

# The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

September/October/November/December 2017



## AC-T UPDATE BY MRS. VOYLES, AC-T PRINCIPAL

Happy Holidays from AC-T!

I hope this note finds each of you well. As we close on the first semester, it is a great time to reflect and look forward for what is to come in 2018! Our staff and

students have been very busy this semester and you will get to read about many of the great things they are doing throughout this newsletter, but let me start with pointing out some of the awesome things that are going on at AC-T.

First, this summer our lower elementary wing underwent a facelift, which was phase 2 of a 3 phase project. For those of you who have visited the building you know that we have gotten rid of the asbestos in the ceiling which made way for new ceilings, with lights, wiring, carpet, paint, furniture and a face lift to the bathrooms. Our students have enjoyed the new surroundings and we can't wait to finish the final phase through the final section of the building. Check out more about the flexible seating that was added to our elementary school in Mrs. Frederick's article.

Another new improvement at AC-T is that our JMC system that we use to send out lunch notices as well as After School Club balances. These items can now be done through email. If you have

included an email at registration that information is sent right to you without having to see those notes at the bottom of your child's book bag. Thank you to Kim and Mrs. Bjork for all of their time getting this program up and running here at AC-T.

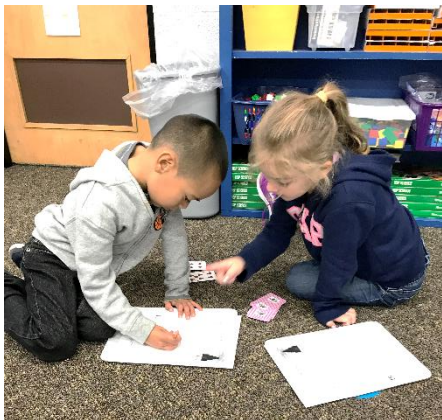
The music department hosted our winter concert recently and the students did a wonderful job. Mrs. Sievers and Mrs. Davis did a wonderful job at preparing the students for the performance. Each of the grade levels had something enjoyable planned which included a night of entertainment for the whole community. While speaking of the music department, I would like to congratulate Gavin Thams, Aiden Cady and Addisyn Fuchs on being chosen for Honor Band this winter. Our students have been working hard each week throughout the



first semester. They not only have put on wonderful performances for our community with a Grandparents' day performance and a Veteran's Day performance, but they have also been working hard on continuing to grow their reading and math

scores, while fitting in some time for some great Science experiments.

Recently, Mrs. Sievers and Mrs. Frederick were awarded with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) grant for the ramps and pathways materials and the students have really been challenged to do some great things! Both teachers have worked with their students to challenge them to create ramps and pathways with different purposes. One group of students was

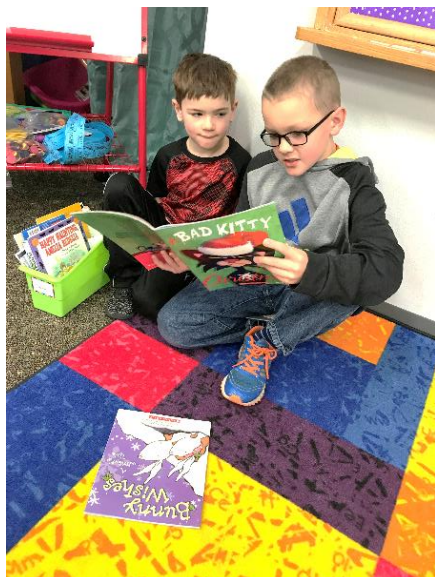


challenged to create a pathway that had a marble go fast, go slow and/or turn a corner. The students used their problem solving skills as well critical thinking to

accomplish this task while working in small groups. I am always amazed with what our students come up with, but watching them work in this manner is very rewarding.

Finally, I would like to thank our volunteers that come each week to read with our students. This is such a nice opportunity for our students to get to spend time with members of our community and work on their reading. If you would like to become a friend reader, please contact the school and we will include you as part of the list.

Please take time to continue to read about all of the amazing things that our students have been working on. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



## **UPDATE FROM MR. OLSEN, AC-T SUPERINTENDENT**

From all of us at the Albert City-Truesdale School District, we want to wish you

and your family a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing all of the students as they return from Winter Break on January 4<sup>th</sup>. It is hard to believe we are heading into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year already. As we look to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year we also begin to look at projects necessary to maintain our building and improve the teaching and learning environment for our students and staff. After the major renovations and improvements, we have done throughout the building the past 2 summers, we are planning to continue the renovations again this summer by installing a new drop ceiling, efficient lighting and flooring in the north hallway by the lunch room. We are not planning to do any abatement this summer as part of our summer projects. In addition to these projects, we are also looking to make some additional improvements in the main gym with upgraded bleachers and a new climbing wall. We also plan to add additional concrete to the east parking area for bus loading and unloading.

### **Weather Related Notifications**

It is that time of year when decisions are made regarding weather conditions and making sure our students, families and staff arrive to school and home again safely each day! Weather related notifications will be communicated in a number of different ways. Listed below are the different ways we will be communicating these notifications:

- KAYL Storm Lake Radio
- Spencer Radio
- School Alerts
- KTIV TV station (Sioux City)
- KCCI TV station (Des Moines)
- Social media through Facebook



## Elementary Guidance and Counseling News by Wendy Wildeman, School Counselor



Hello families! I have two items to mention in our newsletter this month. One is a brief reminder of individual counseling offered to all students PK-6th grades. The second item is about our research-based Guidance curriculum called Second Step which I am very excited to be

teaching to grades TK-6. I work at AC-T on Thursdays again this year and I work at Sioux Central the other days of the week. You are welcome to contact me at either school or email [wildeman@siouxcentral.org](mailto:wildeman@siouxcentral.org).

### Individual Counseling

Albert City-Truesdale focuses on the academic, career, and social/emotional development for every student. I am available to provide individual counseling upon request for any PK-6th grade student. I have worked with many students for a wide variety of reasons, and value confidentiality and respect for the student and family. The body of the permission form states: "Individual counseling has been requested for \_\_\_\_\_. If you are interested, it will most likely be 15-20 minutes, once a week, for about six weeks. I will work out a schedule with the classroom teacher that will minimally interfere with learning. During our individual sessions, we will discuss \_\_\_\_\_. All sessions will be kept confidential unless there is a threat of harm to self, others, or in the case of a subpoena. Parent/Guardian permission is required to begin individual counseling, and it can be withdrawn at any time. If you would like me to meet with \_\_\_\_\_, please sign and date below and return to me. I also have a list of area resources for additional support, if needed, please ask. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me."

### Second Step

The Second Step program is for PK through Grade 5 (and grade 6 this first year) is a universal, classroom-based program to increase students' school success and decrease problem behaviors by promoting social-emotional competence and self-regulation. It teaches skills that strengthen students' ability to learn, have empathy, manage emotions, and solve problems. It creates a safer, more respectful learning environment that promotes school success for all. The Second Step program increases kids' skills for learning—such as paying attention, listening, and sitting still—as well as how to manage their emotions, solve problems, and make friends. All these skills help kids do better in school and in life. The goal of the Second Step program is to promote social-emotional competence and self-regulation skills. Our units include: Skills for Learning, Empathy, Emotion Management, and Problem Solving. Each week the classroom teachers are given a coordinating handout to practice and implement our Second Step skills in school. Some weeks your student has brought home [Home Link](#) papers for you to practice with them as an influential adult in your child's life.

## *AC-T band students build Strong Foundations by Mrs. Davis*



Addisyn Fuchs (flute),  
Gavin Thams (trumpet),  
and Aiden Cady (alto sax)  
were selected to perform at the Strong



Foundations Honor Band Festival. The purpose of the festival is to provide an opportunity for young musicians to have an excellent ensemble experience in a positive, friendly environment without competition, while working with outstanding music educators. The bands consist of students from Northwest Iowa. Approximately 500 students applied to be selected and 200 were chosen to make two 100-piece bands. Denise Graettinger of Waverly Shell-Rock and Linda Johansen of North Fayette are the guest conductors for the event. After one day of rehearsal the students present a concert at Sioux City East HS at 6pm. The concert is free and open to the public. All are welcome to come listen to the group.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip by Mrs. Stepec

On December 5th, the 5th and 6th graders went to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Sioux City. Here are some things the students had to say: **I liked the talking exhibits! They were so real!** - Kylie Anderson

**I was fascinated to see how they tried to cure Floyd's appendicitis.** - Leah Bean  
**The Dog Seaman was huge! His bark was cool. It was amazing that he made it all the way to the Pacific Ocean and back.** -Max Bjork  
**It's crazy how it took them 20 seconds to load 1 musket.** -Aiden Bolte  
**It's amazing that only 1 person died on the journey.** -Dominic Heinsohn  
**I was amazed at the size of the dog, Seaman.** -Adan Jacuinde



**I think it was very interesting because they had all the facts that you could see. The replicas were really cool!** - Alexandra Loving  
**Watching Thomas Jefferson talk to us was so cool! He is my favorite president.** - Jay McChesney  
**I think it was cool. Seaman looks like a big black bear, and he was a Newfoundland.** - Duane McGregor  
**I thought it was mean that if you fell asleep on guard that you would be whipped 100 Times-**Jack Stepec  
**I think that the creepiest thing was the talking and moving robots.** -Micah Scruggs  
**There were only three Sergeants on the trip.** - Conner Shannon  
**I was surprised how big Seaman was and he could have protected them!** - Leighton Sippel  
**The snakes looked really realistic.** - Lilly Thayer



## 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE HAPPENINGS BY MRS. SPRAGG

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been very busy since the beginning of the year. The students have been working on a Reading program called Lexia. They earn individual awards as their goals are met. Check out the bulletin board across from our classroom. The horses were earned by third graders. I am very proud of these hard workers!!!



We have been studying animals, plants, and habitats during Science. Each student selected an animal to study and made a research poster. They have been presenting their wonderful posters to their classmates.

We have been learning about Native Americans during Social Studies. The Native Americans used bartering when they needed things that their resources would not provide. They also used tooth shells as money in their economy. The students loved bringing things from home to barter with others in the class.

The students have learned to look for text evidence while reading. They are really getting good at locating information in text to help



support their answers. The class has been learning cursive and can't wait to be able to write their signatures. Currently, we have been writing stories about a secret door in the school. The students have gotten better at adding suspense to their writing.

This class is so excited for Math class! We have learned what multiplication and division are and how to solve many types of real life problems. Leo brought candy bars for his birthday, and we used them for a math activity! This class seriously amazes me and begs for me to challenge them all the time.



We also were able to attend Safety Day Camp and learn about all different types of safety such as: fire, electrical, farm, sun, and being home alone.

These students are very proud of themselves and enjoy when people notice their successes. Please encourage them to strive for their best in the future!

## News from the Kindergarten Superheroes by Mrs. Frederick



The 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start! There are many new improvements and changes throughout our school building. The Kinder classroom is a fun and exciting place to be. Our classroom has a bright, fun color on the walls, along with new tables, flexible

seating and an awesome new learning loft! Our classroom is full of excitement!



Our learning loft is a comfortable place that students can go to read a book. The loft has laminate flooring with comfortable rugs, books and reading buddies. The kids have done a great job following the safety expectations in this new space. A big thank you goes out from our class to my husband Josh, who built this awesome learning space for the kids. Thanks so much! The kids love this new place to learn.

Flexible seating is another new addition to our classroom. It provides students with choices to allow them to choose where they learn best. Some of our flexible seating includes: stools, crate seats, ball chairs, yoga ball, wobble stools, Ergo seats, scoop rocker or blue chair. Each student chooses what type of seating works best for him/her.



All of these new items are making our classroom an even more fun place to be! Thank you to the administration for allowing us to add and provide these new learning tools to our classroom! Our super heroes are doing a great job. Keep up the super work!

# Nurse Notes

Greetings!

As I spend time every week talking to each class about good health, I have the opportunity to cover many topics. One of our most recent talks has been about portion sizes and reading the labels on food items. Have you ever sat down with chips and eaten half the bag before you realized it? Or eaten most of a row of Oreos? While most of us have done these things, a smarter idea is to read the label, see what the serving size is, and count out or measure out the appropriate amount. Then, put the bag or container away and enjoy what is on your plate!

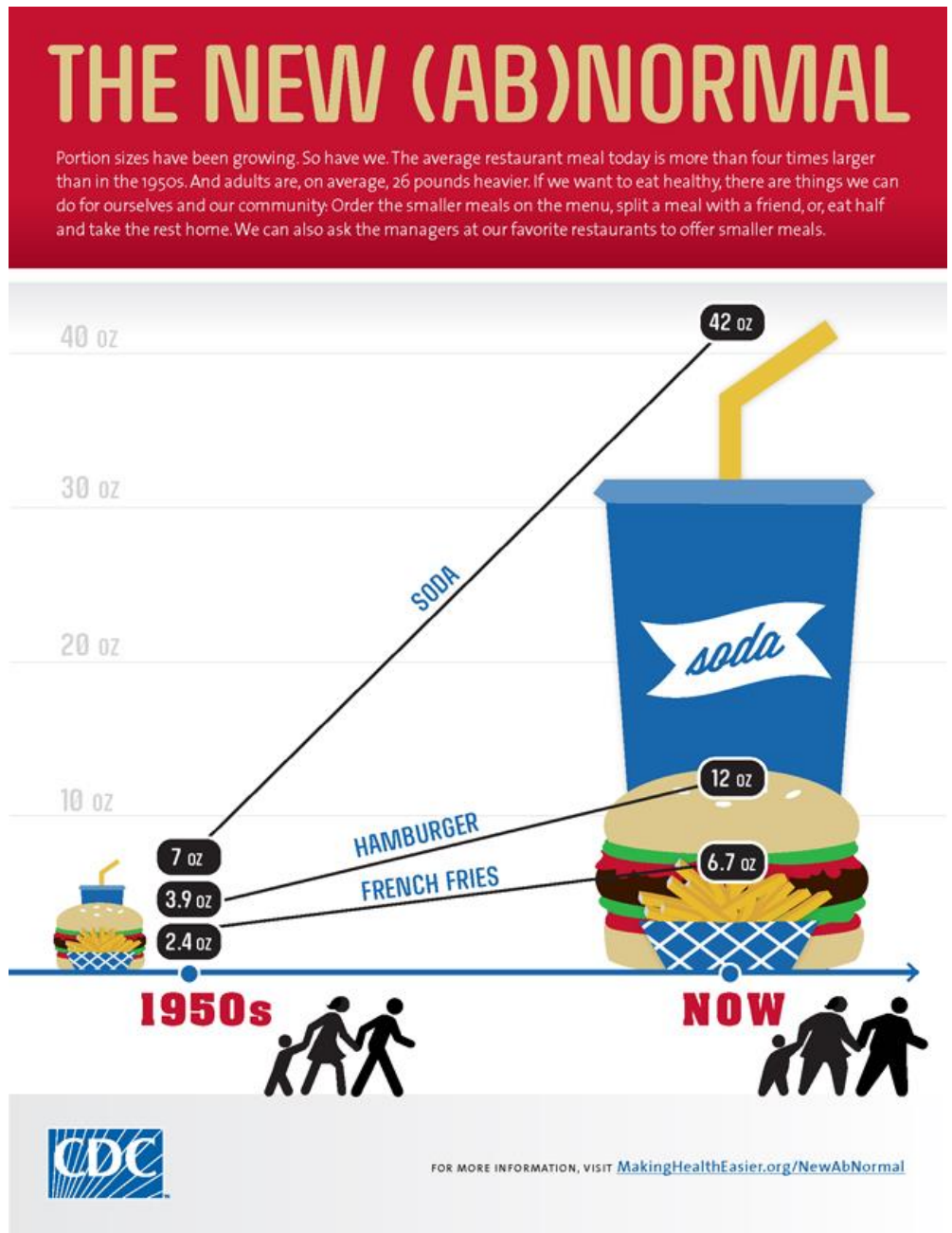
I have included information from the CDC about how portion sizes have changed over the years. What changes can you make in your diet to cut

calories by scaling back the amount you eat and drink? New guidelines have been enacted for food labeling, so be watching the products you buy!

Please feel free to contact me anytime. Wishing you a wonderful Christmas season!



Julie Olson, RN, CMSRN ~ AC-T School Nurse  
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# News from the 6th Grade



## Jayden Thayer-by Gavin Thams

We welcomed a new person to our class this year Jaden Thayer! He lives on the north side of Albert City. He is 12 and he loves steak. He has one dog and six cats. He has five people in his family. His mom Robyn, his dad Daryn, his sister Lilly and his brother Gabe, and of course himself. His favorite movie is the new "Goosebumps" with Jack Black, Dylan Minnette, and Odeya Rush. His favorite food is a pear. His biggest fear is losing a loved one. The best place he's ever been is Adventureland, his favorite ride is the Underground. He loves reading books and playing video games. I think Jaden is a very interesting person and I hoped you liked learning about him.



## *Janessa Nielsen by Taber Caraway*

One of my friends in sixth grade is Janessa Nielsen. Here is a little bit about what makes her so special. She lives in the country with her mom, Tonya, and her dad, Ross. Her birthday is July 18, and she is 12 years old. She loves to eat hot dog wraps, swim and ride her bike. Her favorite movie is "Inside Out." She loves to write and one of her favorite subjects in school is Science. When Janessa grows up she would like to be a zookeeper as she loves to take care of animals. She also said that a place that she would like to visit in the future would be Australia, because she wants to see koalas and kangaroos. Her favorite relative is Charlotte Nielsen and she lives in Colorado. She can't wait to see her again. Something that she wishes for is peace and no sickness. I really like having her as my friend. As you can see, she is very special. Thank you and have a nice day!!!!

**\*Reminder: we collect pop cans/bottles (NW corner of the school), Hy-Vee receipts, and Box Tops for Education to help benefit our student activities fund. We also collect pop tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Thank You!**

**\*Our PACT group has been busy this fall with many fundraisers. This year they have included a display at the Straw Horse of their latest clothing items for sale. If you weren't able to get in on our order, please stop by the Straw Horse with the proceeds going to PACT.**

# THE HURRICANE

Albert City-Truesdale CSD

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