

THE HURRICANE

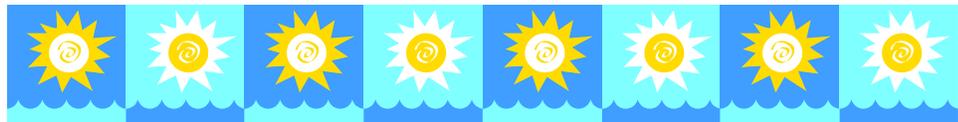
Albert City-Truesdale CSD
P.O. Box 98
300 Orchard St.
Albert City, IA 50510

Nonprofit
Organization
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albert City, IA
Permit No. 5

Return Service Requested



Boxholder



Summer Vacation



Albert City-Truesdale -2014-15 School Calendar

Summary of Calendar

Days in classroom
 First Sem. 83
 Second Sem. 94
 TOTAL DAYS 177

CALENDAR LEGEND

Start/End
 PD Days
 No School
 Holidays
 PD Early Out

HOLIDAY

Labor Day

Student Days 177

PD 8

Paid Holiday 5

Total 190

Order of snow make up days:

May 26-29

August					Student Days	Student	
M	T	W	Th	F		Aug 11	Registration
4	5	6	7	8		Aug 14	PD - No School
11	12	13	14	15		Aug 15	Collaborative PD - No School
18	19	20	21	22	4	Aug 19	Begin 1st Semester
25	26	27	28	29	9	Aug 19 & 20	1:00 Early dismissal
September							
1	2	3	4	5	13	Sept 1	Labor Day
8	9	10	11	12	17	Sept 12	No School
15	16	17	18	19	22	Sept 29	Collaborative PD - No School
22	23	24	25	26	27		
29	30				28		
October							
		1	2	3	31		
6	7	8	9	10	36	Oct 8	PD - 1:00 Early Dismissal
13	14	15	16	17	41	Oct 17	End 1st Qtr(40)
20	21	22	23	24	46	Oct 28 & 30	P/T Conferences - 1:00 early dismissal
27	28	29	30	31	51	Oct 31	No School(Comp Day)
November							
3	4	5	6	7	56	Nov 5	Early dismissal - 1:00
10	11	12	13	14	61	Nov 17	Collaborative PD - No School
17	18	19	20	21	65	Nov 26	Early dismissal - 1:00
24	25	26	27	28	68	Nov 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday - No school
December							
1	2	3	4	5	73		
8	9	10	11	12	78		
15	16	17	18	19	83	Dec 19	Early dismissal - 1:00
22	23	24	25	26		Dec 24-31	Winter break - No School
29	30	31				Dec 25	Christmas
January							
			1	2		Jan 1	New Year's Day - No School
5	6	7	8	9	4	Jan 5	PD - No School
12	13	14	15	16	9	Jan 6	Begin 2nd semester
19	20	21	22	23	13	Jan 19	Collaborative PD - No School
26	27	28	29	30	18		
February							
2	3	4	5	6	23	Feb 4	PD - Early dismissal - 1:00
9	10	11	12	13	28		
16	17	18	19	20	32	Feb 16	President's Day - No School
23	24	25	26	27	37		
March							
2	3	4	5	6	42	Mar 6	End of 3rd qtr:
9	10	11	12	13	47	Mar 10 & 12	P/T Conferences(4:00 - 7:30)
16	17	18	19	20	52	Mar 13	No School(Comp Day)
23	24	25	26	27	57		
30	31				59		
April							
		1	2	3	61	Apr 2	Early dismissal - 1:00
6	7	8	9	10	65	Apr 3-6	Easter/Spring Break
13	14	15	16	17	70	Apr 15	PD - 1:00 Early Dismissal
20	21	22	23	24	75		
27	28	29	30		79		
May							
				1	80		
4	5	6	7	8	85		
11	12	13	14	15	90	May 21	End 2nd Semester - 1:00 early dismissal
18	19	20	21	22	94	May 25	Memorial Day
25	26	27	28	29			
June							
1	2	3	4	5			
8	9	10	11	12			



The Hurricane



www.albertct.k12.ia.us

Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

June/July/August 2014

4th Quarter – by Cody Tibbetts, AC-T Principal

It's amazing how fast a school year goes by. The staff here at AC-T are extremely proud of our students' accomplishments this year and you as a community should be proud as well. AC-T Elementary ranks 8th overall in the state of Iowa in Iowa Assessments in the areas of reading, math and science! You all play a very important role in this testing and the education that students receive here. Way to go!

Over the course of the school year, AC-T and the school board has made many improvements and or upgrades to our building and education. A few of the changes are listed below:

- Purchased iPads (1:1 school)
- Installed three security cameras
- Installed a keyless entry system on three doors
- Buzz in system on our main door during school hours
- Updating the heating system in the lower elementary (six classrooms)
- Purchased laptops for our library cart
- New school bus
- Improved our infrastructure to support our increased use of technology
- Will be improving our curb appeal with landscaping this summer



It is very exciting to have an active and supportive community looking to provide equipment and an education that is second to none. We will continue to look for ways to improve our current system and strive for excellence. All of the items listed above provide opportunities and safety for our AC-T students and our staff will continue to improve themselves as educators. We will search for new learning opportunities, continue our work with the Iowa Core Consortium, host professional development opportunities here at the school, collaborate with all stakeholders, and celebrate our success along the way!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and have opportunities to spend quality time with your families. Thank you for the support you have shown our elementary this year. We will continue working together as "ONE"! Like Always, GO HURRICANES!

Moving Forward by Jeff Dicks, Superintendent

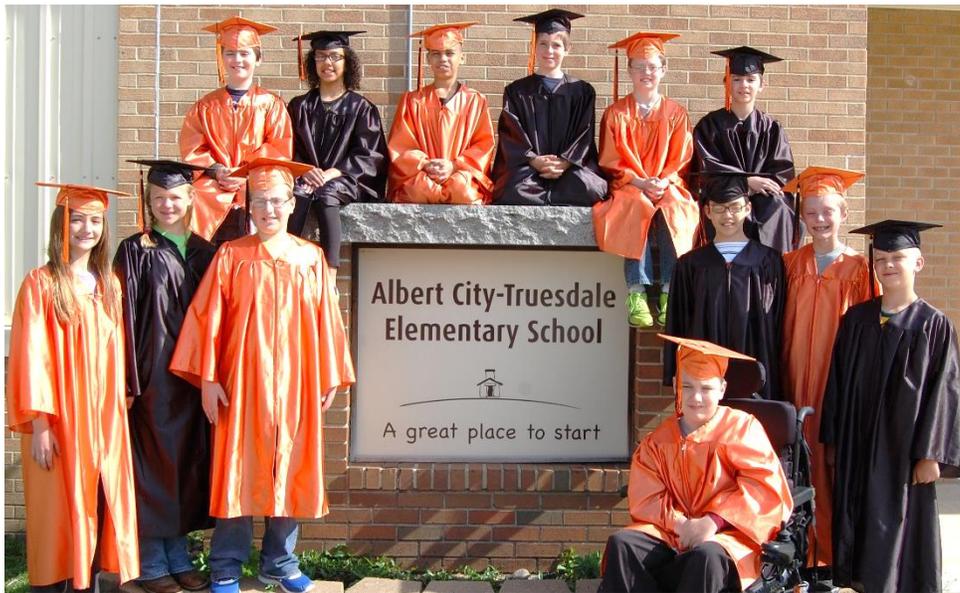
As we wrap up the 13-14 school year, it is a great opportunity to reflect but also set our sights on where we are headed. The Albert City-Truesdale School District is currently in a Whole Grade Sharing agreement with Sioux Central for grades 7-12. Our current agreement is due to expire on August 2015. We are very happy with our sharing partner, and feel that we are making progress to enhance the offerings for the students of this district. As we move forward to renew this agreement, the Board of Education is holding a public meeting to ensure the public understands what is provided the students of Albert City-Truesdale. **The meeting will be held in the lunchroom of the Albert City-Truesdale School on Wednesday, July 16th at 6:30pm.** The goal of this public meeting is to inform the community of the current agreement and the intent to renew the agreement.

What great news that Sioux Central passed a \$7.5 million bond for improvements to their building and sports complex. While some will be sad in not hosting football games in the future, what a great opportunity for our

students to participate on a new track and football field. In addition, we will be able to dedicate more resources to educating our students. This is a great statement that the voters of Sioux Central have sent on providing their students and the students of Albert City-Truesdale some of the best facilities they can.

Mr. Williamson, Superintendent of Sioux Central, and I have begun the process of drafting our next sharing agreement. Our focus is to enhance everything we have done in the past, and make it as user friendly for the students and parents as we can. While we could find flaws in any sharing, I believe the AC-T Board of Education is committed to providing the best learning opportunities for all of our students. It is important that our staff, students, administration, board, and community keep the mindset of improvement and commitment to making the best of our sharing opportunities.

The first year of superintendent sharing has been beneficial to both Albert City-Truesdale and Newell-Fonda. The collaboration that has started will continue. If you have questions or concerns, I can be reached by email at jdicks@albertct.k12.ia.us or at the school at (712)272-3324.



6th Grade Graduation and Field Trip!

~ Mrs. Dj Wenell

Sixth graders spent two days in Des Moines at the end of

May seeing some of the things they had discussed in their Iowa History studies this year.

The first day was spent touring the capitol in the morning. We learned many interesting facts about our state and this beautiful building during our tour. In the afternoon we visited the Iowa Hall of Pride. Students enjoyed the many interactive learning areas during their visit. In the evening, after dinner at Cici's we went shopping at Valley West Mall.

Our second day began with breakfast at IHOP. We then went to the Living History Farms where we spent the remainder of the day before returning home. The class visited many of the buildings in this 1875 town of Walnut. Of special interest was the bank which had several items that were donated by the bank in Albert City. Later in the day we visited the 1700 Ioway Indian Farm, the 1850 Pioneer Farm and the 1900 Horse-Powered Farm. We enjoyed seeing the progression of farming through the years and decided we were glad we lived in 2014! Thank you to the patrons of our school who have donated pop cans this year to help with the expense of this trip!!

Graduation for sixth grade students took place on Thursday, May 22nd. Albert City-Truesdale Elementary School graduated 13 students. The graduates and speakers for the evening were Abby Bean, Alyssa Feeley, Shelby Johnson, Ethan Baack, Dakota Caldwell, Deon McChesney, and Lyric Mendez. Students and their guests also enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation of their 6th grade year. The PACT group served refreshments to all in attendance.

4th Grade News by Ms. Ashley Dirks

The 4th grade classroom has been very busy this year. The students have worked extremely hard and have met many goals along the way! They have studied the regions of the United States and learned the states and capitals. They even did a state poster.



ALL 4th graders passed ALL math timed tests. What an accomplishment! Way to go 4th grade!



The 4th graders are able to do some great activities with the 3rd graders. They did a nutrition unit, and most of the students would say the taste testing was their favorite part. They also went on a field trip recently to West



Bend to look at and study all the fabulous rocks.

Last but not least, the 3rd and 4th graders put on their annual plays. They performed *Two Pigs*, *a Wolf*, and *a Mud Pie* and *Red Writing Hood*. The work they put in was obvious, and the plays were a huge success! 3rd and 4th graders-YOU ROCK!



- ❖ Registration is Monday, August 11th (10:00am-7:00pm) at AC-T.
- ❖ School supply lists will be included in the school registration newsletter mailed in July.
- ❖ The Back to School Open House for parents and students will be Monday, August 18th from 5:00pm-6:00pm.
- ❖ The first day of school is Tuesday, August 19th at 8:15 am-1:00 pm.
- ❖ The second day of school is Wednesday, August 20th from 8:15 am - 1:00 pm. The early dismissals are for Professional Development.
- ❖ Contact the AC-T office with any questions! 712-843-5416

The Annual Little Hurricane Relays by Mr. Linn Lovin

The Little Hurricane Relays were held on May 8th, in the morning and May 9th, in the afternoon. Students in Pre-K-2nd participated in the call kick, shuttle run, 50 yard dash, and the obstacle course. Grades 3rd-6th participated in field and running events. Everyone had a great time. I would like to thank all of the staff and students that worked to make the relays a success. I would also like to thank the PACT group for the goody bag that every student received.



Nurse Notes

Happy summer! I'm glad to have spent another great school year with our students. Here are a few reminders...

Immunizations: Now is a great time to make that summer appointment to see your doctor, if you haven't

already! Students who will be in Pre-K or Kindergarten next fall need to have certain immunizations in order to attend. All 6th-grade students need to have their Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine updated before they start 7th grade in the fall. Please visit with your healthcare provider about any vaccines your child may need. Nationally, immunizations provide protection against millions of potential illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths, so it is important to keep those up-to-date!

Dental and Vision Checks: All Kindergarten students are required to have a dental screen. Dental offices have that form available, so please ask your dentist to fill that out. However, all students should see their dentist and eye doctor every year, and summer is a great time to get those scheduled!

Medications: Any students who need to take medications at school next year must have parent permission to do so. This applies to prescription and over-the-counter meds, whether taken the whole year or short-term. There is a "Consent Form for Medication at School" that needs to be filled out and signed before we can administer any meds. Please remember that all meds must be in the original container or packaging, and can only be brought to and from school by an adult, never by a student. This form is available on the school website, under "Resources".

Head Lice: Please make it a habit to check the head of every household member weekly for 15 minutes. Lice don't take summers off, and there are still opportunities for an infestation! Continue to remind your children not to share anything that comes in contact with the head.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's health or the requirements for school. I'm happy to speak with you anytime. Have a wonderful summer break!

Julie Olson, RN, AC-T School Nurse

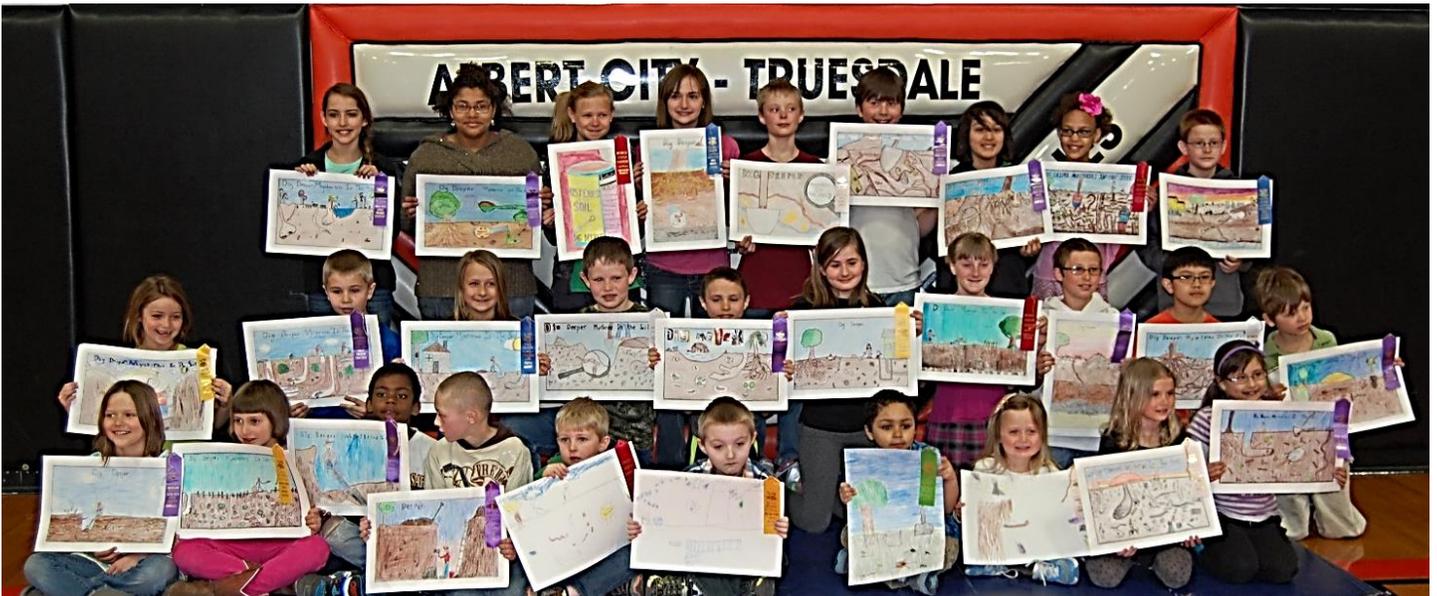
Art at AC-T Elementary by Andrea Bean

Things in the art room at AC-T have been moving along again this year. I can hardly believe that it's the end of the year and summer vacation is fast approaching. "Art doesn't have to match your sofa," is a sign that is outside the door to the art room, I put it there to make the students realize in our all so perfect home decorating themes, art is what you personally like and want in your home. Sometimes, you like it because of the joy it gave you in creating it.

We have covered a vast amount of art medium this year, as I believe my job as elementary art teacher is to expose the students to as much art media as I can in their years here at AC-T. Our 40 minute classroom periods sometimes limit the amount of work we get done, as a project sometimes takes up to six weeks to complete. My main art teaching philosophy is more about exposing the students to different things than the end product itself. This year we did weaving with yarn and paper, pen and ink work, measuring with rulers and making frames for our art work, watercolors, as well as tempera paint and drew with colored pencils, pencil, crayons and charcoal and touched on some form of print making. The 6th grader finished up their Iowa Quilts and at this writing, I am busy trying to get them all sewn together. They will be on display at 6th grade graduation night.

Each month we studied an artist and their work, along with one public piece of art work. Do you know the three most recognized paintings in the world? One of them is by an Iowan artist, Grant Wood, his painting of the "American Gothic." The house he used in the background of the couple can be found in Eldon, Iowa. It made for a fun one day trip for Mer and me. The little town of Eldon has a museum next to the house and it's filled with all sorts of things about Grant Wood and many paradox take offs on this famous picture. You can even pose in front of the house using look alike clothing they have for you to use. His dentist and sister posed for the original painting. Yeah Iowa! The other two most recognized paintings are done by an Italian and a Norwegian; Leonardo Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," and Edvard Munch's "The Scream." Last years' public piece of art work was the Statue of Liberty, this year we studied Mount Rushmore. Ask your children about these pieces of public art work, I'm sure they can share a lot of information about them!

As an art teacher I'm always bomb barded with all sorts of opportunities to participate in poster contests. They all are good. In trying to screen what I think is most beneficial for them to participate in, I have to admit, I am bias. We have always done the Buena Vista County Conservation Poster. Mainly because it's local and has a message that pertains to this farming area. The message translated is basically, love the land and take care of it as it takes care of you; everything we have and use, we can trace back to the soil. Every year there is a different theme. This year's theme was "Dig Deeper, Mysteries in the Soil". Once again, you can be proud of your students here at AC-T. There were 1,532 entries from all the schools in Buena Vista County. We had 30 students place and out of that 30, 3 were 1st place winners. They will receive a free plane ride over Buena Vista County. These were the students who placed this year:



PK-2nd place-Henry Stepec, 4th place-Brogan Johannsen and 5th place-Leland Bolte

Kindergarten-6th place-Jaden Smith and Honorable Mention-Ryan Cormany

1st grade-4th place-Hadley Ayers, 5th place-Leah Bean, Honorable Mentions-Max Bjork and Graham Welle.

2nd grade-5th place-Addisyn Fuchs, Honorable Mentions-Richard Stewart, Raine Miller, and Constance Laursen

3rd grade-1st place-Berkley Johannsen, 3rd place-Braeden Cormany, 5th place-Makinzie Miller
Honorable Mentions-Trevor Ehlers and Emily Salazar

4th grade-2nd place-Sara Feeley, 3rd place-Isaac Albeus, Honorable Mention- Paige Eral and Dustin Heuer

5th grade-1st place-Trevor Demers, 2nd place-Alyssa Kruse, Honorable Mentions-Alyssa Willeford, Brady Ehlers and Aaliyah Heshmaty

6th grade-1st place-Shelby Johnson, 2nd place-Abby Bean, 4th place-Jack Pohlman

All the students worked very hard on their posters and I was pleased with each and every one of them, as they took ownership and pride in their work.

Lastly, I'd like to ask if any of you have any **yarn, old nylon hose, white bed sheets, buttons, embroidery floss, and any craft supplies** that you don't need any more, we'd be most happy to take it off your hands. You'd be surprised what we'll do with it! You can drop any of these items off at the office, or notify me, and I'll be glad to stop and pick them up. Thank you for your support.

AC-T Elementary Spring Concert - Silly Songs





5th Grade News by Ms. Kelly Wolff

It's been a quick year with my 5th graders. It seems just like yesterday I was going over what they would be doing for the year and now we're trying to get everything wrapped up to finish the year. A lot has happened in the months that we have been together. We started out the year with a canoeing/habitat trip to Gabrielson Park in Sioux Rapids with the 6th grade. It was a wonderful way to start the year.

Also with the 6th grade we did a few science chapters together. We studied the Earth, electricity, and the solar system, and while we were studying it, some students got up in the middle of the night to see the blood moon in mid- April. It was perfect timing with the unit.

We will be ending our year with various activities, Little Hurricane Relays, a trip to Sioux City to tour the Sgt. Floyd Boat and The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. It truly has been a quick and busy year, and the students have learned a lot and proved it with outstanding scores on their Iowa Assessments. They are ready for the 6th grade and I will miss them.

Kinder Crew by Mrs. Taby Frederick

Wow! We can't believe that it is the end of the school year. Time surely flies when you're having fun! The Kindergarten class has had many fun experiences this year. Recently we went on a field trip to visit the Fort Museum. At the Fort we were able to see things from long ago. We had been learning about Long Ago and Today in Social Studies, so it was fun to be able to show them items that we had talked about in class. The one room school house is always fun for them to see, as it is definitely different today. The kids were fascinated by some of the things that they saw.

In our classroom we also have some animal friends that we have been taking care of. We watched the formation of 5 caterpillars, change into butterflies. They enjoyed seeing these changes and stages in the life cycle of a butterfly. We also have 6 bull frog tadpoles that we have been observing. These tadpoles may still be here next year for the kids to stop in and see how much they have grown over the summer.



I have truly enjoyed my time with my class this year and are proud of each one of my students. They have learned many new things and continue to work hard to learn. Way to go Kinder Crew! Thanks to Mrs. Loving for everything that she has done this year for the Kindergarten class. Thank you to all of the wonderful families here at AC-T for being a big part of your child's education! Have a wonderful summer. I can't wait to see how much everyone will grow over the summer. See you soon!

A Night of Tabbing It for the Ronald McDonald House **by Andrea Bean**

On Monday, April 21st, Mavis Loving, Heather Totten, Elizabeth Perry, Deb Falkena, Bailey Speer, Alanna Fuller, Dj Wenell, Keara Cormany, Kelly Wolff, Andy and Mer Bean, and Twila and John Lange all met in the old Ag Shop to pull the tabs off the pop cans that people donate to AC-T. For years now, the community has been most gracious in donating their pop cans in a container to the north side of the



Crossroads building. The money from the pop cans go to funding special events, speakers, trips, and those extra special things that the student council sponsors for the students here at AC-T. They worked from 3:30 to 8:00 PM. They enjoyed some goofy relays and simple competitive games with the cans. We then donned plastic gloves and pliers to "pop tabs". Around 6:30 we stopped briefly for a contributed supper and then went back to work. It was a fun night of fellowship and helping others.

Just a few facts that we

thought were interesting.

1. There are 309 Ronald McDonald Houses in 57 countries. These houses are to be used for family members that have children that are ill.
2. Iowa has 3 Ronald McDonald Houses located in Sioux City, Iowa City, and Des Moines.
3. Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines has a Ronald McDonald Family Room. These rooms are for families of critically ill children. There are 98 Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in 10 countries.
4. Oct 15, 1974 the first Ronald McDonald House opened in Philadelphia. It was started by a Dr. Audrey Evans, Philadelphia Eagles football player, Fred Hill (whose daughter Kim had leukemia), Eagles football team, owner and general manager, and McDonald's owners and operators of Philadelphia. Fred Hill noticed that there were several parents and family members living at the hospital when they had sick children. He thought it would be a good idea to have a place for these people to stay instead of trying to sleep/live on the chairs at the hospital. He brought this idea back to his teammates as well as the Doctor...and from there it happened!
5. Minneapolis/St. Paul Ronald McDonald Area started the pop tab recycling program in 1987. Last year, the Midwest Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) took in \$30,000 worth of pop tabs. It might not seem like a big deal...pop tabs, but if you've ever seen or had a sick child that needed hospitalization, the Ronald McDonald Houses are a real blessing to them and their families. Something so small can help do something so huge for someone else at a traumatic time in their life. We are planning on having a Ronald McDonald tab container in the central hallway so the students can see the tabs accumulate. If anyone in the community wants to donate tabs, please feel free to bring them in to the school or send them with a student. The staff will have another "Tab night" next fall and again in the spring. We want to thank all of you who donate your cans to the school. We appreciate it!

After School Club by Mrs. Tracy Nevill

I have enjoyed being with the AC-T school district. My name is Mrs. Tracy Nevill and I am the After School Club Coordinator. I have enjoyed getting to know all the children



that come to ASC. You have all made me feel welcome.

During the afterschool time we start off with reading books and then we take turns reading a story or two out loud. Thanks to the school library we sometimes listen to audio books and

they all seem to enjoy the stories. Then we have center time to play games, Legos, color, or create in the art workshop. The students love to use their imagination! An example is that we made a spaceship to pretend we were going into outer space. After center time we have a snack and drink break with a short movie time. Then after our break we have play time in the gym or outside.



Brandon Johnson, Abby Bean, Alyssa Feeley, Shelby Johnson, and Ethan Baack

We are Proud of You!



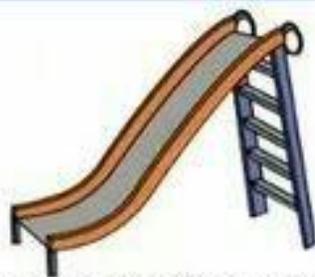
Feel free to stop by sometime and see their artwork that we post on the wall outside our room. I have enjoyed spending time with all the children. They always seem to put a smile on my face!

Congrats to our National History Day State Qualifiers!

-Mrs. Laura Sievers, Advisor



Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide



Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the "summer slide" if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide-or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

- 1** Visit your local library! Help your child find "right fit" books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.
- 2** Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.
- 3** Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.
- 4** Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for different characters and increasing your volume during exciting parts are only a few ways to keep children engaged.
- 5** Read with your child –explore different types of reading such as poetry. For our little ones, poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.
- 6** Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.
- 7** Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples improves vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of hopscotch or 4 square into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words. Be sure to check out the "8 Super Summer Sight Word Activities" on the Make, Take & Teach blog.
- 8** If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can we prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate reading growth.



For more teaching ideas and activities be sure to visit our blog! www.blog.maketaketeach.com



The 2014-2015 School Year will come before we know it! Next year we will be changing our alert system from the EZ Message System to the Iowa School Alerts Notification System. If you would like to sign up for the new system please fill out and return the form below to the school. **AC-T will also have the forms available at registration on Monday, August 11th 2014.**

EMAIL _____

EMAIL _____

Cell # _____

Cell # _____

Name _____

Albert City – Truesdale Students Attend Honor Choir

Eight Albert City – Truesdale 5th and 6th graders participated in the Spring Honor Choir Festival at Le Mars Community High School on Tuesday, April 22. The 5th/6th honor choir was under the direction of Jennifer Walker, vocal instructor at Novak Elementary School in Marion, Iowa. 250 students from Northwest Iowa schools held afternoon rehearsals and performed a concert that evening. A 7th grade honor choir was also part of the festival. We are proud of our Honor Choir Participants! LtoR Alyssa Willeford, Noah Lindner, Ethan Baack, Aaliyah Heshmaty, Jack Pohlman, Alyssa Kruse, Dakota McChesney, and Alyssa Feeley.





In Region 8 our beliefs will be realized when families, children, service providers and community members work as partners to ensure that children and their families receive the support they need to achieve their dreams.

Program Overview

Early ACCESS, formerly known as Iowa's System of Early Intervention Services, is a partnership between families with young children, birth to age three, and providers from local Public Health, Human Services, Child Health Specialty Clinics, area education agencies (AEA) and other community programs. The purpose of this system is for families and staff to work together in identifying, coordinating and providing needed services and resources that will help the family to assist their infant or toddler to grow and develop.

Age Requirements & Eligibility

An infant or toddler under the age of three (birth to age three) who:

- Has a condition or disability that is known to have a high probability of later delays if early intervention services were not provided, or
- Is already experiencing a 25 percent delay in one or more areas of growth or development.

Services

The family and providers work together to identify and address specific family concerns and priorities as they relate to the child's overall growth and development. In addition, broader family needs and concerns can be addressed by locating other supportive services/resources in the local community for the family and/or child. All services to the child are provided in the child's natural environment including the home and other community settings where children of the same age without disabilities participate.

Services required to be made available to children and families include:

- ➔ Service Coordination,
- ➔ Screenings, evaluation and assessment, and
- ➔ Development and reviews of an "Individualized Family Service Plan" (IFSP)

Other services, based upon individual needs, include:

- Assistive Technology
- Audiology
- Family/Training/Counseling
- Health Services
- Medical evaluations
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Service Coordination
- Social Work
- Special Instruction
- Speech Language Therapy
- Vision
- Transportation

Costs

There are no costs to families for service coordination activities; evaluation and assessment activities to determine eligibility or identify the concerns, priorities and resources of the family; development and reviews of the Individualized Family Service Plan. The service coordinator works with the family to determine costs and payment arrangements of other needed services. Some services may have charges or sliding fee scales or may be provided at no cost to families. Costs are determined by a variety of factors that are individualized to each child and family.

Where to apply Families or providers can call Gale Randall, Early ACCESS Regional Liaison, in the Storm Lake office at 866-503-4636 ext. 2036 or 712-732-2257 ext. 2036, grandall@aea8.k12.ia.us.