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The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

December 2012/January/February 2013



Albert City-Truesdale celebrated its 100th Day of School on January 25, 2013. Many classroom lessons focused on the number 100 and a fun day was had by all!

After School Homework Club (ASHC) by Ms. Vickey Roberts

We gather in the Library/Media Center room after our 3:20 dismissal until 4:00 pm. Thanks to Mrs. Bjork for her 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 cancelled. If you stop in you will find the students hard at work getting their school work done before the 4:00 pm dismissal!!

News from the AC-T Band Room by Mr. Adam Perry

Now that the winter concert series has concluded the bands have started gearing up for our next performance, at the spring concert. I believe that this will be a special concert because the 5th and 6th grade bands will combine forces to play more challenging literature. In the meantime the students will be learning many new concepts in their classes and lessons as well as preparing and recording instrumental solos.

The older students at Sioux Central are VERY BUSY. Both the Middle School and High School bands are preparing their jazz chops for the Jazz Night on Feb. 1st. The HS Jazz Band will also start their competition series with performances at the Iowa Lakes Jazz Festival (1/25), IHSMA State Jazz Band Festival (1/26), Morningside Jazz Festival (2/7), NWIBA District Jazz Festival (2/18), and the Coyote Jazz Festival (3/14). The High School Concert Band is also working on selections for the Pops Concert (3/5) and Solo/Ensemble Contest (4/6.) Our young musicians have been doing a wonderful job so far this year and continue to work hard and strive to better themselves for future performances.

If you have not heard, the High School Band and Chorus are traveling to Chicago on May 20-25 to perform, attend clinics, as well as to take in the sights, sounds, and attractions of the Windy City. To help them with the trip the Music Boosters have organized a series of fundraisers. Our next fundraiser is a Baked Potato Bar supper for the Sioux Central vs. SL St. Mary's basketball games on 1/29. Following that we will have a Pop Can Drive on Saturday February 9th. Students going on the trip will come around to collect donated pop cans to help offset the cost of the trip. More information on the can drive will be placed in newspapers and the local cable TV channel. If you have any questions at all please call Mr. Perry at 283-2571 or email me at aperry@sioux-central.k12.ia.us. Have a GREAT Spring! -Mr. Perry

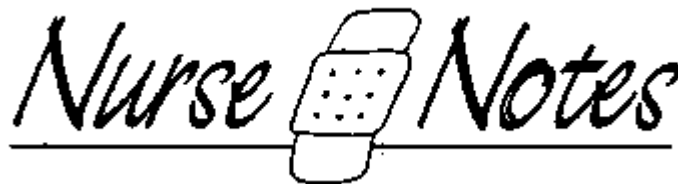
Update from Ms. Alanna Valentine, K-6 Resource Teacher

Hello, my name is Alanna Valentine and I am the new special education teacher and the new After School Club Coordinator.

As the special education teacher, I currently serve students Kindergarten thru Sixth grade. In my room I try to create an environment that is engaging and interesting. Throughout the grade levels I try to use as much technology in my lessons as possible because students now a days are surrounded by technology in their everyday lives. In my room I have access to two iPads and a Smart Board that we use frequently. I try and use as much technology in my classroom as I can. I think that technology helps students learn in an interesting way that keeps them on task.

I also run the after school club. I know that I had a hard person to follow, Twila Lange. This year I think we are doing things slightly different, from what the kids tell me. Right when the students arrive they have to sign in and grab a book. Even if they can't read yet, it is beneficial for them to look at a book. Once everyone has arrived and settled down, another child or I read a book to the rest of the students. After we have read a couple books, the children get time to play in the room. They can play with play dough, or color, play games, Legos, play house, or store. They can also play on the two computers we have and the majority of the time I bring down the iPad from my room, which they like to play on. After they play for a while, we have a snack. I try to make the majority of their snacks healthy. We also use what is donated by parents. We are always very appreciative of the snack and drink donations that parents bring in. Most times we watch part of a movie while eating our snack so the children are sitting quietly eating. After we eat our snack we either go outside for recess or go in the gym. They get to play what they would like to, but sometimes we play a game altogether as a group, which most of them enjoy. After they are tired of running around we go back to the classroom and either make a little craft or they can play some more. Sometimes we play board games. I try to give the children as many choices as I can, to create a fun and engaging setting for the kids at ASC!

REMINDER!! AC-T collects Land O'Lakes Milk caps, Box Tops for Education, 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!



How quickly this school year is speeding by! It has been a busy few months here in my office...

~This time of year we see so many children who are not feeling their best. 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 vomiting or a fever (without using acetaminophen or ibuprofen).

~The best way to stay healthy and keep germs at bay is to WASH YOUR HANDS!!! Washing hands often and properly (vigorously for at least 20 seconds) is the single best thing you can do to keep from getting sick. Also, make it a habit to never touch your face without washing first and those germs will have a harder time entering your system.

~Buena Vista County Public Health was here in November to audit our immunization records. They complete this every year to ensure that all of our students' immunizations are up-to-date.

~I started administering fluoride rinse in December. While students are busy swishing, I teach a mini-lesson on some aspect of good health. So far, some of what we've talked about includes good hygiene, getting our day started right with a good breakfast, that being thankful and having a positive outlook can help us stay healthier and happier, and how to help our teeth last a lifetime!

~As always: 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 with a fingernail.

~Brenda Thams, RN assisted me with completing the annual "mini-physicals": height, weight, pulse, blood pressure, BMI (body mass index: a measure of body fat) and a distance vision screen. I have sent those results home in the student's report card.

Please do not hesitate to call me anytime with questions, comments, or concerns; I am at school on Thursdays, and am happy to be available to our parents and staff in ensuring the best health possible for our students!

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

Title 1 Program at AC-T by Mrs. Christina Balder

Title I is a federally funded supplemental program designed to improve the educational opportunities of students. This program serves students who meet the needs for supplemental instruction. Title I provides instruction that reinforces the classroom reading and math curriculums. Student participation in the program is determined by reading and math test scores and by teacher recommendation.

Students are instructed in small groups, individually, in-class, or a combination of all. Differentiated instruction is needed to help qualifying students succeed in the classroom and Title I helps to meet those needs.

News from the 6th Grade

Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

HAYLEE BECKMAN

BY: RACHEL JAMES

There once was a girl named Haylee Beckman. Her birthday was March 6th, 2001. Haylee LOVED to be outdoors especially hunting, fishing, and playing air soft wars. She was lucky to have two parents (Bryan and Kristen) and two siblings named Elise and Carter to hang out with. Her favorite dogs were Oscar, Hershey, and Bianca. Haylee loved AC-T because the food was so GREAT and how everyone welcomed new students. In school her favorite book to read was Red Dog. After AC-T and Sioux Central, she went to college for Animal Science. Since she earned a lot of money, she got to buy her dream car: Dodge Charger 2011. Haylee lived "happily ever after"!

RACHEL JAMES

BY: Mataya Morris

Hello, my name is Mataya Morris. I interviewed Rachel James about her life and here is some information about the interview. Her parents are Christina Balder and Steven James. She has a little brother who is 2 and his name is Michael. She has pets and lives on a farm. She loves elephants and adores the color pink. At school her favorite subject is science and after school she likes the sport volleyball. She has a brand of clothing she likes and it's Justice. She loves the name Reagan. Her favorite holiday is Christmas and she wants to be a 4th grade teacher. She said that she will miss AC-T because of the teachers and just the school itself. She is looking forward to Sioux Central to meet new people, friends, and

teachers. That's the interview and I hope you learned more about her as I did! Thank you.

CHRISTIAN PERRY

BY: Laine Wolff

My friend Christian Perry is moving so I interviewed him. He told me that he does not want to leave AC-T. He wants to be a robotics engineer when he grows up. He also has two dogs named Skippy and Evy. Christian used to live here in town on Vine Street but now lives in Hartley. Christian's siblings are Josh, Michael, Anna, and Katherine. His parents are Ann and Wade. He'd grown up in TN but moved up to Iowa and we are glad he did. He's a great friend and EVERYONE misses you Christian. WE ALL WISH YOU WERE HERE!

**WANTED: Ms. Jackson
by Haylee Beckman**

Ms. Bailey Jackson is a new employee at AC-T and she works as a Para-educator with the kindergartners. She went on the run!!!! We decided that was NOT good, so we decided that we needed to put up this wanted sign to describe her to find her and get her back to AC-T.

These are the people to question: her mom and dad (Julie and Doug Herum) and her two sisters (Tess and Halle). She lives in the country and her fiancée's name is Matthew Sievers.

Things you may notice about her: she graduated from Gracinger-Terril high school, a 2011 graduate of Iowa Lakes

Community College, is currently attending BVU to receive a degree in Elementary Education. She also likes the book The Giver, a red Fiat 500, people celebrating on May 3rd for her birthday, and her dog whose name is Buford.

She's very nice and I think you should get to know her so please help us find her! ☺



Lisa Laird by Bailey Heuton

On Wednesday November 28th Lisa Laird, ventriloquist, came and presented us with *Lilly and the Legend of Santa Claus*. It was very funny! She had a bunny rabbit, a lizard, a monkey, and Lilly. She was also at the library during the summer reading program. The community was welcome to join in to watch the program. It was about how to find your Christmas heart. My three favorite things were that she made snow in a can, made a snowman with the snow, and then she chose Gregory Anderson to help her by putting his name on a playing card and put it in a

house. Later we found out it was in a different house. It was a great show!

5th & 6th Grade Science Class

By: Haylee Beckman

The 5th and 6th grade classes have lately been doing their science classes together and have had a lot of fun. We have done some really fun experiments. In fact one of the experiments was racing. We made cars out of Styrofoam, sticky tack, a balloon, a straw and 4 pins. What we did was cut 4 wheels, 4 hub caps, and a body and put them together with the 4 pins. We taped the straw to the body and sticky tacked the balloon to the straw. Then we blew up the balloon and held the end of the straw so it wouldn't have all the air go out quite yet. Then... get ready, get set, GO!!!!!! We let them go and watched them roll!!!!!! Mine didn't go the best but that's ok because we still had fun!!!! Shelby Johnson got 1st, Deon McChesney got 2nd, Dustin Melby got 3rd and Jack Pohlman got 4th. Although only four of us got medals; all of us had fun!!!!!! And that's the 5th and 6th grade science class!

Student Council

By Rachel James

The President is Jack Pohlman, The Vice President is Jayden Harder, The Secretary is Paige Eral, and the Treasurer is Rachel James. Some activities that we do to raise money for the school house at Threshermen's are wear a hat day for 50 cents, Iowa and Iowa State day, and the

faculty/staff pie in the face



contest. Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Spragg and Kim Ellrich were the lucky winners for the pie in the face. So far we have raised \$433.32 and when you come in the building you can see the money rise on the colored school house. Last year we raised money for new outdoor recess supplies and I hope we can raise more money for years to come!

The Christmas Field Trip

By Laine Wolff

This year before Christmas vacation the 3rd-6th grade went to the Recreation center in Emmetsburg. We went swimming, played pool, air hockey, racketball, foosball, ping pong, and basketball. We all had so much fun. They have a very great facility. None of us wanted to leave, everyone wanted to stay. Then after we had lunch we left. Then we went back to school and had our Christmas party. At the end of the day, we went into the big gym and sang three Christmas songs and went home.

Christmas Program By Bailey Helton

We had a winter concert in which Mr. Perry directs the bands and Mrs. Sievers leads the songs. The 5th grade band played first they played 6 songs. The 6th grade band played 5 songs. Preschool and Kindergarten sang "I What to Be an Elf" and "Jingle Bells". Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade sang "Candy Cane Lane". 1st and 2nd sang "I Want a Kitty" and "Nuttin for Christmas". 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th sang "Brown Christmas", "Oh Christmas Tree", "What Will You Be" and Santa, Santa Claus". The 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th played the Hot Cross, and Dix Ans (10 years). Then we all sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"! The End

History Day by Mataya Morris

We are doing a report about the Underground Railroad. We have to come up with all this information about the Underground Railroad in Iowa. We have to turn in 25 cards every week. Then when everyone has their cards all turned in, then we make it into a display board. The title of it's going to be, A Turning Point in Iowa's History. People that we are going to be more focused on are John Brown, Harriet Tubman, and Fredrick Douglas. The ideas are about Anti Slavery and the events are the Harper Ferry and the Emancipation Proclamation. We will have a timeline that will have the first safe house to the very last safe house; we will be looking up these pictures on Google, also to be looking at houses in 1830. History day will be on March 23, 2013 in Okoboji.

There are some pictures and ideas we found on the internet at www.nhd.org of how we are going to make the display board look like. We are working hard to make it a pretty poster to grab someone's attention. We all hope you'll get to see the poster when we are done with it, and hope you enjoy it.

Notes from Superintendent/Principal Kady

We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the (mostly!) mild winter we have had this year. We hope this pattern continues as we head into February and March! All school related announcements regarding closures, late starts, or early dismissals due to the weather will be broadcast on area television and radio stations. You may also sign up at the school office to receive text, email, or phone messages regarding weather related school announcements.

We are now into the second semester of the 2012-2013 school year. We have enjoyed a great first semester! In reflecting on the first semester, we are proud of the amazing opportunities our students have throughout the school year to learn, grow, and develop on their journey to becoming responsible, happy, and productive adults. We know this is a result of a combined effort between the home, school, and the communities we serve. Students at AC-T have the benefit of a highly talented and dedicated team of teachers, who constantly seek out ways to work together to benefit all AC-T students. As a result, students have had opportunities to learn both inside and outside of the classroom. Student learning has been enhanced through a trip to the Buena Vista University Library with teachers Mrs. Wenell and Mrs. Sievers, to give sixth grade students an opportunity to conduct research for their Iowa History Projects in a college setting. The fifth and sixth grade students, with teachers Mrs. Wenell and Ms. Wolff, took a trip to Lake Gustafson in Sioux Rapids in conjunction with a program through the County Naturalist, Katie Vander Linden. Ms. Dirks and her fourth grade students attended the Ag Citing Program in Newell this fall, learning about agricultural topics, including the soil, various grains, and wind power. The kindergarten and preschool students took a trip to an area pumpkin patch with teachers Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Cormany, and Mrs. Benedict and Mrs. Perry took their first and second grade students on a trip to a Fort Dodge Apple Orchard this past fall. In addition, Mrs. Spragg organized a presentation at school by representatives of the Valero company for her third grade students. Mr. Lovin, the physical education teacher, coordinated a 30 minute walk involving all students and staff, as part of Iowa's "Healthiest State Walk." Red Ribbon Week activities, planned by guidance counselor Wendy Wildeman, helped students to make a pledge to live healthy, drug free lives. Mr. Perry and Mrs. Sievers helped prepare band and music classes to present a wonderful holiday concert. Mrs. Bjork ensures all things technology are running smoothly, so students and staff don't miss a beat in using technology to enhance their instruction. Mrs. Bean strives weekly to encourage creativity and awaken the artistic talent in each student. Ms. Valentine and Mrs. Balder complement and enhance the instruction of each of these teachers. In addition to this fine group of professionals, helping all students to be successful is a wonderful support staff, including paraprofessionals, kitchen staff, custodians, and secretaries. We are thankful to all of these individuals for providing a positive environment in which students can learn and grow. In addition, the support of the community helps to enhance instruction for AC-T students in numerous ways. The students and staff always learn a great deal each fall through a visit from the local fire department. The volunteers who come to school each week to read to first grade students provide important practice and reinforcement for young readers as they build their skills and develop a love of reading. Our parent group, the PACT, meets monthly to plan special activities for the students and to support the teachers. Parent support is phenomenal, with education being a priority. All of these efforts combine to make a successful experience for students at AC-T each day, and we are grateful for the part that each of you play in making this happen!

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, AC-T teachers and the administration are spending considerable time in meetings and discussions centering on the topic of what students will need to know and be able to do down the road as they enter into their adult years. With the workplace and world changing rapidly, it is difficult to predict what types of jobs will be available for our young students as they become adults. Many of those jobs are likely not even in existence today. One thing we know for sure, and that is the critical importance of being able to work with and get along with others and the ability to solve problems creatively, regardless of the path students will take in their adult lives. Your AC-T faculty and staff is paying attention to what the research shows when it comes to preparing your students for a successful future. And you can be confident that your AC-T faculty and staff work tirelessly to help students develop the ability to solve problems and to work well with others. The activities listed above are but a small sampling of the opportunities students have each day at school to learn and practice these skills.

We have welcomed several new families and students to AC-T over the past few months, each of whom has been a great addition to his or her class and the school! We are confident they will embrace the educational setting and opportunities to learn at AC-T, and agree with us, that AC-T is truly, "A Great Place to Start!"

School Safety

Your AC-T Faculty and Staff is committed to looking for ways to keep students, staff members, and visitors in the building safe while in the school building or on the school grounds. A district crises plan was developed a number of years ago by AC-T staff members and the administration. This plan is periodically reviewed and updated and includes steps to take and how to react during and after a variety of school emergency scenarios. Your AC-T School Board, faculty, and PACT group are in the process of reviewing the current plan to ensure every feasible precaution is being taken to safe-guard everyone on school district property, while maintaining the family and community - friendly facility we value. If you have questions about the district crises plan or would like to see a copy, feel free to contact the school office.