



The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

February 2006/March 2006



AC-T

Preschool and

Kindergarten Registration

The Albert City-Truesdale Community School District invites all 2006-2007 kindergarten eligible children to a morning in the AC-T kindergarten room from 8:30-10:00 on Tuesday, March 28th.

Registration for children who will attend preschool in the fall are encouraged to register from 3:30-4:30 in the preschool room on that same day.

All updated immunization records and each child's birth certificate is needed for registration for both kindergarten and preschool. Parents are encouraged to notify the school if unable to attend these registration times.

AC-T Receives Reading First Recognition

The Albert City-Truesdale CSD received recognition from the Iowa Department of Education for being one of seven schools to make the greatest gains in reading achievement. Albert City-Truesdale accomplished this through the Reading First initiative.

To identify the schools, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills Comprehension and Vocabulary scores were converted to student level descriptors. Student scores were calculated to obtain the difference in scores for the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years. These results were analyzed by grades.

The school is in the third year of the Reading First grant. Many hours of training and planning have gone into training teachers on researched-based strategies for teaching reading. The grant was written to include Kindergarten through third grades. The district invested into the plan to make it a school-wide effort.

Congratulations to the staff and students of Albert City-Truesdale CSD for this recognition.

Jump Rope for Heart will be held in the new gym March 17th from 2:00-3:15 for grades 3-6. The packets for donations will be handed out February 28th and returned to Mr. Lovin by March 9th.



AC-T Kdg. Class presents Children's Miracle Network Donations to BVRMC

On February 7, 2006 the Kindergarten class of Albert City-Truesdale visited the Buena Vista Regional Hospital. The school has been collecting for the Children's Miracle Network throughout the year. The students toured the facilities to see how the money might be used.

The tour started in a meeting room with Mr. Brad Strader. Two of the students presented him with about \$270.00 the school had collected since returning to school from the winter break. He thanked

the students and talked to them about what they would see on the next leg of the tour.

The students followed Mr. Strader up to the ward where the babies are kept. Two infants were there for the students to see. The class went into a hospital room where a mother might stay to have a child. They asked questions and got another glimpse of the babies before moving to the next area.

The class was taken down to the Physical Therapy unit. They saw the toys and equipment used to rehabilitate children with physical needs. They saw the whirlpool and got to experience using some of the equipment.

Each member of the class was given a ruler and crayons to create a picture of something they would remember about the trip. Those pictures were sent back to the hospital to be put on display.

As a special treat, the class was treated to lunch at the Dairy Queen. Dairy Queen is one of the corporate sponsors of the Children's Miracle Network. The students really enjoyed the lunch and ice cream before heading back to Albert City.

The trip was arranged by Mrs. Bobolz, the Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Nehring and Mrs. Ingalls, the bus driver, helped chaperone the trip.

The Kansas City Chiefs Mascot visits Albert City-Truesdale School

K. C. Wolf was welcomed by the elementary school students on Wednesday, January 11th. The students were dressed in the red, yellow and black colors of the Kansas City Chiefs. He was there to make a presentation to three students on behalf of the Midwest Dairy Council.

A contest was held to design a poster of a milk bottle based on the theme "The Power Behind the Play with 3-Dairy-A-Day." Over

4,000 entries were received from Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri. Out of these, twenty were chosen to win the right to have K.C. Wolf come visit the school. Forty posters were also selected as honorable mention. Cole Groszkrueger was selected as one of the grand prize winners. Cole Moens and Nathan Peterson both earned honorable mention awards. All three were recognized at the assembly. The three are students in the fifth grade taught by Mrs. Annette Bruns.

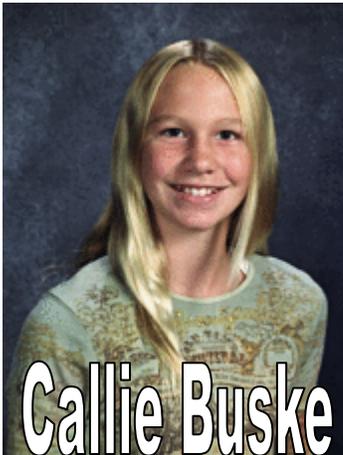
After the presentations, he talked with the students about making healthy choices in the foods they eat. He showed a couple of videos of his performances. Cole Groszkrueger had the opportunity to put on the mascot suit. A fun, educational time was had by all. After the assembly, the PACT (Pride of AC-T) parent group provided cupcakes to celebrate the occasion.



K.C. Wolf & Cole Groszkrueger in costume

News from the 6th Grade

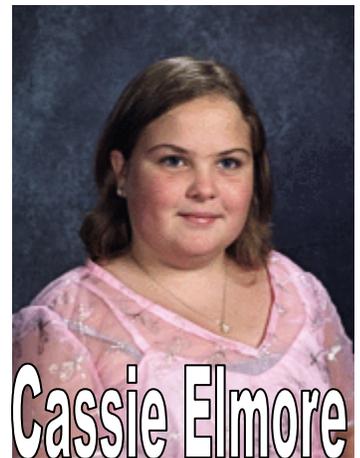
Get To Know Our Sixth Graders



Callie Buske has a number of favorite things. She loves to eat spaghetti and breadsticks! Callie's favorite sports are basketball and football. In football Callie is cheering for the Pittsburgh Steelers. For college games she is rooting for the Iowa Hawkeyes. Her favorite hobbies are scrapbooking and beading jewelry. Another favorite is the color green. Callie's best friends are Natalie Jensen and Cassie Elmore. In school Callie's best subject is math. For specials, she loves P.E.

By, Chandler Johanssen

Cassie Elmore is a kind and helpful person. She lives with her mom Michelle, her Grandma Beverly, and her younger brother Aaron. Her favorite subject in school is Math, she likes to be with her friends and have fun at recess. Her favorite colors are lime green and pink. Her favorite hobbies are reading books, and playing with her younger brother. Cassie likes to make jewelry. Cassie loves to shop and collects seashells. She has gone to Virginia Beach, South Dakota, and Nebraska, but her favorite place to be is The Mall where she loves to shop!!! By: Jasmine Nehring



Reading Buddies

By Cassandra Leann Hoops

The 6th graders are reading to the 1st graders for reading buddies. Each time we are assigned a different student to read to. We practice our book three times before we read to our buddies so that we can read the book fluently. Sometimes we read to a person in our own classroom.

When we get together, first we read to them, and then they read to us. Sometimes they come up to our room and sometimes we go to their room to read to them. We started reading buddies in November.



The Math Bee

By Sven Nielsen

The 6th grade Math Bee will be held at the Elementary Gym in Pocahontas on February 25, 2006, from 9:00-12:00. Only the sixth grade will compete against 24 other schools. There are only four members, and one alternate that get to go to the competition. The members that will compete are Abby Samuelson, Katie Sievers, Sven Nielson, Chandler Johansen, and Kyle Clausen. Our five members have the chance of winning a trophy. Remember only the 6TH GRADE will go.

Iowa History

By: Kyle Clausen

This is the first year in which we learn about our home states history, Iowa History. We also are taking on a research report, in which we picked a person, place, or event. This is what we picked, Tyler Bovero- Black Hawk/Black Hawk War, Callie Buske- Herbert Hoover, Kyle Clausen- Charles Floyd/Floyd Monument, Cassie Elmore- Spirit Lake Massacre, Karissa Erickson- Kate Shelley, Natasha Garret- Ioway Indians, Jared Hansen- Fort Atkinson, Cassandra Hoops- Keokuk, Natalie Jensen- Underground Railroad, Chandler Johannsen- Julien Dubuque, Becky Martens- The Old Shot Tower, Jasmine Nehring- Pioneers, Sven Nielson- Sullivan Brothers, Abby Samuelson- Amish/Mennonites, Katie Sievers- Robert Lucas. Also, in art Mrs. Bean has incorporated Iowa History with a fun project. We are working on a 4 block quilt. Every block has different things. On them we have the Goldfinch, the Wild Rose, the Geode, and the Oak tree. A lot of credit goes to Mrs. Bean. She has donated time before and after school for us to come down and work. She has also let us use some of her sewing equipment. We would like to thank Mrs. Bean for doing so much.



Candy Grams

By: Natasha Lynn Garrett

Fifth and 6th grade did candy grams again this year. The candy grams are what kids send to other kids for Valentines Day. The candy grams are only 25 cents. Sixth graders designed the cards and then the 5th and 6th graders put candy into them and address them. They are delivered on Valentines Day and the kids get to eat the candy.

AC-T COLLECTS POP CAN TABS, YOU CAN HELP!

Our whole school is collecting pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. I am especially interested in this because my brother was in the hospital and my family stayed there for little or no cost. We need your help to help others!

By Cassie Elmore

Exciting Technology News!!

By Mrs. Bjork

At the February Board Meeting, it was approved to purchase DVD players for every classroom! VHS videos are being phased out and DVDs are the new standard for curriculum and educational media. Also, a mobile laptop lab was approved for the lower elementary wing! A cart containing 20 laptops will be available for use in grades PK-3. Grades 4-6 have a similar lab available for use that was purchased with the Iowa Star Schools Grant in 2004. AC-T students are very fortunate to have new technology available for them to use and continue to learn with. Thanks to the AC-T Board!



100th Day of School

At AC-T the 23rd of January was the 100th day school. The cooks made a treat for all the kids that they got to eat after recess. The students received juice and cupcakes for the snacks. The cupcakes said 100 on them for the 100th day of school. The kids went outside to make the number 100. Mrs. Bjork took the picture and it's on the school web site. Many of the classes did some special activities on that day. The sixth grade did what would we like to accomplish in a 100 years.

By Jared Hanson

Basketball! By Karissa Erickson

Have you been to the Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade Girl's Tournaments? They have had one tournament and they came in Second Place!!!! Good job girls!! If you want to know who all plays, there well be a list down below and who they play. The girls played at St. Mary's on Saturday the tournament!!!! They play Sac City, Roster of girls that play: 5th grade: Hallie. 6th grade: Morgan, Presley, Rachel, Danielle, Brooke, Leah, Alyssa, Chandler Johannsen from AC-T, Callie Buske from AC-T, Savannah, and Brandi.



Place!!!! Good job girls!! If you want to down below and who they play. The girls January, 28th. We all hope they do well in Pomeroy-Palmer, Storm Lake!

Penny Challenge

Our AC-T elementary school is trying to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. We have raised \$ 600.00 for it so far. Mr. Baker challenges us every week to bring pennies such as bringing a penny for each tire on our car or each number on the phone. Our goal is \$1,000. Keep bringing in money.

By: Natalie Jensen



5th and 6th Grade News Bowl by Laura Sievers, K-6 TAG

Who is the newly appointed Supreme Court Justice? What was last year's average global temperature? How long did most Super Bowl ads last, and how much did they cost?*



5th and 6th graders are participating in Newsbowl, a weekly current events quiz. Categories include world and national news, sports, arts and entertainment, and "2-Bit" news, which is trivia. Each Thursday we have a short 15 minute quiz bowl - 5th grade vs 6th grade, with points being awarded for correct answers. So far 5th grade has won twice, 6th grade twice, and there has been one tie.

Sometime in March we will divide up into teams of 3 students and take an on-line quiz to test our knowledge against students from around the United States. 5th graders will compete against other 5th graders, while 6th will be paired with other 6th graders.

Watch for the results in a future edition of the school newsletter!

*answers to the above questions are Sam Alito, 58 degrees, 30 seconds and 2.5 million dollars.

News from the ART ROOM by Andrea Bean

It's been a fun year so far. The kids are great, the staff is very supportive and my room is convenient to everything. I'm at school teaching Monday from 11:30 A.M. to closing and the on Tuesday from 7:45 A.M. to 12:00 noon. It's a great schedule and it keeps me busy. I teach pre-school, kindergarten, and grades one through six.

We just finished up collage, stencil, story reading-drawing, wooden cuts out, clay, macaroni jewelry, brayer printing, and valentine's in the lower grades.

In fourth grade we're sanding, painting and putting our names on wooden blocks. Mrs. Bjork and I have collaborated on this project. Mrs. Bjork has helped in computer class to have the children pick a font for the lettering of their last names that will go on the blocks, while I've spearheaded the art part. It's been fun to see each student pick the colors and lettering that they each like.

In fifth grade, we've been making coil clay pots. It's proved to be quite the challenge since we only have art once a week. The clay wants to dry out too much to be workable for the next class period. We're finally getting this problem under control, and the pots are looking great. They have worked hard and have taken personal pride in their achievement. Justifiably so, as they are really nice looking coil pots.

Mrs. Wenell and I are working together on the sixth grade project, she teaches Iowa history, and I'm reinforcing the Iowa symbols by having each student make their own Iowa sampler quilt. We are using a different media for each block. Block one is the goldfinch and we used fabric crayons on it. Block two is the wild rose, we appliquéd that one. Block three will be the oak leaf and it's to be stenciled. Block four is the geode and it's going to have fabric and bead work on it. If you were to visit this classroom, you'd be amazed at how well these children work on quilt blocks. We will be looking for volunteers to help us assemble these into quilts by sewing them together when we get all the blocks done. If you are interested in volunteering, please call me or Mr. Baker any help would be appreciated.

I'm thankful for all the community support I've gotten when I put out a list of "things" we can use in the art room. Several people have donated, yarn, burnt out light bulbs, old CDs, and old toothbrushes. At present we have enough toilet paper rolls. We can use: glass mayonnaise jars, any cotton material, plastic canvas, yarn, sponges, buttons, beads, scrap lumber, sandpaper, liquid detergent (like Tide) lids and old CD's.

Once again thank you for what you contribute to the art program at AC-T. Whether it's encouragement, art materials, or appreciation of the arts in the school; it all benefits the children.

Wanted: New Desert Home away from Mankind



My name is Annie. I am an armadillo. I live by a stream in the desert, but these people keep throwing garbage in the stream. That's where I drink! I need a new home.

I eat grass, roots, fruits, and berries. I can't live close to the highway, because I am in danger of getting hit by cars and trucks. I don't want to become road kill.

You can reach me by calling 843-2252. I will pay you \$105 to find me a new home. My tummy is getting hungry. I can't survive without food. They ruined my home. Help me!!!

Written by Kyrstin Erickson

Wanted: Home in the Temperate Forest

Hi, I am a moose named Antlers. I am looking for a new home, because some weird guy burned down my home. I need it far away from mankind. Please make sure it is in the temperate forest.

My favorite foods are water lilies and their stems. I also like leaves and twigs from trees such as willows, pines, and birches. Can you find me a home with my favorite foods?



If you find me a home, I will pay you 1,000,000 dollars. If you find me a home soon, call me at 123-6643. People are mounting my friends in their homes. Please hurry! I think I'm going to be next.

Written by Chance Johannsen

Wanted: New Home Without T-REX

I'm an Ankylosaurus. My name is Heavy Club. I desperately need a new home. My home is being taken over by T-Rex. Please find me a home.

I need a place where there are berries. I also like leaves and plants. If you can make sure there is no T-Rex it Rex is my biggest worry. Maybe

If you find a home for me, I will Center near Dayton, Iowa. I am me a home. I need help by next someone finds me a home! Please call me at 843-5698.



would make me very happy. T-you could put a fence around it. be at Hidden Acres Christian giving a \$100.00 reward for finding Memorial Day. I can't wait until

Written by Corren Olson

From the Principal's Pen ~ David Baker

Can you believe that the school year is more than half over? The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are completed and we are awaiting the results. Basketball season is almost finished and track starts. This school year is going by so quickly. We look to the future and wonder what it will bring.

I have been reading about changes that education may be going through in the coming years. I see statements that the little schools may be forced to close if not meeting the standards. They have plans for how high schools will respond to meet the changing needs.

I feel this district is doing a lot to get ready for the future. Over the last three years, the teachers have been implementing researched-based methods to teaching reading. They have worked hard toward the goal of having every child at their reading level and it shows.

The staff is evaluating students and themselves to look for ways to build on the instruction given on a daily basis. They are attending workshops and conferences to improve themselves and bring information back to the district to share with other staff members. Many new practices and procedures are being implemented. As one area of instruction has completed the process, another area is reviewed.

No one can be sure the direction the state will go when it comes to education. They will strive to have this state be a leader. No matter what ideas will be formed, the Albert City-Truesdale School District is committed to meeting the challenge of educating the children of the community.

From the Superintendent's Desk ~Marlin Lode

Greetings,

Albert City-Truesdale Community School's Board of Education met in a work session on Saturday, February 11, 2006. In the five-hour retreat, board members affirmed their commitment to a quality elementary school in Albert City and continued support for the shared middle and high school programs at Sioux Central.

The meeting opened with a report from Principal, Dave Baker. Mr. Baker outlined the results of student testing, with detailed information presented regarding the results of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. AC-T students meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind law. Plans are underway to monitor the achievement level of students by grade, by groups of students as they move through the system, and for each student individually. Teachers will review an item analysis of the Iowa tests to determine the areas of strength and areas needing improvement in various curricula. Examples of items for review include: spelling, punctuation, reading comprehension, math facts, fractions, and decimals.

Board members held a preliminary discussion on the topic of the AC-T preschool. Board members suggested that the preschool policies offer more parent choice, by providing both full-day and half-day programs. Final action on this proposition will take place in a future board meeting.

Board members took time to look over current and projected enrollment. Enrollment in the AC-T Elementary School is expected to remain fairly stable over the next few years. The number of students opting to open enroll out of the district is going down. A plan for conducting a census of preschool children was discussed. In the coming months, board members hope to have these data available.

Because the AC-T building houses only an elementary school, there are portions of the building that are not occupied. In December, board members approved the initiation of a facility study to determine how the district could save utility costs and use the building in the most efficient manner possible. Board members began their review of the report. The report offers several options for reducing utility and maintenance costs. In the months to come, board members will continue their review to determine the best direction for the district.

The district enjoys a fairly strong financial condition; however, with future changes in the school funding formula, the district will need to monitor receipts and expenditures.

Before adjourning board members expressed their appreciation to the staff and community for supporting the students of Albert City-Truesdale. Board members are working hard to ensure that AC-T students receive an education that is unsurpassed anywhere.