, a lunch and special artwork created by the students.

Big Sandy School made movie posters for the staff with a red carpet for their "stars".

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Carter County

Central Elementary School had a special announcement recognizing their support staff and thanking them for all their hard work.

Hamblen County

Union Heights Elementary also had some great photos with a red carpet and the students "anxiously awaiting the appearance of two famous ladies" and them waving to "their adoring fans".

Jackson County

Gainesboro Elementary and the superintendent with the system

coordinator made the day special for the support staff by using the artwork to create a thank you poster for each worker.

Sumner County

Knox Doss Middle School pulled out all the stops to celebrate their staff. The students created goodie bags featured in one of the Thursday Tips and invited community groups to fill them. On the special day, the A-Team presented them to the staff members along with thoughtful thank you notes.

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Hawkins County

Bulls Gap students escorted their support staff into a special assembly held in their honor and highlighted Ms. Farmer who has been with the school for 55 years. The students gave her a standing ovation. Outstanding!

Carter's Valley Elementary had an adorable tablescape and said about their support staff, "we appreciate them more than they will ever know" in the summary of the day's festivities.

Church Hill Elementary held a delicious, relaxing lunch for their "stars" to escape the paparazzi and enjoy some "me time".

Church Hill Middle School had the support staff walk the red carpet outside where a

"limo" (decorated golf cart) was waiting to give them a ride around the football field. Fun!

Church Hill Intermediate had a real limo and driver take their staff members to a "luxurious" lunch...wow!

Clinch School had their very own "Hollywood lounge" for rest and relaxation. We also loved the bundle of handmade thank you cards created by the students and tied with ribbon for each of the workers.

Hawkins Elementary submitted one of the very best videos we've ever received. It featured the support staff members walking the red carpet to the applause of their adoring fans and paparazzi. Fantastic.

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Joseph Rogers Primary had a Joseph Rogerswood Walk of Fame showcasing Hollywood stars with pictures of each of the staff members.

Keplar Elementary's enthusiasm for this special day was evident. "All of our staff dressed up and had a blast. All of our students loved being a part of the fan club."

McPheeter's Bend worked hard to show their appreciation by creating cute pop-up cards for each staff member.

Mooreburg Elementary held a special movie premiere for their support staff. At the end of the movie, they were given special autograph books that were signed by teachers and staff thanking them for all of their hard work.

Mt. Carmel had incredible artwork featuring their support staff members and held a special assembly in their honor for the entire student body.

Pathways Alternative School had a Paparazzi Coverage Page on each of their staff members and the students told them "thank you" all throughout the day. We love that!

Rogersville Middle School did an awesome job "digging up dirt" on their support staff by writing interesting and special things about each staff member.

St. Clair Elementary created a very honoring slide show of their staff members as a keepsake for their special day.

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Surgoinsville Elementary involved the entire student body by asking them to dress as their favorite Hollywood stars. The Duck Dynasty boys, Jason Aldean, Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen and even Steve Urkel were spotted that day!

Volunteer High School submitted a video of their support staff members walking the red carpet to receive their "oscars". Everyone looked like they were having a great day.

Thank you for working hard to show these staff members how much you appreciate them.

Now, we are leaving Hollywood and putting on our cowboy hats to go to the land down under to celebrate our teachers using the Australia theme.

It is our last appreciation day. Show them how "aussie"um they are and that you are thankful to have them working in your school system.

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Support Staff Appreciation Day
LUCKY STAR WINNER

Congratulations to Jackson
County Schools for winning
\$100 for the Lucky Star
random drawing.



Watch Out!!

Ballots for trustee positions in the East and West have been sent out. We need you to get your votes back in to us by June 1 for these important spots. We love our trustees and are so grateful for all they do for Utrust!

Follow us...

To keep up with what's going on and be encouraged yourself, follow us on twitter @utrustEAP and friend us on facebook @ Utrust EAP.

