

THE HURRICANE

Albert City-Truesdale CSD
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The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

March/April/May 2011

AC-T Preschool and Kindergarten Registration

A combination meeting for parents of children who are planning to be enrolled in preschool or kindergarten in the fall of 2011 will be held on Monday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the AC-T lunchroom. Please use the lunchroom door on the north side of the school on that night. Teachers will preview classroom curriculums and answer any questions that arise. Childcare will be provided. All updated immunization records and each child's birth certificate are needed at the meeting. Parents are encouraged to notify the school if unable to attend. All 2011-2012 kindergarten eligible children are invited to a morning in the Albert City-Truesdale kindergarten classroom from 8:30-10:00 on Wednesday, April 6.



Love of the Land, Soil Poster Contest and Art by Andrea Bean, Art Instructor

On Wednesday, March 16th at 1:00 P.M. the Albert City-Truesdale students and staff met in the big gym for the annual Buena Vista Soil Poster Contest award program. AC-T turned in eighty two of the one thousand three hundred

fifty six posters that the B.V. Soil Conservation office received for competition. This year's theme was, "Clean Water Starts With You." It was our schools privilege and honor to win close to one third of the awards given out this year. The award winners are:

Kindergarten- 4th place-Braeden Cormany, 6th place-Connor Hays, and Honorable Mention-Reagan Wolff

1st grade-1st place-Isaac Albeus, 4th place-Paige Eral

2nd grade-1st place-Trevor Demers, Honorable Mention-Michael Unger

3rd grade - 1st place-Abby Bean, 2nd place-Shelby Johnson, 3rd place-Dakota Caldwell, 4th place-Alyssa Feeley

4th grade-3rd place-Laine Wolff, Honorable Mention-Bailey Heuton

5th grade-1st place-Gabby Long, Honorable Mention-Natalie Baack, Honorable Mention-Mercedes Unger

6th grade-1st place-Jenny Sievers, 4th place-Nathaniel Caldwell, Honorable Mention-Tabitha Demers

Each placing received a ribbon. The first place winners will also receive an airplane ride around B.V. County. Albert City-Truesdale School received five of the seven airplane rides. Way to go AC-T!

I love teaching this part of art. I receive lot of information on various different poster contests, all of which are good, but because I teach one day a week, I pick one poster contest to compete in. I pick one is because I want to teach other aspects of art. The reason I have chosen this particular contest is for three reasons. The first reason is because it includes the whole school, not just one grade. The second reason is that posters are a great project to teach measuring

with a ruler (frame around poster), lettering (the title), drawing, inking with a fine black marker, coloring and shading with colored pencils.

Last is because of where we live, rural Iowa, the subject changes every year between water and the soil, but what a great way to teach the love and respect of the land we have been blessed with here in Iowa.

The last few years I have had the privilege of working with Agriculture in the Classroom program that is sponsored by the Iowa Farm Bureau. Some of you may know that I am a Minnesotan by birth and an Iowan by marriage. Yes, I have heard every Minnesota-Iowa joke, but, through the years I've learned to truly love and respect this state. We rank third in the nation in agricultural production; third only to Texas and California. Look at the difference in size between us. We rank first in the nation in corn, soybeans, hogs and eggs.

Yes, we have been blessed with sun, soil and rain in this area, but we are continually looking for and finding ways to conserve and preserve the natural resources we have been given. I'm so thankful we still have agencies that offer a way to creatively and artistic express this. So, thank you B.V. County Soil and Water Conservation committee, we appreciate how you encourage our children to be good stewards of the land, one of our most precious resources!

Nurse Notes

It is exciting to think that Spring may actually be here! There are many things we do in the Nurses' Office during this time of year. One of the BIG things is always the Pre-K and Kindergarten Round Ups. We are excited to see who our newest students will be in Preschool next fall and to see many of the current Preschoolers grow and learn as they prepare to move into Kindergarten in the fall. The parent night for Pre-K and K is April 4 at 6:30 pm. PLEASE bring along a copy of your child's current immunizations so that we can go over them and see what needs to be updated before Fall! If you know your child needs updates to begin Kindergarten, please be sure your child has had his/her 4th birthday and then schedule a time for immunizations BEFORE the week or two before school starts. That way if your child experiences any pain at the injection site or mild fever, it won't make that stressful time before school starts even more stressful for your child.

We have been busy with many runny noses, fevers and stomach aches. We just want to remind you that if we send your child home with a fever or throwing up, they need to be fever free or have not thrown up for AT LEAST 24 hours. That isn't just to protect your child but all the people your child comes in contact with, including adults. Doing this really does help us to keep everyone at AC-T healthy and ready to learn.

Just a reminder: The recommendations for prevention of head lice include parents checking the head of each child in the home for 15 minutes every week. Look carefully for nits (eggs) or lice. As lice can occur in any setting, we want to encourage you to take the time to do this every week.

If you ever have any questions please don't hesitate to stop in or give us a call. We will do our best to answer or find the answer to your question!

Have a Healthy Spring!

Julie Olson, RN & Deb Clausen, RN 712-843-5416 ext.272

Come to the 3rd and 4th Grade Presentations of: Holka Polka & Gingerbread Girl

*written by D. M. Bocaz-Larson and play produced by special arrangement with www.freedrama.net



Date: Thursday, April 28th

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: AC-T Old Gym

Admission: Adults \$2.00, Children \$1.00

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

We cordially invite you to attend our plays! See you there!! ☺

-Mrs. Spragg, Mrs. Dirks, and the 3rd & 4th Graders.



Opera Iowa Visits AC-T by Laura Sievers, Music

On Tuesday, March 15, AC-T and Sioux Central elementary students enjoyed a performance by Opera Iowa, the Education/Touring Division of the Des Moines Metro Opera. The afternoon began with interactive workshops for the 3rd through 6th graders put on by the performers. After a short

break, all students PK – 6 gathered in the gym for “Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing”. A highlight for the students was being able to sing along to “The Circus Song”, which they had been taught ahead of time in their music class. There was a short question and answer session after the performance.

Special thanks to the PACT and Sioux Central Parent Groups for providing the funding for this special event. Thanks also to volunteers from Valero who helped load and unload the Opera Iowa props and scenery, and to our custodians Keith and Tom for their help.

Elementary Guidance News, by Mrs. Wildeman

Upper elementary students participated in a drug prevention unit called The Danger Zone (Human Relations Media, Inc.) in January and February 2011. Lessons within the unit focused on: the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana on your body and on your life, inhalants, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, assertive ways to say “no”, and setting positive goals. A pretest and posttest was given to measure the program’s effectiveness. The results of the tests indicated a 38.6% increase in knowledge about drug prevention.

Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their children about drug and alcohol use. Helpful resources for parents to get started with these important conversations are from the Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa and the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center (ISAIC). Its associated websites include: www.drugfreeinfo.org (with a toll-free in Iowa 24/7 Help Line 1-866-242-4111) and www.FaceItTogether.com (check out the programs called “Take Five” and “The Power of Grandparents”).

Fun Activities in the 3rd and 4th Classrooms by Ms. Dirks and Mrs. Spragg

100th Day of School

The 3rd and 4th graders have been learning about nutrition during Health. We have played nutrition bingo, clipped pictures of different food groups from magazines, watched fun DVDs, and learned how to read nutrition labels on food. On the 100th day of school, students brainstormed 100 healthy snack items. It was a lot harder than we thought it would be!!!



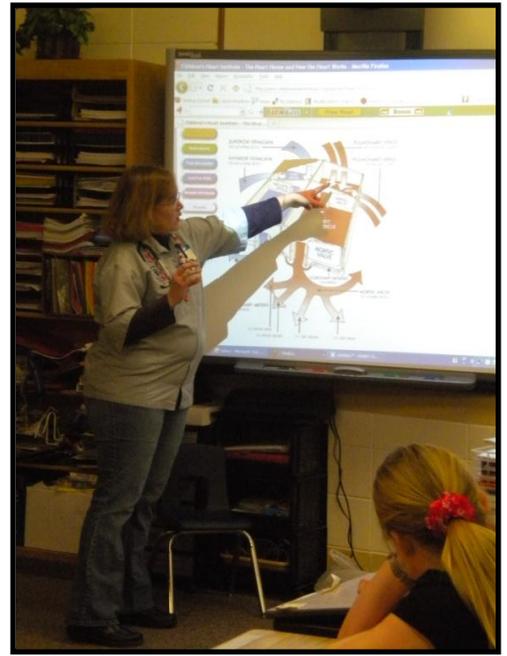
Ethanol Plant Visits AC-T

Plant Manager, Pete Krull, and Production Engineer, Ann Perry, of Valero visited our classroom to discuss the plant in Albert City. The 3rd graders had no idea what was produced at the ethanol plant. We invited the 4th graders to join our presentation to learn about ethanol production. Both classrooms have been learning about nonrenewable and renewable resources. Three of the students have parents that work at the ethanol plant. Pete and Ann brought samples of the product during the different stages of production. Students could look at and smell these products. They learned about the importance of safety at the plant and how much ethanol is produced in a day. They also donated wonderful bags filled with activities for each student. Thank you Valero for a wonderful presentation!



Valentine's Day Party

This year the 3rd grade Valentine Party was hosted by Chris Bean, BV Clinic's veterinarian, and Brenda McChesney. Chris asked if we could make this a learning experience by dissecting hearts. Abby Bean wanted to include her friends from the 4th grade and their host, Kris Beckman, as both classes study the human body. We were not sure if Ms. Dirks could handle being present at the whole dissection. She ended up being brave and so did all the kids. Chris taught the students a lesson about the chambers and functions of the heart before the dissection activity. We dissected cat, dog, rabbit, and two pig hearts. We also got to see an unhealthy heart which was infested with heartworms. The students really enjoyed seeing a two headed pig and getting to touch and study the hearts. Everyone agreed that the smell was strong and offensive, but the experience was amazing. We bet no one had a Valentine's Day Party like us!



AC-T Elementary Supports Our Local Servicemen!

Albert City-Truesdale Elementary School has been helping other local groups to gather items to send to local servicemen who are on active duty! This has been a year long process so far. We started the school year off with "theme" weeks. Travel size items such as soap, toothpaste, and floss were collected. Drink week and snack week consisted of items like sunflower seeds, trail mix, Kool-aid, Crystal Light individual packets, and coffee. We have also incorporated a few postage weeks to allow the packages to be sent to the servicemen! The first boxes were



sent in November, and 154 boxes were sent in the first round! Recently, more boxes were packed with items and Valentine cards. They will be shipped soon. The 3rd-6th grade student council members are pictured here with some of those boxes.

**Student Council Members:
Bailey Heuton, Abby Bean, Thor
Nielsen, and Dalton Kulp**

****Thanks to all who attended the Scholastic Book Fair during parent-teacher conferences. We were able to receive \$944.35 total from the fall and spring Scholastic Book Fairs.****

5th Graders Participate in Invent Iowa by Laura Sievers, TAG

Gabby Long, Shera Smith, Mercedes Unger, Carter Beckman, and Makayla Bjork participated in Invent Iowa this winter. The Invent Iowa program encourages students to creatively think and solve problems through the invention process. Now in its 24th year, the program has celebrated the work of thousands of students in grades K-12. These novice inventors, whose inventions range from humane mouse traps and mitten driers to devices that make life easier for someone with a disability, continue to amaze and inspire with their inventions.

This year, approximately 300 inventions were entered, with 15% chosen to enter the awards round of the competition. Carter's invention, The Ease with Skiis, was chosen to enter the awards round. Carter will be submitting a video and will be considered for additional awards and scholarships. Congratulations to all of our inventors!

2nd Grade Happenings by Mrs. Annette Bruns

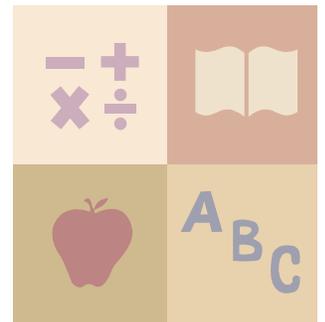
Our second grade school year has flown by. We have been a class of 16 for most of the year, with 5 girls and 11 boys. We took our field trip in September, a very exciting and educational trip for the students. However, they continue to ask when they get to go on another trip. That answer is --- next year! We did a great job at the Veterans' Day program in November. That excited us to collect items for the soldiers overseas, our community service project for this year. During the second quarter, Mrs. Sievers taught us all about houses in our enrichment class. We designed our own gingerbread house on the computer, combining enrichment and technology into one! It was a great project for our class. We survived ITBS in February, our first time of taking it. Now we are busy learning Mrs. Bruns' famous Irish songs to celebrate the wearing of the green on March 17th. We also look forward to our unit on the Solar System, coming up in the 4th quarter. Here's what some of us said about 2nd grade:

Keegan & Chad: Math Minutes!

Trevor: Mrs. Bruns because she's the best teacher! (Gotta love that one!)

Morgan & Selena: the candy jar!

Ben: Reading, Science, & History because you get knowledge



Spring Musical
By: Jenny Sievers

Every year in the spring we have a musical. The musical we are doing this year is called "Bones". It is by Janet Gardner. This musical is about a custodian named Sam who knocks over a skeleton, and the skeleton helps out and talks to get back together all before class the next day. It is going to be Tuesday, May 10th at 7pm. It is in the new gym. The 5th and 6th band are also playing band and the younger students will do some songs of their own. You can come and enjoy the musical!! ☺

Invention Convention
By: Marcail Olson

This year for invention convention the school did not actually go to the competition. They sent the inventions in and had a judge grade it. Some of the inventions this year were by Makayla and Shera. They made a book called Isabel's Lesson. Mercedes also made a book called The Christmas Pencil. Gabby made magnetic energy to run a light bulb. Carter made a shopping cart that does not get stuck in the snow. They sent the inventions into the judging on February 1st. They heard who won on March 4th. Carter made it into the top 15% out of 300. All of the inventions this year were VERY good.

Opera Iowa
By: Tabitha Demers

On March 15, 2011, Opera Iowa came to Albert City-Truesdale Elementary school. Their workshops started at 12:45 and the opera started at 1:45. AC-T Pact Group and Sioux Central Parent Group paid for the visit. Mrs. Sievers had seen Opera Iowa at a different school and she thought it would be unique. They did "Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing." It is about a serpent who wanted to sing. He is at the circus. Then he goes to lots of different places and learns how to sing. Once he learns how to sing, he goes back to the circus. There were 8 people there that performed. Lots of people enjoyed them.

Physical Fitness
By Dalton Kulp

In Albert City, IA there is a teacher named Mr. Lovin. Every other year he gives the students in grades 3-6 tests to see how well they do the quarter mile, shuttle run, push-up, sit-up, and v-sit reach. The tests were given March 9-23. He says he is best at doing the sit-ups. The most challenging is the quarter mile; so we do that one first. The older you are, the less time you have to meet your goal. But when you pass your goal you get an award. We do this to see what our ability is and see if we meet it.

LICENSED DAY CARE?

The district is interested in determining if there is a need for additional day care providers in Albert City. Please return this form to the school office by May 2, 2011 if you would support a licensed day care center in Albert City.

If you prefer, you may call the school office(843-5416) to let us know if you feel this is a need in the community.

_____ Yes! I would use a licensed day care center in Albert City.

News from the 6th Grade

Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

Jenny Sievers Interview

By Nathaniel Caldwell

Jennifer Sievers was born in 1999. Her parents' names are Jill and Trent Sievers. She is a good student and she is very good at math. Her favorite animal is an elephant. Red is the color she likes best. The food she likes to eat the most is tacos. She has two brothers and two playful dogs. Good luck at Sioux Central next year.

LEXI BLAKELEY BY DALLAS EBERLE

It was a chilly day. Lexi was with her new best friend Kyrstin Erickson. Kyrstin asked Lexi, "What is your talent?" Lexi said "I am good with babies." They both live in Albert City, Iowa. Kyrstin asked Lexi, "What is your favorite animal?" Lexi said "Cheetahs." Then Kyrstin asked "What is your favorite color?" Lexi said "Neon purple." Then Kyrstin asked, "What is your favorite kind of music?" Then Lexi said "Pop/Rock." Then Kyrstin asked, "How old are you?" Lexi said "12." Then Kyrstin asked, "Who are your parents?" Lexi said "Lizz Blakeley and Timothy Rauch."

TWIN ON TWIN

dallas eberle

By: Dalton Joe Eberle

Dallas is 12 years old. He was born on November 25 1998! His parents' names are

Dawn and James Eberle. He has 5 grandparents. Dallas has two pets and dog Missy and his brother's rabbit Nela! His favorite kind of food is Yogurt. His dad is a trucker! His favorite kind of animal is cats.

MS. DWYER BY
CODY MARTENS

Katy Ann Dwyer just recently got a job at AC-T school in Albert City. She went to college at University of Wisconsin in Platteville. She has one brother and seven sisters. Katy lives in Albert City too. Katy loves to write in her notebook. Katy also likes to go for walks in her spare time. After her walk she eats grilled cheese and tomato soup which is her favorite food. She drinks ice tea with it. She also loves the color yellow; that's her favorite color.

TABITHA DEMERS BY LEXI BLAKELEY

One of the 6th grade students here at AC-T is Tabitha Demers. She is a very nice and friendly student. Her best friend is Jenny Sievers. Tabitha likes to ride horses in her spare time. Her favorite candy is Reese's. She has one brother; his name is Trevor. Her full name is Tabitha Ann Demers. Tabitha's most favorite place to eat is Legacy in Storm Lake. Her parents' names are Jeff and Cody Demers. Her favorite school subject is Math; she likes it because she is good at it. Tabitha recently won Honorable Mention in the Conservation Poster Contest; she is happy to have won.



The Little Hurricane Relays will be held May 16, 2011 at the football field in Albert City. Pre-K through 2nd grade will be participating in their events from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Grades 3-6 will hold their events at 1:30-3:00 p.m. The rain dates are May 17 or 23, 2011.

Pop Cans & Recycled Paper by Cody Martens

The 5th and 6th Grades get the pop cans from the Crossroads gas station. We bring them to the school. We keep them in the shed. Sometimes during the year we get them out of the shed and bring them to the school shop. We all empty the pop cans on the ground and take off all the tabs off of the pop cans. Some people hold the garbage bags and then we can throw the pop cans in there after the tabs are off. We keep the pop tabs in a jar. The tabs go to the Ronald McDonald House to help sick children. Then, we take them to a recycling place and we get money for field trips and such.

In every classroom we recycle all types of paper except for construction paper. The paper is being recycled in Storm Lake, IA. Every day the whole school recycles about two big garbage bags of used paper. This helps make our world a better place to live.

News from the Administration- by Barb Kady

With spring upon us, it is the time of year your local school board conducts part of the planning process for the next school year. A key part of this process is planning the budget. The economy in Iowa is showing a slight amount of growth, which is great news for all of us! The challenge your school board members face is the unknown amount of aid that will be allocated by the 2011 legislature, for school funding. Local school budget decisions must be completed by mid-March in order to meet publishing deadlines. With an undetermined amount of allowable growth in state education funding, school boards must plan for multiple scenarios. Your local school board, along with many Iowa school boards, have provided a great example of local reasonableness in light of the approximately \$500 million in two years of state underfunding due to across-the-board budget cuts and the underfunding of allowable growth in the fiscal year 2010 budget. Local Iowa districts taxed-back through the cash reserve levy less than 20% of the shortfall for FY 2011. Your school board members are managing your school's budget in a multi-year approach to restoring cash reserves following the sizable cuts in state funding in recent years.

Issues such as declining enrollment numbers also present funding challenges for AC-T, as is the case for many Iowa schools. If enrollment numbers go down more than allowable growth goes up, the district sees a decline in state funding. Your local district has been thoughtful regarding its use of funding, and has made reductions to the budget, working as much as possible to make reductions, yet maintain the integrity of the programs and services for students. It will continue to be critical for the district to keep expenditures in line with revenues to protect and preserve the unspent balance, or authorized budget, of the district.



Recent news reports have predicted a significant growth in enrollment for the Albert City-Truesdale School. The information, released by the Iowa Department of Education, was the result of a study done by the University of Iowa. The number of live births in a county were weighed against the population of each town in the county (according to the 2000 census), the percentage of students in the county that attend each school, and the rate of decline or growth each district in the county has experienced. The accuracy of these projections remains to be seen, particularly since the census data is from the year 2000. This would be a terrific turn around in our current enrollment trend, and your school board and school administration will be watching closely for any indications of the accuracy of this projection, as budgetary decisions for future years are made.

For the purposes of budget planning, your school board must look at the most current information available to them. The goal is always to prioritize needs in order to maintain a strong school and to provide the best possible learning activities for our students. Utilizing our resources to the fullest extent possible, while remaining fiscally responsible to the patrons of the district, is of utmost importance to your local school board. Thoughtful and proactive discussions are on-going regarding ways to offset the fiscal impact during these challenging economic times. Board members, administration, faculty, and staff members are working hard to ensure that AC-T students continue to receive an education that is unsurpassed anywhere.

April 10-16 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We would like to thank the many volunteers who donate their time and talents at AC-T. From parent volunteers to community members, to business and industry employees, we appreciate all you do for the students and staff at AC-T. Thank You!

Evidence of this top-notch education is seen daily at AC-T! During a recent school celebration, 19 students in grades K-6 received an award from the BV County Environmental poster contest. AC-T students received 5 of the 7 first place awards in the county, chosen from over 1,000 posters that were entered in the contest! A visit to the kindergarten room is a testament to the great start AC-T students receive in their school. You will find these young students reading books and reciting poetry! As you walk through the halls you will see certificates of awards displayed that have been earned by students for making progress in their silent reading comprehension skills. Visit the AC-T library on Wednesday afternoon and you will see our first grade readers sharing their love for reading with community volunteers. You will see technology being integrated into instruction through the use of smart boards, iPads, laptop computers, and document cameras. A look at the 2011 Iowa Test of Basic Skills results will show you that AC-T's 4th grade class is 100 percent proficient in math AND reading, AND science! The Pride of AC-T parent group actively supports and encourages students and teachers through efforts such as providing nutritious snacks during testing week. The AC-T music boosters have helped to purchase new instruments and a digital piano for the music department. In addition, all students have shown a commitment to service by collecting items to send to local and area servicemen on active duty. AC-T students, faculty, and staff have been part of a project to send more than 150 boxes of items to our area servicemen over the past school year.



The spring months bring even more opportunities to witness the accomplishments of our young students, and the results of the hard work of the dedicated faculty and staff at AC-T. We invite you to join us for the third and fourth grade plays on April 28, the spring musical on May 10, the Little Hurricane Relays on May 16, and sixth grade graduation on May 26.

And always, we thank each of you, for your continued support in making AC-T a truly “Great Place to Start” for all of our students!

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 6 PM Potato Bar and Community Band Night 7 PM Concert ACT Big Gym
3 Severe Weather Awareness Week	4 6:30 PM PK/K registration for 2011-2012 in lunchroom 2:15-3:00 Magic	5 ACT Regular Dismissal Sioux Central 1:15 Dismissal	6 7:25 AM School Spotlight 8:30-10:00 AM Kindergarten Roundup 10:15-10:30	7 Picture Day	8	9
10 National Library Week Volunteer Appreciation Week	11 6:00 PM ACT School Board Meeting 7:00PM Joint School Board Meeting Sioux Central w/ACT @ACT	12	13 Albert City Public Library Open House	14	15	16
17	18 6:30 PM PACT	19	20	21 2:15 Early Dismissal	22 No School	23
24 Easter	25 No School	26 Snow make up day School in session	27	28 6:30 Grades 3-4 Plays	29	30

Snow make up days: School will be in session on April 26, May 26 and May 27.

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week	2	3 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day	4 7:25 AM School Spotlight Grade 3-Safety Camp	5	6	7
8	9 6:00 PM ACT School Board Meeting	10 7:00 Spring Concert	11	12	13	14
15	16 Little Hurricane Relays (May 17,23 rain dates)	17	18	19 Grade 6 Field Trip to Des Moines	20 Grade 6 Field Trip to Des Moines	21
22 SC Commencement	23 6:30 PM PACT	24	25	26 Snow Make up day School in session 7:00 6 th Grade Graduation	27 Last Day of School Snow Make up day School in session	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

Snow make up days: School will be in session on May 26 and May 27.