



# The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

October/November 2007



## Veterans' Day – November 9<sup>th</sup>

By Nick Samuelson

All you Veterans come on down and take a seat. We honor all veterans and thank them for their service and our

freedom. We've prepared a special program for you. Cyndie will also be serving the Veterans and spouses baked ham, baked potatoes, salad, and bread for lunch. Call the school by November 8<sup>th</sup> at 843-5416 to RSVP. The program will be held in the new gym at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you there. Just sit down and enjoy the show. If you have a photo that can be included in a slide show, please bring it to AC-T so we may include your photo.

## Can You Help?

Volunteers are needed to transport the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Pop Cans to Storm Lake on a monthly basis. The Student Council and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip is funded by these cans.



Please contact Mrs. Wenell or Mrs. Kady if you are able to help out! Thanks!

## Notes from the Nurses

We are off to another GREAT start at AC-T. In the Nurse's Office we've been busy reacquainting ourselves with the students from last year and getting to know the new faces this year. We have a

new face in our office this year too. Julie Olson, RN has joined Deb Clausen, RN to fill the School Nurse shoes. We welcome her to the AC-T team!

The beginning of the year always brings our attention to making sure everyone has the required number of vaccinations before the state comes to audit our records. We also get records in order and start our weekly fluoride treatments for the children who are in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and older. As the fall progresses, we will begin doing our mini physicals, eye exams and the AEA will come and give hearing tests.

We are also here for the health needs of the staff at AC-T. We have a flu shot clinic for them and will help in a Wellness screening for them later in the year. Anytime a teacher has a unit pertaining to health, we are available to them to come into the classroom and give talks and demonstrations pertaining to any area they are studying.

If you ever have any questions or concerns that we can help you with, we are here for the parents of our students as well. One of us is usually here on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, or you can e-mail us at [nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us](mailto:nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us) or leave a message on our voice mail at 712-843-5416. Our goal is to keep our students happy and most importantly HEALTHY!

## Winter Weather Information

With the winter season just around the corner, it is possible we may need to delay the start of school or cancel school for the day due to weather conditions that make travel to and from school dangerous. Our district makes the decision on whether or not to hold classes in cooperation with the administration at the Sioux Central Schools. Therefore, when Sioux Central starts late or cancels classes, Albert City-Truesdale will do the same. We will notify radio and television stations of these decisions as soon as the decision is made in the morning. You may listen to KAYL/Storm Lake, KICD/Spencer or watch KCAU/Channel 9, KTIV/Channel 4, or KMEG/Channel 14 to catch these announcements. Weather related announcements will also be posted on our school website: [www.albertct.k12.ia.us](http://www.albertct.k12.ia.us)

# News from the 6th Grade

## Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

### *Gustin Loving* By *Evan Balder*

Gus was born in Spencer, Iowa and was raised in Webb, Iowa. His hobbies include playing PS2, and collecting baseball, football, and basketball cards.

His favorite college sports team is the Iowa State Cyclones. His favorite sport is basketball. He is a pitcher and center fielder in baseball. He plays free safety in football. His favorite baseball team is the Minnesota Twins. His favorite professional football team is the Minnesota Vikings. His favorite professional basketball team is the Minnesota Timberwolves. His favorite baseball player is Torii Hunter, his favorite football player is Calvin Johnson, and his favorite basketball player is J.J. Redick.

Gus's favorite food is chicken quesadillas. His favorite subject in school is math. He likes to listen to music and his favorite artist is Nickelback and Fall Out Boy. His favorite color is red. His favorite author is J.K. Rowling. Spiderman 3 is his favorite movie.

He has a two parents and a sister. His mother is a first grade teacher at AC-T, his sister is in fourth grade at AC-T, and his dad works at E.T.N. Corporation in Spencer. He has a dog some cats and two horses. When he grows up he wants to be a sports commentator. Gus shows horses and won two purple ribbons and 3 blue ribbons at the 4-H fair.

### *Ana Salazar* By: *Mercedes E. Dreyer*

Ana Salazar is a fun filled girl. She is the daughter of Miguel and Quincie Salazar. Her favorite color is lime green and her favorite animal a Cheetah. She has brown eyes and is 4 feet 7 inches. She has two sisters Leslie who is 7 years of age and Emily who is 2 years of age. Her hobby is making crafts like bracelets.

Her best friend is Mercedes Dreyer. Her favorite school lunch is chili with cinnamon rolls. Ana's favorite subject is math. Her favorite game to play at recess is ball tag and she likes to climb on the equipment.

### *Olivia Terry* by *Breana Kulp*

*Favorite color(s): Blue and pink*

*Favorite Food: Chinese food and peanut butter pizza*

*Favorite State: Washington*

*Age: 12*

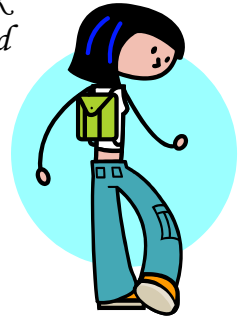
*Born In: Edmund, Oklahoma*

*Sibling: Alex*

*Favorite book Series: A Series of Unfortunate Events*

*Hobbies: Reading and Talking ☺*

*Olivia's Mom raises dogs and her Dad is a chef at BV University. He makes **super** good spaghetti!!*



### *Breana Kulp* by *Olivia Terry*

Breana Kulp was born in 1995 on October 6<sup>th</sup> in Storm Lake Iowa. She is 12 years old. Her parent's names are Melissa and Jon Kulp. She has one younger brother, Nathan Kulp. Her favorite foods are Mexican food, and chocolate. Her favorite drink is chocolate milk. She is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, her teacher is Mrs. Wenell. Her hobbies are reading and singing, and her favorite state is Florida. Her favorite color is pink. Breana is a really cool person she is very nice and a good friend.

### *Nick Sievers* by *Chris Anderson*

*Nick is a 12 year old boy who likes to play football in his spare time. His favorite colors are red and yellow. His favorite team is ISU. He also likes the Eagles. His favorite author is Lemony Snicket. His favorite animal is a cow. His talents are football, baseball, basketball, and track. He wants to be a farmer when he grows up.*

## Hello from the AC-T First Graders!

We have had a very busy beginning to our school year! There are five boys and four girls in our class this year. We have learned a lot about insects and bugs in Science. We *even* got to tag and release Monarch butterflies with the BV County Naturalist! In our Social Studies, we are learning about families, jobs, and neighborhoods - but most of us still aren't sure what we want to be when we grow up! Can you believe we've learned to do addition and subtraction sentences already this year? We work on patterns, greatest and least, fewer and more than, and we even know the definition of the words sum and difference as they are used in Math! We love to read and have been reading stories centered on a "Just for Fun" theme. Working together, corn, and ants are just some of the main ideas of the stories we have read. In first grade we do a lot of "playing" with words...did you know if you change the "t" in tall to a "c" you have a whole different word! (call) D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) is one of our favorite things to do throughout the day. We write almost everyday too, but we LOVE Wednesday writing because we get **free choice**! Each of us goes to small group reading and spelling each morning; we love to take our books home to share with our families. We are **awesome** readers!

During our library time on Mondays, we are fortunate enough to have several volunteers from the community come in and read with us. It's great to have another buddy to read with and we think they enjoy it too!



## Kindergarten News by Mrs. Bobolz

This year's kindergarten class is off to a great start. Each day goes by so quickly. It is hard to believe we have been in school for one quarter!

We are really working hard in reading. We are just amazed at the wealth of books we have in our room! We are never at a loss for finding books to compliment our learning, challenge our needs, and satisfy our curiosity. Our studies have included phonemic awareness, which is hearing sounds in words, and phonics, which is identifying the letters sounds make. We have begun learning some high frequency words and are thrilled to recognize words around us. We are also learning reading strategies and will soon be in guided reading groups at our early levels.

We are finding that our new, Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley, math program is providing us with so many learning experiences. We have a variety of manipulatives, which gives us a hands-on opportunity for understanding the concepts we need to know.

Fire Prevention Week was a very rewarding time for us. We were thrilled to visit the fire station and totally enjoyed a ride on one of the fire trucks. We also appreciated the Jaws of Life elementary presentation by our local firemen.

We are so looking forward to the kindergarten annual visit to Pleasant View Home on Halloween. We will share our costumes and present a program to the residents. It is really fun to share our Halloween fun with others.

## Class Pet for the AC-T 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade by Mrs. Spragg

My mom asked me if I wanted her bird, and I politely told her I wasn't interested. I thought I could give her cage and supplies to someone at school. The students had a better idea. They wanted a class pet!

This is my fifteenth year at AC-T, and I have never wanted a pet in my classroom. After lots of encouragement from Ms. Dirks, Mrs. Kady, and downright begging from my students, I decided to purchase a bird. So, I ventured out to Roberta Scantling's home to find the perfect pet.

We are excited to announce our new arrival. His name is Peek-a-Boo, Pecky for short. He is an English Spangled Parakeet and has beautiful shades of blue feathers.

Pecky is now trained to perch on a finger. He also enjoys flying around the classroom and landing on our clock. That is the signal that he wants me to reach a yardstick up to him. Then he will climb right onto the yardstick, hop onto my finger, and go back into his cage.

Our next goal is to teach him how to talk. Once in a while, he sounds like he is trying to say something. The students enjoy talking, reading, and looking at Pecky. Some of them have volunteered to feed and water Pecky. Others have even braved the clean up of his "messes".

They are very good at helping with the responsibility of having a pet! Stop by and see Pecky in our classroom!

Things we have learned from our class pet:

1. Birds sometimes dive at your head when flying.
2. Birds can get stuck repeatedly in their food dishes.
3. Birds will bite when they are learning to trust you.
4. Birds don't fly well when their wings are wet. They seem to nose dive and crash. After birds bathe, their feathers should be dry before they try to fly.
5. Birds are intelligent and learn things very fast.
6. Birds sometimes leave a mess while perched on your finger.



## News from the AC-T Superintendent – Dr. Marlin Lode

### Student Enrollment Decreases

On October 1<sup>st</sup> schools across Iowa take count of the students living in their school districts. The enrollment in Albert City-Truesdale decreased from 251 in 2006 to 228 this year. Included in this number are: 1) students enrolled in the Albert City-Truesdale Elementary School, 2) students tuitioned to Sioux Central, 3) students open enrolled to other districts. This is a breakdown of enrollment in those three categories for 2006 and 2007:

Albert City-Truesdale Elementary	85	78
Tuitioned to Sioux Central	102	93
Open Enrolled Out	64	57

The enrollment taken on October 1<sup>st</sup> is used to determine school funding for the following school year. With the decrease in enrollment, the Albert City-Truesdale school district will receive less in funding next year. At the same time the district will make lower payments for students tuitioned and open enrolled out. School officials believe the effect of the enrollment loss will be minimal. The district remains fiscally sound and plans to continue all of its current programs into the future.

### Regional High School Study

Dwindling populations are common in many rural communities across Iowa. In a recent poll of area schools, 92% of superintendents reported a decline in their student enrollment. In their last session, Iowa legislators approved a bill that calls for a study of efficiencies of schools, cities and counties. Legislators want local governments to examine opportunities for becoming more efficient in light of population losses.

We all know how things changed in the last ten years. What will change in the next ten years?

Due to the previously mentioned issues, the Albert City-Truesdale board of education remains a partner in the study of a regional high school. It is important to keep in mind this is a study and nothing more at this time. AC-T board members believe the study provides valuable information for future planning, regardless of the direction the citizens of AC-T choose. In all likelihood, if a regional high school were to come to fruition, it would not happen for many years. Finally, any decisions regarding the future of AC-T students will be made by the citizens of our Albert City-Truesdale community.

The board remains committed to its sharing agreement with Sioux Central. The Sioux Central school district offers excellent academic and activity programs for our students. The boards, administration, and staff in our two schools enjoy a very good working relationship.

### **New Playground Nearly Complete**

We are very pleased with the new AC-T playground. Although the project took a little longer than we thought, the final result exceeded our expectations. Our students and the school community can enjoy a safe and fun place for children. Our children no longer have to cross the street to get to the playground, supervision is easier, and children have access to the latest recreation equipment.

Thank you to the many volunteers for donating time, food, equipment, and other services during the construction. The project was funded by monies from the local option sales tax. By shopping locally; you realize a return on your investment.



### **Board Reviews Changes in Location of Principal's Office**

In response to improved school safety, changes are under consideration for the school offices. Currently the principal's office is distant from the main entrance and the superintendent's office. The board hired Allers Associates Architects of Fort Dodge to recommend options for creating office space near the main entrance to accommodate the principal, superintendent, and their secretaries. The goal is to enhance safety and efficiency.

This proposal is part of other changes made this fall including: new and safer pick-up and drop-off locations for children, a designated bus loading and unloading area, locked doors, a registration procedure for school visitors, and a fenced playground. We believe these changes are working very well to keep children as safe as possible. Thank you to the people of the Albert City-Truesdale school community for your wonderful cooperation.

### **New Faces on Staff**

This summer board members approved contracts for two new teachers in AC-T. Melissa Loving is teaching first grade. Prior to coming to Albert City-Truesdale, Mrs. Loving taught in the South Clay school district. Also new to AC-T is Annette Gerber. Ms. Gerber was a teacher in the Rabiner Center before coming here and will be working with special needs students in our school. She also works part-time in Sioux Central. In their regular board meeting in September, school board members hired three new members to the AC-T team. Tom Farrell joins the staff as Assistant Maintenance and Transportation Director. In addition to custodial duties, Tom will be trained to fill in for Keith Moe when needed. Deb Jesse is our newest teacher associate. She is currently working in the preschool room. We also welcome Julie Olson, who will serve children as a part-time nurse. We hope you will have a chance to get to know these new folks and all of the staff members in your Albert City-Truesdale school.

## *Principally Speaking... by Barbara Kady*

The first several weeks of the 2007 - 2008 school year have been very successful! The year started out with the second annual PACT Back to School Carnival. The Carnival was a great event, with many students and family members attending. Thanks to everyone who helped us kick off the new year with such a fun celebration!

The Grandparent's Day Program was held on September 28. We were delighted to have many Grandparents and substitute Grandparents attend the program! We hope to see you often throughout the year at various special events and activities that will be held at school throughout the year.

The students and staff will be honoring local Veterans with a program on November 9. Following the program, Cyndie will be serving a meal to those Veterans in attendance.

The faculty and staff at AC-T are highly committed to providing our students with a quality education. Our students come to school ready to take advantage of the learning opportunities that are presented to them each day. Parents and community members are strong supporters of education and of our school. We are grateful for all of these positive factors that combine to make Albert City Community School District a "Great Place to Start!"

I would like to say a special thank you to our PACT group. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend the PACT meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the staff work room. The PACT is a group of parents and teachers who work together to enhance the educational opportunities for our students.

It is wonderful to live and work in a community that places such a high priority on providing its students with a quality education. Community support for the school is evident among Albert City – Truesdale residents.

Thanks to each of you for playing such an important role in helping our young people to succeed.

## **Public Notices:**

### **Human Growth and Development**

The State of Iowa has legislatively mandated instruction in human growth and development. The instruction will be age appropriate for children.

The curriculum to deliver these requirements to Albert City-Truesdale Community School students has been developed and is available for parents' review.

The law states, "A pupil shall not be required to take instruction in human growth and development if the pupil's parent/guardian files with the principal a written request that the pupil be excused from instruction." It is the school district's intent to provide appropriate instruction following state guidelines and with the assistance of our local advisory committee. The Albert City-Truesdale Community School District will honor parent/guardian wishes relative to the topic with as little disruption of the total program as possible.

### **Nondiscrimination**

An important part of the Albert City-Truesdale Community School District's Nondiscrimination Policy deals with the students. This section is printed below; the entire policy and grievance procedure are available in the principal's office and media center and in the district offices.

The policy of the Albert City-Truesdale Community School District is to ensure that students shall be treated equitably in educational programs and activities regardless of their race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, age or disability. Differential treatment on the basis of gender will not be permitted except when necessary to accomplish a specific educational purpose that does not impinge upon essential equality or fundamental fairness in the treatment of students. It is the policy of the district in this regard to be in full compliance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Titles VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Section 601A of the Iowa Code.

The compliance officer regarding discrimination practices in the Albert City-Truesdale Community School District is the Superintendent. Any complaints concerning discrimination should be directed to that office at 300 Orchard St., Albert City, Iowa 50510; phone (712) 843-5416.

### **Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employment**

The Albert City-Truesdale Community School District shall provide equal opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment in accordance with all applicable equal employment opportunity laws, directives and regulations of federal, state and local governing bodies and agencies. The district shall take affirmative action in recruitment, appointment, assignment and advancement of women, minorities and disabled. Employees shall be given notice of this policy annually.

Individuals who file an application with the school district will be given consideration for employment if they meet or exceed the qualifications set by the board, administration and State Department of Education for the position for which they apply. In employing school district personnel, the board shall consider the qualifications, credentials, and records of the applicants without regard to race, color, creed, gender, marital status, national

origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or disability. In keeping with the law, the board shall consider the veteran status of applicants.

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunities and affirmative action shall be directed to the Superintendent. Inquiries may also be directed, in writing, to the Iowa Civil Rights Department or to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Such inquiry or complaint to the state or federal office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

Further information and copies of the procedures for filing a complaint are available in the principal's office in each attendance center and at the district office.

### **Student Directory Information**

The district and/or the principal may release the following types of directory information to the public using discretion relative to the privacy of the student and the family and the totality of the surrounding circumstances; name, address, telephone listings, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous school or institution attended by the student.

Parents who do not want their child's directory information and/or photograph to be given out and/or published must notify their principal in writing each school year.

### **Asbestos**

The Environmental Protection Agency has developed guidelines for schools to use in identifying asbestos within buildings, and the Institute for Environmental Assessment has designed a system for determining relative risks and suggesting appropriate safety responses. Some general recommendations for the Albert City-Truesdale Community Schools procedures for dealing with the material that may contain asbestos have been formulated. These recommendations contribute to the safeguarding of all building occupants. Detailed descriptions of the recommendations are available for review at each school building and the district office.

The district's asbestos manager has inspected the district's buildings to determine if there are asbestos containing building products, especially in a form that could represent a health risk. Information about the manager's findings and recommendations are available upon request.

### **Student Records Access and Confidentiality**

Cumulative records are maintained for each child who enters school. The records contain test information, progress reports, health records, and other pertinent data. The Board of Directors of the Albert City-Truesdale Community Schools provides for the maintenance of student records in a confidential manner in conformity to Chapter 68A of the Code of Iowa. The policy embodies the concept that parents may have access to student records and that people outside the school system may have access only under strict regulations, which generally requires written consent from the student's parents. Parents who wish to examine their student's records may arrange to do so by contacting the principal. The entire policy is available in the principal's office of each attendance center.

Beyond simple access, parents have "the right to make written objections to any information contained in the records" and an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the contents of their child's school records. This is to insure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of students, and to provide an opportunity for correction or deletion of such materials.

### **Searches**

The Albert City-Truesdale Community School Board of Education has established a policy concerning searches. A complete copy of the District's search policy is available in the principal's office and media center at each attendance center and at the district office.

Upon reasonable suspicion that a violation of the school's rules or policies has occurred, including violation of the substance abuse policy, or upon reasonable suspicion that a person is in possession of contraband or unauthorized items, authorized school officials may inspect lockers, desks, and work areas and anyone on entering, or leaving the school premises, including students, school employees, employees of contractors or their subcontractors or agents doing business with the school, and others such as visitors and guests. To ensure students are properly maintaining their assigned lockers, the principal of the building may periodically inspect the lockers. Either student or another individual will be present during the inspection of lockers. Student lockers may also be searched, at any time and without advance notice, in compliance with board policy regulating search and seizure.

### **Abuse of Student by School Employees**

The Albert City-Truesdale Community Schools' Board of Education has established a policy concerning abuse of students by school employees. A complete copy of the District's policy is available in the principal's office and media center at each attendance center and at the district office.

It is the policy of the Albert City-Truesdale Community School District that school employees not commit acts of physical or sexual abuse, including inappropriate and intentional sexual behavior, toward students. Any school employee who commits such acts is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including discharge. The district will respond promptly to allegations of abuse of students by school employees by investigating or arranging for full investigation of any allegation, and to do so in a reasonably prudent manner. The processing of a complaint or allegation will be handled confidentially to the maximum extent possible. All employees are required to assist in the investigation when requested to provide information, and to maintain the confidentiality of the reporting and investigating process.

The district has appointed the Principal, as the level one investigator and the Superintendent, as the alternate level one investigator. The level one investigator and alternate have been provided training in the conducting of an investigation. Arrangements have been made with a trained, experienced professional to serve as the level two investigator.

### **Open Enrollment**

Parents/guardians considering the use of Open Enrollment option to enroll their child/children in another public school district in the State of Iowa should be aware of the following dates:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| March 1, 2008 -     | Last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2008-2009 school year.<br>Good cause applications may be approved after March 1, 2008. |
| September 1, 2007 - | Last date for open enrollment for entering kindergarten students for the 2007-2008 school year.   |
| September 1, 2008 - | Last date for open enrollment for entering kindergarten students for the 2008-2009 school year.   |

Parents/guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend. Parents should be aware that open enrollment may result in the loss of athletic eligibility. For further details, contact the Central Office.

### **Student Discipline and Responsibility**

The Albert City-Truesdale Community School District Board of Education affirms its intent to support the district's student responsibility and discipline policies and its intent to hold district staff accountable for implementing these policies.

Policies and rules shall be maintained for the following:

- Attendance requirements
- Use of tobacco at school
- Use of alcohol beverages at school
- Use of controlled substances at school
- Weapons on school property
- Violent, destructive, harassing, and seriously disruptive behavior
- Suspension, expulsion, emergency removal, and physical restraint
- Out-of-school behavior
- Participation in extra-curricular activities
- Academic progress
- Citizenship



### **Conduct at School Events**

The Albert City-Truesdale Community School District Board of Education affirms its intent to support the District's policies regarding public conduct on school premises.

The public is permitted to attend school activities only as guests of the school district, and, accordingly as a condition of such permission, must comply with the school district's rules and policies. Guests will not be allowed to interfere with the enjoyment of the students participating, other spectators or with the performance of employees and officials supervising activities. Adults, like students are expected to display mature behavior and sportsmanship. The failure of adults to do so may lead to removal from an event and their expulsion from future school activities.

The following behavior constitutes a violation of Board Policy Code 903.4, Public Conduct on School Premises:

- Abusive, verbal or physical conduct of guests directed at participants, officials or sponsors of school activities.
- Verbal or physical conduct of guests that interferes with the performance of students, officials or sponsors of school activities.
- The use of vulgar or obscene language directed at students, officials or sponsors of school activities.

These rules extend to spectators while attending events in other schools or sites in which Albert City-Truesdale students are participating. Abusive, vulgar or obscene language transmitted in printed form, telephonically or electronically to students, officials, or school employees, in regard to school matters, is a violation of this policy.

### **Sexual Harassment**

All members of the Albert City-Truesdale Community School District, including, but not necessarily limited to, the Board, administration, faculty, staff, and students, are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from sexual harassment. Any person who engages in sexual harassment while acting as a member of the school community will be in violation of Board Policy 502.10. Violations of this policy by students will be cause for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion. School employees shall be responsible for promoting understanding and acceptance of, and assuring compliance with state and federal laws and Board policy and procedures governing sexual harassment within the school setting.

### **Multicultural and Nonsexist Education**

Enrolled children in the Albert City-Truesdale Community School District shall have an equal opportunity for a quality public education without discrimination regardless of race, creed, sex, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, ability or disability.



The education program shall be free of such discrimination and provide equal opportunity for participants. The education program shall foster knowledge of, and respect and appreciation for the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society. It shall also reflect the wide variety of roles open to both men and women and provide equal opportunity to both sexes.

Inquiries regarding compliance with equal education opportunity shall be directed to the compliance officer by writing to the Superintendent, 300 Orchard St., Albert City, IA 50510.

### **Bullying and Harassment**

Harassment and bullying of students and employees are against federal, state and local policy, and will not be tolerated by the board. The board is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying and harassment of students by students, school employees, and volunteers who have direct contact with students will not be tolerated.

The board prohibits harassment, bullying, hazing, or any other victimization of students based on any of the following actual or perceived traits or characteristics, including but not limited to, age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status. Harassment against employees based upon race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, age, or disability is also prohibited.

If, after investigation, a student is found to be in violation of this policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures up to, and including suspension or expulsion. If after an investigation a school employee is found in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures up to, and including, termination. If after investigation, a school volunteer, visitor, or citizen is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer, visitor, or citizen shall be subject to appropriate measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

Bullying or harassment transmitted orally, in printed form, telephonically or electronically to students and school employees, in regard to school matters, on school property, or at school events is a violation of this policy.

# Tri-Co Health Network

## Balanced Health Resource Center

The Tri-Co Health Network is pleased to once again be working with the schools in Buena Vista County to help children and families gain access to balanced health care. Project staff will work with guidance counselors, school nurses, administrators and teachers to provide resources to help meet the needs in the school.

A health assessment was conducted in the schools last fall with both families and students (6-12 grades) to measure the level of health care access and to determine what the main needs are in the schools. Of the families who responded to the survey, 4% do not have medical insurance, 39% do not have dental insurance, and 62% do not have insurance for eye care. The top 5 health-related issues that need to be addressed were identified as:

#### Parents

- 1) Peer Pressure (36%)
- 2) Alcohol Abuse (34%)
- 3) Drug Abuse (33%)
- 4) Bullying (31%)
- 5) Parenting Skills (29%)

#### Students

- 1) Bullying (42%)
- 2) Peer Pressure (37%)
- 3) Health & Fitness (33%)
- 4) Alcohol Abuse (31%)
- 5) Drug Abuse (27%)

Tri-Co will assist the schools in addressing these issues by teaming with school personnel, health care providers and community-based organizations to identify and utilize available resources to meet the needs. Each month a new theme will be highlighted in order to focus our attention on specific topics listed above. Some of the themes for the months will be *Healthy Starts*, *Let's Talk*, *Give Thanks* and *Dental and Mental Health*. Topics will include healthy eating, bullying, oral health, substance abuse and mental health. The schools will receive tips and resources from Tri-Co staff to help them address these topics with children and families. More information can be found at the school or by visiting our web site [www.bridgesmh.com](http://www.bridgesmh.com); just click the Tri-Co Health Network option on the title page.

The topic of the month is just one way that Tri-Co will be partnering with other organizations to improve the health of children and families in Buena Vista County. If you would like more information about Tri-Co, would like to check out books or CD's in our resource library, or would like assistance with accessing health care, please contact us by phone at (712)200-3781 or email at [mshea@alta.k12.ia.us](mailto:mshea@alta.k12.ia.us).

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