



Campfire Chronicle



Copper Ridge Elementary Newsletter

I will work hard today because hard work pays off!!!

Welcome Back, a message from Dr. Jennifer Atkins

Welcome back to school! We have had such a wonderful first few weeks of school as we begin our **"ADVENTURE ON THE RIDGE"**. I have met many of you in car line or at open house and hope to get to meet the rest of the parents in the coming months. I am so excited and blessed to be a part of this sweet, supportive community. The students and staff have already gotten into a good daily routine, and I have seen brilliant lessons happening all over the building!

What's going on in class?

The teachers in grades 2nd through 5th will begin a new method of teaching writing during the next few weeks to thoroughly prepare our students for middle and high school, for college and career, and for our new TNReady assessments. The method is called SRSD, and it will take students through all the stages of writing a good informational paper. Students will get to examine exemplar or perfect papers to use as models, and they will have a chance to work with partners to strengthen their own papers. Ask your students about POW-Tide (a graphic organizer we will use to help us write) in the next few weeks...I think you will be impressed with how much they are learning. Our first graders will be introduced to SRSD later in the year.

In math, students are already working on new skills in each grade level. Families can greatly help their students by practicing math facts at home. For primary grades, kids should memorize their addition and subtraction facts. For intermediate grades, students must master their multiplication facts through 12x12 and division facts. How can you help? Find what works best for your own child. Do they like to sing songs? There are countless songs, videos, and raps online that teach math facts. Does your child do better with skill and drill activities? Use flashcards (Dollar Tree) or free websites such as www.math-drills.com or Xtramath to practice facts. See your child's class newsletters for more options.

Parent Communication- I will continue to send out a weekly phone and email message with current announcements and important dates. If you are not receiving the weekly message, please call the office or email me to be added to the list.

What's going on outside of class?

The new Kindergarten playground is being installed now. We are waiting on completion and delivery of mulch to have our ribbon cutting ceremony. We are so thankful to the PTO for supporting us in the important project.

I wanted to thank all of our safety patrol students for working hard each morning and afternoon to load and unload our cars. This is an important job that we couldn't do without these dependable student volunteers. As the weather gets colder, we will be looking for parent volunteers to open car doors in the mornings when the temperatures drop below freezing. If you love colder weather and have 15 or 20 minutes to volunteer on those mornings, please send me an email so that we can start a Cold Cougar Volunteer list. (jennifer.atkins@knoxschools.org)

September 2015

Dates to Remember

- ☺ Sept. 3rd - 21st—Coupon Book Sales
- ☺ Sept. 4th - PTO membership sales end.
- ☺ Sept. 7th - Labor Day Holiday
- ☺ Sept. 9th - End 4^{1/2} week grading period
- ☺ Sept. 14th - PTO evening meeting at 6pm
- ☺ Sept. 21st - Coupon Book sales end
- ☺ Sept. 25th - 1st/5th grade Grandparent's Day
- ☺ Sept. 28th - In-Service Day
- ☺ Sept 29th - Copper Ridge Day

Looking Ahead....

- ☺ Oct. 5th - PTO Meeting 3pm
- ☺ Oct. 7th - Fall Picture Day

Dr. Jennifer Atkins, Principal
Denise Blefko, Assistant Principal
Copper Ridge Elementary
2502 E. Brushy Valley Rd.
Powell, TN 37849
(865) 938-7002
<http://www.knoxschools.org/copperridge>

Welcome to Copper Ridge, Dr. Jennifer Atkins - Principal!

I'm Dr. Atkins, your new principal! I grew up in this part of town and attended Brickey, where my mother was a teacher, Halls Middle, and Halls High School. I attended Pellissippi State and received my Associates Degree. I also hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a Master of Science Degree in Elementary Education, both from the University of Tennessee. Later, I went back to gain an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision and a Doctorate of Education Degree in Executive Leadership from Lincoln Memorial University.

I began my teaching career with the Knox County Schools in 2000 as a teacher at Fountain City Elementary School where I taught Kindergarten, third, and fifth grade. I also served as a second grade and fourth grade teacher at Brickey-McCloud Elementary School. I worked as the Assistant Principal at Halls Elementary School for four years and the Assistant Principal at Copper Ridge Elementary for four days. I am so proud and blessed to be the new Principal at this amazing school.

My husband and I have four children of our own. My oldest is a freshman at Pellissippi studying engineering. My daughter is a sophomore at Halls, and the two little boys are at Brickey-McCloud. We are a very busy, fun-loving family. I'm sure we will run into one another at the Walmart or other places around the community.

Please feel free to contact me at Jennifer.atkins@knoxschools.org or call 865-938-7002 if I can help you or your child in any way.

Welcome to Copper Ridge, Denise Blefko- Assistant Principal

It is with great excitement that I join the Copper Ridge community as the new assistant principal. I have quickly learned "The Ridge" is well known as a caring and community focused school that holds high academic standards. It is my privilege to begin work with the exceptional learning teams that support the continued academic and personal growth of all of our students.

I am returning home to Knox County from Loudoun County Virginia where I taught for 18 years, first as a school counselor and then as Elementary Administrative Intern, and Assistant Principal as well as a summer school principal. Prior to working in Virginia, I taught second grade for Cobb County Schools in Georgia and I had the wonderful privilege of working at both South Doyle Middle School teaching sixth and seventh grade language arts and second grade at Bonny Kate Elementary here in Knox County.

I am proud to say that I graduated from the University of Tennessee Knoxville earning a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a concentration in Multiple Disabilities. I completed the masters program in Psychological Services, School Counseling, at Marymount University and earned a second masters degree in School Administration and Leadership from George Mason University. I have also completed a certificate program in Special Education Leadership from George Mason University.

As an assistant principal I want to enrich and support student learning with teamwork and collegiality while making learning fun and meaningful for each student. I look forward to getting to know and working with our students, staff, and families. Go Cougars!!!

Welcome New Teachers and Staff

Jennifer Kitts - 1st Grade - *I'm so excited to be back at CRE this year! This will be my fourth year teaching First Grade and I love it! I taught First Grade at CRE for one year, from August 2012 to May 2013, and for the past two years at, Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Academy. I live in Halls with my husband John, and our two sons, Jonathan and Joshua. I'm looking forward to a great school year!*

Valerie Sharp - 4th Grade - *My family and I moved to Knoxville this summer from Abingdon, VA. This is my 11th year as an educator. 4th Grade is awesome! I'm very proud to be part of the Copper Ridge family, and I look forward to a great year. Go Cougars!!*

Lauren Bounds - 5th Grade - *My name is Lauren Bounds and I feel so blessed to be a part of Copper Ridge this school year! I grew up in the Halls community which makes working at Copper Ridge an extra special opportunity for me. I graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor's degree in 2009. Upon graduating I taught first grade for four years. I am excited to be teaching fifth grade and am looking forward to an amazing year!*

Carrie Sullivan - Special Ed. - *I was born and raised in Athens, Georgia and moved to Powell, Tennessee in 1997. I graduated from Powell High School in 2000 and went to the University of Tennessee. I earned my Bachelor's degree in 2005 and my Master's degree in Elementary Ed and Special Ed in 2010. This will be my fourth year of teaching and I am very happy to be at Copper Ridge Elementary! Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and my precious Miniature Schnauzers Oscar and Daphne. I also love to travel and enjoy reading and watching movies. I am looking forward to an awesome year here at Copper Ridge.*

Angella Thaller - Special Ed. - *Hi there! My name is Angela Thaller and I'm the new part-time resource teacher. I am originally from Wisconsin, and did my undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin. Go Badgers! Go Packers!! My husband and I lived in Colorado for 6 years and that is where I have had all my classroom teaching experience. We recently moved to Tennessee and I am blessed to be back in the classroom. We have 2 biological daughters, ages 7 and 4, and we are also in the process of adopting our third daughter from South Korea! With a growing family, new job, and an adoption underway, I have a ton of free time to enjoy running, cooking, and gardening. But my favorite pass time is grabbing a cup of coffee with a friend. I would like to say thank you to everyone here at CRE for being so kind and welcoming! I am excited to get to know all the staff and students better in the weeks and months to come! Cheers!*

Rebecca Hutchinson - Teaching Assistant - *Hello!!! My name is Rebecca Hutchison and I am the new Teaching Assistant in SPED. I was born in Knoxville, TN and I graduated from Fulton High School in 2004. I have two kids at Copper Ridge and one in Halls Middle School. For the past year I have had the opportunity to sub at Copper Ridge and loved every minute of it, so when the TA position came available I really wanted it. I really enjoy being part of "The Ridge"*

Heather Rouse - Guidance - *My name is Heather Rouse, I am a Knoxville native and love it. This is my first year as a school counselor; I recently graduated from Lincoln Memorial University with a master's degree in school counseling. I am at two different schools; Karns Elementary as well as Copper Ridge Elementary. I was so excited to be placed at both schools and am thrilled to be working with students, parents and staff in the Powell/Karns community. I am looking forward to a great school year!*

Jeannette Weyant - Psychologist - *Hi! My name is Jeannette Weyant and I am the new school psychologist at Copper Ridge! I am so excited to be here! Thank you to everyone for welcoming me into the school community. I am thankful to be able to work with great colleagues, students, and families. I will be on campus 3.5 days per week. I am the school psychologist at Halls High and spend the rest of my week there. I am new to Knoxville, having just moved here from California this summer. East Tennessee is truly a beautiful place and I'm happy to be here! When I'm not working I enjoy hiking with my dog at Ijams and the Smoky Mountains. I look forward to having a wonderful school year!*

Dr. Jennifer Atkins, Principal

Denise Blefko, Assistant Principal

Kindergarten - Debbie Neal, Krista Nocera, Natasha Patchen, Melanie Peterson, Shawn Smith

First Grade - Carla Henry, Kristie Hensley, Jennifer Kitts, Carla Wilkerson

Second Grade - Nikki Belk, Dennis Brock, Pam Lewis, Brianne Roberts

Third Grade - Regina Adams, Janet Loveday, Laura O'Dell, Amie Powell, Destina Tucker

Fourth Grade - Sheryl Andrews, Constance Henley, Deborah Magers, Valerie Sharp

Fifth Grade - Lauren Bounds, Janna Hungerford, David Leonard, Kasey Mathis

Teaching Assistants - Cindy Dunsmore, Kelley Johnston, Sandy Spangler, Jami Blair, Jamie Brown,
Laura Mullins (PAC), Jackie Givens, Janice Marshall, Rebecca Hutchison

Encore Teachers - Suzanne Binkley- Music, Theresa Kindrick - Art, Harold McNeese - P.E.,
Christie Satterfield - P.E., Allison Shipwash - Library

Special Education - Heather Abbott, Melissa Gray, Carrie Sullivan, Heather Tetzloff, Angela Thaller

Special Areas - Gina Longmire - Curriculum Coach, Beth Millirons - GT Coach, Lora Adzima - Speech,
Heather Rouse - Guidance, Jeannette Weyant - Psych, R. Lankford - Soc. Worker, Katherine Cox - Nurse,
Officer Sanderson, Officer Crabtree, Peter Capell - OT/PT, Abby Green - OT/PT

Custodians - Johnny Lay - Head, Vicki Parrott, Jessica Williams

Cafeteria - Kathy Atkins - Manager, Kira Boyatt, Clarissa Byrd, Lyrica Russell, Matt Sewell, Dane Thomas



Don't forget to order your class T-shirt, on sale now thru **September 25th!!**

Students will be invited to wear their t-shirts on the new Copper Ridge Days held every month!



Coupon book sales kick off September 3rd!

\$8 of each book stays at Copper Ridge

Earn great prizes and help support our school!!

Grandparents' Day

1st and 5th grade Grandparent's Day will be on Friday, September 25th!! The students will perform a special song presentation and enjoy a delicious lunch with their family and friends.

It's always a special day at The Ridge!

Teacher News

Janet Loveday - 3rd Grade: Thank you parents for coming out to open house. I loved meeting everyone and we are off to a fabulous start in 3rd grade. Please remember to have your child practice their spelling words as well as their Multiplication flash cards throughout the week.

Regina Adams - 3rd Grade: Author's chair will be given out weekly to the best author for writing.

Classroom Needs

Janet Loveday - 3rd Grade: Stickers

Suzanne Binkley - Music: Kleenex

Lora Joy Adzima - Speech: 5 mil laminating pouches, Velcro dots, Teacher Pay Teachers gift card (www.teacherspayteachers.com), volunteers for cutting out laminated materials. Please schedule with Ms. Lora Joy

Clinic - Kleenex and Sandwich Bags



Volunteering is a wonderful way to make a difference in your child's education! Please remember to complete the volunteer form and return it to the school.

Library News

The library is now open for the school year!

Students should be coming home with some great books to read. Please encourage your child to read for at least **20 minutes** at night or even better read with your child. Reading is a fundamental part of education and children who read succeed in school and in life. For more information about why reading is so important you can go to <http://readingfoundation.org/>. If your child is having trouble finding books they like to read, I am always here to help.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Alli



Read with your child 20 minutes everyday! It will be the most important 20 minutes of their day!

Notes from Mrs. Lora Joy, Speech

- * We have started using our Interactive speech/language Notebooks.
- * We are reviewing speech sounds and language goals.
- * Please make sure you have sent in the Parent Info Form back to school in the speech folder.
- * Monthly Speech/Language Homework Calendars will come home in September. Please practice skills with your child.
- * Ask your child about their Speech Star Card

Thank you to The Hurd Family and The Maples Family for donations of smarties and stickers!

2015-16 PTO Board

President - Jennifer Oxley

1st VP Fundraising (1) - Tarah Goodman

1st VP Fundraising (2) - Michele King

2nd VP Volunteers - Suzanne Stokes

3rd VP Memberships - Haley Turner

Corresponding Secretary - Kim Taylor

Treasure - Jennifer Messer

Historian - Gretchen Hollifield

Parliamentarian - Allison Palmer

Teacher Representatives

Kindergarten - Natasha Patchen

1st - Carla Henry

2nd - Nikki Belk

3rd - Gigi Adams

4th - Sheryl Andrews

5th - Lauren Bounds

Special Areas - Suzanne Binkley

Special Education - Heather Tetzloff



Things
You Can
Do

Save those labels, **ALL YEAR!**

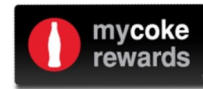
BoxTops, please label bag
with teachers name so their
class gets credit!

Labels for Education (Include
Barcode for credit)

Tyson A+ Project

Coke Rewards

Coke Tabs



Thank you for sending in Boxtops!! We are off to
such a great start! Here are the class totals so far
(Note, not all tops have been counted)

Mrs. Patchen - 20

Mrs. Henry - 1

Mrs. Wilkerson - 43

Mr. Brock - 20

Mrs. Adams - 33

Mrs. Loveday - 268

Mrs. Andrews - 98

Mrs. Henley - 92

Ms. Hungerford - 20

Mr. Leonard - 112

Mrs. Mathis - 90



Copper Ridge Elementary PTO Membership

Be sure to invite all parents, grandparents, friends,
relatives and neighbors to purchase a PTO membership.

The cost is \$5.00 and all money raised stays at our
school to help purchase computers, books, playground
equipment and more!

Special prizes for the top three sellers!

Sell 5 or more memberships to get a free sundae from
Burster's Ice Cream!

Top Selling Class in each grade gets a Popsicle Party!!!

Every membership comes with a discount card to local
businesses, a free sandwich from Chick-Fil-A and a free
dessert from Aubrey's!

September 4 is the last day to purchase a membership!!

Thank YOU for Your Support!

PTO Membership totals as of August 25th

K - Mrs. Krista - 10

3rd - Mrs. Loveday - 28

Mrs. Patchen - 10

Mrs. Powell - 16

Mrs. Shawn - 4

Mrs. Tucker - 11

Mrs. Debbie - 2

Mrs. Osborne - 6

Mrs. Melanie - 2

Mrs. Adams - 3

1st - Mrs. Hensley - 19

4th - Mrs. Magers - 12

Mrs. Wilkerson - 14

Mrs. Henley - 9

Mrs. Kitts - 11

Mrs. Andrews - 5

Mrs. Henry - 8

Mrs. Sharp - 2

2nd - Ms. Belk - 20

5th - Mrs. Mathis - 17

Mr. Brock - 20

Mrs. Bounds - 7

Mrs. Lewis - 14

Ms. Hungerford - 5

Mrs. Roberts - 13

Mr. Leonard - 2

Way to go Copper Ridge!!

Copper Ridge Elementary has been named a 2015 reward school by the TN Department of Education!

Let's keep up the good work!



Please be sure to send your child in athletic shoes on P.E. Days!



Like Copper Ridge PTO on Facebook to stay up to date on school events and announcements.



@CopperRidge1



Show your school spirit!

The first Copper Ridge Day is Tuesday, September 29th!



CLINIC NEEDS

- * Volunteers! The clinic is in need of volunteers. Basic duties include taking temperatures, giving out ice, bandaging cuts and calling parents. If you can help please e-mail Dr. Atkins at jennifer.atkins@knoxschools.org.
- * Kleenex and Sandwich Bags



Welcome Officer Sanderson to our school. We are glad to have you on board!

THANK YOU TO OUR PTO SPONSORS!



- ◆ All Bounce Events & Rentals
- ◆ Beach Bums Tanning Salon
- ◆ Bel-Air Grill
- ◆ Biketopia
- ◆ Bruster's
- ◆ Bojangles
- ◆ Buddy's Bar-b-q
- ◆ Elidio's Pizza
- ◆ First Century Bank
- ◆ Five Star Graphics

- ◆ Froyoz
- ◆ Gatti's Pizza
- ◆ Halls Flower Shop
- ◆ Halftime Pizza & Grille
- ◆ Jet's Pizza
- ◆ Kenjo Market
- ◆ Krazy Kester's Fireworks
- ◆ Lulu's Tea Room
- ◆ Papa Dom's Pizza
- ◆ Palmer Heating & Air
- ◆ Pediatric Dentistry, PC



- ◆ Petro's Chili & Chips
- ◆ Powell's Painting
- ◆ R. Atchley Maples, D.D.S.
- ◆ Rodan + Fields Dermatologists - Tara Woodford - consultant
- ◆ Steak 'n Shake
- ◆ Steamboat Sandwiches
- ◆ Sports Locker of TN
- ◆ Vaughn Pharmacy
- ◆ Waffle House