

# THE HURRICANE

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# The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

December 2013/January/February 2014

## Update from Cody Tibbetts, AC-T Principal

I hope everyone had a great break and you were able to spend some time with family and friends. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Wow, the days and weeks go by so fast. It helps when you are surrounded by a great staff, fantastic kids, wonderful board members, active parents, and a supportive community!

Our inspirational and motivational quotes are now hung up around the building. The staff did a wonderful job of selecting the sayings that appear on our walls. They are kid friendly and many of them can be read by just walking by, since they are short and direct. Here are a few of the quotes that are present on our walls:



As we begin our second semester, continue being that positive role model for your child(ren). As a district we strive to provide our students with a well-rounded education by effectively communicating with our families, giving our students frequent access to technology, have them work in cooperative groups, take educational field trips, and supply our teachers with the best practices to teach our students. 2014 will supply AC-T students with new learning opportunities that will add to the abundance of exciting adventures they have with you outside of school. Thank you for all that you do to source our kids with a rich background as they enter through our school doors!

The Iowa Assessments were given during the week of January 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, with make-ups taking place the following week. Students in grades 2 through 6 took these tests. These assessments provide our staff and the state of Iowa with important data regarding the progress and proficiency of our students. The scores are one way the teachers measure individual needs and identify areas of strength. The test results also provide us with a snapshot of how the school is doing as a whole by identifying growth from one year to the next.

Continue showing your support and encouraging your child(ren) to do their best in and out of school. A building filled with kids of great character are buildings that should be recognized and celebrated. Thank you for your dedicated work as grandparents, parents, friends, and community members for your efforts in teaching our youth what honest and caring citizens look like! Until next time....stay warm!

## Boldly Moving Forward

## Jeff Dicks, Superintendent

The Albert City-Truesdale Board of Education approved improvements to our communications infrastructure in the school at the January board meeting. This is a vital step in improving the communications network within for our students and teachers. Mr. Tibbetts has done a great job in introducing learning opportunities for our teaching staff to integrate and utilize technology in our school environment. There is nothing more discouraging for a teacher than to plan the use of technology and then have technology fail. The infrastructure is the “backbone” to supporting the wide array of uses that our teachers will use.

## A Device For Each Learner

In addition to the improvements to our infrastructure, the Board of Education also approved the purchase of 60 iPad/iPad minis for our faculty and staff. This purchase ensures that each and every learner will have access to technology each and every day if needed. Our students are very lucky that the vision for the implementation of technology is a priority for the board. While it is easy to buy devices, the hard work will be for the staff to implement the use. I have full confidence that Mr. Tibbetts will continue modeling the use of technology, and encourage the staff to take risks and to not be afraid of failure.

## “Like” Us on Facebook

Are you keeping up with social media? Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook by searching for “Albert City-Truesdale Elementary”. This is a great way to keep up with what is going on in your school. There are pictures and announcements posted to this page. Be sure and “Share” the page with friends and relatives so they can be a part of our school from a distance.

**Albert City-Truesdale Elementary**

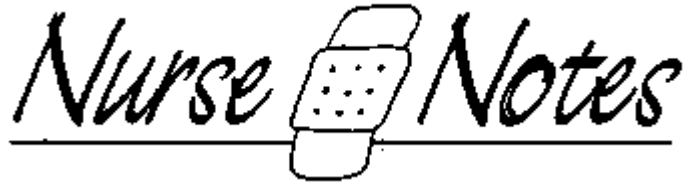
Albert City-Truesdale Elementary  
★★★★★ (18 ratings)  
173 likes · 53 talking about this · 1 was here

Education  
Albert City-Truesdale Elementary is a small school located in NW Iowa. We currently have 110 students, PK-6.

Photos Likes Map

## **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. ASHC is a great benefit to our students to take advantage of. 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!!



Winter has brought a flurry of activity in the nurse's office...

~I'm continuing to spend a few minutes every week in grades 1-6. While students swish fluoride, I've had a great chance to do some quick teaching on thankfulness, cold weather skin care, how often to change your toothbrush, and good ways to get some exercise indoors. I also showed them a picture of a magnified tooth, with its crevices and bacteria—what a great reminder of why we need to brush!

~AEA came to complete hearing tests on a number of our students in December.

~In February, we will celebrate Dental Health Month with a fun lesson in Kindergarten, talking about the parts of our teeth and how to take care of them.

~Brenda Thams, RN assisted me again this year with completing our annual height, weight, pulse, blood pressure, BMI and vision screens. The results were recorded in each student's health record, and also sent home with report cards. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the results.

~I like to remind everyone that cases of head lice are always a possibility, and the best way to deal with this situation is prevention! Remind your children not to share anything that comes into contact with the head. Also, do not pile coats and hats together in public places. The second best way to deal with lice is to catch them right away, so make sure you check the head of every child (and adult!) in your home once per week. This only takes 15 minutes, and is worth the time!

~Remember that washing your hands often is the best way to prevent illness. Even if your hands appear clean, we pick up germs all day long as we touch doorknobs, computers, railings, and phones, so make it a habit to clean your hands regularly, and also those frequently-touched surfaces in your home or office.

I am happy to serve as a resource to parents and staff, so please feel free to call anytime with questions, concerns, or comments. I am here at school on Thursdays. Happy Winter!

Julie Olson, RN ~ AC-T School Nurse

843-5416 ext. 272

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## Update from Mrs. Alanna Fuller, K-6 Resource Teacher

My name is Alanna Fuller and I am the Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education teacher. Here is the special education room things are going great this year! We have been working on a lot of different things in my room. This year I have purchased new manipulatives called Wiki-Sticks which are pieces of yarn covered in wax. They come in many colors and you can bend and twist them and they don't break. We have used them to make numbers, letters, spell words and make fun things. We are continuing to use lots of technology in the classroom to facilitate learning such as the Smart board, Smart table, and Ipads. Recently my small group and I read a book on Japanese Internment camps in Idaho during World War II. We talked about what internment camps were and how it would feel to live in one. The main thing we learned about was theme. We used watched a short video on determining theme from learnzillion.com. The students really enjoyed learning from not only me but a video that they could watch over and over to better understand theme and apply it to other stories. Videos, movies and stories have been working so well in my room this year. My small group also had the opportunity to read a readers theater to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. They got to choose their own parts and read them over and over until they would read all of their parts fluently and share with the other class. I am blessed to have the opportunity to get to know all the students here at AC-T.

**REMINDER!! AC-T collects 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!**

### Library News by, Marlise Witham

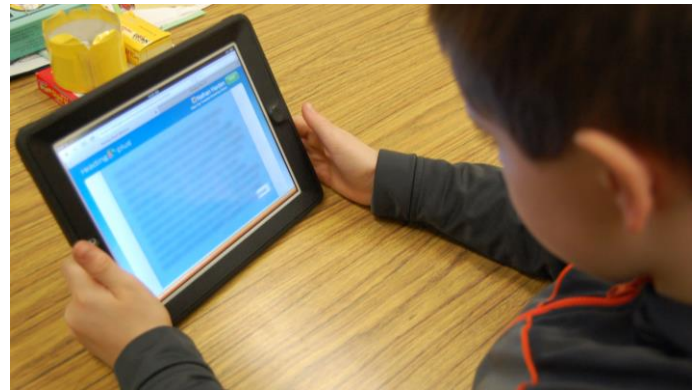
December and January were busy months in the library. To prepare for the holidays, fifth and sixth graders read the book, "Santa Is Coming to Iowa," by Steve Smallman. Afterward, they wrote their own versions of the story. Third and fourth grades studied the vocabulary from The Night Before Christmas, divided the poem, and each student illustrated a portion of the poem. The classes videotaped themselves reading their work. You can find it on YouTube by searching for NBC Dirks and NBC Spragg.

First and second grade read the book, "There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bell," (by Lucille Colandro) and created our own old ladies. Kindergarten wrote a collaborative book after reading Mouse's First Christmas, by Lauren Thompson, using descriptive words.

In 2014, fifth and sixth grades are studying foreshadowing. Third and Fourth are discussing digital citizenship and how to stay safe online. Preschool, kindergarten, first, and second grades are enjoying books about winter and snow. We look forward to enjoying more great books throughout the semester!

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

The new Reading Plus computer program is the only Common Core aligned reading intervention that prepares students to engage with complex text by developing all three dimensions of successful readers: capacity, efficiency, and motivation. Reading Plus develops a student's silent reading fluency, reading rate, and stamina that make reading comfortable and productive. Reading Plus provides an extensive library of engaging, cross-curricular informational and literary selections that follow grade-appropriate levels of vocabulary complexity, sentence length, and word count. This school year is the first time that students have been able to access the program through laptops and iPads.



# News from the 6th Grade

## Get To Know Our Sixth Graders

**ALYSSA FEELEY**

**BY: ABBY BEAN**

Alyssa Feeley lives in Albert city with her mom, Karen, dad, Denny, and her sister Sara. Alyssa's favorite movie is Frozen and her favorite singer is Bridget Mendler. She enjoys reading the Million Dollar Kick, playing sports, and wearing her favorite Nike shoes. Alyssa loves eating cheesecake and Skittles. If Alyssa could go anywhere in the world and have any pet she would go to London

and have a pet turtle. Alyssa's favorite color is lime green and her favorite season is summer. I think Alyssa is a great asset to our class!

**JACK POHLMAN**

**BY: Ethan Baack**

Jack is the son of Matt and Mary Pohlman. He has four pets: two dogs and two cats. Jack's favorite NFL team is the New York Giants. I don't know why he likes the Giants. Jack plays sports such as baseball, football, soccer, and ping pong. I play most

of the sports with him. Jack hunts and fishes. Jack's favorite color is bright green. His favorite restaurant is Red Lobster. I would sure like to go to Red Lobster! Jack favorite vacation was when he went to Florida. I've been to Florida before. His favorite animal to hunt is deer. Jack's favorite subject is science. I am so glad Jack is in my class. I call him the class clown.

Shelby Johnson  
By: Nathan Hadden

Shelby Johnson would like to go to the college Buena Vista University because it is very close to home and family. Shelby has a dad named Chris, her mom is named Becky, and her step mom is named Sara, older sister named Hannah and younger sister Micah. Shelby loves math, it is one of her favorite subjects. She loves to play soccer. Shelby loves animals, she has 3 dogs and a cat. She loves to play outside and build things in the summer. Shelby was so happy that she got a Wii U. Shelby loves to go to the Plaza Mexico restaurant. Her favorite type of candy is chocolate. Shelby is so nice to have in our class and she is very funny.

**Lyric Mendez**  
**by Dakota McChesney**

One day Lyric came into his room, Lexi his sister was there. Lyric saw that she was eating his candy something he really likes. Lexi was eating it because she ran out of her candy and started eating his. That day Lyric also had Buffalo wings' his favorite food. That cheered him up from Lexi eating his candy. I thought that was really funny. Then that day Lyric remembers that it was his birthday. Jessica, his mom; Armando, Dakota, and Deon came to his house with presents. The four guys played video games

all night. Lyric is a good friend and an awesome person.

**Dustin Melby**  
**by Deon McChesney**

Dustin is a friend that has only 1 brother Braden and 1 sister Taylor. His mom's name is Heather and his dad's is Brandon. His favorite food is pizza and he also likes to play games with his family. Dustin doesn't have any Nieces nor Nephews. Despicable Me 2 is Dustin's favorite movie. I am glad Dustin is in this school and he is pretty awesome in my opinion.

**What Were the Best things**  
**About Your Christmas?**

- ✚ Brooklyn Adams got clothes and had mac and cheese
- ✚ Shelby Johnson got a Wii U and had hot fruit
- ✚ Kim Ellrich got a red RC car and had sweet potato casserole
- ✚ Dustin Melby got new boots and had ham
- ✚ Ms. Wolff got new lawn chairs and had soup

Those are some of the things people got for Christmas this year and maybe some things you could get your kids for Christmas next year. Christmas is a time for joy and family and a time to get together with family and friends and we all hope you had a Happy Holiday.

**By Jack Pohlman**

# Student Council *By Dustin Melby*

Who are the people on student council?

President Dakota Caldwell  
Vice president Kylene Howard  
Secretary Isaac Albeus  
Treasurer Berkley Johannsen

Our project for this year is raising money for books to be sent to the Philippines and Africa for the underprivileged.



We have already participated in a sock day and planned two activities for the month of January. The chosen employees participated in a Hip-Hop performance for the student body. The students did this by putting money in a tub with a staff member picture on it. The top 5 employees with the most money performed for the students. It was great!



During the last week of the month students voted for the winner of the Super Bowl. Again, students placed money in the bucket for their favorite team.

All the money will go toward the purchase of books for the Philippines and Africa. Thank you for your support. I really think it will help.



# The Christmas Field Trip

By Alyssa Feeley

This year for our Christmas field trip we went to the Pocahontas Rialto Theater in Pocahontas. The whole school rode down on buses on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Our school went to see the movie "Frozen". It is about two sisters who live in a palace, one of them named Elsa leaves the kingdom; her sister, Anna, who goes on an adventure with a man named Kristoff and a snowman named Olaf. They go on a neat journey to bring back her sister and to stop the eternal winter at the kingdom which Elsa made. During the movie, everyone had popcorn, pop, and candy. A big thanks to the Student Council for paying for the field trip. I really enjoyed the movie and it was a lot of fun!

## Christmas Program By Neaeh Lindner

I talked with Mrs. Sievers, our music teacher to learn more about the Christmas Program.

When was the Christmas program? The Christmas program was on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

What songs did we sing in the Christmas program? 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> sang "Ding Dong Ding" with the bells and sang "Christmas Greetings" and "Slippers Again"

How many songs did we sing? We sang two but played one.

How long was the Christmas program? The Christmas program was about an hour long.

How many years have you done the Christmas program? I have been doing the Christmas program at AC-T for 7 years and at Newell -Fonda for 9 years.

How old are the songs we sang? Two of the songs were brand new. "Slippers Again" was from 1997.

Did you have fun making the Christmas program? Of course I had fun.

What was your favorite song we sang? I thing I enjoyed watching the students perform the slippers.

# History Day by Shelby Johnson

On March 29<sup>th</sup> in 2014 is when the tag students are going to go to Storm Lake for History Day. The theme we are going to do is Rights and Responsibilities. For our topic we are doing the Farmers Holiday Association and a man named Milo Reno. The time period is during the Great Depression. The thing we are going to do to display the facts is a little barn out of card board and have our facts displayed in and on the barn. If anyone would like to could you tell us if you remember anything about the Depression or if there are any family stories. Please contact Mrs. Sievers at school.

## SKATING SKITTLES BY BRANDON JOHNSON

Bullying happens in all different ways and places. There are many ways to stop it. We have many programs to prevent it. We had a program with someone named Skittles and we did a song about bullying and danced; we all had fun. She had what to do with using the word skate; S-say no to being a bully, K-keep your cool, A-ask for help, T-treat others right, E-encourage others. Then she picked somebody to try and say them without looking at them. The first person was my classmate's sister, Taylor Melby in third grade but she could not remember. Then the favorite part was when I got called on and I remembered them and won a big bag of Skittles.

## *Iowa Assessments* by Lyric Mendez

It is Iowa Assessment time again. I asked Mr. Tibbetts some questions about the Iowa Assessments. How are the answers marked for the assessments? Students will fill in "bubbles" or circles with a number 2 pencil. What are the tests for the Iowa Assessments? They are reading, math, and social studies/science. When will we take it? January 27 -31. What grades take it? 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. Why do we take it? To see student growth from year to year. What awards can we get? Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards for percentile rank. Teachers are also setting goals for student improvement. When do we see the results? About a month after we take the test. How are the results used? They are used to support instruction or teaching in the classroom. How long do the tests take? Each test is different, but we usually test for about an hour and a half. Do we get snacks this year? The PACT will provide the students with a healthy snack each Day. We had a Pep rally on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> to get kids excited about testing. Some Buena Vista University athletes came and motivated the students to do their best in their tests and in everything they do in their life.