



# The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

December 2007/January/February 2008



## Christmas Concert by Chris Anderson

On December 11<sup>th</sup> there was a Christmas program at AC-T Elementary School. The school's band played and the students sang Christmas songs. First the fifth grade band played Jingle Bells, Ode to Joy, and then Jolly Old St. Nick. Then the sixth grade band played Song for a Sleigh Ride, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, and Angels We Have Heard on High. Then, all the students sang We're In the Spirit, then Pre-K and Kindergarten sang Angel Band, Mitten Song, and Snowman song. Then Kindergarten performed March of the Candy Canes, then 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sang Go, Tell it on the Mountain, Rudolph, then 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade sang Children, Go Where I Send Thee then, Santa, You're to Fat!! (Mr. Bruns played Santa Claus) Next the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> sang Winter Fantasy. Then 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> sang Santa is the Man. The concert ended with everyone singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!"

## Pop Can Update

By: Chance Johannsen & Greg Bergen

We have collected large amounts of pop cans so far this year. Any volunteers to help us transport them to Genesis can redemption center in Storm Lake would be great. Fifth and sixth grades take the pop tabs off and donate them to the Ronald McDonald House. Thanks for donating your pop cans to us.

## Notes from the AC-T Nurses

This fall has flown by here at AC-T! Several items have kept us quite busy so far this year:

In October, our school was audited by Public Health to ensure that all students are in compliance with immunization requirements. We have also been updating these records in our computer program.

Since the first week in October, we have been administering fluoride to first through sixth grade students one time per week. This program is free to our school, and aids in keeping teeth and gums healthy. One bonus is that during this time, we often have the chance to do a minute of uninterrupted teaching about germs, hand washing, preventing colds and pinkeye, cold-weather skin care, and all-around good health!

We completed "mini-physicals" on all students, which include height, weight, body mass index (BMI), heart rate and blood pressure. Vision testing was completed for kindergarten through sixth grade. You may have already received your child's results. Our goal in this is to aid parents in being as informed as possible.

We are available to teachers to help in the classroom with health-related topics, or to reinforce teaching in health units.

Looking ahead to this winter, AEA will be conducting hearing tests for students, and we plan to offer a wellness clinic for staff members.

One of us is usually here on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and are happy to answer any questions you may have in regard to your child's health. Feel free to call us or leave a message anytime; our number at school is 843-5416. You are also welcome to e-mail us at [nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us](mailto:nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us). Thank you for your partnership in providing a healthy environment for our students!

Julie Olson, RN and Deb Clausen, RN

## 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

### *Christopher Anderson* By Brad Aronson

Christopher is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Albert City-Truesdale. He is a new student here at AC-T. He lived in the outskirts of San Antonio Texas. He was born in Portland Oregon. He likes to play in the snow, ride his bike, and play video games. He also loves to listen to music; his favorite band is Green Day. He has two sisters that go to Sioux Central. He has two pets, two cats and one kitten. His favorite sports are football and basketball.

### **Mallory Bjork** By: Jessica Johnson

Mallory's siblings are Madelyn she is 10, Makayla she is 7, and Maxwell he is 1 and a half. Her parents are Chad and Julie Bjork, Mrs. Bjork is our Keyboarding teacher. I think Mallory's family is awesome they are all a good family. Mallory's favorite color is lime green. Her favorite hobby is to read. Her favorite book is a series of Left Behind for kids. She loves to go in her barn and investigate because they just moved. Mallory really wants to go to Sioux Central, but she will really miss Albert City. Her favorite lunch in Albert City School is cream chicken and mash potatoes. Her favorite T.V. show is Hannah Montana. Her favorite singers are Casting Crowns, Super Chick, and Toby Mac. Mallory's favorite subject is Social Studies. Mallory is a very honest person.

### *Mercedes Dreyer* by Jessica Hansen

Mercedes is the daughter of Janelle and Darwin Zoch. She and I are great friends. Her favorite color is purple and she loves the snow.

Mercedes favorite animal is a cat and she loves to go outdoors and play with her cats. Mercedes owns three Great Danes and their names are Abby, Zuze, and Brandy. She is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. I hope you enjoyed reading about Mercedes. Her favorite holiday is Halloween. She likes to eat egg rolls with soy sauce. Mercedes loves to go to California and play at the beach. She loves to drink pink lemonade. She likes to do crafts. Her favorite candy is snickers. Hope you like to read about her.

### **Chelsey Blomgren** by Gloria Jensen

Chelsey Blomgren is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and goes to A-C-T school. Her favorite color is yellow and her favorite food is Italian dunkers which the school cook Cyndie Holt makes. She likes to play on the computer in her spare time. Math is her favorite subject and she says, "Math is fun to learn and is the most challenging subject." She has a little sister named Madison, her mom's name is Mindy, her dad's name is Patrick, and her older sister Christina is in college. Her favorite television show is "Are you smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> grader. Taylor Swift is her favorite singer, and her favorite song is "You should've said no." She wants to be a photographer when she grows up, and she wants to go to Morningside College. She says, "I am good at beating the boys at football." She loves P.E. and her favorite game that we play during P.E. is capture the pin, and this is what she said, "I like P.E. because it's like we are getting another recess, and I love capture the pin because it is the most exciting game." Chelsey is very excited to go to Sioux Central, she says that she will be a little scared at first, but she can't wait to make new friends. She says, "I will miss all of the teachers and staff and all of the wonderful food."

### *Evan Balder* by Gus Loving

Evan Balder is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Albert Truesdale Elementary school. Evan interests are playing football, baseball, and PS2. Some of the people that Evan admires are Alex Rodriguez for the New York Yankees and his dad. His favorite book is Last Shot and his favorite movie is Click. In football he played quarterback and in baseball pitcher and shortstop. Evan would like to be a sports commentator when he's grown. His favorite food is tacos and his favorite drink is Code Red Mountain Dew. Evan has a mom named Paula, a dad named David, an older sister and brother, and also has a dog named Sox. He plays the clarinet in band. His favorite teams are Iowa State, New York Yankees, and his favorite sport players are Derek Jeter, Todd Blythe, and Peyton Manning. Evan's favorite subject in school is Math. Evan's favorite song is "Smoke on the Water". Evan's favorite TV show is ESPNEWS.

## **AC-T Student Council** *By: Mallory Bjork*

Each grade picks someone to represent their grade for the Student Council. I am the Student Council President and I represent 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Hannah Conlin of 5<sup>th</sup> grade is Vice President. Our other members are Jenny Sievers of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Anna Marie Ehlers of 4<sup>th</sup> grade. So far this year student council has had one meeting. We helped decide the Homecoming week dress up days. At our next meeting we will be planning the Children's Miracle Network fundraisers.

### **New Para-Educator in Pre-Kindergarten! By Mercedes Dreyer**

**Mrs. Jesse is the new pre-kindergarten helper and she loves the job. She used to work as a pharmacy technician in Storm Lake. Mrs. Jesse and her two kids are Albert City-Truesdale graduates. She is happily married and lives on a farm near Storm Lake.**

**She is a fun filled helper that loves to play with the kids. Her class has twenty-three kids in the pre-kindergarten. That is a lot of kids to see every day and play with. Mrs. Jesse is so happy that she is in the AC-T School. She loves to see all the happy faces in the school.**

### **Welcome to AC-T Tom! By Chelsey Blomgren**

Tom is a janitor here and I know him pretty well. I sit by him at lunch every day and he is a really funny guy. Here are some of the questions I asked him during our interview.

Chelsey: "Tom, what made you want to be a janitor here at AC-T."

Tom: "Well Chelsey, I retired from farming and I was bored so I decided to see what it was like here."

Chelsey: "Do you like it here so far?"

Tom: "Well, it's an excellent gig! Teachers and staff are great and students are awesome!"

Chelsey: "Are you planning to stay here for awhile?"

Tom: "Well yeah, at least until I retire again."

Chelsey: "What is your favorite meal that the cooks make?"

Tom: "Well there is just so many probably, turkey and dressing because it reminds me of thanksgiving."

Chelsey: "Good answer! When you were in college what did you decide to become?"

Tom: "I studied to become a lawyer and I actually was one at one time."

Thanks Tom we really like you here-so far- Just Kidding! We hope you like it here as much as we like you being here!



## **TAG Students Tour Jail**

Wednesday, Nov. 14, the Albert City TAG students, along with Mrs. Sievers and Mrs. Bjork, traveled to Storm Lake to tour the new Buena Vista County Jail. This was a "wrap-up" to our unit on mysteries and forensics.

Head jailer Gary Launderville gave us a very extensive tour, where we learned about all the new technology at the jail, such as how the digitized fingerprinting system works. We also got to see the Communication Center and learn how 911 calls are handled. We learned how prisoners are cared for at the jail and what their routine is like.

It was a very interesting tour. The students had many curious questions and Mr. Launderville answered every one. We realized that jail is not as glamorous as it looks on TV, and we were happy to return to school again.

### Adopt a Family By: Julon Nehring

This year the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades at Albert City-Truesdale School adopted two families. We brought in clothes, non-perishables, and toys for the children and their parents. At the end of the second quarter, the families will receive the gifts we brought in.

### Veterans Day By: Suneva Nielson

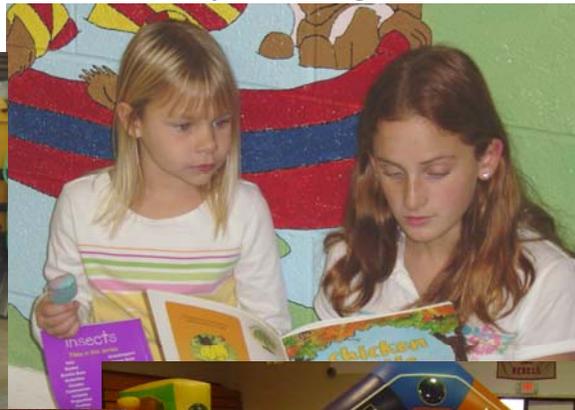
Veterans Day went well at AC-T. A lot of people attended the program. They said that it was one of the best programs. The ones who attended the lunch said it was fantastic. One of the things that they loved from the grades was the American walking Flag and the American Pledge Rap. Cyndie Holt, AC-T's wonderful cook, served ham, baked potato, homemade rye bread, strawberries, and champagne cake for the Veterans Day meal. Mr. Karl Lind brought one of his Jeeps from World War II. It was a very good program.

### Read at the Beach Day by Evan Balder

On October 17, 2007 everyone in Albert City-Truesdale Elementary celebrated "Beach Day". Almost everyone brought their beach towel, sunglasses, and hats. Everyone read a book and sat on their towels out in the bright "sunny" day. Then at the end of the day everyone got to eat an ice cream treat. All the teachers decided to have beach day because it was the end of a very dreary, rainy week. Each class had another class as a reading partner. Everyone had a wonderful time!

### The Halloween PACT Party by Nick Sievers

On Halloween the PACT was really nice and rented some inflatables for the kids to play on. The kids thought the train was the best of the two things that the PACT rented. I thought the train was the best too. The kids thought the games were good too. The Halloween contest was the best of the whole thing. The carnival turned out to be really good. Then after the carnival the kids could go trick-or-treating and get some more candy around the town. Then the kids went home to eat candy. Before all that, during the day the kids had a big Halloween party and thought it was really fun. When the games were over the candy was all gone. The carnival was the best this year the kids said.



### Fourth Grade's Iowa Poems

\*In our social studies book, we read poems about other states. We thought it would be a good idea to write poems about our state! We spent time writing rough drafts, revising our papers, and typing a final draft.

#### Iowa by Maggie Loving

Smell the fresh smell of flowers.  
Smell the fresh harvest.  
Smell the icky hog buildings.  
Smell the beautiful wheat.  
Smell the yummy beef.  
Smell the rough trees.

Hear the bees buzzing.  
Hear the crowd cheering.  
Hear the grass blowing.  
Hear the birds chirping.  
Hear the kids laughing.  
Hear the tractor working.

Taste the fresh corn.  
Taste the yummy apples.  
Taste the rain on your tongue.  
Taste the Thanksgiving turkey.  
Taste the homemade cookies.  
Taste the Casey's donuts.  
Taste the Clay County Fair corndogs.

Touch the bumpy corn.  
Touch the fluffy cotton.  
Touch the warm animal fur.  
Touch the hard rocks.  
Touch the rough trees.

See the beautiful flowers.  
See the grass swaying.  
See the fields of corn.  
See the tall buildings.  
See the old barns.

#### The Senses of Iowa by Madelyn Bjork

##### SMELL

I smell the wet dew in the morning.  
The livestock smells wonderful.  
Some people say it smells like money.  
Soybeans can be made into beautiful smelling candles.  
I smell the buttery popcorn popping in the microwave.  
I smell the burning leaves in the air.  
I smell the freshly mowed grass.  
I smell the road killed skunk as I drive over it on my way to school.

##### SEE

I see miles and miles of corn and beans.  
I see lots of livestock eating grass in the field.  
I see big and small schools with hard working children.  
I see big cities and small towns.  
I see some farms.

##### TASTE

I taste the rain falling down on my tongue.  
I taste the dust when the combine comes by.  
I taste the bugs when they fly into my mouth when I run. (disgusting)  
I taste the wet dew in the morning.  
I taste the yucky sweat when my dad comes home from work.



I taste my favorite raspberry sherbet ice cream melting on my tongue.

##### HEAR

I hear livestock mooing, oinking, naying, and squawking.  
I hear tractors working in the field.  
I hear the wind bristling in the trees.  
I hear lots of kids playing in the park.

##### TOUCH

I touch the livestock as I feed them in the morning.  
I feel the rain on my tongue.  
I feel the light fluffy snow in my hands.  
I feel the big juicy fruit as I pick it in the fall.

#### All the Senses by Eric Ulchinsky

I usually see corn, farms, and lots of houses in Iowa. But usually you see animals like dogs and cats. You would see the lake in Storm Lake. You could see goats, pigs and llamas. All around in Albert City you see small corn and big corn. You will also see deciduous trees.

I hear wind roaring.  
I hear the siren at 6:00 p.m.  
I hear cars going by.  
I hear trains coming by.

I touch my food to pick it up.  
I touch my paper to write on it.  
I touch a ball to kick it.  
I touch my pencil to write.

I smell corn in fields.  
I smell manure in corn fields.  
I smell dead animals.  
I smell rotten things.

I taste sugar and soda.  
I taste caffeine.  
I taste cheese in pizza.  
I taste juice in a big and juicy strawberry.

#### IOWA by Dalton Demers

In Iowa, you can see a lot of farms. You see a lot of trees also. Sometimes you're in a big city. Sometimes you're in a small town. A lot of times you're in the country. So when you go to Iowa you see these things.

You can touch the rough corn stalks.  
You can touch smooth beans. You can touch the wet lawn in the morning. You can touch the rain when it rains. You can touch the flaky snow in winter. You can touch the cool water in the pool. You can touch wild animals. You touch all the trees in Iowa. So when you go to Iowa you will touch things.

You can smell the sweet smelling flowers. You can smell the rain when it rains. You can smell the stinky skunks. You can smell the pigs. You can smell the road getting paved. You can smell the cows. You can smell the turkeys. You can smell the chickens. You can smell the farmers combining the fields. So when you go to Iowa you will smell these things.

You can taste the rain when it rains.  
You can taste the fish in the lake. You can

taste the sweet corn. You can taste the beans in the field. You can taste the popcorn. You can taste the alfalfa in the field. You can taste the apples in apple orchard. So when you go to Iowa taste these things.

You can hear the rain when it rains near you. You can hear the birds tweet. You can hear farmers working in the field. You can hear the snow fall in winter. You can hear the cars racing at the Alta races. You can hear the dirt bikes racing at the Truesdale races. You can hear the air conditioner and heater when they are on. So when you go to Iowa you will hear these things.

#### Touch, Taste, Hear, See, and Smell by Luke Johnson

I have books,  
I take looks.  
I eat corn,  
There's a horn in my hat.  
I feel cats,  
And I wash dogs.  
I sweep gnats,  
And chop logs.  
I feel snow,  
It's a show.

I have chips  
in my  
lips.  
A sandwich  
is manwich.  
A moss ate  
my  
applesauce.  
I lookie at  
my cookie.  
I drink milk.  
It is silk.



There are tractors and factors.

Kids that have lids.  
Space cars from Mars.  
Trains that hate rains.  
The brown and gray squirrels make whirls.  
Singing birds have meaning words.  
You know snow can blow.

The generator  
works at the elevator.  
The tool  
is in the swimming pool.  
Barry is in  
the library.  
The bees are  
in the trees.  
And two men meet  
on the street.

The mayor  
smells  
the air.  
I smell the flowers  
for hours.  
My apple was dappled  
with dark spots.  
The smell of food  
is in a mood.  
I smell hotter  
cooking water.



**What We See, Hear, Smell, Taste, and Touch in Iowa by Christian Eberle**

I can see snow, rain, and ice. You see a lot of crops and houses. There are a lot of birds and some people. There are a lot of places to go like swimming. That is a favorite. We see a stray cat. He got in school, and his name is Wilson. He is our town cat. He is friendly too. He likes when people feed him. I can see a lot of stars at night. You can see the moon too. You see a lot of people's pets, and I mean our town has a lot.

You can hear the birds chirp, and the train. You hear a lot of trucks go by. I hear a lot of people talk. A lot of people play games outside like football. People like to scream.

I smell the elevator when they get a load of stuff. A lot of times you will smell people burn sticks and leaves. You can smell the ethanol plant. You smell pigs in those big long things. You can smell that quite often. The corn smells a little. You smell a lot of stuff when tractors haul when they drive by. It does not smell good at all. You can smell a lot of walnuts.

I taste the rain when I stick my tongue out. I taste the snow when I stick my tongue out. I can taste the moisture. You can taste the good food like sweet corn. I like to taste the good sweet corn with butter on it.

You can touch the snow and rain. You can touch the good food like corn and beans. You can touch the animals like pigs, cows, and other animals.

**The Poem of Iowa by Anna Marie Ehlers**

I can just taste the cotton candy that melts in my mouth. I can't wait to taste my purple ribbon cookies that I made for the fair. I love to eat the freshly made kettle corn. My mom's corn on the cob tastes the best! I got to eat my aunt's rice crispies with chocolate on the top of it. My friend's cupcakes tasted like bubble gum.

I hear the combine harvesting the corn and beans. I hear the pigs oinking in the pens. I hear the cows mooing for cow feed. I can hear children laughing and playing with their dog. I can hear the birds singing. I hear the goose honking as they're swimming in the lake.

I saw my friend Maggie win the horse show. I saw the pigs get out of their pen. I saw the horse kick that car. Can you see the cows getting washed for the cow show? I saw my friend Maddy win the cake contest. Did you see Kara win the pie eating contest?

I smelled the pigs. I could tell they hadn't had a bath for awhile. I could smell the popcorn in the snack stand. Have you ever smelled popcorn? It smells like butter and salt put together. I can smell apple pie in the pie contest.

I touched the pig that won first prize. Have you touched that quilt? The lamb feels soft and puffy. Have you felt that dog with long hair?

**(Poem by Tina Ulchinsky)**  
**What I See in Iowa**

I can't see the grass. I can't see the blue sky. I can see white on the ground. I can see white coming down. I love it here. I can see kids. I can see the children playing pig. All of us in Albert City can see the corn crops growing and the trees. But one thing first I love to see the Albert City family.

**What I Touch in Iowa**

I can touch the sky because I am so tall and high. I think that I can touch the snow that comes up to my ponchos. I can feel the smooth leaves on my hand in the fall. I can touch the clothes that I put on. I can feel the cookies that my grandma made. I can touch the bed when I go to sleep. I can feel sticky things on my when I sleep.

**What I Hear in Iowa**

I can hear the kids playing. I can hear the 12:00 bell. I can hear the pageants in school. I can hear the I.S.U. fans and the Iowa fans. I can hear the children writing. I can hear the notes of music. I can hear the kids step on the leaves that fall off the trees. I can hear the kids of AC-T say cheese.

**What I Smell in Iowa**

I smell the corn. I can smell my hairspray. I can smell the breath that breathes on me. I can smell a Christmas tree. Last but not least, I can smell Albert City.

**What I Taste in Iowa**

I can taste the food. I can taste the snow that falls in my mouth. The snow is like a sprout. I love it when my mom cooks dinner. I love the AC-T school. It is the taste of lunch that I like.

**(Poem by Nathan Kulp)**  
**Smells of Iowa**

You'd smell the pies baking in a house and dinner fresh from the oven. You can smell the homemade pizza baking at the restaurant, and if you go to school you can smell the food being served in the lunch room. If you need to shop there's a great smell of everything in the market. These are the smells of Iowa.

**Tastes of Iowa**

If you smell good food then it'll be delicious to taste them! The pizza is very delicious when you are hungry. If you like cinnamon rolls go to school on Friday for the best. They are the biggest, tastiest, and cheapest cinnamon rolls ever! There are so many other tastes that I can't say them all to you! These are the tastes of Iowa.

**The Things You Can Hear**

In Albert City you can hear semis coming to the Ethanol Plant to get ethanol. During the end of summer, there's a sound of combines harvesting their crop. If you live in the country, you'll hear semis going to hog buildings. There are so many things you can hear!

**Sights in Iowa**

If you come to Iowa at dusk, then you can see the sun going down. The clouds turn purple, orange, yellow, and pink. You can go to Council Bluffs if you want to see the hills. You can see the bluffs there. If you're a country person, at the end of summer, the

corn is as gold can be! These are the sights in Iowa.

**What You Can Touch**

In Iowa, if you're a farmer, you may touch the corn or beans. Are they wet? Are they dry? Is the soil wet or dry? In Iowa, if you're a tourist, you may sit on a bench. Is it hot? Is it cold? Is it wood? Is it cement? These are only a few examples of what you can feel in Iowa.

**I LOVE IOWA by Kara Clausen**

This is Iowa the state that I love. I love the sweet corn during sweet corn season. Oh taste that buttery, salty, corny goodness! YUMMY YUM YUM!!! Oh and those soybeans! They are tasty for people and animals. I love popcorn that comes from corn. Mmm mmm good! I taste chocolate fudge melting on my tongue!!

I smell ethanol in the morning. It smells like dough when the wind coming from the east. When I go out to the country I smell the pigs. I smell the rain on a droopy day. You may even smell those stinky football players coming by. You will smell manure in the fields sometimes.

I see horses roaming in the meadow. I see pigs rolling in the mud. I see cows mooing in the morning. I see tractors and combines roaring by. I see corn growing as tall as can be. I see really tall grain bins! I see a small town that goes by the name of Albert



City, Iowa 50510! I see my mom and dad zooming by in the car. I see squirrels climbing up a tree.

I hear the elevators roaring in the morning. I hear cats meowing and dogs barking when I go by. I hear kids chatting when I go to school. I hear birds singing to me as I walk past. I hear my mom saying come in to have supper when I am outside. I hear train horns coming into town.

I feel mud oozing through my toes after it rains. I feel corn stalks when I walk through the corn fields. I feel cold snow on my cheeks. The hot chocolate feels warm flowing down my throat. I feel my friends helping me when I fall down.

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

This is the time of year when we reflect on the past year and all that has happened. As I look back on 2007, I enjoy a sense of pride in the accomplishments of the children in your AC-T Elementary School. Because schools are in the business of learning, it is important to measure levels of achievement. Test scores alone do not measure all learning, but if one were to look at test results of AC-T students, it is apparent that education takes place in your school. Due to an emphasis in reading, test scores have risen dramatically in recent years. The good news: math, language arts, and social studies scores are in the same range as reading. A charting of student achievement on a year-to-year basis reveals steady growth in all academic areas. Last year AC-T students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade achieved nearly an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.

In the Veteran's Day program of November 9<sup>th</sup>, I was so impressed by the performance of the children, as they sang, read, and spoke. It was amazing to hear kindergartners read, yes kindergartners! All students were part of the program, regardless of ability or disability. After the program, the children shared in the responsibility of serving lunch to veterans and their families.

This is my 37<sup>th</sup> year as an educator. I can tell you from experience that your AC-T Elementary School takes a backseat to none. The successes of AC-T are due to a supportive and progressive school board, dedicated teachers, and hard-working support personnel. However, the school staff couldn't make it happen without parents, grandparents, and a community that aggressively promotes learning. Thanks to all, who keep education a priority for the Albert City-Truesdale community.

## **Regional High School Study Put On Hold**

For over a year, Pocahontas Area, Newell-Fonda, Albert City-Truesdale, and Laurens-Marathon have been studying the possibility of a Regional Secondary School. The concept of a Regional Secondary School was viewed by Ghan Consulting, a school attorney, a bonding attorney, and the Department of Education as being feasible in theory, but with significant challenges for implementation. Pomeroy-Palmer indicated in December that they wish to re-join the Regional School discussions as well. Discussions focused on individual district's bonding capacity as well as whether to agree on a location prior to forming community committees for further study.

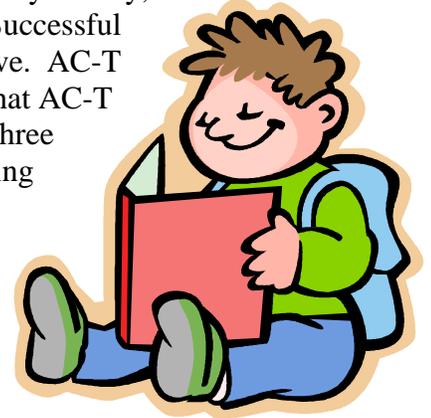
The challenge of four or five districts reaching consensus made the concept unfeasible at this time. Each district gathered much useful data through this entire exploration process. The districts agreed to remain open to the possibility of revisiting this concept in the future. The long-term benefits of working and collaborating together are significant and important to future students. Each district remains committed to exploring relationships and concepts that promote the highest standards of education possible for the region.

## **AC-T Special Education Program In Full Compliance**

During the 2006-07 school year, representatives of the Iowa Department of Education and the Prairie Lakes AEA audited the Albert City-Truesdale CSD. This was a routine audit of the school's special education program, to ensure that children were receiving appropriate instruction and needed services. Recently the District was notified of the findings of the audit. The District received high marks from the report indicating everything was in compliance with Iowa law and required services to children with special needs. The audit focused on compliance with law in preparing required plans, record-keeping, and coordination with regular education programs. Principal, Barbara Kady, and Superintendent, Marlin Lode, credit school staff and board members for their diligence in providing an appropriate education for every child.

## AC-T Among The Top 15 Iowa Schools In Reading Achievement

In October the Albert City-Truesdale CSD received a congratulatory letter from Judy Jeffrey, Director of the Iowa Department of Education, stating that AC-T was a “Highly Successful School” among Iowa schools that participated in the federal Reading First initiative. AC-T earned the title of Highly Successful School, because student test data indicated that AC-T students, as a group, scored among the top 15 schools in the state. Over the past three years AC-T emphasized reading achievement by carefully recording and monitoring student test scores in reading. Staff members meet regularly to review reading achievement data. Esther Mullen, Prairie Lakes AEA Reading Consultant, leads the teaching staff in this effort. AC-T Board President, Brent Moens, recently stated, “At AC-T we put a huge emphasis on reading. Elementary children learn to read, so when they leave our elementary school, they read to learn.” In their last regular meeting, board members Brent Moens, Shelly Buse, Deb Clausen, Jared Hays, and Tim Bruns, applauded the good work of the AC-T staff.



### How Do AC-T Students Stack Up?

Recently the Iowa Department of Education added links to its website to allow persons to access data about any public school district in Iowa. The links provide data regarding student achievement and financial figures. To access the statistics go to the DE website at [www.iowa.gov/educate](http://www.iowa.gov/educate). On the right hand side of the home page, click on Quick Links, and then scroll to district report cards. There you can review information about Iowa school districts and create graphs, if you wish. Our district maintains charts of chronological Iowa testing results for each AC-T grade. You can view the charts on our website at [www.albertct.k12.ia.us](http://www.albertct.k12.ia.us). If you would like a paper copy stop in the principal’s office and see Mrs. Kady to request copies.

### Local Donors Help Purchase Stage Equipment For AC-T Students

The staff at Albert City-Truesdale values the performing arts as part of student learning. A piece of equipment that lends to the arts is a stage, especially one that can be easily used anywhere in the building. A dream to have a portable stage for use by AC-T students came true as local donors helped fund the purchase. The AC-T staff is grateful to U.S. Bio for donating \$5,000, the Albert City Chamber for its donation of \$1,000, and the PACT for a donation of \$500. The District will pay the remaining cost of about \$500. The portable stage is a four piece, highly mobile system that can be used in the gym or classrooms. It is easy to handle, which will allow groups, individuals, or entire grades to take advantage of additional learning opportunities. Community groups that used the old stage are welcome to use the new equipment as well.

### Local Citizens Help Set AC-T School Goals

Iowa law states that every public school district shall create a committee of citizens to help develop student learning goals. The first meeting of the AC-T School Improvement Advisory Committee met on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Members were briefed on topics including student achievement, finance, sharing agreements, preparation for a district audit in April, and review of district policy regarding anti-bullying and harassment of students. The committee will meet again on January 10<sup>th</sup> to begin the goal-setting process. Members of the committee include: Robert Johnson, Cindy Herrig, Ellie Hillmer, Julie Olson, Deanna Heuton, Mark Henderson, Ryan Haack, Tracy Brown, Melissa Loving, Tim Bruns, Mallory Bjork, Corren Olson, Barb Kady, and Marlin Lode. The committee welcomes new members, who have an interest in learning programs and services of the AC-T School.

**For Sale:** The Albert City-Truesdale School is taking sealed bids for a set of risers. Individuals or organizations interested in purchasing the risers should place a bid in a sealed envelope marked “Riser Bid” and leave with Sandra Otto in the Central Office. Bids are due in the office by 4:00 p.m. January 31, 2008. Please call Keith Moe, 843-5416, with questions or to look at them.