

# THE HURRICANE

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# The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

December 2009/January/February 2010



## Best wishes Dr. Lode!

Dr. Lode, Superintendent at AC-T for the past 4 years, retired from AC-T on December 31, 2009. We are grateful for his leadership and wish him well as he enters this new chapter in his life.

On January 1, 2010, I assumed the duties of the Superintendent, combined with the duties of the Principal. It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve you in these capacities, and I look forward to working with the school board, faculty, staff, students, and the community to continue the tradition of educational excellence at Albert City – Truesdale Community School.

## When Do We Make-Up Those Snow Days?

So far this winter students have missed seven days of school for weather-related reasons. The make-up days are on March 16, April 1, May 27, May 28, June 1, June 2, and June 3. Unless we miss more full days

of school, the last day for students is now June 3. Any additional snow days will be made up after June 3. What a winter! Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, we will have the worst of the winter weather behind us for this school year. Stay tuned to the local radio and television stations, as well as the AC-T website for weather related school announcements. On the AC-T website there is a link to "Snowcap," which enables you to sign up to receive text messages on your phone for weather related school messages.

## Governor Issues Across-The-Board Cuts

Due to lower than expected tax receipts, the state government of Iowa is unable to meet its obligations for providing full state aid to schools. In October, Governor Culver issued a 10% across-the-board cut in state aid. For Albert City-Truesdale, this means a reduction of state aid amounting to \$105,608 this school year. Since we are already well into our school year, it is nearly impossible to reduce expenditures by that amount. The district will need to use its reserves to cover this loss of revenue. Like nearly all Iowa school districts, AC-T will need to find ways to trim future budgets to accommodate the economic slowdown. In the next few months, board members will be reviewing the budget and announce plans for any budget reductions. The board will adopt the 2011-2012 school budget in April.

## AC-T Students Show Steady Growth

Your AC-T students continue to excel. Students continue to make academic progress in math and reading. Students in grades 2 through 6 took the annual Iowa Tests of Basic Skills Iowa during the last week in January. These tests provide one measure to help teachers meet the individual needs of each student, identifying strongest areas and areas in which the greatest improvement is needed. The results also show how the school is doing as a whole, measuring growth from one year to the next in such areas as reading, language, and math. Test scores also compare AC-T student performance with the performance of other students in the state and the nation. If you would like more information about the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, please contact me at school.

## Thank you!

We would like to thank you, the community, for your continued support of the work being done at your school to provide excellent educational opportunities for our youth. We appreciate all you do to help make Albert City-Truesdale a "Great Place To Start!"

-Barbara Kady, Superintendent/Principal

# CANDY GRAMS

Fifth and sixth graders are going to be selling candy grams this year to earn money for fieldtrips. Candy grams are cards designed by the 6<sup>th</sup> graders with a piece of candy attached to them. The cost is \$.50. Candy grams can be purchased from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup>. Candy grams may be purchased for students and staff at AC-T and Sioux Central (please note this on your form), and will be delivered on February 11<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to purchase for someone else outside the building (other than Sioux Central students) they may be sent home with your child. Please note this on the order form. Orders may be sent to school with your child and put in the box in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade hallway (please note if you need diabetic or non-chocolate candy.) Thank you for your support!

~Mrs. Dj Wenell

For Whom:

Grade and School or Sent Home:

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## History Day By: Maggie Loving

**Five T.A.G. students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Anna Ehlers, Maddy Bjork, Kara Clausen, Dalton Demers, and Maggie Loving are participating in History Day at the Albert City-Truesdale School on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

**There are many schools all over Northwest Iowa coming to Albert City-Truesdale School to participate in History Day. Mrs. Sievers and the Albert City-Truesdale School are hosting History Day this year.**

**I asked Mrs. Sievers if she was excited to host it and she said "I'm a little nervous." It is a competition for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It is a competition where you do a topic that you pick. This year the theme is "Innovation in History: Impact and Change". Mrs. Sievers said "you have to be willing to put in the time."**

**I asked Anna Ehlers why we chose this topic and she said "We decided to use Superior Manufacturing because it was local. You can't find much information on the web with this topic. But because it is local you get a real "hands on" experience."**

## Invention Convention By: Madelyn Bjork

This year there will be students participating in the Iowa Invention Convention at Humboldt, Iowa on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The age eligible is fourth and up and they also (for our school) have to be in GAT (Gifted and Talented). There will be six students participating. They are: Gabby Long 4<sup>th</sup>, Mercedes Unger 4<sup>th</sup>, Makayla Bjork 4<sup>th</sup>, Shera Smith 4<sup>th</sup>, Carter Beckman 4<sup>th</sup>, and Dalton Demers 6<sup>th</sup>.

All of the kids will be working on their own invention this year. As far as we know, here are some of the names of the students' inventions- Mercedes Unger is doing her own invention, an unnamed, desk pencil dispenser,

Gabby Long and Makayla Bjork's invention is a Tool Hammer, Shera Smith has an invention called the snow Shoe, Carter Beckman is doing a most helpful invention for people called the Third-Hand, and last but not least Dalton Demers' invention is yet unnamed and still in progress. Also, if anyone passes on to the next level (State) it will be in Iowa City. In my opinion, I think that our Albert City-Truesdale students will do great!!

## **Alliant Energy By Eric Ulchinsky**

**Alliant Energy boxes came with water and energy saving products that kids from our school would get to take home. If they did not use everything they would bring back the items they did not use. If they brought back a paper on what you used and how much water it saved; then the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have a big party together. If the whole school (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) brings them back every class will get \$100. The items in the boxes are a shower head, a sink head, a filter cleaner, a water thermometer, an energy-saving light bulb, a nightlight, and blue tablets that turn your toilet water blue (to check for leaks). These important items save water and also save money on your bills.**

## **Funds for the Firemen By Jonathan Garvick**

How much money do you think we will get in the bucket? Mrs. Kady: I hope we will break last's year's goal. Do you like the Funds for the Firemen? Yes. I think it is a great cause and I am happy that we are helping the firemen. How much money do we have now? \$353.54. Do you think the firemen will be happy that we gave them all the money in the buckets? I think they will be very happy and I think they will be very proud of these students for helping the firemen. What is your favorite thing about the Funds for the Firemen? I like watching how full the fireman's boot is getting and I like that the students are working to help the community.

## **Mr. T by Tanner Orwig**

Mr. T is from Uganda, Africa. He likes his job at AC-T. He is a paraprofessional educator. He likes helping students but it's challenging sometimes. Mr. T likes the lunches at AC-T. He also likes sitting with the preschool at lunch. He has 5 siblings including himself. Mr. T is married and that's why he came to Albert City. He is married to AC-T alumna, Diane Aronson (2003). Mr. T doesn't have any kids. Mr. T's last name is kind of confusing; it is Twinamatsiko. Where he lived in Africa, they had brick fences to keep robbers and other bad people out of the house. We are glad Mr. T works at AC-T!

## **Christmas Break by Christian Eberle**

Albert City had a big snowstorm and we missed 4 days of school because the snow. Then, on Christmas we lost our power because the snow. I saw a lot of kids out on their sleds playing on the snow hills, so at least they could do something when the power was out. At the Albert City Evangelical Free Church one of the people that goes there put up a little ice rink, and over Christmas break he would play Broom Ball and he would let any one that went over there play. These are some questions that some kids and teachers answered.

1. What did you do during Christmas break?

Keaton Linder said playing outside with his brothers in the snow.

2. Did lose your power over Christmas break?

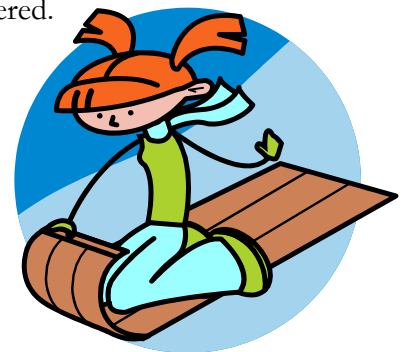
I asked Ben Conlin and he lives on a farm and he did not lose his power.

3. Did you go anywhere special on Christmas or did you stay home?

Mrs. Bruns said that she went to Arizona.

4. Did you get stuck in your house because of the snow?

Dalton Kulp said he did not get snowed into his house.



## Student Council By: Anna Marie Ehlers

Each member of the group talks about upcoming events and other things, like last week the group talked on the broadcast questions about AC-T on 101.7FM.

A 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, Tina U., plays the important role of Ms. President, and Marcail Olson (5<sup>th</sup>) is the Vice President. Tina Ulchinsky reported to me that the student council had their meetings once a month in the Curriculum Library room.

They are asked to get ideas from other students for rewards for our main fundraiser this year, "Funds for Fireman". They also sold Christmas ornaments this year to support our school's soldiers.

One of the facilitators is Ms. Goedert. She shared with me that after they had discussed the new business they are to go back and share it with the class.

The students in each class pick a number of representatives and then they vote on which one would fit the job. There are four students in the group ranging from the grades of 3-6.

## Update on our Adopted Soldiers by Mrs. Wenell and Ms. Goedert

Students at Albert City – Truesdale School have adopted two servicemen this year. One is SSG Cory Simpson who is the fiancé of our fifth grade teacher Ms. Goedert. The other, Captain Rusty Perry (shown left), is the son-in-law of our custodian Keith Moe. A different class of students is writing letters to the two men each month. This past month the entire school was busy collecting items to send to them for the Christmas holidays. Included in the boxes were Christmas stockings that were decorated by the Kindergarten, Fifth, and Sixth graders. The gift items were packaged into twelve boxes and mailed. We look forward to doing other fun activities for our two servicemen.

Grades 5 and 6 learned about Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MRE) in December while Skyping with one of the adopt-a-soldiers that AC-T adopted, SSG. Cory Simpson. The MREs were sent to the students so that they could see what some of the soldiers have to eat while out on missions in the field. Cory taught the kids how to cook the meals like they do when they are out on

patrol. Each meal contains 1200-1300 calories and the soldiers are advised to eat 3 of them a day to keep energy levels high while they are hard at work. All of the dehydrated food can be heated or cooked in the self-heating bag it comes with. The roast beef dinner with crackers and peanut butter, pineapple upside down cake, and dried cranberries, also contained a packet of hot chocolate and was served up to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders after they were done preparing it with SSG. Simpson. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade reported that they were actually quite tasty, while SSG. Simpson respectfully disagreed! Both classes were grateful for the experience to chat with Cory, and they were impressed that our troops were able to make a 5 course meal out in the middle of nowhere.

## Interview with Lisa Meusburger

By: Kaitlyn Jones

The Buena Vista County Naturalist comes to our school and she teaches us about lots of different things but mostly about the outdoors; that lady's name is Lisa Muesburger.

K.J: How many times do you come to our school in a year?

L.M: I come to your school about once a month.



K.J: Do you work with older kids like 7th graders and up?

L.M: I do work with the older kids too.

K.J: What is your favorite thing about teaching at different schools?

L.M: Being able to work with different kids and teachers at the same time.

K.J: How long have you been teaching?

L.M: I have been teaching for 16 years.

K.J: What is the worst thing about going to different schools?

L.M: To remember what time I have to be there and to keep on schedule.

K.J: Why did you want to do this job?

L.M: I did it because I like the outdoors and I like kids.

K.J: What are some of the things you will teach us at Albert City –Truesdale School?

L.M: The sixth grade did owl pellets and other grades will do alternative energy, butterflies, fossils, and last but not least, star lab.

K.J: Is it hard to travel to different schools in the snow?

L.M: Yes because of all the different challenges.

K.J: What are some of the schools that you will teach at?

L.M: Alta, Storm Lake, Saint Mary's which is in Storm Lake, Sioux Central, Newell – Fonda and Albert City –Truesdale.



### *AC-T Welcomes Student Teachers!*

Albert City-Truesdale Elementary School is very pleased to welcome two new student teachers from Buena Vista University during this third quarter of school. Ms. Britney Cook will be working in the Kindergarten room and Ms. Celsi Bustad in the Resource Room. We extend a big welcome to both of these student teachers to AC-T!

## Thank You!

The After School Club would like to say thank you to the Girl Scouts for their donation of cookies. Troop #210, Michelle Wills and Deanna Heuton provided the cookies for snack time and they are very much appreciated!

-Mrs. Lange and the ASC kids

**REMINDER!! AC-T collects Land O'Lakes Milk caps, Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup UPC, and Capri Sun Juice Pouches. Donations can be brought to school to benefit our students! Thanks!**

# News from the 6th Grade

## Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

**KARA CLAUSEN**

**BY: DALTON DEMERS**

Kara Clausen was born on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1997. She was born in the Storm Lake Hospital and then she went to Omaha by helicopter. Her parents are Kent Edward Clausen and Debra Arlene Nordine. Her brother's name is Kyle James Clausen. Her favorite color is lime green. She has been to many states. Her favorite thing about Albert City-Truesdale elementary school is the teachers and the food.

### Interview with Luke Johnson

**By: Kara Clausen**

One day on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1977, in the Storm Lake Hospital, there was a baby born with blonde hair and green eyes. When Luke was only two hours old he was sent to the St. Luke's hospital in Sioux City by helicopter. Luke's proud parents are Joleen and Robert Johnson. Luke lives in a beautiful brown house on South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Luke loves playing with his cat Kipper and his CARS video game. Luke loves the color dark blue and his favorite food is potato chips.

Luke is 12 years old, he is going to AC-T for his last year but, he said that his favorite part about AC-T is all of the wonderful teachers and his four best friends: Kara Clausen, Christian Eberle, Kash Buse, and Maddy Bjork.

### Interview with Christian Eberle

**By: Tina Ulchinsky**

His name is Christian Eberle, and he's one of six boys in the sixth grade. He was born on August 4, 1997, in Storm Lake. His favorite color is dark blue. He

has four brothers Dalton, Dallas, Casey, and, Anthony. Dallas and Dalton are twins and so are Casey and Anthony. Christian is the only one that is not a twin. He likes to play football, and his favorite football team is the Green Bay Packers. He listens to Hardcore, and his favorite band is Good Night Prince. He has a puppy named Missey. Christian's favorite subject in school is P.E. His favorite type of shoe is DC which are skateboarding shoes. In the summer, he likes to skateboard with his friends down at the Free Church. Then in the winter he likes to go there and have fun on the ice playing broom ball. Christian is always up for some fun; he is very energetic, and he is always up for something new. He is a very fast runner and he likes a good competition.

### Interview with Tina Ulchinsky

**By: Luke Johnson**

There was a beautiful girl named Tina Ulchinsky and she lived in a castle on 406 Flower Street, Albert City, Iowa with her brother and sister Eric and Lisa and her parents Sheri Lyn Crabtree and Mark Ulchinsky. Tina was born on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1996 and right now she is 13 years old. Tina loves the colors lime green, sky blue, and black. Tina enjoys watching the Florida Gators WIN their football games! When Tina goes shopping, she prefers to go to Wal-Mart.

# February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ITBS Continues	2 100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School!	3	4	5	6 1:00-3:00 Open Gym at AC-T
7	8 6:00 School Board meeting	9	10	11 Funds for Firemen Day-Bring 50 cents and wear a hat at school today	12 No School	13
14	15 No School- President's Day	16	17	18 7:25 a.m. KAYL School Spotlight	19	20
21	22 6:30 PACT meeting	23	24	25	26	27 History Day @ ACT
28	<b>March 1- Spring Pictures at AC-T</b>					