

# THE HURRICANE

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# The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

September/October/November 2011



## Veterans Day

By Carter Beckman

The Veterans Day program was at 10:30 on November 11th. It was a great program. I think the students did a great job. Karl Lind showed his tank retriever. Its job would be to go out and save tanks that were stuck. What a cool machine!!! The Albert City- Truesdale students served the veterans Cyndie's GREAT food. Roast pork, rye bread, stuffing, peas, and mashed potatoes with gravy, and pumpkin bars, yum!!! It was so good. But the real meaning of Veterans Day is to say thanks to our veterans. Thank you for serving our country and risking your lives to protect ours.

## Thank You Veterans!

By Mrs. Cormany, Pre-K

On Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, the staff and students of AC-T held a Veterans Day program for Veterans and people in the service from the Albert City area. Prior to the program, the PK students enjoyed visiting with Karl Lind, who owns a collection of military vehicles. This year, Karl shared with the students, his track mobile, which is similar to a tank. He talked with the students about what people in the service would use this type of vehicle. There was room for eight soldiers in the back along with a driver and passenger in the front seat. When they

wanted a hot meal or coffee, they would open their canned goods and place them on the top of the engine compartment, to heat their goods or water. The children also enjoyed sitting in the vehicle as if they were in the service.

Following visiting with Mr. Lind, the PK-6 students performed for the program. The PK and Kindergarten started the program off by marching into the gym to the Washington Post waving their red, white and blue flags, scarves, and streamers. Following the march, they sang God Bless America.



## 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) You can also sign-up with SNOWCAP text alerts through our website. Sioux Central also offers text alerts via their website: [www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us](http://www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us)

# Nurse Notes

Another school year is well under way in the Nurses' office! Nurses Deb and Julie continue to share the job of Albert City-Truesdale School Nurse...

~Nurse Deb continues to track all immunization records. She audits every student's shots to make sure all were given, and given at the right time. In addition to Public Health's audit of these records every fall, we need to be diligent to ensure that students are protected from some very serious diseases, and not risking spreading those diseases to others.

~Nurse Deb also takes care of offering flu shots to our school staff every fall. Have you had yours yet?

~Nurse Julie is again taking care of auditing records for dental screens. Every Kindergarten student is required by Iowa law to receive a dental screen, and the school is required to provide a compilation of those records to the state.

~Nurse Julie has also started fluoride treatments in October; with a parent's permission, first through sixth-graders receive fluoride once weekly. During the one minute of swishing, she has opportunity to teach uninterrupted! We cover many health-related topics, such as hand-washing and tooth-brushing, exercise and seat belt use, nutrition and skin care, serving sizes and thankfulness, and respiratory etiquette and lice prevention.

~Please refer to the school handbook for guidelines on when to keep your child home from school. A student with a fever (temp 100.0 F or greater) cannot be at school, and cannot return to school until they have gone 24 hours without a fever (without using Tylenol or ibuprofen).

~As always...Head lice exist wherever there are groups of children. We try to teach students not to share hair articles or hat and hoods, but as parents, you need to check your child's head every week. Spend 15 minutes combing and parting the hair; lice are very small, and like the warmth of the scalp. The eggs (nits) stick to the shaft of hair; they do not "flick" off, but must be pulled off between two fingernails.

~This December, we will be completing our annual "mini-physicals", which include height, weight, pulse, blood pressure and BMI (body mass index: a measure of body fat). At the same time, we complete a vision screen. Parents will receive the results of all these tests home after the first of the year.

~The AEA Audiology Department has completed hearing screens for all preschool, kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and new students.

~Several of our staff members took a CPR, AED and First Aid class in September. They spent a morning in class, and finished by testing out and receiving certification. Congratulations to those who participated!

Please feel free to call us with questions or concerns anytime; we are happy to partner with you in ensuring that our students are as healthy as possible!

Julie Olson, RN and Deb Clausen, RN  
AC-T School Nurses 843-5416 ext. 272 [nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us](mailto:nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us)

# News from the 6th Grade

## Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

### **Interview with Leslie Salazar by Crystal Johnson**

Leslie likes to go to Mexico, to visit her grandparents' house with her mom Quincie, dad Miguel, and sisters Emily and Ana. Leslie is 11 and her sister Emily is 6 and Ana is 15. At her grandparents' house they eat Leslie's favorite food, nachos. Leslie has 3 pets; a dog and two birds. The dog's name is Amber and the two bird's names are Angel and Tweety. Leslie is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It will be her last year at AC-T. She will miss Cyndie's food. She can't wait to make more friends in Sioux Central. Leslie's full name is Leslie Ann Salazar. Leslie's parents were born in California and Mexico. Her mom was born in California and her dad was born in Mexico. Leslie is thankful for her closest friends: Hannah, Makayla, Shera, Mercedes, Haylee, Gabby, Kiley, and Crystal.

### *Interview with Crystal Johnson by: Emma Garvick*

Crystal loves to listen to music; it is one of her favorite things to do while she is at home! She also likes to eat lots of ice cream; vanilla is her favorite. Crystal is 12 years old and she was born in 1999. She lives with her Mom, Grandma, Grandpa, and her little brother, Brandon. Crystal loves to spend time with her family and go to Omaha with them. She has 3 sisters and 1 brother. Crystal loves to eat cinnamon rolls and chili. That is her favorite lunch at school. Her favorite subject in school is Math; she is very good at it. Crystal is also a very good friend and that is why I am happy that she is in my class.

### **Getting to know Natalie Baack by Mercedes Unger**

Natalie Baack was born on September 17, 1999. Natalie was born in Clarion, IA. When she grows up she would love to be a veterinarian and live in Templeton, IA. If she could have anything in the world she would choose the cutest dog. Some of Natalie's favorite things to do are reading, dancing with her dogs Zowie, Max, Boomer, Jake, Gavin, and Garfield. She also loves sleeping. During the summer she is involved in softball. (This is one of her favorite sports.) Natalie has two brothers Nick and Ethan. She also has two stepbrothers Charlie and Taylor and one stepsister named Meridith. Natalie's parents' names are Katie and Chris. Her stepmom's name is Angie. Natalie's most favorite school lunch is spaghetti. The one thing she is looking forward to at Sioux Central is having her own computer. Natalie will be missing everything about AC-T when she goes to Sioux Central. I wish Natalie the best of luck next year!

### **MEET LAINNIE MILLER! BY: SHERA SMITH**

Lainnie Miller, who likes Hobo Ninja Unicorns, lives in Albert City, Iowa with her mother Elizabeth, grandma Mary, brother Raine, and sisters Makinzie and Alexis. She enjoys eating steak, ice cream, and bananas. When it's nice out she likes to go and play softball, basketball, and football with her friends Katie F., Haden, Darien, Natalie, Jewel, and Brenten. Lainnie was born in Des Moines, IA on January 17, 2000 in a hospital. Lainnie likes to hang out with family and friends and play sports for fun. Her favorite shoes are Osiris. She is looking forward to going to Sioux Central and getting a computer. Lainnie wants to be a pediatrician/baby doctor when she grows up. I think that you should get to know Lainnie Miller!

# My Friend Carter Beckman by Brandon Demers

One of the three boys in our AC-T sixth grade is Carter Beckman. He is one of my best friends. We have been together since Pre-school at AC-T. He is 11 years old, but will turn 12 on November 29, 2011. His parents are Bryan and Kristen Beckman. He has two sisters named Clise and Haylee. Haylee is a fifth grader at AC-T and Clise graduated from Sioux Central. Carter was born at Buena Vista Regional Medical Center at Storm Lake, Iowa.

Carter's favorite ride is the Space Shot. His favorite game is football, which he plays. He also enjoys Call of Duty Black Ops video game. He says lime green is his favorite color. When he is not in school, he enjoys hunting with his dad or riding his bike with his friends.

Carter's favorite food is beef stroganoff. He would like to drive a white 2011 Dodge Charger. He also enjoys NASCAR racing. He likes to cook with his dad making homemade pizza. He also shared with his classmates the venison jerky made by his dad and himself. He loves to cheer for the Iowa Hawkeyes.

When Carter grows up he wants to be a military engineer. His favorite memories of AC-T are being with all of his friends. Carter will be going on to Sioux Central with his classmates and will most enjoy getting a computer and helping Brandon. Thank you for your time visiting Carter and have a good year at AC-T!

## **Albert City - Truesdale Elementary Instrumental Music by Adam Perry**

Hello from the AC-T Band Department. I would like to take a little time to introduce myself as I am new here at AC-T this year. My name is Adam Perry. I am an Aurelia, IA native where I graduated in 2000. I then went to The University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD where I graduated in 2005. I then taught in Garretson, SD for six years. My wife, Rainie, is from Spencer so when the chance came up to move back "home" we jumped at the opportunity. We now live in Peterson with our 16 month old son, Hunter, who will have a new sister at the end of January.

But anyway, I am sure that you want to hear about what we have been doing in the music room. We have been having a really great year already. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band has 10 members whom have been progressing very well. They even played the Bump Bumps at the homecoming pep rally with the HS Band in Sioux Rapids. Since that time we have been working very hard at putting together songs for the winter concert.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade band started just a little late this year but has been making it up very quickly. We can proudly boast that we have 100% participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band. We have a nice little band with a flute, clarinet, saxophone, baritone, and two percussionists. We are also working very hard to learn songs for the winter concert.

Speaking of the concert, it will be held on December 20<sup>th</sup> in the gym. I can speak for myself and the band when I say that we hope you come out and enjoy the young band sounds at the concert.

See you then and Happy Holidays,  
Adam Perry



## **A Person Named Mr. Perry by Gabby Long**

One day an awesome person named Mr. Perry got abducted by aliens. He graduated from The University of South Dakota. His favorite color is royal blue. He teaches band, high school advisory, and 6th grade study hall at Albert City-Truesdale and Sioux Central

schools. Before Albert City-Truesdale and Sioux Central he taught at Garretson School District at Garretson, SD for 6 years. He is 29 and likes Jazz and Heavy Metal music. He didn't always want to be a band teacher; he was thinking he wanted to be in computer technology, farming, or auto/motorcycle mechanics. He has a wife named Rainie and a 16 month old son named Hunter. He is expecting a little girl at the end of January. After the aliens figured out what a good life he had, they sent him back just the way he was.

## Falkena's Fun Facts by Makayla Bjork

Meet Mrs. Falkena: the super woman in our pre-school. She helps all the little ones have fun, learn new things, and she loves doing it. Mrs. Falkena used to have a daycare in her household. She has been working with children for the last 22 years, and she enjoys it very much.

Let's go back in time a little to her childhood; she has 12 siblings, 7 sisters and 5 brothers. There are 13 children in all 8 girls and 5 boys. Her mom and dad are Frank and Kate Ulrich. Mrs. Falkena and her family are originally from Mallard, Iowa; she now lives a block north of the school, and gets to walk to school almost every day. She was born in Emmetsburg, Iowa. Her birthday is on January 8; it's coming up!! When she was a child she lived on a farm. Her full name is Debra Sue Falkena.

Now let's go back to present day 2011. What Mrs. Falkena really does is: teaches the children, helps them, and is just there to help out Mrs. Cormany and Mrs. Roberts. Her favorite things to do with the students are to just interact with them and watch them learn. Her family now consists of her husband Jeff, their daughter Amy, their son Matt, and their two dogs Sammy and Taz. In her spare time she likes to sew, quilt, and just spend time with her family. She hasn't found any food that she doesn't like. Some of her favorites are the Creamed Chicken with Biscuits, Italian Dunkers, and the Cinnamon and Carmel rolls. She really likes her job and hopes to have a good rest of the school year. Thank you for taking time to read this article to get to know Mrs. Falkena more. I think she is a kind, great teacher; and that she is a good person to work with children.

## THE HURRICANES HAVE A NEW CUSTODIAN

AND HIS NAME IS JARED HAYS.

*By Thor Nielson*

Jared Hays does custodial and maintenance work here. Before working at AC-T he worked for the city. He gets here at 9:00 A.M and leaves at 5:00 P.M. Jared likes his job here. He has worked here for three and a half months. In his past time he changes light bulbs. He went here in the past, and graduated in 1992. Keith Moe is his supervisor. Jared's family includes Donna, his wife; and children, Sami (5<sup>th</sup>), Connor (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Austin who is 2 years old. Jared lives in town. He was born in Grand Island, Nebraska. He has an older and a younger brother. His favorite subject in school was history. I think Jared is a good, hard worker.

## *Grandparents Day by Hannah Johnson*

On September 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Grandparents Day here at AC-T School. The preschool and kindergarten did 3 poems called "Down on Grandmas Farm", "Itsy Bitsy Spider", and "The Barn Yard Dance" and two songs called "Toes Up Toe Down" and "Toot". The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> did one poem called "Grandma Loves You" and two songs called "Heel, Toe, Away We Go" and "Hello". The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade did "Thirty Reasons We Love Our Grandparents" and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> did "Kids Say the Darndest Things". The 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> sang "Somebody Stole My Cow" and "A Long, Long Journey to Heel". Then we all sang "God Bless America." After that we had refreshments and cookies. The kids brought their grandparents to their room and showed them around. The grandparents got to take the kids home early. I thought it was fun and exciting. I hope other kids did too.

# Homecoming Week by Natalie Baack

Homecoming week was September 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. We went to the parade and the pep rally at Sioux Central. We had a dress up theme of Salad Dressings at school this week.

Monday- Dorothy Lynch - Hurricane Colors

Tuesday- Ranch Dressing- Western Attire

Wednesday- Blue Cheese - Dress in blue

Thursday- Thousand Island - Tropical

Friday- House Dressing- Rebel Colors

We had a door decorating contest and the winners were the third graders. Early in the week the football players and cheerleaders came to Albert City to show us some cheers. I thought homecoming was fun and I want to do this again. I hope other kids loved homecoming as much as I did.



*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders enjoyed making Apple Butter with Mrs. Bean!*

## Fire Prevention, Drug Free, and Bus Safety Week by Kiley Fuchs

Fire prevention week at AC-T was great! We practiced getting off the bus if there was a fire. We also practiced exiting the school building. Everyone did great! The firemen came and showed us how they would rescue someone trapped in a car after a crash. When they were done they gave us all Twizzlers. For Drug Free Week in Guidance we learned about how and why to stay drug free. We all received bracelets to wear and we also got a sticker to wear.



### Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trips by Leslie Salazar

Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade class went on three field trips this quarter. We went to a Soil and Water Conservation District with Colleen Schwanz who had taught our science class for two weeks on conservation and glaciers. We went to four places in Okoboji. We visited a prairie that has never been touched by machinery, a Fen, the Caylor Prairie, and took a walk through a glacial deposit to see a hogback. We visited the Buena Vista University Library for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade research report. We learned how to find books, magazines and articles at the library and checked out information for our report. We chinked the sod house with Mr. Stu Johnson at the museum in Albert City with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. When we were finished, Mr. Stu Johnson gave us all a carved little heart that said "I Helped Build a Homestead House." I enjoyed all three of these trips; because they were fun to go to!!!!



Thanks to Pleasant View Home  
for the School Supplies Donation!



## It's Apple-Picking Time! By Mrs. Bruns

On Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, our second grade class visited the Fort Dodge Community Apple Orchard. We have been learning all about apples and their life cycles. We loaded the bus that morning with excitement and anticipation. When we arrived, *Macintosh Meg* took us on a tour of the facility. First we walked into the orchard and picked a Haralson apple for a friend. Then we started a tour of the building.

We saw two funny animals: a "brown squirrel" that helped with picking the apples and a "green boa constrictor" that squeezed the apples for making cider. We learned the orchard has 500 trees. Ft. Dodge is the only orchard that grows Honey Sweets, a yellow apple. And, the most surprising fact of all, in one season, the orchard produces 15,000 gallons of apple cider!

Once we were through the building, we enjoyed a taste of that apple cider. Then we loaded onto a tractor-pulled cart and headed to the pumpkin patch. On the way we ate yummy popcorn from orchard cups. Then we each got to choose our favorite pumpkin to take home.

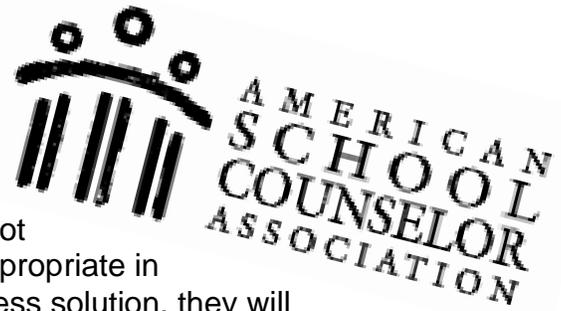
Our field trip was a great success. Before heading home we played on the Big Apple Choo Choo, fed the goats at their playground, and shopped in the orchard store. We would like to extend a BIG thank you to Mrs. Kady for allowing the trip, to our AC-T student council for funding the trip, and to Judy Ingalls for driving the bus. THANK YOU!



## **Elementary Counselor News, by Mrs. Wildeman** **Stress Solutions**

Experiencing a wide range of emotions is normal and healthy. We can all benefit from practicing stress solutions and parents can model solutions for their children. Keep in mind, what works for one person, may not be preferred by another person, and not all solutions are appropriate in all settings. If children have an opportunity to practice a stress solution, they will be more likely to use it when they actually experience a strong emotion. When we observe children cope with their stress in a healthy way, we can praise them. Here is a list of some common stress-relievers that I share with students when they are experiencing strong emotions.

- slowly count to 10 and then choose my words carefully
- walk to a quiet place to think and find something to do that makes me feel better
- tell myself that reacting in anger won't help the situation
- take ten deep breaths
- use an "I" statement, for example, "I feel angry when you call me a bad name and I don't want you to do it anymore"
- accept that sometimes things just go wrong
- think of something that could have prevented the situation
- find someone to talk to about my feelings
- use clay, play-dough, or silly putty
- scribble a picture, tear up, and throw away
- finger paint
- tear up old newspapers
- write in a journal
- blow bubbles
- use positive imagery
- listen to music, sing, dance
- EXERCISE



### **Albert City – Truesdale Student** **Honored in Iowa City**

Carter Beckman, a sixth grade student at Albert City – Truesdale Elementary School, was honored at the Belin-Blank Center Recognition Ceremony in Iowa City on Sunday, October 9. Carter received an Invent Iowa State Award for the invention he presented at the State Invention Convention held in April of 2011. Carter's invention was named one of the top six state-wide, and he received a college scholarship.

Speakers at the ceremony included Dr. Nicholas Colangelo, director of the Belin-Blank Center, Dr. Margaret Crocco, Dean of the University of Iowa College of Education, with letters read from Governor Branstad and Jason Glass, head of Iowa's Department of Education. Carter was asked to choose one teacher to be honored along with him, and he chose his former 3<sup>rd</sup> grade instructor Rebekah Spragg.

Carter's invention, the "Ease with Skiis" helps shopping carts move easily through ice, snow, and slush often found in parking lots during the winter months.

## GREETINGS FROM FIRST GRADE! BY MRS. LOVING

What a great way to start the school year - 18 eager-to-learn first graders smiling back at me each day! Such a joy to come to school each day!

Each day in first grade we are so busy and our days seem to fly by. We've already enjoyed the Grandparents Day program and the Veterans Day program. With the holiday season fast approaching we are looking forward to the Christmas program.

One of the first graders favorite things to do is to work on the iPads. We have nine iPads in our classroom and love to have time on them to practice our math skills, read a book, practice sight words...there are so many wonderful educational programs available to use.

We are moving forward with our reading skills and math skills, learning about the world and its history in social studies, and exploring lots of new things in science. This fall we got to tag and release monarch butterflies, we are hoping that we will get a call telling us someone has found one of *our* butterflies.

Stop in anytime to see all the exciting things we are doing.



**Merry Christmas from our Halloween crew!!**



## PACT Happenings

The PACT group was formed as a “booster club” for Albert City-Truesdale School. This group is made up of parents and volunteers who are interested in supporting our students, teachers and staff in any way possible. Everyone at AC-T really appreciates all we can do to help with projects at our school. Recently we have served cookies at Grandparents Day, provided meals for teachers during conferences, and “tattooed” the students and teachers for Homecoming!

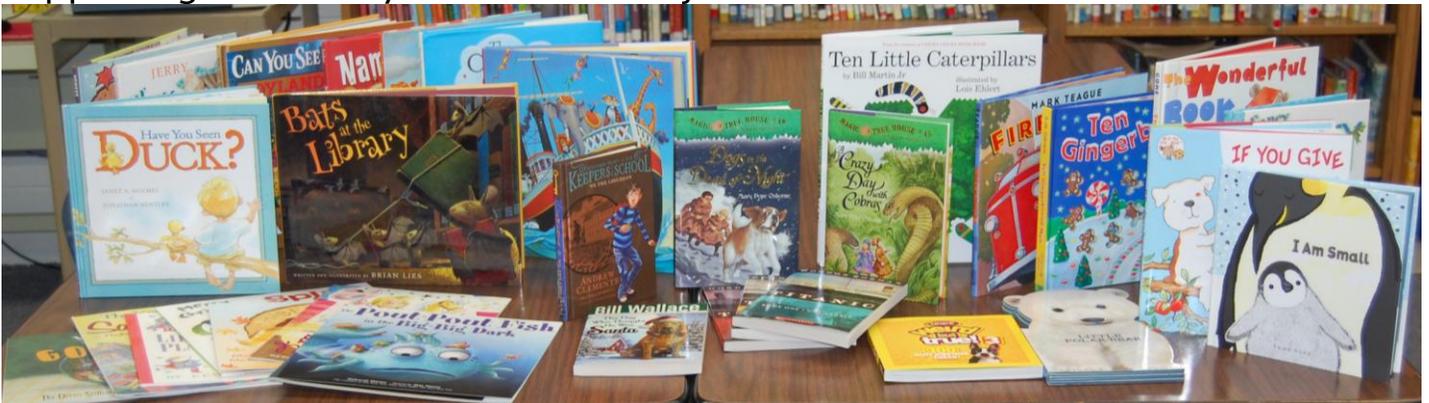
Upcoming events include the Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe in December and the bake sale at the Christmas concert on December 20th. Items for sale can be brought to the school the day of the concert. Please have baked goods ready to sell (on paper plates, in bags, etc.) If you would

be willing to help work at the Bake Sale before or after the concert, please contact Karen Feeley at 843-2289 or Kristen Beckman at 843-2249. And as always, come prepared to buy some goodies! This is one of our fundraisers throughout the year, and we appreciate the support of our PACT group! The Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe is an opportunity for your child to experience the spirit of gift giving while still enjoying the surprise for family members. The Shoppe dates will be December 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00pm. That week there will be assigned times for each class to go shop and buy gifts ranging from \$.25 to \$12.00.

The PACT group meets once a month, usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm. Our meetings only last about an hour, and that is when we plan our upcoming activities. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help out by providing baked goods as needed, supervising activities, and organizing events. We would really love to have you join us for the monthly meetings too! Coming to a meeting is not a long-term commitment. Join us when you can! You don't need to be a parent of a student to help out – we will use grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles or friends! We look forward to input and help from anyone who can come!

If you are willing to help in any way, please contact one of us. We welcome any comments or suggestions. Thanks for your consideration! Karen Feeley 843-2289 Kristen Beckman 843-2249

Total sales from the Fall Scholastic Book Fair were \$1196.91. AC-T receives \$478.76 in Scholastic Dollars to spend on books for our library as a result. Shown are some of the books purchased for the students. Thanks for supporting our library! The children just love to read the new books!



## News from the AC-T Superintendent/Principal – Barb Kady

On behalf of the faculty and staff at school, I would like to wish all of you a happy holiday season! At your AC-T school, we have enjoyed the wonderful fall season we have had this year, and we are also looking forward to the New Year, with many continued and new opportunities for students to develop and learn new skills.

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Albert City and Truesdale communities for your support of your school. We are very grateful to live in communities that place the education of its young people at a high priority.

It was a privilege to present a program and to have local Veterans be our guests for lunch on Veterans Day again this year. We want to say a special thank you to Karl Lind for sharing one of the military vehicles in his collection as well as some other military equipment with the students, staff, and Veterans. Mr. Lind's participation in the Veterans Day activities at AC-T is so deeply appreciated!

Your Albert City-Truesdale school board continues to serve and represent you doing the business that keeps your school running smoothly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank retiring board member Jared Hays for his 7 years of service on the school board. School board members are dedicated volunteers who

continually seek to serve the communities that have elected them, to maintain quality programs and facilities for our students. We would like to congratulate Jessica Wood and Debra Clausen on being elected to the AC-T board in September. Thanks to all of our school board members for the work they do for AC-T.

One of the issues your school board and administration watches closely includes enrollment numbers. October 1 is the official count date for public school enrollment. Preschool enrollment counts are done on September 15. Both of these numbers are key factors in the school funding that is received from the state. Enrollment at the elementary level at AC-T has increased by 7 students this year, compared to the fall 2010 enrollment count, while the enrollment for grades 7-12 has decreased by 7 students. Changes in students open enrolled in or out of the district have an impact on the funding the district receives, as do the numbers of students who may be home schooled, but dual enroll into the district for select courses or activities, such as standardized testing. Weighing all of those factors, the district shows a decline of approximately 2% in enrollment for the fall of 2011. Declining enrollment trends, as well as cuts in state funding, present budgeting challenges for districts all across the state of Iowa. At the 2011 legislative session, Instructional Support State Aid was cut, Pre-School funding was reduced, and allowable growth was set at 0%. This year and next the district will see a drop in the amount of money it is allowed to spend, also known as the district's spending authority. The amount of spending authority a district has is directly related to how many students are on the enrollment count. Every effort is being made to maintain the spending authority of the district. Your AC-T school board and administration work diligently to oversee the budget and run the affairs of the district in a fiscally responsible manner, while maintaining quality programs for students.

Technology resources continue to enhance instruction at AC-T. The addition of 30 iPads and the purchase of another smart board help to provide students with a 1 to 1 computer ratio. Teachers continually work to incorporate the use of technology in new and innovative ways. Professional development for the AC-T faculty includes a study of differentiated instruction, helping to ensure the needs of all students are met through a variety of instructional techniques.

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) will be given during the week of January 30, 2012. Students in grades 2 through 6 will be taking these assessments. These tests provide our faculty with important information regarding the educational progress students are making. Students can prepare for the ITBS by getting plenty of rest and eating a healthy breakfast each day. Throughout the school year, we ask that parents avoid making appointments for students that would cause them to be absent from school. This is particularly important during testing week. If you have questions regarding these tests, please do not hesitate to call the school.

With the winter season upon us, 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. AC-T makes the decision on whether or not to hold classes in cooperation with the administration at the Sioux Central Schools. When Albert City-Truesdale cancels classes, Sioux Central will do the same. We will notify radio and television stations as soon as these decisions are made. 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. On the AC-T website there is a link to sign up for the SNOWCAP Program, which will alert you with a text or email message should school be cancelled, or if there is a late start or early dismissal. There is also a link to sign up to receive the Sioux Central school cancellation notices. You may sign up for both if you wish!

The faculty and staff at AC-T hope all of you have a very happy holiday season, and we wish you and your family the very best in the coming year! Thank you for your continued support of Albert City –Truesdale Elementary School!

**Keep up with your AC-T school happenings! Listen to the KAYL (101.7FM) School Spotlight at 7:25 AM on the following dates: November 30, December 14, January 25, February 22, March 21, and April 18!**