

NTI: RESCUING SUMMER?

Ms. Helton's 3rd graders are proud of their totem poles that represent the Native American culture. (From left to right: Ronald Goshen, Noah Robinson, Whitney Teague, Janie Tolliver, and Kaitlyn Say-



Edmund Dye

A total of six Non-Traditional Instruction days have already been used in the month of January for Harlan County Schools. These NTI days are utilized when side roads are too dangerous for buses to run. However, the main roads may not be hazardous which gives the staff the option to come to work or work from home.

Teachers are required to maintain

a minimum of an online presence from the hours of 8:00 AM —11:30 AM and 12:00 PM—3:00 PM. Parents or students can also call the school and leave a message with the principal.

While some believe that NTI days are 'busy-work', others believe many activities they've been asked to do reinforced several things they have learned during school. For

example, 7th grader Kali Blevins

said one of her choices was to create a scatter plot, something she'd learned in 6th grade. "It was nice to see something I had almost forgotten about because I hadn't practiced that skill in sometime," she stated.

My question to you is, would you want to spend your summer in school or at home having fun and enjoy being a kid? I would rather be at home, like most of you. Many others including 7th grader Kaleigh Nicely believe similarly. "It means that I can have more summer vacation time!" Nicely said.

Wallins teachers are also excited about getting to use ten NTI days, if needed. Mrs. Cottrell says, "There are a lot of positive things happening as a result of NTI days. However, one of my favorite things about NTI days is getting to communicate with parents.

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**Bristol
Belcher**

We are very pleased with the way that our students, parents, and teachers have responded to NTI days 1 thru 6. I have had an overwhelming positive response from everyone involved. The students, along with the help of their very support parents have produced some very impressive projects and assignments. I have had the opportunity to view many of the videos, projects, and power points that the students have turned into their teachers so far....and I am very impressed. I did not see the NTI process going this smoothly with the concept being so new to all of us. Given the experience of this process this year, I only expect it to be more fluid for students, parents, and teachers in the future. I have had many students comment to me that they have enjoyed many of the activities that they have had to do at home on days that we could not have school due to inclement weather. They told me that they have enjoyed the time that they collaborated with their parents, grandparents, or whoever they may have been working with on these assignments. I would like to encourage you to keep up the "Excellent" work that have put forth on these assignments. I would like to "Thank" all of the parents and guardians for your continued support that makes Wallins Elementary and Junior High. Due to this continued support our students have shown the success that we so constantly see year end and year out. **I am so very proud of our students and our school! Keep up the great work! GO DEVILS!**

This Month In History January

10th, 1776 - *Common Sense*, a fifty page pamphlet by Thomas Paine, was published. It sold over 500,000 copies in America and Europe, influencing, among others, the authors of the Declaration of Independence.

1st, 1863 - The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

28th, 1986 - The Space Shuttle *Challenger* broke apart 73 seconds into its flight, leading to the deaths of its seven crew members.

12th, 1991 - Congress authorized President George Bush to use military force against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

January Birthdays

Elvis Presley, Paul Revere, Betsy Ross, Joan of Arc, Millard Fillmore, Richard Nixon, Alexander Hamilton, John Hancock, John Winthrop, Benedict Arnold, Martin Luther King, Benjamin Franklin, Muhammad Ali, Daniel Webster, Robert E. Lee, Edgar Allan Poe, Stonewall Jackson, Wolfgang Mozart, Thomas Paine, William McKinley, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lewis Carroll, Jackie Robinson, Pocahontas, Sir Isaac Newton, Dolly Parton, Alicia Keys, Liam Hemsworth, and Eli Manning.

Local Folks

Jacee Rouse

Mike Howard or "Mountain Santa" as we know him, of Wallins Creek, KY believes there is still good in this world. He sees this when people donate toys, money, and time to bring Christmas to the people of Eastern Kentucky.

"I enjoy doing it for the kids and the people who do not have much at Christmas", Mike says.

Mike works year-round, but the busiest time is Christmas. Donations of toys, candy, clothes, and toiletries

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