



The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

December 2015/January/February 2016

We Have the Best at AC-T!

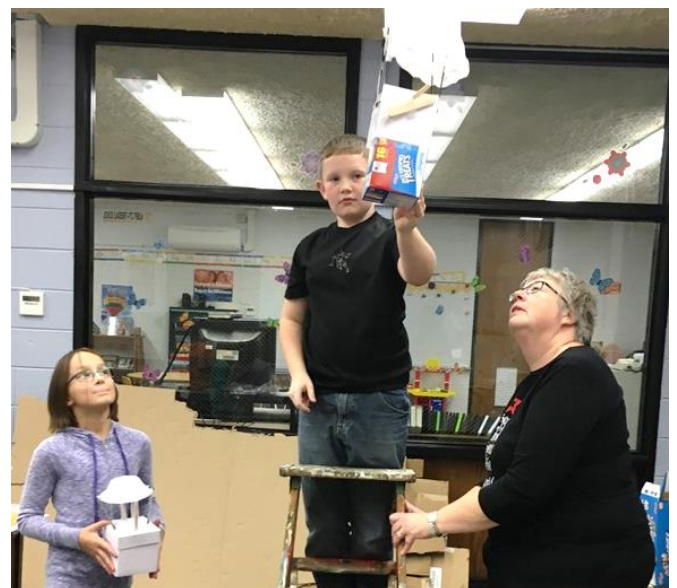
by Mrs. Voyles, Principal

We have the best students at AC-T! I am so impressed with each and every student here and the potential they have. Each of the students have been working hard in class and I want to shout it from the hilltop over and over that, "We have the best STUDENTS at AC-T!" As I start to determine the reason we have the best students, I am certain it is because we have the best staff who are providing great learning experiences for our students.



Did you know in PK-6th grade this year our staff have implemented Number Talks to help our students sharpen their critical thinking and problem solving skills in math? Our students are able to look at numbers in a different way than many other students their age. The deeper understanding that they are gaining with numbers will help them as they are challenged with more real world tasks. To build these skills at home, playing card games and board games will continue to encourage what our students are learning here at school.

Did you know our students are given many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) opportunities? This quarter our 4th grade students had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Sievers and engineers from Valero Renewables. The students were given the challenge of creating a gravity cruiser. The students had to use their critical thinking skills as well as their problem solving skills to meet the challenge and each group was successful at doing so. Our 5th and 6th graders had the opportunity to spend time after school working on their own STEM project where they created care packages that could be dropped into different locations that might need food or water. These opportunities help enrich our students and allow them to think about real world problems.



Did you know that each day our teachers at AC-T work tirelessly to ensure that each one of our students is challenged? Our teachers are creating lessons that are based on the needs of their students. With the small class sizes that we offer, our teachers build great relationships with the students. Many of these relationships last even as students pass through high school and beyond. We have support staff who are there to help out where ever they are needed. They are a very important role in a building and as you can guess, we have the best! Again, I'm ready to shout from the hill top but this time, "We have the best STAFF at AC-T!"

Another reason that we have the best students is because we have a great support system. Our community and families are there when we need them. Did you know we have a strong PACT group who meet monthly to support the students and staff at school. They hold fund raisers for special projects at the school and their friendly faces can be seen throughout the school on any special occasion we host. We have parents and family members who spend hours reading with their children at night and are helping in any way they can with homework.



Did you know that we have community members who come into our building multiple times a week to listen to our youngest students read? These volunteers spend time with our readers and allow them an audience to perform their hard work from the classroom. This support is huge in the development of young readers! I'm on the hill top again ready to shout, "We have the best COMMUNITY that supports AC-T!"

We truly have the BEST at AC-T! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the role that you play in our AC-T family. Each student at AC-T is lucky to be part of the BEST school around!

Pictures included: 2nd Quarter Super Achievers, 4th grade students with their gravity cruisers, 5th and 6th grade students with their drop packages, Mrs. Voyles reading the book You're Here For a Reason in appreciation for our volunteer readers.

Superintendent Update by Mr. Rob Olsen

Happy New Year to everyone! It is hard to believe we are into the 2nd half of the school year already. As we look to the 2nd half of the year we also begin to look at projects necessary to maintain the building. This summer, there will be asbestos removed and abated throughout the building with new ceilings and lighting installed. This project will really improve the lighting throughout the building in the hallways and classrooms as well as provide a much more energy efficient lighting option.

The School Board the last few months has been discussing the use of the athletic facilities including the football field, etc. We are looking for ideas of how to best use the fields and space available. I have met with Albert City Chamber as well as the City Council so we can begin to generate ideas and work together to find a viable use for the fields and buildings.



Winter is flurrying by in my AC-T nurse's office!

~Brenda Thams, RN joined me again for a day in December and took height and weight and figured

a BMI on all students, while I completed vision screenings. I compiled those results, recorded and compared them to last year, and sent them home to parents.

~These last few weeks have brought an immunization audit, AEA hearing testing, a number of sick students, and weekly teaching in every classroom. We've covered a number of subjects, each having to do with some aspect of good health: water intake, cold-weather skin care, changing our toothbrush every 3 months, and looking at teeth from the crevices on top to the roots at the bottom.

~Water, water, water! Most of us don't drink enough water, and in these dry winter months, we can feel the effects of dehydration quickly. Not drinking enough water can cause us to feel sluggish, have trouble concentrating, or have a headache or stomachache. Did you know that thirst is the simplest way to know if you're drinking enough water? If you feel thirsty, drink a large cupful! Drinks with caffeine have the opposite effect on our bodies, causing dehydration, so don't reach for that pop or coffee without downing an equal amount of water. Try to drink a large cup or two first thing in the morning, after school or work, and before every meal. Drinking enough water also helps with dry winter skin...so to look and feel your best, make sure you get plenty of water!

~Just a reminder that lice continue to exist wherever people do; please make it a point to check the head of everyone in your home once per week—spend 15 minutes looking through the hair, parting it and checking for any lice or nits (eggs). It can even be a great opportunity to sit with your child for some one-on-one conversation!

~With more illnesses among us this time of year, make sure you are washing your hands often. This is the single best thing you can do to prevent getting sick!

Please feel free to call or email with any questions or concerns...Have a happy winter!

Julie Olson, RN ~ AC-T School Nurse 843-5416 ext. 272 jolson@albertct.k12.ia.us

Stress Solutions from the Elementary School Counselor by Wendy Wildeman

Experiencing a wide range of emotions is normal and healthy. We can all benefit from practicing stress solutions and parents can model stress 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 the effort. 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



REMINDER!! AC-T collects Box Tops for Education, Pop Tabs (our pop tab challenge will take place Feb. 8-Mar. 22), Campbell's Soup UPCs, and Hy-Vee receipts. Donations can be brought to school to benefit our students! These funds help to purchase supplies for students at AC-T. Thanks!

new year's resolutions by Mrs. Fuller

After Christmas break, some of my students and I have been setting some New Year resolutions. We took the first week back from break to rethink about our reading and writing goals. We talk about what makes a good reader and how we can become a better reader but this time we took some extra time and wrote out our goals. It's important for us to set obtainable goals and continue to strive to meet those goals. We talked about what we hope to accomplish in reading for the next year. The students took great pride in thinking of their reading goals and determining how they will accomplish them. We started as simple as "read more", their goals did not need to be extensive but something they truly want to accomplish for themselves. Some of the other goals the students thought of were to meet their grade proficiency level, make their monthly reading minute goal and read instead of watching T.V. When the students can think about what they would like to do to improve their reading and creating steps to do so, they are taking control of their own learning instead of being told by the teacher. This helps them become more independent and successful lifelong learners.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN UPDATE BY MRS. CORMANY

Wow! Is it February already? Time sure flies when you are having fun in preschool. We have nine energetic little bodies in preschool who are having so much fun learning in preschool. We have been working real hard on becoming super friends and problem solvers! In the fall we were able to go to the pumpkin patch to find out how pumpkins grow, what they look like and if they are all the same or how they are different. We brought back a big pumpkin that we had fun carving and exploring the pulp and seeds inside a pumpkin.

During the fall we also went on several nature walks, finding something in nature we wanted to learn and explore more. After our walks and seeing all the leaves on the ground, we wanted to learn more about leaves. We did a project on leaves in which we first found out what we already knew about leaves, then did activities, read books, looked in books and went on more walks to answer the questions we had about leaves. We learned that evergreen trees stay green all year and never lose all of their needles! We took a picture of a tree outside our classroom every day to see how it changed over time and then predicted how long we thought it would take for the tree to lose all of its leaves. Some of the children weren't too far off with their predictions. We concluded our project with a small presentation to the some daycare children. We made invitations for them inviting them to our room. We shared with them the drawings we made from what we learned about leaves, did an action poem with them and enjoyed a yummy snack with them.

Now into winter, the children are still having so much fun in the snow! We learned how dirty snow is by bringing some into the building to melt and saw all of the dirt that was left. Yuck! Now the children love to bring chunks of snow or ice in every day. We talk about and predict how long it will take to melt, why the snow melted before the ice chunk, and even why the small chunk melted first and was all dried up while the other container had lots of water in it still. Students are very curious about snow and will be learning more!

As excited as they are about snow, I know students will be ready for Spring and the nice weather and fun activities to come!

After School Club by Mrs. Falkena

In the Afterschool Program the students are doing many fun activities. They are enjoying listening to the books written by Robert Munsch. They also like listening to books that we find on the computer through Tumble Books.

We have students that love to draw and color. There is usually some of their art work on display on the bulletin board in the hallway. Playing in the sand and the Lego table is always a hit. Also marble run, the kitchen center, play dough and many other activities keep them busy.

They also enjoy going to the imagination playroom where they get to use their imaginations and build with different sized foam blocks. It is always fun to see what they build.

I enjoy working with your kids!



NEWS FROM THE 6TH GRADE

Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

BROOKLYN TAYLOR

BY TOBY KRUSE

BROOKLYN'S FAVORITE BOOK SERIES IS BONES. THE SUBJECT OF THAT PARTICULAR SERIES I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH AT THE TIME, BUT I AM FAMILIAR WITH HER FAVORITE MOVIE, WHICH IS, "INSIDE OUT". IT'S ABOUT JOY, SADNESS, ANGER, FEAR, AND DISGUST. THEY ARE THE LITTLE VOICES INSIDE A LITTLE GIRL'S HEAD. HER FAVORITE SCHOOL TEACHER FROM ALBERT CITY, TRUESDALE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IS MRS. MATHEWS. SHE IS OUR 6TH GRADE TEACHER. BROOKLYN'S FAVORITE SONG IS "GRENADES" BY BRUNO MARS. HER FAVORITE T.V. SHOW IS "GIRL MEETS WORLD". I AM SORRY, BUT AGAIN I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT OF THAT PARTICULAR SERIES. HER FAVORITE SCHOOL SUBJECT, IS ART. RIGHT NOW WE ARE PAINTING, BUT CONSERVATION POSTERS ARE COMING UP. THIS YEAR'S THEME IS, TREES! HER FAVORITE ANIMAL IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE, THE LION. HER FAVORITE ACTOR, IS ROSS LYNCH, WHO IS NOT FAMILIAR TO ME. HER FINAL FAVORITE, A GAME, IS, MONOPOLY. THAT IS 10 FACTS ABOUT BROOKLYN TAYLOR.

Ethan Schultz

BY: Brooklyn Taylor

Ethan is a sixth grader at AC-T and he is 11 years old. His favorite color is blue and he has two sisters. Their names are Sarah and Ashley. His mom's name is Liz and his dad's

name is Will. His favorite activity after school is playing Need for Speed, but he also likes to read his favorite book Stranger in the Woods or watching the Chronicles of Narnia. He also likes listening to Country music and his favorite song is "Red Light" by Chris Young. His favorite field trip from this year was when we went in the School's SUV to a nature facility. His favorite football team is the Nebraska Cornhuskers. He doesn't have any pets. He occasionally goes to church with his grandma. And that was a little about Ethan Schultz.

Larene Scruggs
BY: Sara Feeley

Larene is 11 years old and has 4 siblings: Maliek (4), Makayla (6), Micah (8), and Layla (9). Before she came to Iowa, Larene lived in San Bernardino, California. Her favorite part about 6th grade is Mrs. Mathews. We all love Mrs. Mathews!! Larene's favorite movie is "The Fault in Our Stars." I like that movie too!! Her favorite Christmas present that she received was a bike. Larene's favorite subject is Reading. Reading is one of my favorite subjects too! Her New Year's Resolution is to go to California and go to all of the amusement parks!! There are probably a lot of amusement parks in California!! Larene likes Mrs. Mathews, because she is awesome at everything!! Her heroes are her parents, because they take care of her. Larene hopes to get lots of good grades this year. She is very smart. So I don't think that that will be a problem!! Larene is such a great friend and she is so funny!! I love having her in my class!!

Matthew Goeller **by Ethan Schultz**

I am interviewing Matthew Dylan Goeller. He is 13 years old. His family members are: Jennifer, Tabitha, Lisa, Harald, and Angelo. Matthew lives in Albert City. Matthew's favorite color is black. I think that's a good color. His favorite restaurant is KFC. Matthew likes playing football. His favorite show is The Walking Dead. He likes NFL25. That's a great game. Matthew's friends are Paige, Brooklyn, Larene, Ethan, Isaac, Sara, Morgan, and Toby. He is an awesome friend. That is all about Matthew Goeller.

What Was Your Favorite Christmas Gift?

- ✚ Larene- clothes
- ✚ Kristen- time with my family
- ✚ Kim- Ugg boots
- ✚ Paige- money
- ✚ Sara-headphones
- ✚ Toby-Marvel book
- ✚ Morgan- Under Armour clothes
- ✚ Brooklyn- headphones
- ✚ Ethan-fishing rod
- ✚ Mrs. Voyles-new clothes

By Matthew Goeller

The Christmas Field Trip **By Larene Scruge**

On Wednesday, December 23, 2015, our whole school went to Pocahontas to see the new Peanuts Movie. When we got there we went in. We found seats and then we went up to get popcorn, candy, and drinks. Then started the awesome part. We sat back down and the movie started. The movie was like the old ones, but with new characters. My favorite part of the movie was when Snoopy fell in love with a poodle. Snoopy helps keep her from danger. When the movie ended we threw our trash away. Then we gathered on the bus and left. We want to thank the school for paying for the trip. We had a great time.



Christmas Program by Morgan Griffin

On Tuesday, December 8th, 2015, AC-T elementary hosted their Christmas program. PK-K sang "Jingle Bells" and "Jingle Bell Parade". PK-Second sang "Red and Green". First and Second sang "All I want for Christmas" and "Peppermint Candy Canes". Third and Fourth sang "There is a Tree". Third through Sixth sang "Ringing, Ringing", "Reindeer Shouldn't Waltz" and "The Ugly Sweater Song". We all sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".



5th and 6th grade bands played a few songs on their instruments. 5th played “Hot Cross Buns”, “Jingle Bells”, “Good King Wenceslaus”, “Dreadyl, Dreadyl”, and



“Holiday Sampler”. 6th played “Angels We Have Heard on High”, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, and “Silent Night”. It ended up being a good concert.

STEM CLUB BY PAIGE ERAL

The STEM club was a very fun activity to do after school on Tuesdays! The club was ran by Mrs. Sievers. She is also the music and TAG teacher. This year’s STEM club was all about parachutes and figuring out how to stabilize the baskets connected to the parachute so the items inside the basket wouldn’t fall out. The club was made up of 5th and 6th graders (Including myself). Everyone who was part of the club made such

creative parachutes! Everybody had different ideas, but everyone's parachute worked exactly the same way! On Tuesdays after school the people that were part of the STEM club would meet from 4PM until 5PM. The club provided snacks and drinks for all the kids who took part in this club. Sometimes we would get to play a game before we had to leave. In my opinion it was very fun to hang out with all my friends and build things with items you could most likely find at home. Thanks for taking the time to read this paragraph! Have a great day!

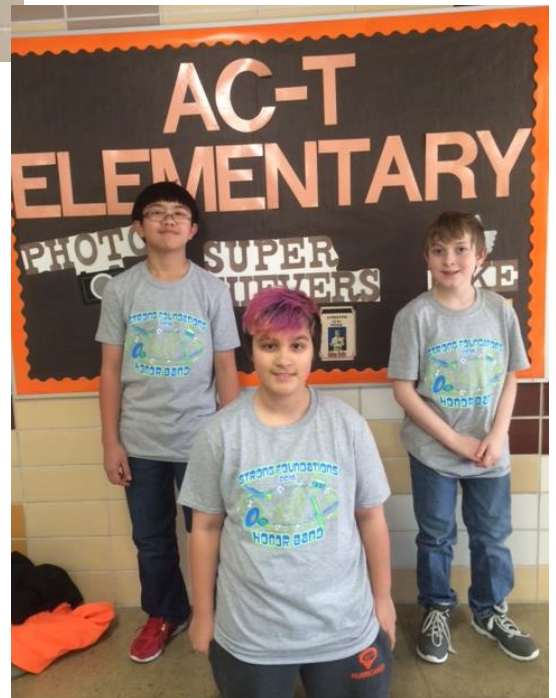
Honor Band' 2016 by: Isaac Albeus

On Monday, January 11, 2016 AC-T students Isaac Albeus, Paige Eral, and Toby Kruse



traveled to Sioux City, Iowa for Honor Band. The songs that they played were Rising Star, Downtown Blues, Atlantis, and Imperium. The students' band director was Mr. Fritz on the Green Band, one of my favorite songs are Downtown Blues and Imperium. The students left at 8:50 a.m. with two other girls from Sioux Central, but unfortunately I forgot their names. The students went to the restaurant

Wendy's and had lunch. They arrived around 12:30 and started to warm up. The school that they went to also provided snacks and supper, and while the students were practicing the band directors performed for the students which I thought was pretty cool. At 6:00 p.m. the concert began, first the White Band started with their band director Mrs. Fritz. Then the Green Band went and played all four songs. At 7:00 p.m. the concert ended and some people from the audience helped clean up, and I thought that was generous. The PACT bought us Honor Band shirts. Thank you to them! It was a really great day and it also made me play better in band.



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