



## **Teacher of the Month** **September 2006**

### **Matthew Fentress – Critzer Elementary School**

The selection committee is proud to recommend that Mr. Matthew Fentress, fifth grade teacher at Critzer Elementary School, be named as Teacher of the Month for September 2006. Matthew is a graduate of New River Community College and Radford University with a degree in elementary education. He has been an employee of Pulaski County Public Schools for five (5) years.

Matthew has distinguished himself as a dedicated teacher who finds ways of instilling a love of learning in each student. Mr. Fentress strives to engage each student in active learning and endeavors to challenge students to create and explore. He encourages students to have an appreciation for different perspectives and creates a climate where peer to peer responsibility and empathy among students for each other is the norm.

Mr. Fentress was nominated by several different people. One nominator was a parent whose son was in his fifth grade classroom. The nomination form included a comment that summarizes the reasons that Mr. Fentress is such an exemplary educator. The parent said: "You cannot pay someone to inspire your children. Instilling a love of learning in fifth graders is priceless." Another nominator who is a former student verified the parent's perception. She said: "Reading is my favorite thing in school because Mr. Fentress makes it fun!"

Matthew also finds time to sponsor the Journalism Club at Critzer and writes the school newspaper.

With his creative spirit and strong work ethic, Mr. Fentress has made huge contributions to Critzer Elementary School's students, staff, and parents. These characteristics reflect great credit on him and the Pulaski County Public Schools.