

THE HURRICANE

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The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

March/April/May 2014

3rd Quarter – by Cody Tibbetts, AC-T Principal

Once again the Albert City-Truesdale students achieved at a high level on the Iowa Assessments! When looking at our district achievements, 83% of the AC-T students in grades 2nd-6th scored at or above proficiency levels on the reading portion of the Iowa Assessments. 88% of the students scored proficient on the math assessment. In addition, 95% of students scored at or above proficiency levels in science! We are proud of the achievement levels our students have attained. AC-T faculty and staff are deeply committed to helping each student achieve to the highest possible level.

I would also like to recognize that AC-T elementary will provide a certificate to 28 students, for scoring at or above the 70 percentile on their complete composite score, with many others making extreme improvements from last year's percentile rank. I am very proud of the students' achievement and the work that our staff and families have put forth working together as "ONE".

Our students and staff were able to celebrate these accomplishments by going to the Emmetsburg Rec Center on Wednesday, March 5th.



In addition to these achievements, we look forward this spring to the 3rd and 4th grade play, the spring concert, the Little Hurricane Relays, field trips, assemblies, and the sixth grade graduation ceremony. We would encourage and invite each of you to attend the special programs presented by our students!

Upcoming Dates:

April 1 - PK/K Parent Round-up Night @ 6:30

April 2 - Picture Day

April 11 - School Assembly

April 24 - 3rd/4th Grade Play @ 6:30

May 6 or May 12 (TBD) - PK-6 Spring Concert @ 7:00

May 8 - Little Hurricane Relays

PK-2 @ 9:30 / 3-6 @ 1:30

May 19-20 - Living History Farm Trip (6th Grade)

May 22 – Retirement
Open House 3:30-5:30,
6th Grade Graduation @
7:00

May 27 – Last Day of
School

Like Always,
GO HURRICANES!
Cody Tibbetts

Budget Preparation

Jeff Dicks, Superintendent

Our budget rate for next year will be \$11.37, which will be approved after a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on April 9th, at our regularly scheduled board meeting in the Albert City-Truesdale Library. This tax asking rate of \$11.37 is down from \$12.03 last year.

You may be asking why is the rate down \$.66 per \$1000 of valuation? There are a couple of reasons for the district to be able to drop this tax asking. One, the ability to levy cash reserve has been lowered by the Department of Education to 20% of your total expenses, down from 25% in previous years, so therefore, we are not able to levy as many cash reserves. Second, we are in the process of evaluating the prior uses of dropout prevention funding, and in that process, have lowered the amount of money needed for those programs. And lastly, property valuations are up slightly, mostly due to increased Ag land valuations. Because the board of education has realized their financial goal of increasing our cash position, we are no longer taxing our patrons for cash reserve funds. Lastly, our general fund levy is lowered because of the same valuation increases.

The financial position of the Albert City-Truesdale District is on solid ground. But I caution that if declining enrollment continues, we will want to be proactive in solving those financial challenges. The board of education has positioned the district to be in good shape, but this is a student driven formula.

School Breakfast Served Daily

As a reminder, the school serves breakfast each regular day of school starting at 7:50am-8:10am. We believe the cliché' of "breakfast is the most important meal of the day", and if your children need a breakfast, we can provide that for them. Free and reduced pricing applies to breakfast as well, so if you qualify for lunch, you will qualify for breakfast. If you have questions about our breakfast program eligibility, you can contact Kim Ellrich at (712)843-5416.

Safety For Our Students

Starting in April 2014, our building will be utilizing "locked" doors during school hours, 8:20 - 3:10. Since we have installed new door systems as well as video surveillance cameras, we are able to automatically lock the exterior doors using a computerized scheduler system. To enter the building during 8:20 - 3:10, you will need to enter the main elementary entrance. At this location, you will utilize the push button system, shown at right, to enter. When you push the button with a bell on it, you will hear a doorbell sound and someone will answer you as soon as they can. If they can recognize you from the video camera, they may buzz you right in, if not, they will ask you for identification and purpose for visiting. They can then release the door so you can enter.

The board, administration, and staff welcome you to visit our building as much as you want, but we also take the safety of our children very seriously. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students at Albert City-Truesdale.



happy spring!

Nurse Notes

~The best part of being here at school is our students! I continue to have the

privilege of spending time with our 1st-through-6th-graders every week. They swish with fluoride while I give a mini-lesson on subjects like drinking enough water, the dangers of smoking, how to read labels for portion sizes, and using good body mechanics.

~I spent part of a morning in both Kindergarten and Pre-K in February, celebrating Dental Health Month with presentations on brushing and caring for our teeth. The Kindergarteners were even able to “practice” on eggs and egg cartons!

~Pre-K/Kindergarten Roundup is right around the corner, and I will be available to visit with parents and share some information related to health requirements for starting school.

~Medications can be given at school by staff trained and certified to do so, but our school has a policy for how they can be administered. Please see the school handbook for more information. A few reminders:

- We must have the “Consent Form for Medication at School” filled out and signed by the parent or guardian before any medication can be given at school. (It is available on the school website.)
- All meds must be brought to and from school by an adult.
- All meds must be in the original pharmacy container. Your pharmacy will give you a second container upon request if your child needs to take a medication at school.

~It’s a good idea to think about when you can fit in those summer appointments to the doctor, dentist and eye doctor. Why not call and make them now? Summer speeds by, and it’s so much more enjoyable to take care of those things right away once school is out, rather than scrambling to fit them in as we’re enjoying those last few days of break!

Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns that you have. I am at school every Thursday, and always willing to be available to staff and parents!

Julie Olson, RN 712-843-5416 ext. 272 nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us

The 3rd and 4th Grade Presentation of:

Two Pigs, a Wolf, and a Mud Pie & Red Writing Hood

We cordially invite you to attend our plays!

Place: Albert City-Truesdale Elementary Old Gym

(Please enter through the north doors.)

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2014 Time: 6:30 p.m

Admission: Adults \$2.00/Children \$1.00

*This money helps pay for costumes, props, and supplies. The students also plan on having a cast party.

We hope to see you at our plays!

-Mrs. Spragg, Ms. Dirks, and the 3rd/4th graders





Second Grade by Mrs. Liz Perry

The Second Graders have had a great start to 2014! We have been working hard and having lots of fun in the classroom. For our 100th day celebration the students had to be creative while using the numbers 1-0-0 to make a picture. As always this group amazed me with their artistic and creative abilities. The Sioux Central FFA Class has been working with our second graders

again this school year. The students love learning about the fun topics and having the high school students in our classroom. Some of the topics they have been focusing on include: vegetables, seeds and plants, taking care of plants, sugar content in popular foods, and eating healthy. Math has also been a favorite time for many students. We recently learned about symmetry! One of their tasks was to make their own symmetry by folding a piece of paper in half and cutting out a shape. After their symmetric shape was cut out they had to use their imagination to decide what their shape looked like! I can't believe that we are in our final quarter of the year. Time sure flies when you are having fun! I am looking forward to a great end of the school year, and some warmer weather!



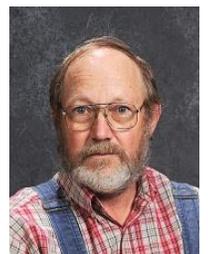
Eulenspiegel Puppets Coming to AC-T

On Friday, April 11 Albert City – Truesdale and Sioux Central Elementary students will have the chance to watch “The Amazing Adventures of Willy the Woolly”, performed by the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theater of West Liberty, Iowa. This is a tale of the mammoths who roamed the Iowa prairies 10,000 years ago. It is acted out with a cast of tabletop marionettes, rod puppets, shadow puppets,

and live music. There will also be some workshops for the older students that day. All of these activities will be taking place at AC-T. Watch for more details coming soon!!



Congratulations to Mrs. Dj Wenell and Mr. Keith Moe! Mrs. Wenell, 6th Grade Teacher and Mr. Moe, Transportation Director and Custodian are retiring this year and we will be celebrating their years of services on Thursday, May 22nd at 3:30-5:30 in the AC-T elementary library. Please join us in thanking them for their combined, **60 years** of service!



News from the 6th Grade

Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

Report on Dakota Caldwell

By Noah Lindner

Dakota's siblings are Kurtis, Nathaniel, Shawn, Brendan, Nick, Rachel, and Becca. Wow, that is a lot of siblings! His favorite things in school are Band, Music, and P.E. I like being in P.E. and Music too. He likes to ride around outside in his wheelchair in the summers. He got his van during the school year. We had a fundraiser to raise money to buy a new van for him. Dakota is 12 years old. His favorite books are Music books or cookbooks. His favorite animals are dogs and a horse. Hey, a horse is my little brother's favorite animal. A dog is my favorite animal too. He likes to eat ice cream, nachos, pizza, tacos, taco soup, steak, and baked potatoes. His favorite field trip was to the Apple Orchard in 2nd grade. His parents' names are Jessica and Jamie Wood.

All About Noah Lindner

BY SHELBY JOHNSON

Once upon a time there was a kid named Noah Lindner. Noah was born December 14, 2001; his parents are Paul and Tab and he has a stepmom named Tausha. Noah has a ton of brothers and

sisters. His brothers and sisters are Taylor, Keaton, Kaleb, Orion, Rhonda, Cole, and Austin. Noah's best friends are Brandon Johnson and Ethan Baack. His favorite color is red and he likes the book Hank the Cow Dog. His favorite movie is "Fast and Furious 6". He lives in Albert City on 2nd Street South. If Noah could go anywhere in the world he would go to Washington D.C., because he wants to see the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Noah is a really great kid, and he has an awesome sense of humor. Noah is new this year but he has gone here before from Pre-k to 2nd grade. Noah is an awesome friend!

My Friend Ethan **By Dakota Caldwell**

Ethan James Baack was born on October 29, 2001. He lives on Vine Street in Albert City. His family includes his mom Katie, his dad Chris, sister Natalie, and brother Nick. His three dogs, Boomer, Max, and Zowie really keep him busy. Ethan likes to play outside, read, and go to his favorite place to eat, Golden Corral. At home, he loves to eat Canadian bacon pizza. Going to Walt

Disney World was a dream come true for him when he was five. He wants to be an NFL football player when he grows up. I really enjoy having Ethan as a buddy. Good luck Ethan!!!

All About Nathan Harden

By Alyssa Feeley

Nathan Harden lives in Albert City with his parents Rudy and Teresa, and his siblings Vincent, Isabella, and Emily. He also has two cats named Mitten and Kitty. Nathan's favorite thing about school is math, and when he leaves this year he will miss the food that Cyndie makes. I will miss the food here too! He is excited about getting new computers next year. Nathan's favorite color is blue and his favorite book is Hatchet. He loves playing soccer and football, and his favorite team is the Raiders, although I like the Vikings. It is really fun having Nathan in our class!

BRANDON JOHNSON'S LIFE

BY JACK POHLMAN

Brandon Johnson is a 6th grader at Albert City – Truesdale. He likes to ride bikes in the summer and ride bikes on ice in the winter and sometimes he wipes out on ice. He lives with his grandma Kim Johnson and his grandpa Lynn Johnson. He has three sisters' Crystal, step sister Marjorie, and step sister Sarah. He has lived in Marathon and currently lives in Albert City, Iowa

and I knew him when he lived in Marathon. He has 3 cats and one dog: the cats' names are Tiger, Rolly, and twin Polly and a dog named Shelby. His favorite place to go is Iowa 80 truck stop and he likes the Green Bay Packers! ☺ I mean really the Green Bay Packers!!!! He likes to read mystery books and play MX vs. ATV for PS2. His favorite sports are football, soccer, and baseball. I play most of those sports with him. We have good times and bad times, but we will always be friends and those are some things about Brandon Johnson.

Dissecting Animal Hearts and Lungs and a pig eye by Nathan Harden

Dr. Bean is a veterinarian. She helps animals big and small. Dr. Bean brought pig hearts, a cow heart, and two pig eyes. She taught us scientific words like cardiology. It is the study of the heart. Then we began to dissect the hearts and it was very fun. The cow's heart was very big and the pig heart was small. But they both had a lot of blood clots. She blew the pig lungs. It was amazing they would go big then small. The pig eye was very cool. Even though it made a few people sick. I still had lots of fun. The sixth grade had lots of fun; most of them said it was awesome. We got to take out the lens of the pig's eye. It was gooey but cool. The pig's heart was small. But it had lots of spaces and tough. You could take the whole thing apart or you can find the different parts of pig hearts. I love dissecting the pig heart, the cow heart, and the pig eye. It was awesome.



total money we raised was \$2,651.34 and that's the most money ever collected by students for AC-T. Dakota Caldwell is the student who raised the most money this year for Jump Rope for Heart.

A TRIP TO THE REC CENTER

By Abby Bean

The AC-T second through sixth graders took the Iowa Assessment Tests in January. If the students tried their hardest, improved by one percent, and met proficiency in all three areas, they got to go to the Emmetsburg Rec Center. The rec center has racquetball, ping pong, swimming and a gym where you can play basketball and volleyball. Everyone in second through sixth grade at AC-T went to the rec center on Wednesday March 12 from 9:00-3:00. My favorite part was playing in the pool. I am so glad that all of us were able to go!

Jump Rope for Heart

By Dustin Melby

Jump Rope for Heart was on Friday March 7, 2014. The kids at school jumped rope and they did this for an hour long. This was held at Albert City- Truesdale Elementary school. The grades that participated were third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, and finally the sixth grade. The host of this was the school P.E. teacher, Mr. Lovin. Cyndie, the schools very nice cook, prepared the kids cookies and the drink came from McDonalds. The

"Make your mark."

Pete H. Reynolds



Peter Reynolds
By Brandon Johnson

On Wednesday, March 4th, the whole school was in the school library and we were Skyping with Peter Reynolds, the author of "The Dot". He was in Boston, Massachusetts. He told us about some of the books he wrote and how many he wrote. Then we asked him some questions about his work and some other stuff. Then at the end the sixth grade did a presentation that

dealt with his book “The Dot.” When the sixth grade were getting up to do the presentation Peter Reynolds was drawing Vashti from his book “The Dot” and she was reading a book. The book “The Dot” was about a girl named Vashti who could not draw. Then her art teacher told her to make a mark on the paper and then said to sign it. Then her art teacher framed it. Then Vashti made more and more dots big, small, even a dot without drawing dots. Then she helped a little boy that could not draw. She did the same thing as her art teacher did with her.

SPRING CONCERT

By Lyric Mendez and Mrs. Sievers

The Spring Concert will be either May 6 or May 12. We will know the date for sure by the first week of April. We are going to do a silly songs program. There will be lots of silly songs; we will act some out and tell jokes too. The concert will be at 7:00 pm in the New Gym. The 5th and 6th Band will be performing also. Students will be asked to dress in silly ways – watch for a note from Mrs. Sievers in a few weeks with more details.

TAG Field Trip

By: Ethan Baack

On February 6th, 2014, the five TAG kids (Alyssa, Abby, Shelby, Brandon, and me) and Mrs. Sievers went to Sioux City and Le Mars for research for our History Day project. Our project is about the Great Depression. We took one of the vans. We did a lot of funny things on the way. We went into the archives of the Sioux City Museum and the Le Mars Museum. We went to Wendy’s for lunch and we also went to Blue Bunny. On the way home we played a game where you have a number and the car that passes on your turn you have that car and then on your turn again you can either keep or trade. I thought it was a REALLY fun trip. I LOVED it! What I really loved at the Sioux City Museum was an old dump truck. The doll room in the Le Mars Museum gave me the chills.

TECHNOLOGY

By: Deon McChesney

I am glad that the school bought a lot of new technology. The school bought so much new technology that it’s just so amazing! The school got more iPads, Smart boards, Smart tables, 6th grade even got a new Smart board projector because the other one broke. A lot of stuff goes to 6th grade like new computers that I am using to write this report with my own computer. The whole school even has their own headsets! The 5th-6th are getting new iPads for our classroom. The school is a really good place for learning but all these iPads and everything is cool and it’s a lot of fun. I am glad for all the new technology that the school has bought for all of the happy students.

The Nursing Home

By: Dakota McChesney

The third through sixth grades went to the nursing home on March 5, 2014. The people at the nursing home really liked it when the school reads to them. The school liked to see the residents smile. I thought it was fun, the residents really seemed to like it. Some kids had really long books but still read them. Most of the kids had lots of fun.



The Little Hurricane Relays will be held May 8, 2014 at the football field in Albert City. Pre-K-2nd grade will be participating in their events from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and Grades 3-6 will hold their events at 1:30-3:00 p.m. The rain date is May 9, 2014.

Healthy Snacks for School

Providing healthy snacks for children helps them grow and develop and supports life-long good eating habits.

Serving nutritious snacks as part of a healthy diet can help prevent disabling diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity. Just as important as serving healthy food items, is serving the right portion. Make sure a snack is a snack-small and satisfying. Please avoid sending foods of poor nutritional quality such as cookies, cakes, pastries, candies, fruit roll-ups, ice cream, chips, sodas, and other sweetened drinks.

Following are just a few ideas of healthy snacks and drinks for you to bring to school when it's your turn to provide refreshments for the classroom, parties, birthday treats, and other school activities. If you have questions or other snack ideas, please contact your child's teacher.

- Fresh Fruit
- String Cheese
- Fresh Vegetables
- Graham Crackers (2)
- Fruit Juice Bars (w/real fruit)
- Vanilla Wafers (5)
- Dried Fruit (low sugar)
- Whole Grain Crackers
- Light Yogurt
- Pretzels
- Light Popcorn
- Unsweetened Fruit Cups
- Celery with Peanut Butter
- Whole Grain, Low Sugar Dry Cereals
- Low Fat Cheese
- Whole Grain, Low Sugar Granola Bars
- Low-Fat Cottage Cheese Cups
- Mini Bagels with Fruit Spread
- Trail Mix (low salt, no candy)
- Flavored Rice Mini Cakes
- Finger Sandwiches
- Turkey and Cheese Rolls
- 100% Fruit Juice (6 ounces)
- 100% Vegetable Juice (6 ounces)
- Bottled Water
- Low Fat/Fat Free Milk

Let your child help you prepare these nutritious options and experiment with their creativity. For example, how about "Fresh Fruit Kabobs", "String Cheese Stuffed Celery", "Cookie Cutter Sandwiches", or "Cheese Cubes on a Pretzel Stick"? Show your child that healthy snacks can be fun and tasty.