

THE HURRICANE

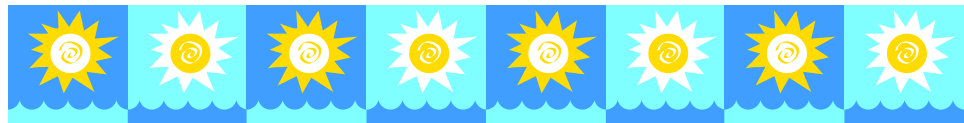
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The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

June/July/August 2015

4th Quarter – by Cody Tibbetts, AC-T Principal



Wow, has this year gone by incredibly fast! We are finishing up another school year and this provides us with an excellent chance to reflect. This past year has been productive for the students at AC-T Elementary. The students have made very good growth in all areas and the staff and I are proud of the students' accomplishments. 78% of our 2nd-6th graders are proficient in reading on the Iowa Assessments, 82% in math and 92% of our students are proficient in science on the Iowa Assessments. As these percentages are great, the number of students

considered non-proficient, compared to the students scoring advanced, continues to move in the appropriate direction. This is not just a celebration for our students and staff, but for our parents/guardians as well. Thank you for all



the support you have provided this year. Our parent/teacher conference attendance percentage for the year is a prime example of this wonderful support! We had 96% attendance for our fall and spring conferences! This is a remarkable number and provides the district with evidence to support our beliefs about our wonderful community! I wish you and your family a very happy summer! Read...read...read all summer long!

Like Always,
GO HURRICANES!
Cody Tibbetts



Please welcome
Mrs. Sarah Voyles,
New Elementary Principal
to AC-T in August!

Moving Forward by Jeff Dicks, Superintendent

Over the last 3 years, our enrollment has been steady. However, next year our enrollment is predicted to experience a significant dip, so we will prepare as if it is the trend. We have implemented many cost cutting strategies for next year to be proactive rather than reactive, but rest assured, we are financially stable. Any cost cutting is just another example of being ahead of any potential challenges, and this mindset will sustain this district for many years. I also want to position AC-T for a smooth transition to new administrative leadership.

Rob Olsen, current Superintendent at Glidden-Ralston and Paton-Churdan, will officially assume the duties as shared Superintendent of Newell-Fonda and Albert City-Truesdale on July 1st. Rob is an excellent fit and has been very involved in some of our planning for next year. Rob attended a board work session on April 7th to discuss long range facility plans for the district and has also been involved in hiring a principal at Albert City-Truesdale. The transition is very positive and I expect that to continue. Please welcome Rob and his family to the Albert City-Truesdale family.

I have taken great pride in being a small part of this district, and it has been a joy to work with some outstanding people. The true success of Albert City-Truesdale has been a combination of great teachers, supportive



6th Grade Graduation



community, parents and students. Despite the gloomy outlook from the Legislature, Albert City-Truesdale is positioned financially to offer quality education for many years to come.

3rd Grade Student Teacher – Ms. Fiedler

My name is Mikaela Fiedler. I spent the last eight weeks student teaching in Mrs. Spragg's third grade classroom. I am an elementary education major at Buena Vista University. I have enjoyed my experience at AC-T and getting to know the third graders in Mrs. Spragg's class. I loved seeing the third graders' excitement and enthusiasm for learning. I taught third graders about rocks and minerals, the three branches of government, quadrilaterals, and fractions. I also taught the third and fourth graders narrative writing and summarizing a folk tale. I was able to attend special activities with the third graders. We went to the circus, Peterson Park, and the Storm Lake Hospital. The third graders blew me away at the hospital about how much knowledge they knew about the human body. I have also enjoyed working alongside the AC-T staff and being able to learn from such a great mentor.

Pre-Kindergarten Highlights by Mrs. Cormany

Wow, the school year went fast! We have had a busy and exciting year in preschool! We started the year with 8 students, then grew to 10, then went back to 8. We also had two pet guinea pigs join our class this year, Oreo and Willy. The students took turns being the veterinarian for the week in which they were in charge of feeding and watering the guinea pig. They were all so attentive to them and thoroughly enjoyed petting them and taking them outside with us.

Through the school year, we did many exciting things. We got to visit the fire station and see the tools and trucks the firemen use when working with a fire. We then went to Pumpkin Hollow Pumpkin Patch, in which all of the students got to choose a mini pumpkin to take home and help choose a big one for the class. As Christmas was approaching, children were getting restless at school and thought it would do us some good and get out of the school for a while. We decided to go to the movie theatre and watch Big Hero 6 with the entire elementary students and staff. What a great treat before Christmas!



Students and staff came back to school and were refreshed to work on learning more about letters and the sounds they make, numbers, shapes, and one of the most important, getting along with others and how to handle social problems. Throughout the school year, students enjoyed participating in library and checking out books, and Music with Mrs. Sievers singing and performing in programs.

The preschool class ended the year with going on their Ft. Dodge field trip to the Fort Museum with Kindergarten. After the tour, we headed down to Olson Park where we had a picnic lunch and played at the playground. The children grew and change so much throughout the year! As with any other year, it will be fun to see them going through the classes and activities!

**3RD AND 4TH GRADE
PLAYS WERE A SUCCESS!**



- ❖ Registration is Monday, August 10th (10:00am-7:00pm) at AC-T. We have still have openings for our FREE Preschool!
- ❖ School supply lists will be included in the school registration newsletter mailed in July.
- ❖ The Back to School Open House for parents and students will be Thursday, August 20th from 5:00pm-6:00pm.
- ❖ The first day of school is Monday, August 24th at 8:15 am-1:00 pm.
- ❖ The second day of school is Tuesday, August 25th from 8:15 am - 1:00 pm. The early dismissals are for Professional Development.
- ❖ Contact the AC-T office with any questions! 712-843-5416

The Annual Little Hurricane Relays by Mr. Linn Lovin

The Little Hurricane Relays were held on Friday, May 8th at the football field. At 9:30 Pre-K-2nd Grade participated in the shuttle run, ball kick, and 50 yard dash. The obstacle course was run at the end. In the afternoon, grades 3rd-6th participated in their relays which included the long jump, football/softball throw, 50 yard hurdles, 50, 75, 100, and 220 yard dashes and the 4x100 yard relay.



It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time.



Nurse Notes

Welcome to summer! It continues to be such a privilege for me to spend time with our students throughout the year...

Summer is a great time to make sure your child sees their doctor, dentist and eye doctor. Students entering Kindergarten in the fall need both a dental and vision screen. Those who will be in 3rd grade need to have a vision screen completed. Certain immunizations are required for PK and K students, and those going into 7th grade. It's a good idea to call *now* and make all of those appointments, and take the opportunity to visit with your care providers about any concerns you have. The summer goes so quickly, and

it's so much easier to complete these early on, rather than during the last few days of summer break!

Remind your family members not to share anything that comes in contact with the head. It's a great idea to check the head of everyone in the house every week, so that any infestation can be caught early. Lice don't take a summer vacation!

What is screen time? Simply, any time in front of a screen, whether a TV, a computer, a tablet, a smart phone or playing video games. Children are spending, on average, 7 hours per day on screen time, while the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children spend no more than 2 hours per day. Think about ways you can reduce the hours your family spends in front of a screen, especially while the weather is nice! Why not take a "vacation" and try a screen-free week this summer?

I'm happy to speak with you about any questions or concerns regarding your child's health or the requirements for school, so please feel free to contact me anytime. Happy summer!

Julie Olson, RN
AC-T School Nurse
nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us
712-843-5416 x272

Art at AC-T Elementary by Andrea Bean

I learned a beautiful word from Max, a full blood Blackfoot Native American Indian that has become a dear family friend. He not only fixes our personal computer, but he has taught us many things about the Native American culture. He always greets us with the word "HAYHONAWASHDA." (Sorry, I have no idea how to correctly spell that word!) He said just think "hey, honey it's wash day" then you'll remember how to say it. It's how the Blackfoot people greet one another instead of Hi or Hello. Loosely translated It means; I acknowledge you, I value you, you are important to me, and I want to spend time with you.

So, this became the word that started each art class. It was also the word spoken when we weren't valuing one another. A quick reminder for each of us.

It's been another busy year that's gone by all too fast. The art time always seems to fly by. I find myself trying to teach all ages and levels of art to use many different kinds of art media. Whether it's drawing with color crayons, craypas, chalk, charcoal, pencil, ultra-fine markers or weaving with paper, yarn, pipe cleaners, newspapers or fabric. There are always new possibilities. They've discovered brown paper sacks have endless recyclable potential. They make wonderful paper looms to weave on, cut in to various size pieces they are great to draw on (Even Edgar Degas and Henri Matisse used brown paper sacks.) When you crumple paper up and flatten it out again, it gives your work a whole different look.

I'm often asked from parents with young children what they can do to help their budding little artists. My answer is simple, purchase a cheap set of watercolors, a small bottle of glue, a simple set of crayons and a small semi-pointed scissors. Then set them

down at the table while you are making a meal and can watch them work away. I usually have a plastic table cloth left over from a birthday party. I put that down on the table and when they are done, I fold it up after it dries and it's ready to use again and again. Newspapers spread out will do the same thing and you can throw them out when you are done.

Children love to paint. Don't be concerned with the end product. Just let them have fun figuring out how a paint brush works and color.

Note I recommend a semi pointed scissors. That's only if you, as an adult are around to teach them scissors safety and how to use them. I ask you, have you ever tried to cut with a blunt ended scissors? Frustrating isn't it! Practice cutting with your child. Draw straight lines, curves lines, and pointed lines on the back of advertisements and old envelopes. As they get better at cutting, have them cut around large magazine pictures. The reason I use recycled things for cutting practice is because the child realizes it's a learning thing and they aren't so concerned with perfection of cutting. They allow themselves to make mistakes. The scissors thing really helps with eye hand coordination and sets them up for success in school.

Besides paint, kids for the most part love to glue. Forget the glitter in the glue, it doesn't stick as well and that top that has the flat edge to spread the glue around is constantly clogged. Besides using ones fingers to smear the glue around is great tactile experience. Hands and fingers are washable. Their thinking skills tell them to put a whole lot of glue on...that way it will be sure to stick. Try to teach them that a little dot of glue all over the outer edges does the trick. You don't have to buy paper. Let them use scrap paper, newspapers, magazines, or brown paper bags that you've cut open and laid flat on the table. As far as color crayons are concerned, buy the eight pack. This helps them learn and recognize their basic colors. Too many fancy names and too many options only confuses them. Once again, keep it simple applies to art as well as life in general.

As most of you that know me, I'm not a big one for school art contests at the elementary level. First of all every organization sponsors a poster contest. If we participated in all those that were offered, that's all we'd get done. We have, however, always participated in the soil poster contest at AC-T while I've been the art teacher. I've done this because I feel it is relative to this area that we live in.

We started the fall out being notified that Berkley Johannsen's Soil Conservation poster that won first place in the third grade division for Buena Vista County's 2014 Soil Poster Contest also won on the state level and went on to national competition. This is the first year that Buena Vista County has had representation on the National level in this contest. What an honor. Congratulations to Berkley!

I never want to convey that winning an art contest is the be all and end all of their particular art work. I've seen what I thought were some wonderful pieces of art work that were never recognized. I think it's more important that they learn something about the subject of the poster, did they enjoy creating their own idea and did they do their best? With that said, this year I did open the KICD Christmas card contest up to the 4th and 5th graders. They voted on if they wanted to participate. We were

fortunate enough to have the winner, Paige Eral. She was chosen to have her design put on the KICD Christmas card and \$200 for the art department in her school. Wow, \$200! After looking through the art catalogs and talking with her 5th grade classmates together they decided to order scratch art paper and pens with this monetary gift. Thank you Paige and KICD for making this new equipment available for next year. Sara Feeley, Isaac Albeus and Berkley Johannsen also placed in the Christmas card contest.

We just finished participating in this year's Soil Conservation Poster Contest. The theme this year was probably one of the easiest for elementary students to understand. (Believe you me, some years I've wondered where that theme came from for elementary students!) It was "Local Heroes...Your Hardworking Pollinators." The students all did a wonderful job, I can't remember when we've had so many high quality pieces of work. Judging this contest has to be hard! We were excited to have 21 students place in this county wide contest. There were 2 firsts places, 1 second, 1 third, 3 fourth places, 3 sixth places and 11 honorable mentions. Those who placed were Pre-K Chloe Shannon, Alexa Peterson, Makayla Scruggs, Kindergarten -Henry Stepec, Brogan Johannsen, 1st grade-Reata Ayers and Lindsay Peck, 2nd grade-Leah Bean, Addilyn Johnson, and Kylie Anderson, 3rd grade-Kurtis Wood, Addisyn Fuchs and Gavin Thams, 4th grade-Gregory Anderson, Brody Jones and Deklan Willeford, 5th grade-Isaac Albeus and Ethan Schultz and 6th grade-Jonathon Wilson, Tristan Loving and Alyssa Willeford. On Tuesday, May 3rd, our two 1st place winners; Reata Ayers and Leah Bean collected their prize. They went up in an airplane and flew over Storm Lake. Thank you to the Buena Vista County Soil and Water Conservation District for making this opportunity possible for the students.

This contest takes about 6 weeks out of the art classroom time plus the time the individual classroom teachers give to the students so they can finish up their posters by the due date. Once again it's everyone here at AC-T working together that makes this all happen! So thank you students and fellow staffers! I'm proud to say that I work here at AC-T with such fun kids and supportive staff. I feel very blessed!



AC-T Elementary Spring Concert



As the end of the school year draws closer each day, I find myself thinking ahead to the start of next school year. With that brings a lot of transitions, this year's 6th graders are now in 7th grade at Sioux Central, last year's 5th Graders are now at the top of the totem pole, and this year's 4th grade students, as new 5th graders, have the opportunity to be in the band program. Being in Band opened an entire new world up for me and that's what I hope to pass along to my students. In the fall they will have a chance to try out each different type of instrument before they choose what they want to play. For the older students, they have the chance to continue to improve musically by taking summer band lessons. Summer lessons are 30 minutes on June 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th. Lessons are held in the AC-T Band Room and are completely free. To sign up for lessons, please visit my website (<http://www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us/webpages/aperry/index.cfm>) and click on the Summer Lessons link on the upper left side. More playing opportunities also present themselves by playing in either the Albert City or Storm Lake Municipal Bands. If you (adult) or JH/HS/College student wants to stretch your musical muscles please email me and I can give you the contact information for those ensembles.

*Have a very musical summer! Adam Perry, Band Director,
Sioux Central and AC-T*

What's the Point of All this School Work Anyway?

By Mrs. Wendy Wildeman, Elementary Guidance School Counselor

Albert City - Truesdale's mission statement and the American School Counselor Association's national standards for Guidance curriculum were addressed this school year for fourth, fifth, and sixth

grades. We had a variety of lessons about career awareness including exploration of students' own unique interests, abilities, personality, and values.

“The mission of Albert City-Truesdale School is to offer equal opportunities for all students to develop the knowledge, skills and character necessary to successfully live in their ever changing global world of work, community, and family.”

These standards include 3 Domains: Academic Development, Career Development, and Personal/Social Development. Specifically from the Career Development domain, students participated in lessons addressing three standards.

Standard A: Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make future informed career decisions.

Standard B: Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.

Standard C: Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education, training and the world of work.

ASCA National Standards for Students

<http://www.iowaschoolcounselors.org/Resources/Documents/ASCASnadardsresources1.pdf>

Albert City – Truesdale Students Attend Honor Choir



Front Row (L to R) Alyssa Kruse, Chad Mobley, and Brady Ehlers. Back Row (L to R) Tristan Loving, Jonathan Wilson, Alyssa Willeford, Jenna Daly, and McKenna Fuchs.