

THE HURRICANE

Albert City-Truesdale CSD
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The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

December 2010/January/February 2011



Best wishes Sandra!

Sandra Otto, Business Manager/Board Secretary at AC-T for the past 19 years, retired from AC-T on December 31, 2010. We are grateful for her service and wish her well as she enters this new chapter in her life.

When Do We Make-Up Those Snow Days?

So far this winter students have missed three days of school for weather-related reasons. The make-up days are on February 18, April 26, and May 26. Unless we miss more full days of school, the last day for students is now May 26. Any additional snow days will be made up after May 26. 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.



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 6th graders with a piece of candy attached to them. The cost is \$.50. Candy grams can be purchased from January 31st to February 4th. 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 11th. 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 5th and 6th 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:

Christmas Field Trips By: Marcail Olson

For the Christmas field trip classes' preschool through 1st grade went to Santa's Castle in Storm Lake. Then the 3rd through 6th went bowling in Spencer. We left school at 9:00 got there we went bowling. The teachers had ordered pizza from Pizza Ranch. We ate pizza a noon and then we got to bowl a little more. Then we left and got back to school at 2:45. We got back to school and had our Christmas parties. We would like to thank our teachers for letting us have a VERY FUN DAY! THANK YOU!!!

After School Homework Club has been off to a great start!! We gather in the Library/Media Center room after our 3:20 dismissal until 4:00 pm. Thanks to Mrs. Bjork and Mrs.

Jesse for their help monitoring the students until I arrive after walking the Pre-K to the bus or awaiting parents! ASHC is offered to students in grades 3-6 everyday. If we have an early out due to weather; then ASHC will be canceled. If you stop in; you will find the students hard at work getting their school work done before the 4:00 pm dismissal!! ~Ms. Vickey Roberts

Author Visits AC-T by Nathaniel Caldwell

On January 5, 2011 there was an author came to visit. Her name is Jill Schafer Godbersen. She has written five books and she has two new books coming out soon. All of her books names are My Dog is the Best, Dance with me, Golf- is a Game of Life, Can u Catch Me and a Novel The Moment my Life Changed. She lives in Ida Grove. I think she is an awesome author.

Adopt a Soldier! By Dalton Joe Eberle

Here at AC-T we are collecting items to send to the soldiers for Christmas. Ms. Dirks is in charge of the project. Every week we had a different theme like Stationary Week, Drink Week, Postage Week, and Misc. Week. Laurens and AC-T have collected 159 boxes in all to send to the soldiers. We at AC-T thank the soldiers for the help to keep us safe!

Update from Mrs. Annette Benedict, K-6 Resource Teacher

As the second semester of school gets underway, make it a priority to include your child in real life opportunities that encourage deeper thinking and sharpen academic skills. Even simple activities, such as letting your child help with the cooking by reading the recipe and measuring ingredients, are beneficial in teaching your child important skills and concepts. Look for opportunities to encourage reading and mathematical thinking skills [using addition, subtraction, estimation, measurement, etc.] through the activities you are already planning. Some examples include: calculating cost on a shopping trip, measuring items around the house, and tracking/charting the weather daily. It's also important for your child to read every day! It doesn't matter what the material is—magazines, books, road signs, instructions for a new game, cereal boxes-- just read!!



Also, if your child has access to a computer, take advantage of the free online sites designed to help your student practice essential skills. Most of the sites have fun activity ideas and interactive games to engage your child in learning. Some sites are more appropriate for certain age groups, so make sure to help your child get to a site where they will feel confident! Here are just a few sites to get you started:

<http://www.primarygames.com>

- Multiple interactive games

<http://www.softschools.com>

- Games and printables sorted by grade level

<http://www.gamequarium.com>

- Interactive games sorted by topic
- Free online movies...fun to watch!

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

- Games sorted by grade level

<http://www.starfall.com/>

- phonics and reading activities

http://childparenting.about.com/od/mathgamesonline/Math_Games_Online.htm

- A large list of math games and activities



As we look forward to another great semester, remember it is a partnership between school and home that makes for a successful education. Scheduling ample time for homework completion and sleep, making sure your child has a good breakfast, and engaging your child in academic activities at home, will all help your child become more successful at school!

ASG (After School Club) News by Mrs. Lange

Once again, the Iowa winter weather has kept us from spending time outside during After School Club. We appreciate being able to use the gyms when they are not in use for basketball practice. We play games, use the computers, and use our creative abilities. Most days, the time (after school until 5:30 p.m.) goes by very quickly.

Every day, we have a snack and juice or milk. Because of the number of children that have been attending, we are in need of any kind of snack item. If you have already made a donation, we thank you; and if you haven't, now would be a great time.



REMINDER!! AC-T collects Land O'Lakes Milk caps, Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup UPC, and Hy-Vee receipts. Donations can be brought to school to benefit our students! We recently received a check from Box Tops for Education for \$414.00!! These funds help to purchase supplies for students at AC-T. Thanks!

AC-T School Adopts New Library Automation Program by Mrs. Paulette McCall, Librarian
Students at Albert City-Truesdale Elementary School will soon be checking books out electronically and will have the capability of searching the school library catalog via the web with the installation of a new library management product and tool. Follett Software's web-based Destiny platform is the leading library and textbook automation product for the K-12 marketplace in North America. With Destiny, students, staff, teachers, and parents will have expanded access to library resources from school or home. Searching the library catalog can be done anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 seven days a week, and research may be conducted in the classroom or library, at school or home or any location where one has a computer and internet access. Students using the new library automation program will develop 21st century learning and technology skills.

The library automation project was partially funded by the Buena Vista County Foundation with a grant that was awarded to the Albert City-Truesdale School Library.

Reading: It's not just a class; it's an adventure! And it should be! By Mrs. Christina Balder, Title 1
Winter testing was finished in December. Students are placed into reading groups based on test scores and teacher recommendations. Students experience many different types of reading strategies to help them understand the text they are reading. Teachers also show students that there are many different ways to learn and enjoy books by using these strategies.

Students also have the privilege of learning reading through a computer reading program called "Reading Plus". AC-T received a grant to implement this program in our school. Reading Plus helps students transition from phonics and oral instruction to independent silent reading. Students will become better silent readers and independent learners. Reading Plus provides practice in word recognition, vocabulary, fluency, and a variety of forms of comprehension. It covers all the major components of reading instruction. After using Reading Plus, students in grades 3-6 will show substantial gains in fluency and silent reading, comprehension, vocabulary, and overall reading proficiency.

So, if your child, it doesn't matter the age, ever says, "I don't have anything to do", say to them, "Let's read a book together and go on an adventure."

This poster in the Reading room says it all:



From Superintendent/Principal Barb Kady

As we enter into the second semester of the 2010-2011 school year, I would like to thank the AC-T school board, faculty, staff, students, parents and the communities we serve for your commitment, dedication, and involvement in supporting your school. There is evidence shown by you on a daily basis that the AC-T Mission, Vision, and Belief Statements are being carried out. In this newsletter I would like to share just a bit of this evidence with you.

The mission of the 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.

Evidence: Continuous updates to our technology resources and professional development for teachers in this area provides our students with information available to them instantly. Our teachers have the tools needed to integrate the use of technology into their daily instruction.

AC-T Vision Statement: The Albert City-Truesdale CSD works cooperatively and collaboratively to teach, model and practice academic and behavioral expectations. At AC-T School, students, staff, parents, and community members are committed to providing a learning environment where everyone: has opportunities for success, has a positive attitude, engages in meaningful lifelong learning opportunities, and is a responsible, respectful member of all communities.

Evidence: Students and staff at AC-T work together to achieve success. The faculty and staff embrace each student at AC-T, regardless of class or grade level, encouraging and supporting each student to be a successful student and a productive citizen. Community service activities such as supporting our local servicemen help our young students to become aware of the opportunities available to be responsible, respectful members of the community, state, and country in which they live. Your school board allocates time, money, and resources to support teachers and students in their teaching and learning. Interactive white boards and a nearly one to one computer to student ratio help to engage students in the learning process. This technology is but one example of the commitment from your school board, faculty, staff, and administration to provide a world class education for each student at AC-T.

AC-T Beliefs Statement: Our school community includes all staff, students, parents and members of the community. We maintain that a positive attitude is essential. We provide an environment where all people can feel safe. We teach academics as well as social and behavioral expectations. We utilize collaborative relationships to provide a process for accomplishing goals. We promote involvement in lifelong learning opportunities. We encourage staff to continue to learn; and we realize our school must continue to improve.

Evidence: The faculty and staff work tirelessly to meet the needs of each student at AC-T. Meeting the diverse needs of our students and their families is a constant focus, and is one of the areas for professional development for AC-T teachers. Community volunteers meet with our first grade students each week in the school library to read and be read to by these young students. Parents volunteer their time in classroom activities and through the Pride of AC-T parent organization.

The faculty, staff, administration, and school board are committed to providing the best education, and seek to make improvements along the way as needed. One thing is certain... Being an AC-T Hurricane – it's a great thing!



AC-T receives \$100 Donation for Snow Pants by Lexi Blakeley

Over Christmas vacation, Thursday study club donated \$100 to AC-T Elementary School for snow pants for the children to use. Mrs. Wenell, 6th grade teacher, bought them at K-Mart. We really appreciate the donation, and we would like to thank Thursday study club.

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News from the 6th Grade

Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

INTERVIEW WITH NATHANIEL CALDWELL

BY: TABITHA DEMERS

One rainy day, Nathaniel Caldwell came to Albert City-Truesdale Elementary school. He lives in Albert City, Iowa and his favorite color is red. He has six siblings and his favorite animal is a guinea pig. His favorite season is summer. He likes to play soccer. Nathaniel likes to eat steak. His favorite book is Kidnapped and his favorite subject in class is math.

they are Anthony and Casey, who are twins; Dallas, who is his twin and Christian, who does not have a twin. His favorite food is tacos and Dalton's favorite school subject is P.E. (P: Physical E: Education). When he grows up, he wants to be in the National Guard. If he had a billion dollars he would use it for college. Dalton is really funny and I am glad that I he is in my class.

Interview with Mrs. Mavis Loving by Dalton Kulp

Mrs. Loving is married to Robert Loving and they have three children. She has just recently found a new job at AC-T school. She loves the school lunches and her new job as a Paraprofessional at AC-T. Before this job, she worked at the Post Office in Rembrandt. When she has time, she would go to sporting events just for the fun of it. She loves to go and see her family. She lives in the country.

Interview with Desiree Fitzgerald by Dallas Eberle

I interviewed Desiree Fitzgerald; who is new in our school office.
I asked these questions to learn more about her.
Where do you live? Varina, IA
Are you married? Yes
Where did you go to school? I went to Everett in Washington.
Do you have any children? Yes, I have 3 kids.
Did you go to college? I did not go to college.
What is your favorite sport? Football
What is your favorite team? Alabama
Do you like AC-T? Yes
What's your favorite part of your job? I like to work with the kids.
Welcome to AC-T Desiree!

CODY MARTENS BY DALTON KULP

It was 2030 and it was a chilly day in Marzy. Cody and I were playing cards in the mall and some guy walked up to us and wanted to play us in a game of cards. He offered us the country of Mexico; where Cody's parents lived when they were young before they moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota. So we chanced it and gained the country Mexico. We won it and the computer game Runescape (Cody's favorite game). Then we went back to Grand Forks, North Dakota and had fried chicken (Cody's favorite food) and met his sister and brothers: Becky Mike and Peter. Cody's parents Neil and Mary were so happy.

Dalton's Report By: Jennifer Sievers

His name is Dalton Joe Eberle. He is 12 years old and lives on 120 Flower Street, Albert City, Iowa. He goes to Albert City-Truesdale Elementary School. Dalton's mom and dad's names are Dawn and James Eberle. He has four brothers;

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31 ITBS Gr. 6 Testing all week Candy grams on sale .50 all week	1	2	3 6:30-8:30 Community Volleyball @ AC-T	4	5
6	7 ITBS grades 2-5 Testing all week	8	9 7:25 am KAYL School Spotlight	10 6:30-8:30 Community Volleyball @ AC-T	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day ITBS grades 2-5 Testing all week 6:00 Board Mtg.	15	16	17 6:30-8:30 Community Volleyball @ AC-T	18 School in Session Snow make up day	19 Iowa order of the Eastern Star Conference @ ACT
20	21 No School President's Day 6:30 PACT	22	23	24 6:30-8:30 Community Volleyball @ AC-T	25 Hurricane Day! Wear your orange and black!	26
27	28					

Snow make up days: School will be in session on February 18, April 26, and May 26.