

THE HURRICANE

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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

September/October/November 2012



Veterans Day by Laine Wolff

On Nov. 9th 2012, we celebrated Veterans' Day. In the morning every year, a man named Karl Lind comes to show us one of his military vehicles. This year he brought a 1942 Ford WW2 GTB truck. It was used in WW2 to carry people, water, ammo, weapons, and diesel or gasoline. They also used it to carry things across the sand, thick mud, and snow. He also brought some items that he would have had in his one room school house in Houston, MN. Then for the program we sang patriotic songs. First Ms. Kady welcomed the Veterans. Then preschool and kindergarten performed "The Washington Post March", "Patriotic Round", and "Love My Country". Then Preschool -2nd sang "That's the American Way". Then 1st and 2nd did the poem "They Did Their Share". Then 5th and 6th did the poem and song "Angel Flight". Next the 3rd and 4th grade did "Fabulous Facts about the Statue of Liberty". Then Madison Blomgren recited a poem called "The Statue of Liberty". Next was the Veterans' slide show. Then, last but not least, the living flag. The people in the living flag were Shelby Johnson, Rachel James, Christian Perry, Bailey Heuton, and I, Laine Wolff, and Uncle Sam was Haylee Beckman. We also had a spectacular lunch by Cyndie, our cook. Spectacular job Cyndie! You're a fabulous cook!

**Thank you Veterans for
all you've done!**



Fire Safety Week



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 You can also sign-up with text/voice alerts through our office. Sioux Central also offers text alerts via their website: www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us

Nurse *Notes*

We are off to another great year at AC-T in the Nurse's office! There is one change this year: Nurse Deb has moved on to other things, so Nurse Julie is carrying out all of the duties as school nurse now. Please thank Deb the next time you see her for her years of serving the students here!

~One of the biggest jobs I complete every fall is organizing all of our students' health records, making sure teachers and other staff have the resources and equipment they need, and ensuring that the day-to-day flow of first aid, medications and health care goes smoothly.

~Another item of importance every fall is compiling immunization records; these are required for all students. I check each one to make sure students have received all of the necessary immunizations in the right time frame, and then Public Health audits our records, not only to ensure that we are in compliance with the law, but to prevent any cases of these life-threatening diseases and illnesses.

~Our staff had the opportunity to receive flu shots here at school last month. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

~My favorite part of being the school nurse is interacting with our students. In October, I started visiting the 1st- through 6th-grade classrooms weekly to complete a quick lesson on some aspect of good health. We'll start swishing with fluoride once it's available (it's currently on backorder), but until then, we're still covering everything from tooth care to hygiene, and respiratory etiquette to thankfulness!

~Please refer to the school handbook for guidelines on when to keep your child home from school. A student with a fever (temp 100.0 F or greater) or vomiting cannot be at school, and cannot return to school until they have been 24 hours without a fever (without using Tylenol or ibuprofen) or vomiting.

~A reminder: Head lice exist wherever there are groups of children. The staff and I teach students not to share hair articles or hat and hoods, but as parents, you need to check your child's head every week. Spend 15 minutes combing and parting the hair; lice are very small, and like the warmth of the scalp. The eggs (nits) stick to the shaft of hair; they do not "flick" off, but must be pulled off between two fingernails.

~This December, I will be completing our annual "mini-physicals", which include height, weight, pulse, blood pressure, BMI (body mass index: a measure of body fat) and a vision screen. I will send these results home to parents after the first of the year.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns; I am at school on Thursdays, but am happy to be a resource to our staff and parents anytime, ensuring that our students are as healthy as possible!

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

News from the 6th Grade

Laine's Interview by Christian Perry

Laine Wolff is the son of Kelly Wolff and Kurt Wolff. He has a little brother named Reagan and a big sister named Jordan. He also has a dog named Ace and a cat named Pip. He claims that his pet peeve is when his brother annoys him. He likes the television show "MythBusters" and I agree it's a good show. His favorite kind of movie is a western and his favorite movie is "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly." When he gets older he wants to go to the University of Iowa and get a job that includes anything with agriculture. His favorite sport is football and who doesn't enjoy a good game of football. His favorite sports teams are the Hawkeyes and the Saints. Ok, now on to school; Laine's favorite subject is Social Studies because he enjoys learning about the history of our great country. His favorite field trip so far was the 6th grade science field trip because we toured places he never would have gone with anyone. And that concludes my interview of Laine Wolff.

Interview with Ms. Valentine by: Laine Wolff

This year we have a new Special Education teacher and After School Club Director; Ms. Valentine. She is from Cherokee and went to BVU college. Her first assignment teaching was in Galva Holstein. Her goals in life were to be a good teacher and live on acreage. She said what she would like to do in 5yrs is to own her own house and expand her family. For extracurricular activities she likes to cook. She wants to get her graduates degree in Special Education. She has a dog named Homer. She has a son, Tyson and likes to play outside with him. If you see Ms. Valentine; welcome her to AC-T!!

New Kindergarten Teacher - Mrs. Frederick by Christian Perry

When I interviewed Mrs. Frederick, she said that she has wanted to be a teacher ever since she was in kindergarten. Her favorite thing to do with her class of eighteen is to learn new things and watch her students succeed and blossom. Mrs. Frederick went to Iowa Central Community College and BVU. Mrs. Frederick's favorite thing to do outside of school is spend time with her family. She said that her favorite things to do with her kids are playing and dancing. She has been married for 2 ½ and has two cats Simba and Lulu. And this is what I learned about Mrs. Frederick We are glad she is at AC-T!

Who is Ms. Hogrefe? By: Haylee Beckman

Andrea or Ms. Hogrefe is 35 and was born in Storm Lake, Iowa. She graduated from AC-T and ISU. Her mom's name is Janeen, her dad's name is Dennis, her sister's name is Julie and her brother's name is Clint. She has four nieces and three nephews that she loves to spend time with. She likes to watch movies and do crocheting. She works at our school as a Kindergarten paraprofessional. Her favorite color is purple. Her favorite fruit and veggie is kiwi and corn. Her favorite animals are koalas and penguins. I really think you should get to know her; she's really cool and nice. And that's Ms. Hogrefe! Welcome back to AC-T!

A Day with Mrs. Liz Perry – Our New 2nd Grade Teacher! By Rachel James

Mrs. Perry lives in the country west of Rembrandt. She is married to Andrew Perry. She is 24 years old. She knew ever since 4th grade she wanted to be a teacher. She graduated from Aurelia and UNJ. She LOVES Cyndie's Cinnamon Rolls. Her favorite color is pink. She would have been a farmer if she wasn't a teacher. We are glad to have Mrs. Perry as an Awesome 2nd grade teacher!

New Para - Heather Totten by Bailey Heuton

Heather Totten went to college at U.T.A (Univ. of Texas at Arlington) to be an orthodontist assistant. Now she lives in Albert City with her husband Jim and a dog and 2 cats. Her favorite animal is a dog and her favorite color is all of them. Now she is a Paraeducator at the AC-T school in the Kindergarten classroom. Her hobbies are hunting, hiking, playing with her dog, cooking, and playing with her niece and nephew. Her birthday is November 27th and she was born in Storm Lake. I am very glad that she is working here at AC-T!

Homecoming Week by Bailey Heuton

On Monday we had Hillbilly Day and five students came from Sioux Central and some were Dallas Heuton, Cody Archer, and Shelby Blomberg. Tuesday was Mismatch Day. Wednesday was Class Color Day and every class had a different color. Thursday was AC-T Hurricanes' Day. Friday was red and gray Rebel Day. We went to a parade and we went to the school at Sioux Central for a pep rally. That night we had a football game against the MNW Cougars. We lost the game. It was a fun week at AC-T!

6th Grade Field Trip By: Haylee Beckman

Lately our 6th grade class has been learning about soil conservation, glacial movement, and glacial deposits with Colleen Schwanz. To dig a little deeper, we went to a few awesome places. The first one was Casey's where we got this big; no, huge; no, gigantic; bag of popcorn (Which we ate in like 2 hrs)! Then we went to the Ocheyden Mound and it was enormous. Then we went to the kettle hole that was shaped like a heart. Also the fen (where Christian's shoe fell off in the mud); a prairie; it was so cool, hogs back; and the place where the naturalists work. Also when we were at Casey's waiting, Laine out of the blue looks back and sees a semi and something falls off the back. Laine says "Oh look, something fell off the back of that semi". The first thing Mrs. Wenell says is "Then go get it!". So we all got out of the car to go see what it was; and turns out it was a horn. And so Laine took it home. The End-That's the story of the 6th grade field trip!

Valero visits AC-T's 3rd/4th Grades! By Mrs. Spragg, 3rd Grade Teacher

Last month, Pete Krull and Christy Eral came to visit the 3rd and 4th graders. They gave an amazing presentation about the Valero plant in Albert City. They taught students the importance of safety in the plant. The students learned how corn is made into ethanol, which is a fuel used as a blending agent for gasoline. They also learned about other products made at the plant like distiller grains and corn oil. Distiller grains are sold as feed for cattle, hogs, and turkeys. Corn oil is sold to Bio-diesel plants to make diesel. After the presentation, everyone was treated with a bag full of cool stuff!!! Quick Facts found in the Valero pamphlet.-

- One bushel of corn yields approximately 2.8 gallons of ethanol and 18 pounds of distiller's grains.
- Approximately 110,000 bushels of corn are ground daily, producing about 308,000 gallons of ethanol and more than 1,000 tons of distiller grains.
- A single tanker rail car will hold approximately 29,000 gallons of ethanol, and they can produce enough to fill 12 tankers per day.
- A unit train of 80-100 cars can be shipped each week to coastal markets- more than 2.5 million gallons.



Fabulous First Grade News by Mrs. Annette Benedict

The AC-T First Graders have been very busy this fall! In September we spent some time learning about butterflies and insects. We even got the chance to tag our very own butterflies with the help of BV County Naturalist, Katie van der Linden.



In October we took a field trip with the second grade class to the Apple Orchard in Fort Dodge. It was a cold and rainy day, but we got to enjoy a tour of the main building where they process apple cider and make fresh baked pies & goodies. We also got to pick our own pumpkins from the pumpkin patch after a ride on the Pumpkin Cruiser. If you get a chance, stop by the display in the school lobby to see the apple-shaped writings about our favorite parts of the field trip.



At the beginning of November we spent some time learning about the elections and we even had a chance to vote online for our favorite presidential candidate. We also got to vote on a snack for the day in first grade. Some students were quite disappointed to find out that there can only be one majority winner!

As the year continues on we will be working hard to build skills in reading and math! One way we get better at reading is to read to others. In First Grade we are thankful to have community volunteers who spend a half an hour every Monday afternoon in the library with us to help us practice reading! It's awesome for each student to have

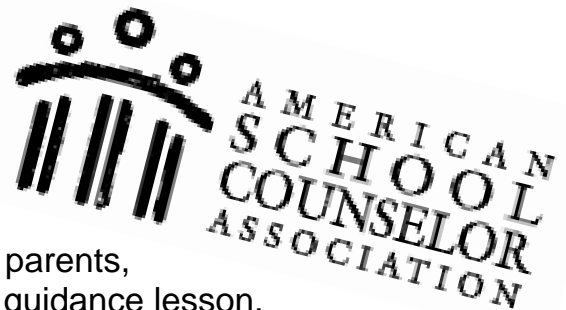
some one-on-one time reading with an adult. Thank You Volunteers! We can't wait to see how far we have come by the end of the school year!



Guidance Counselor News, by Mrs. Wildeman

The second and third grade guidance classes are finishing a unit based off the book, The 7 Habits of Happy Kids, by Sean Covey. Each lesson focuses on a healthy habit and includes a story, parent letter, and a coloring page that reinforces the habit.

Specifically the parent letter has three sections: a note to parents, discussion questions from the story presented during the guidance lesson, and steps that children can take to incorporate the habit into their daily lives. Here are the habits we cover in this unit: Be Proactive - You're in Charge, Begin with the End in Mind - Have a Plan, Put First Things First - Work First Then Play, Think Win-Win - Everyone Can Win, Seek First to Understand-Then Be Understood - Listen Before You Talk, Synergize - Together is Better, and Sharpen the Saw - Balance Feels Best. If you would like to know more about this unit or any other guidance classes, feel free to email Mrs. Wildeman wwildeman@sioux-central.k12.ia.us.



Pre-Kindergarten Update by Mrs. Keara Cormany

The school year is off to a great start in the Prekindergarten classroom! We have 16 enthusiastic students who have learned so much already! At the end of September, we went to visit Pumpkin Hollow Pumpkin Patch for our annual field trip. The children enjoyed a hayride down to the pumpkin patch where all of the students picked a mini pumpkin to bring home and also helped to pick out a large pumpkin for the classroom. Students visited a petting zoo where they got to pet goats and lamas. One of the highlights of the trip was the plastic pool of corn in which the children could scoop and pour corn.

During fire prevention week, the preschool class visited the Albert City Fire Department. The children were very excited to take their “trip” boards with them to draw and write about things they saw and heard while on our trip. Some of the highlights of the trip were all of the “cubbies” with the firefighters gear, the pumper truck, and all of the tools the firefighters may use when at a fire.



PACT Happenings



The PACT group was formed as a “booster club” for Albert City-Truesdale School. This group is made up of parents and volunteers who are interested in supporting our students, teachers and staff in any way possible. Everyone at AC-T really appreciates all we can do to help with projects at our school. Recently we have served cookies at Grandparents Day, provided meals for teachers during conferences, and “tattooed” the students and teachers for Homecoming!

Upcoming events include the Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe in December and the bake sale at the Christmas concert on December 11th. Items for sale can be brought to the school the day of the concert. Please have baked goods ready to sell (on paper plates, in bags, etc.) If you would be willing to help work at the Bake Sale before or after the concert, please contact Karen Feeley at 843-2289 or Kristen Beckman at 843-2249. And as always, come prepared to buy some goodies! This is one of our fundraisers throughout the year, and we appreciate the support of our PACT group! The Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe is an opportunity for your child to experience the spirit of gift giving while still enjoying the surprise for family members. The Shoppe dates will be December 10th – 14th from 12:00-1:00pm. That week there will be assigned times for each class to go shop and buy gifts ranging from \$.25 to \$12.00.

The PACT group meets once a month, usually on the 3rd Monday at noon. Our meetings only last about an hour, and that is when we plan our upcoming activities. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help out by providing baked goods as needed, supervising activities, and organizing events. We would really love to have you join us for the monthly meetings too! Coming to a meeting is not a long-term commitment. Join us when you can! You don't need to be a parent of a student to help out – we will use grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles or friends! We look forward to input and help from anyone who can come!

If you are willing to help in any way, please contact one of us. We welcome any comments or suggestions. Thanks for your consideration!

Karen Feeley 843-2289 Kristen Beckman 843-2249

Total sales from the Fall Scholastic Book Fair were \$981.94. AC-T receives \$392.78 in Scholastic Dollars to spend on books for our library as a result. Thanks for supporting our library! The children just love the new books!

News from the AC-T Superintendent/Principal – Barb Kady

AC-T is off to a great start to the 2012-2013 school year! We want to extend a special welcome to the new students, faculty, and families at AC-T this year.

This year, the AC-T faculty is joining together with 476 Northwest Iowa Teachers and Administrators from 10 school districts: AC-T, Alta-Aurelia, East Sac, Gilmore City Bradgate, Laurens-Marathon, Newell-Fonda, Pocahontas Area, Ridge View, Sioux Central and West Bend Mallard for collaborative professional development. This professional development is focused on improving student achievement through developing a deeper understanding of the Iowa Core/ Common Core Curriculum. Teachers and administrators will be creating common expectations for student achievement. These professional development sessions give our teachers an opportunity to engage and collaborate with teachers in grade and content alike peer groups from across the southwest portion of Prairie Lakes AEA. Teachers and Administrators are working together to help ensure everyone's students achieve greater success.

Teachers and Administrators from the above ten districts are coming together at three different sites. The Kindergarten through Second Grade Teachers meet at the Storm Lake AEA office. The remaining teachers are split between the Pocahontas AEA office or the Pocahontas High School. There have already been two full day sessions of work done this year, and there are two additional full day sessions scheduled for this school year.

Iowa's small rural schools have a long history of working together, forming consortiums and addressing emerging concerns collectively. Iowa teachers work to ensure their students have the best education possible. Bringing rural Iowa teachers together to have the opportunity to develop a common understanding of the Iowa/Common Core Curriculum, in a supportive environment where they can learn and share with their experiences, hopes and dreams for their students, is a wonderful opportunity for successful collaboration.

Teachers who teach in single section schools, such as AC-T, or those with only two or three sections have a limited ability to collaborate with others who teach the same grade level or content area. Bringing teachers together in grade alike groups gives them an opportunity to build relationships beyond their buildings and across district boundaries. These relationships have the potential to spill over into the classroom as teachers utilize technologies to connect their students with those across the consortium and beyond.

Collaborative professional development creates connections that deepen the learning for all those involved. Teachers engaged in studying the Iowa/Common Core Curriculum expand their knowledge and ability to apply the newly gained lessons in their classrooms. This researched based practice is known to help student achievement increase as teachers collaboratively build deeper and richer lessons, helping each other to stretch student learning further.

When we work together we are able to help everyone achieve success. As educational leaders, we want all of Iowa's teachers and students to be successful, not just those in our own districts. Coming together for collaborative professional development not only enriches our teachers' knowledge of the Iowa/Common Core Curriculum; it reflects our local School Boards' commitment to improved student achievement through their support of this effort. We would like to thank our Schools Boards for their work in aligning district calendars, and for providing the resources necessary to make this learning opportunity available to your teachers and in turn their students. It is great to see Iowa School districts working together to help everyone achieve success!

Keep up with your AC-T school happenings! Listen to the KAYL (101.7FM) School Spotlight at 7:25 AM on the following upcoming dates: January 9th, February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd and May 1st!

Grandparents' Day By: Rachel James

Grandparent's day started off with "Grandparent's Day" by Jill Eisnaugle and was performed by 5th and 6th grades. Next came "Down on Grandpa's Farm" performed by Preschool and Kindergarten. "Grandma, Grandpa", "You Are Special" and "Grandparent's Day Song" performed by Preschool-2nd grade. Next came "A Song for Grandma & Grandpa" by Johnny Prill performed by 1st and 2nd grades. "Top 28 Reasons We Love Our Grandparents" was written and performed by 3rd and 4th grades. Next, "A Song for Grandparent's Day" was performed by grades 3rd-6th. "Funny Moments with Grandparents" was performed by 5th and 6th grades. Then Mrs. Bjork did the grandparent's slide show which was great as usual! The PACT group provided drinks and cookies for the grandparents. The grandparents went to their grandchildren's classrooms. Overall it was the BEST Grandparent's Day Program EVER!



Author of Buck Wilder Visits Albert City-Truesdale and Sioux Central Schools by Paulette McCall

On Monday, November 5, Michigan based children's author and creator of the popular Buck Wilder nature adventure series, Tim Smith, visited Albert City-Truesdale schools and Sioux Central schools. Author and illustrator Tim Smith, aka Buck Wilder, published his first book "Buck Wilder's Small Fry Fishing Guide," in 1995 and since has written nine more books, all of which revolve around tales of the great outdoors.

Buck Wilder has been on a mission to get kids back to nature. "I spent a lot of time outdoors in my life," said Smith. "We're all connected to nature, and that's what my books are about. In today's time, kids are losing touch with nature." He has written ten books over twelve years, including titles, "Buck Wilder's Little Skipper Boating Guide," "The Ants Dig to China," "Buck Wilder's Small Twig Hiking & Camping Guide," and "The Squirrels Go Nuts," to name a few.

Beginning with his first book, "Buck Wilder's Small Fry Fishing Guide," Smith said he has always hidden a fuzzy white worm, suitably named "Fuzzy," on every page in his guide books. His paperbacks have black-and-white illustrations that animate when readers quickly flip the pages.

When talking to the students about the writing process, Smith said it takes him about a year to complete a book; the students were amazed when he described the process of drawing, writing, rewriting and editing, which has conditioned his love for pencils and erasers. "I don't care how big you get," he told the audience, "you're going to make mistakes." "Look at this," he said, showing the group a pencil. "I'm a little different. Most people might look at this and say, 'wow, great pencil.' But I look at it and say, 'wow, great eraser.' Erasers are on the end of pencils because everybody makes mistakes. But that's ok--you make a mistake, you can fix it. Don't be afraid to make a mistake."

Smith encouraged students to explore their imaginations and try new things, "even if someone laughs at you. I write under a pretend name with a pretend face," he said. "It's pretend because I need to use my imagination. Can you see this long face and bald head on a Buck Wilder book? No--I needed a character who looks and sounds rugged and outdoorsy." Tim Smith points out that he is no one particularly special--he is like many people, a husband, a father, literally the guy next door. Yet, with imagination, his world changes. This imagination drives his pencil in creating the Buck Wilder character and his forest friends of the wildly popular Buck Wilder Adventure series.

Buck Wilder's presentation was enjoyed by all elementary students, preschool-sixth grade. Before Buck Wilder's presentation, many students read his first book in the Buck Wilder Adventure series, "Who Stole the Animal Poop?" during library class. It quickly became a favorite book for all.