

IOWA FALLS & ALDEN  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



EMPOWERING  
EVERY STUDENT  
TO LEARN, LEAD  
AND SUCCEED!

# Cadet Gazette

## A Publication of Iowa Falls & Alden Community School Districts

The Iowa Falls and Alden Community School Districts do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, gender, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, socioeconomic status and marital status in their educational programs, activities or employment practices or as otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation.

## From the Superintendent

### School Board Meeting Information on the Web

Information about the Iowa Falls and Alden school board meetings is available to the public via the world-wide-web. Anyone who wants to review meeting agendas, explanatory notes for agenda items, and/or support documents may access this information by logging on to the following websites:

Iowa Falls:

<http://www.mywebschooltools.com/schools/IowaFalls/BoardMeeting/login.php>  
Click "Public User".

Alden: <http://www.mywebschooltools.com/schools/Alden/BoardMeeting/login.php>  
Click "Public User".

### What is the Superintendent Thinking?

Those who would like to know more about what is going on in our school districts can request an electronic copy of the Monday News Line. The purpose of the Monday News Line is to provide weekly updates about the Iowa Falls and Alden School Districts from the superintendent's point of view. The news line is just one of many communication strategies designed to keep students, parents, community and employees well informed. Contact Pat Knipfel ([pknipfel@ifacadets.net](mailto:pknipfel@ifacadets.net)) to be included in the electronic mailing list.

## Annual Progress Report on Student Academic Performance – Part 1: AYP-NCLB

The purpose of the Annual Progress Report is to publish an extensive amount of student achievement information for public review. The entire report will be broken down into four parts with one part published in each edition of the Cadet Gazette from now through the end of the school year. Those who want more detailed information may contact the superintendent's office or visit the Iowa Department of Education Website at <http://www.iowaschoolprofiles.com/>.

Part 1 of the Annual Progress Report features achievement data for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is directly tied to compliance with the federal mandate, No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Please note that this achievement data is from the 2013-14 School Year, and that NCLB now requires that 100% of students to be "proficient".

### Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) - Compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

This year's AYP decision-making process provided schools with two options to determine whether or not AYP achievement goals were met. One option allowed schools to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test (instead of using the Iowa Assessments), and have their AYP designation for 2013-14 frozen at the AYP designation for 2012-13. The second option allowed schools to stay exclusively with the Iowa Assessments and not participate in the Smarter Balance Field Test. In doing so, their AYP status would not be "Frozen". Choices made by IF-A schools included:

- a) Rock Run: Participated in the Smarter Balance Consortium and had their AYP designation "Frozen".
- b) Alden: Participated in the Smarter Balance Field Test and had their AYP designation "Frozen".
- c) Riverbend: Participated in the Smarter Balance Field Test and had their AYP designation "Frozen".
- d) IFAHS: Did not participate in the Smarter Balance Field Test. Consequently, their AYP designation was not "Frozen".
- e) Iowa Falls Community School District: had its AYP status "Frozen" as a result of participation by Rock Run and Riverbend in the Smarter Balance Field Test.
- f) Alden Community School District: had its AYP status "Frozen" as a result of participation by Alden Elementary in the Smarter Balance Field Test.

NCLB requires all schools to be held accountable for student achievement. Pineview Elementary does not participate in the Iowa Assessments as it serves students in preschool through second grade, and the Iowa Assessments don't start until third grade. Since Pineview does not participate in the Iowa Assessments, the federal government requires the performance of third students at Rock Run Elementary be "back mapped" to Pineview. Pineview is held accountable through the use of third grade achievement levels.

Posted below are the AYP results for the 2013-14 School Year. Interpretive information for NCLB Status includes:

- a) OK Not on the Watch List
- b) Watch List Missed One or More AYP Goals for the First Time

- c) SINA-1 School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 2 Years in a Row)
- d) SINA-2 School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 3 Years in a Row)
- e) SINA-3 School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 4 Years in a Row)
- f) SINA-4 School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 5 Years in a Row)

## Family Support & Service Coordinator

Hello! I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself to you. My name is Angi Herter. I have started a new position with the Iowa Falls Schools beginning Spring 2014 as the Family Support & Service Coordinator. My role is to assist parent(s)/families to:

- Identify and connect with appropriate services and community resources.
- Provide a process that will connect parent(s)/families with appropriate resource agencies.
- Assist in developing open and positive relationships with the school administrators, teachers, counselors, other school personnel and resource agencies.
- Build coalitions between the school and other community agencies to better support all families.
- Understand eligibility requirements and screening procedures of our resource agencies.
- Use agency and interagency referral tools.
- Systematically refer families to resource appropriate for family needs.
- Develop creative ways to communicate both general and specific information with all families.
- Understand more about the school system
- Assist in acquiring effective parenting skills.
- Provide strategies and skills that will enable families to play an active role in their child(ren)'s educational process.

A Teacher or a School Personnel may identify a student/family need and make a referral to the School Nurse or Guidance Counselor that will be reviewed to determine the best way to address identified issues. A referral may be addressed by a Teacher, Nurse, or Guidance Counselor first or it may be sent to me to join the team working with the family to assist with the above expectations. Some of the possible reasons your child or family may come to my attention would be your child struggling academically, medical concerns are impacting the youth or a family member that are impacting the child's education ability, the youth's home environment is having difficulty (financial strain, parent difficulties, sibling difficulties, etc.) focusing and making education progress, excessive absences or tardiness which impact academics, or any thing that may be impacting a youth that is impacting their academic or social ability in school.

I look forward to the opportunities joining teams with families and school working together to improve our Cadets ability to be productive citizens as well as students!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Please check the school's website (<http://www.ifacadets.net>) for the most current information.

Oct. 1 – NCC MS Leadership Retreat at Lake Cornelia – Clarion  
Oct. 1 – Alden School – Fundraiser Kick-off  
Oct. 1 – Elementary Fundraiser Ends  
Oct. 5-11 – Fire Prevention Week  
Oct. 9 – RMS End of Exploratory 1  
Oct. 13 – Iowa Falls School Board Meeting in RRE Board Room – 12:00 Noon  
Oct. 13 – 15 Dept. of Ed & AdvancEd Accreditation Site Visit  
Oct. 15 – HS PSAT/NMSAT Tests at High School  
Oct. 17 – BAND-O-RAMA – (Grades 7-12)  
Oct. 19-25 – Character Counts Week  
Oct 19-25 – Red Ribbon Week  
Oct. 20 – Riverbend Volleyball Battle  
Oct. 20 – Alden School Board Meeting in Bus. Ed. Room 6:30 PM  
Oct. 20 – Rock Run Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences by Appointment  
Oct. 20-21 – Band Candy Sales Kick Off  
Oct. 21 – Fall Vocal Concert – Grades 7-12 – 7:00 PM at High School  
Oct. 21 – Rock Run Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences by Appointment  
Oct. 22 – Rock Run Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences by Appointment  
Oct. 23 – End of 1st Quarter  
Oct. 23 - Rock Run Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences by Appointment  
Oct. 23 – Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Oct. 23 – Pineview Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30 PM  
Oct. 23 – Alden School Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 – 7:30 PM  
Oct. 23 – RMS Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 – 7:30 PM  
Oct. 24 - Rock Run Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences by Appointment

Oct. 28 – Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Oct. 28 – Pineview Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30 PM  
Oct. 28 – Alden School Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 – 7:30 PM  
Oct. 28 – RMS Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 – 7:30 PM  
Oct. 28- RMS National Mix-It-Up Day  
Oct. 31 – Elementary Fall Parties  
Oct. 31 – Alden School Fall Parties  
Nov. 2 – Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Nov. 3-4 Band Candy Sales End  
Nov. 6 – Riverbend Middle School Fall Dance-7:00 PM  
Nov. 7 & 8- – High School Fall Musical “GROOVY” – 7:00 PM at High School  
Nov. 8 – IFA Band Boosters Meal in HS Student Center  
Nov. 10 – Alden School 6th Grade Veteran’s Day Vocal Concert – 7:00 PM  
Nov. 10 – Iowa Falls School Board Meeting in RRE Board Room – 7:00 PM  
Nov. 11 – High School Honors Assembly – 10:00 AM  
Nov. 11 – National Honor Society Induction at High School – 7:30 PM  
Nov. 16-22 – American Education Week  
Nov. 17 – Alden School Board Meeting in Bus. Ed. Room 6:30 PM  
Nov. 20 – High School Parent/Teacher Conferences-3:30-7:30 PM  
Nov. 26-28 – No School – Thanksgiving Vacation  
Dec. 1 – Classes Resume

### HOME CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Oct. 6 – FB-Webster City-JV-6:00 PM  
Oct. 17 – FB vs. South Hardin – JV @ 5:00 PM, Varsity@ 7:30 PM(Band-o-rama)  
Oct. 20 – FB-South Hardin-JV-6:00 PM  
Nov. 25 – JV/V GBB vs. West Marshall-6:15 PM

## High School News

### Passing of The Torch

By Kayla Jaenke

Recently the job of writing the principal’s part of the Cadet Corner has been passed to the newly developed journalism class. This passing of the torch has been put into place with the hope of adding student interest into the newsletter. This newsletter will hopefully help describe the ongoings from month to month and inform not only the parents, but the students as well. One of the things going on this school year is the increase in number of senior leaders due to the large freshman class. The senior leaders’ job is to mentor, tutor, and provide leadership around school. All the senior leaders had to be interviewed and were given different jobs such as mentoring students, talking to the younger students in the other schools, or working as conflict mediators. Currently, the list of senior leaders includes, Joey Riley, Kelly Cavner, Kendra Garrish, Thomas Cramer, Klarissa Price, Maeanna Ubben, Tia Metz, Sarah Ogaard, Taylor Tachia, Jacob Sundholm, Kayla Jaenke, Aubree Gilbreth, Austin Richards, Breanna Hanson, Carolina Leal, Desireé Folsom, Emily Long, Jacey Redman, Cassidy Krause, Katelyn Ulrich, and Britany Fisher.

An upcoming event at school is the ever-exciting homecoming! Some things students can look forward to is dress up days, float and hallway decorating, the parade, game, and the week ends with the homecoming dance on Saturday night. What many people don’t realize is how creative people get with asking out that special someone. Every year, students try to outdo each other, whether it be signs, chocolate, flowers, or a combination of all three. It’s a very fun time of the year.

Another big kick off will be the start of the “Celebrate My Drive”. Last year, we won \$25,000 dollars, which helped pay for the new tables in the student center. We want to go for the grand prize, but in order for that to happen, we need to have full involvement that doesn’t just end with the students. So parents, tell your friends because this will help us improve our school and help unite our students and bring us all closer.

### IFAHS Dean of Students

by: Kade Campbell

Around 1987 when Iowa Falls and Alden weren’t yet connected, was the last time Iowa Falls High School had a Dean of Students. Fast-forward 27 years to 2014 when the high school will once again have their own Dean of

Students. Mr. Pat Norem is stepping down from teaching math to be Iowa Falls-Alden High School Dean of Students. His main role is to make sure kids are attending school. If kids aren't in school, he will contact their parents and make sure the parents know where their child is and is safe. Mr. Norem also deals with discipline issues that occur outside of the classrooms, skipping school, fighting, monitoring open campus, and supervising in-school suspensions. He misses the classroom because he was able to interact with the kids more, and teaching in general is important. "My role is to make sure everyone has the best experience in high school," says Pat Norem.

## 2014-15 Class Officers

### Seniors

President- Brandon Hanson  
Vice Pres.- Cassidy Krause  
Secretary- Logan Krause  
Treasurer- Jacob Sundholm

### Juniors

President- Emilee McDaniel  
Vice Pres.- Caleb Smith  
Secretary- Thomas Burchfield  
Treasurer- Micaela Choate

### Sophomores Freshmen

President- Gabby Evans  
Vice Pres.- Adam Long  
Secretary- Todd Raish  
Treasurer- Bret Bruflodt

President- Dayna Dodd  
Vice Pres.- Rex Neely  
Secretary- Rose Warrington  
Treasurer- Kayla Weber



## Industrial Technology

The Industrial Technology Cadet Group comprised of then Juniors: Cassie Bell, Kade Campbell, Louis Elias, Kendra Gerrish, Breanna Hanson, Dylan Johnson, Logan Krause, Ainslee Merklin, Andrew Parker, Joey Riley, Kierstin Smith, Jayden Thelke, and Tyler Weeks spent much of their weekly Cadet Group time last school year designing, cutting, and assembling a collection of flag display cases for the Iowa Falls American Legion Post 188. Red Oak was used to make the four display cases and a big Thank You goes out to Z&Z Glass for helping us with our project. The cases will be used to display a number of American flags donated to the American Legion from local families.

## Grandparents Day

Students from Ms. Maxwell's room went to Heritage Care Center on September 4th, to help celebrate Grandparents Day. While there, the students and residents made fall picture frames to display the photos from their special day together. The students that participated in this fun filled activity were Robin Regan, April Christensen, Blake Janowski, and Joey Repp.



## Kriegel's Korner

We made it through the first month of school! I am thrilled to announce that there will be no more schedule changes for this semester! As we progress further into the year there are some important things to remember.

Freshman & Sophomore- You just completed MAP Testing! If you are a sophomore, Congratulations you are officially done with MAPS! Freshman, only one more year to go!

ACT Registration/Test Dates- In order to be registered for the October 25th ACT, you will need to register by September 19th. Late registration period is September 20th through October 3rd. There will be a late fee charge if signed up between those dates.

Juniors Taking the PSAT- Only 25 students are eligible to take this exam. Currently there are still ten open spots. You have to be in the top 20% of your class in order to take it. The test will take place Wednesday, October 15th at 8:30am in the library. The cost for the exam is \$13.

UNI College Fair- The TRIO program will be sponsoring a bus for the UNI College Fair on September 16th. This is open to ALL seniors and juniors that are part of the TRIO program. You can register at [www.iowacollegefairs.com](http://www.iowacollegefairs.com).

Several college representatives will be visiting the guidance office throughout the year, especially in these upcoming months. There will be emails sent out and posted on the Iowa Falls/Alden Facebook page of which college will be attending and the dates/times. Please stop in the office to sign up for the dates you wish to attend.

## Best Buddies: Something Bigger Than Ourselves

by Tommy Cramer

Have you ever taken part in something more than yourself? I did when I got the chance to go to Indiana for the Iowa Falls- Alden High School Best Buddies Club. I boarded a charter bus with forty other kids from the state of Iowa. I didn't know anyone so I really had to come out of my shell and make friends. When our bus made it to the campus at Indiana State University, some really nice people who helped us



*Tommy Cramer spent a portion of his summer in Indiana at the Best Buddies Conference.*

check in greeted us. Then we got some down time in our dorms before we ate. After we ate, we walked a mile to opening ceremonies. That was when I learned there were over two thousand kids there. Every state had somebody and even people from other countries were there. The room had so much energy, happiness, and emotion. Every person in that room was having fun. I heard speeches that were life changing. From there the fun never stopped- even in the class. I listened to speakers talk about how to be the best club president I can be. We also had a dance that was so much fun. We also got to see the movie "Produce" and it doesn't even come out until next year. I would suggest going and watching the trailer on youtube. I also got to meet Kyrie Irving who plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers. The best part of all was being able to go and make new friends. Even better than that, I got to help make a difference in the world which is something bigger than me. So if you want to be something more than yourself, come and join Best Buddies and see what we are all about.

## Did you know...

The school district will file criminal trespassing charges against any person who is knowingly on school property while an act of destroying, defacing, and/or vandalizing school property is taking place. If a person who is charged with criminal trespass is a student in the Iowa Falls Community School District, then additional school disciplinary actions may be enacted. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, expulsion, and loss of extra-curricular eligibility. If a person who is charged with criminal trespass is not a student in the Iowa Falls Community School District, then the school district will legally prohibit this person from entering or remaining upon any property owned by the Iowa Falls Community School District for no less than one year.

## Community Health Watch: EV-D68

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) a virus known as EV-D68 has made a widespread appearance across several states in the midwest, including Iowa.

The virus symptoms are similar to that of a cold and spreads through close contact with an infected person. There are no medications or vaccines available for the virus. Most people recover on their own, however those with compromised immune systems and existing health issues such as asthma or a heart condition are at risk of become very ill, especially children.

IDPH recommends the following tip to help stop the spread of the virus:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.

Most cases can be resolved with at home treatment:

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Rest.
- Stay home so you do not spread the virus to others.

- Clean frequently touched surfaces to stop the spread of the virus.

Parents of children with cold-like systems that experience difficulty breathing should contact their healthcare provider.

# River Bend Middle School News

## Riverbend Middle School concludes fundraiser

Again this year, Riverbend Middle School held its annual fundraiser to help raise money for the school. As of press time for this newsletter, Riverbend's fundraiser has concluded. A big thank you goes out to all of you parents, family members, and community members who supported our fundraising efforts during September. As motivation for selling magazine subscriptions and renewals as well as gift items and keepsakes, a full promotional program was developed, with the guidance of our Great American fundraising representative Dave Rausa. On Tuesday, September 2, Dave addressed each grade at separate assemblies and kicked off the program.

Incentives for selling subscriptions and renewals included students earning money pens for cash prizes and earning their way to a movie day during the afternoon of a school day. An assembly will also be held later in January with BMX cycling professional Matt Wilhelm. Wilhelm is a world championship silver medalist, a two-time national champion, a three-time X-Games medalist, and a semi-finalist on America's Got Talent. He will be showcasing his cycling skills and talking with the students and staff about setting and accomplishing goals. Students who met their fundraising goal will get VIP-treatment for the assembly: preferred seating and an opportunity for a meet and greet before and after the show.

During past years Riverbend has purchased some chairs, tables, books for the library and classrooms, technology, and supplies for the classrooms. At this time when funding for our schools is a challenge at best, we are acutely



*BMX Professional Cyclist Matt Wilhelm performing at a recent school assembly. Wilhelm will be bringing his talents and message to Riverbend Middle School for an all-school assembly in January.*

aware of our need to do well with our fundraising endeavors to benefit our students and staff here at Riverbend. Again, thank you to those family and community members who supported our fundraising efforts, and a huge thank you to those students who made the effort to make a difference here at Riverbend Middle School through this fundraiser. Your support, time, and efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you still want to renew or subscribe to a magazine through Riverbend Middle School or purchase additional products through our fundraiser, please contact the school at 641-648-6430.

## RMS to Host Fall Dance on Thursday, November 6, Starting at 7:00 p.m.

The first Riverbend Middle School dance of the 2014-2015 school year is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 6, at Riverbend Middle School. Although this is called a dance, this is in reality more of a middle school "social," due to the numerous activities that are planned for the evening. A disc jockey will be set up in half of the gymnasium for the dance portion of the event. In addition, throughout the evening students can participate in karaoke and board games in the cafeteria, Wii Guitar Hero and Just Dance in the music room, a movie in another classroom, and the student lounge will also be open for students. Concessions will be available for purchase throughout the evening in the cafeteria, including Pizza Ranch pizza. The Riverbend vocal music boosters will also be selling root beer floats.

In addition, it is also important to note that Riverbend Middle School dances are not "formal events." We like to think of our dances as "come as you are" events. We want all Riverbend students to feel that they can attend the event without having to worry about wearing new clothes or dresses. Students can choose to dress up if they want, but it is not encouraged by Riverbend Middle School. All students are expected to follow the Riverbend Middle School handbook dress code expectations for their dance attire: "Clothes that are too tight, too short, or too revealing are not to be worn. Students may not wear halter tops or bare midriff styles or any apparel that reveals

portions of undergarments." These expectations are included on page 17 of the student handbook included in the student planner. No strapless dresses or "spaghetti straps" are to be worn. Students not following these expectations should be prepared to change. In short, students if you have to ask yourself if it is appropriate to wear to a dance or not, then it probably is not. Your assistance with these expectations is appreciated.

Riverbend Middle School students also do not need to feel that they need to have a "date" to attend a dance. Most students come by themselves, with a friend, or with a group of friends. Students can choose to ask someone if they want, but it is not encouraged by Riverbend Middle School. Only Riverbend Middle School students are allowed to attend middle school dances.

The dance starts at 7:00 p.m., and ends at 9:00 p.m. for seventh-grade students, 9:15 p.m. for eighth-grade students. The staggered ending times assists with the flow of traffic in front of the building after the dance. Cost of admission is \$3 per student and a canned good (or an additional one dollar), for those in need. Glow-necklaces will also be available at the dance for \$1 each. Our dance will be supervised by at least twelve Riverbend Middle School teachers and staff.

We look forward to a fun dance and social on November 6!

## Please Plan On Attending Conferences with your Riverbend Middle School Student

*Submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield*

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences are scheduled at Riverbend Middle School from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, and Tuesday, October 28. Middle school students are often quick to point out to parents and guardians that, now that they are at or near their "teen-age years," they are ready for more independence. Even though our students are growing up, your involvement is still key to their success. Parent and guardian participation in conferences communicates a commitment to your student having a positive experience here at Riverbend Middle School during the 2014-2015 school year.

All Riverbend teachers will be assembled at tables in the gymnasium



*Students enjoy a Riverbend Middle School dance during the 2013-2014 school year.*



*Riverbend Middle School teachers will be available at conferences from 3:30 - 7:30 on Thursday, October 23, and Tuesday, October 28. Above, seventh-grade teachers Mr. Brendon McNulty, Mrs. Karen Koenig, and Ms. LaRonna Orr collaborate during the school day.*

to meet with students, parents, and guardians. Conferences really do work best when the students are present to actively participate in the conference. The teachers have been advised to adhere to a 5-minute time limit per conference, especially if there are others in line. If five minutes for a conference is not sufficient, you can utilize this conference to schedule a more in-depth conference at a later time. We look forward to seeing you at conferences on Thursday, October 23, and Tuesday, October 28.

## RMS Volleyball Battle

The annual Riverbend Middle School volleyball battle is scheduled for Monday, October 20, at the Riverbend Middle School gymnasium starting at 3:30. This annual event is sponsored by the RMS student council. The volleyball battle will pit the seventh-grade volleyball team versus a team of seventh-grade boys and the eighth-grade volleyball team versus the eighth-grade boys. The winning teams will advance to the championship, and there will be a consolation championship as well. In the final match of the afternoon, the eighth-grade volleyball team will play a RMS staff team. All RMS volleyball players are automatically eligible to play in the volleyball battle. All boys interested in competing in the battle can sign up in the office. All who sign up will play! There will be no charge to attend this event. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend this event as well.

## Strong Participation in Activities at Riverbend

Riverbend Middle School again had nearly all of our students participate in at least one activity during the 2013-2014 school year. Students at Riverbend had the following co-curricular activity choices: band, chorus, honor band, honor choir, and jazz band. In addition, students could choose to participate in the following extracurricular sports activities: football, volleyball, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, cheerleading, track & field, and softball. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs and organizations: dance, student council, science club, art club, girls' group, FFA, FCCLA, TRIO Educational Talent Search, yearbook, publications, book club, sign language club, chess club, and club-not-club. In all, there were twenty-seven activities offered at Riverbend Middle School during the 2013-



*Riverbend Middle School "Club Not Club" leaders from last school year: Kennedy Campbell, Autumn Schott, Taylor Vanatter, and Jade Trenary with Mrs. Lisa Wiese.*

2014 school year. Each of the 200 RMS students participated, on average, in nearly four activities per student.

During the first day of school this year, all students were presented with an activity interest sheet where they indicated what activities they are interested in for the 2014-2015 school year. Research has shown that students who are active in school activities are more connected to school, and that students who are more connected to school do better in school. It is our expectation that each student be involved in at least one activity; most are out for multiple.

Get involved Riverbend students!

## Academic Eligibility for Middle School Extracurricular Activities

Middle school students are encouraged to participate in as many extracurricular activities as possible. Past research has shown that students who are involved in activities generally achieve academically higher than students who are not involved in these activities. Students who participate in extracurricular activities and school-sponsored clubs and organizations will be subject to the Riverbend Middle School Academic Eligibility Policy: Student grades will be checked every two weeks. All graded classes are included under this policy. If a student has one "F" at a grading checkpoint, he/she will be ineligible for a minimum of one week. If grades are passing after one week, he/she will regain eligibility. If not, they remain ineligible until grades are passing. While a student is ineligible, they must attend four study tables per week. Study tables will be from 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. and 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. All extra-curricular activities and before / after school clubs will be included in this policy. A student who is academically ineligible will be able to practice with his/her athletic team, and even travel with the team for competition, but will not be able to participate in competition while academically ineligible.

## Middle school art

It has been a great start to the school year in the art room at Riverbend Middle School!

The 8th graders and 7th graders have been busy working on various projects to develop their drawing skills and creative muscles. The 8th graders started the year with the "Marshmallow Challenge," an activity to reinforce synergy and the importance of prototypes and planning. They moved on to the art of Zentangles. Students worked as a class to connect their drawing with another person in the room.

They used different Zentangle patterns and made their own variations of each design in their composition. From there, students applied what they understood about Zentangles to create a selfie using various patterns. A black sharpie marker was used in creating the various designs.

The year started with various drawing projects, but the class took the time to come up with classroom goals for the exploratory, and their own personal goals. Students will continue to track the progress of their goals though out the exploratory.

This year the 8th graders will also be expected to create an online portfolio to showcase their creativity. Their portfolio will consist of various projects using many different art mediums, from printing using linoleum, the potter's wheel, and painting on canvas, to jewelry and using a soldering iron, and many other materials. The intent of the portfolio is to show the artistic growth of every student, and develop skills they can use in life.

The 7th graders have been equally as busy. They started the year with exploring the concept of "understanding your subject." Students participated in an activity, "Imaginiff," where they challenged each other on how well they knew one another. They took that concept and created a drawing for another person in the room based on what they learned about them. Students didn't stop there, they continued challenging their drawing skills by creating a group drawing and using the right side of their brain. With some drawing experience complete, 7th graders created a poster that included a 3-word, positive statement meant to inspire. These posters will be displayed around the school to reinforce the positive, leadership environment in our school. The design process continues this exploratory by studying the art of perspective.

Perspective projects include, drawing using 1-point, and 2-point perspective, and incorporating architectural and interior designs into their work. As the year progresses, student artwork will be displayed on the Artsonia website, and on our very own classroom website. Check it out!

[www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)

<https://sites.google.com/a/ifacadets.net/terhark-artroom/>

## Science Club

*Submitted by Mrs. Karen Koenig*

The Riverbend Science Club has started meeting on Thursdays after school from 3:15-4:15. Throughout the year we will be doing activities such as gardening, fishing, canoeing, cooking, dissecting, and doing science challenges. We will also be creating science fair projects for the RMS science fair on February 18, 2015.

Science club activities have been funded by one fundraiser over the last several years. We collect and recycle used cell phones, inkjet cartridges,





toner cartridges, laptops, and MP3 players. We even accept broken cell phones and laptops. If you have any items in the list that you would like to donate, please drop them off at Riverbend Middle School, send them to the school with your student, or call us to line up a collection date and time

Those students interested in joining science club who participate in other after school activities, such as sports, may join us between the seasons. The more, the merrier!



*Ice Skating on the Iowa River across from Riverbend Middle School was one of the science club activities during the 2013-2014 school year.*

## An Opportunity for Parents / Guardians to Provide Feedback, Direction, and Leadership

The Riverbend Parent Advisory Council will meet monthly at Riverbend at noon on the second Thursday of each month. The purpose of this council is to learn about the day-to-day operations of the school, to serve as a sounding board, and to open the channels of communication between the principal and the parents / community. The first scheduled meeting was Thursday, September 11. Council members are welcome to bring their own lunch or purchase school lunch (we do ask that you RSVP that morning if you are eating school lunch for the lunch count). You are welcome and invited to any council meeting that works for you and your schedule.

The Riverbend Parent Lighthouse Team will meet one Wednesday a month at 3:00 p.m., and additionally as needed. The purpose of the Parent Lighthouse Team is to provide direction and assistance with the implementation of "The Leader in Me" initiative here at Riverbend. Examples may include painting murals and motivational quotes on our walls, helping with field trips, assisting with community service projects, volunteering during the school day, ... The first Parent Lighthouse Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, at 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in either or both of these or if you want additional information, please contact Riverbend Middle School.

## Riverbend Middle School

### Welcomes:

### Mrs. Karla Isaacson

Mrs. Karla Isaacson joins the Riverbend Middle School teaching staff as an 8th grade special education teacher. Her hometown is Alden. Mrs. Isaacson has attended Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, and Buena Vista University, also in Iowa Falls.

Mrs. Isaacson's previous teaching experience includes teaching first grade at Alden Elementary School, elementary special education at Martensdale - St. Mary's, special education and at-risk at Ames, and most recently special education at Northeast Hamilton.

"I love working with the students and staff at Riverbend Middle School. It is great to see teachers and staff working together to make our students leaders in their classrooms as well as their lives outside of school," Mrs. Isaacson noted.

In her spare time, she enjoys making creative books, frames, and memory pictures for birthday milestones, wedding anniversaries, and other social events that are being celebrated. Mrs. Isaacson is also a CYCLONE fan who loves spending time with family and friends and playing cards. She also likes to attend area musicals and plays and playing the piano and organ.



*"It is great to see teachers and staff working together to make our students leaders in their classrooms as well as their lives outside of school." - Mrs. Karla Isaacson, eighth-grade special education teacher*

### Mrs. Carla Coates

Mrs. Carla Coates joins both the high school and middle school teaching staff as a high school math teacher and a middle school resource teacher. Her hometown is Shell Rock, Iowa, but she has lived in Parkersburg for the past 20 years. Mrs. Coates's educational background include Wartburg College in Waverly and the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Mrs. Coates previously taught middle school math and science at St. Edmond Catholic Schools in Fort Dodge.

"My very first impression of Riverbend Middle School was formed by meeting Mrs. Wubben," stated Mrs. Coates. "She exudes positivity and excitement! Her enthusiasm carries over to the staff and students. I LOVE the Leader In Me and the pleasantness I see in the hallways. Everyone has been helpful and welcoming," Mrs. Coates added.

Something unique about Mrs. Coates is that she raises miniature dachshunds. She just recently drove to Kentucky to get their newest little "boy" named Beau. She has SIX dachshunds and is expecting a litter in a couple of weeks!

Mrs. Coates's family consists of her husband of 24 years; her son, age 21, attending ISU and an airman in the US Air Force National Guard; her daughter, age 18, a senior at Aplington-Parkersburg High School; and her other daughter, age 12, a 7th grader at Aplington-Parkersburg Middle School.



*I LOVE the Leader In Me and the pleasantness I see in the hallways. Everyone has been helpful and welcoming." Mrs. Carla Coates, high school math and middle school resource teacher*

## Mr. Jeff Schmitt

Mr. Jeff Schmitt joins the Riverbend Middle School and the Rock Run Elementary School staffs as 7th and 8th grade band at RMS and 5th grade band at Rock Run. His hometown is Hampton, Iowa. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Iowa State University. He also recently finished his Master's of Music Education Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Mr. Schmitt's first teaching job was at North Linn Community School District in Troy Mills, Iowa, where he taught 6-12 instrumental music. Prior to coming to Riverbend, he was the 5/6 instrumental music teacher at Alden Elementary, and also performed technical support for our 1:1 Chromebook initiative.

"Overall, the Riverbend staff have been very welcoming and fun to work with. It's also been awesome to be able to teach many of the same students that I previously taught at Alden," stated Mr. Schmitt when asked about his first few weeks at Riverbend.

In his free time, Mr. Schmitt and his wife Lori (5th Grade teacher at Rock Run) enjoy being outside, working in the garden, spending time with our nieces and nephews, watching Cyclone football and basketball, and helping with the Rivers Edge Youth Group. He also enjoys playing all kinds of music and is involved in several local groups. Mr. Schmitt added that he and Lori "are both excited to be working in the same district and living in such a wonderful community."



*"Overall, the Riverbend staff have been very welcoming and fun to work with. It's also been awesome to be able to teach many of the same students that I previously taught at Alden." – Mr. Jeff Schmitt, middle school and Rock Run instrumental music teacher*

## Ms. LaRonna Orr

Ms. LaRonna Orr joins the Riverbend staff as the 7th grade special education teacher. Her hometown is Hubbard, however she spent a lot of time in Iowa Falls growing up. She attended Ellsworth Community College and went on to the University of Northern Iowa for her undergraduate studies. She received her Master's Degree through Drake University.

Ms. Orr previously taught eight years at Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa. Prior to coming to Riverbend, she was a director of a childcare center for the Heart of Iowa, ASAC program in Cedar Rapids. "My experience at Riverbend Middle School has been extremely positive. All staff have been very friendly and helpful. I have also enjoyed getting to know the students and their families," Ms. Orr stated about her time here at Riverbend so far.

She enjoys spending time with her children, family, and friends. She also likes to cook and bake with her children, although she admits she doesn't have a lot of time to indulge in the activity.



*"My experience at Riverbend Middle School has been extremely positive. All staff have been very friendly and helpful. I have also enjoyed getting to know the students and their families," – Ms. LaRonna Orr, seventh-grade special education teacher*

## Mrs. Colette Chaplin

Mrs. Colette Chaplin is also new to Riverbend Middle School this year, joining the staff as a one-on-one para-educator. She has spent nine years as a pre-school teacher in Story City, Iowa. Prior to joining the Riverbend staff, she served as a para-educator at Alden Elementary School for the past six years. Mrs. Chaplin's hometown is Granbury, Texas. She attended both Texas A & M University and Ellsworth Community College.

"I love how friendly and encouraging the students and staff are. It is great to start the day with a smile and a good morning greeting from everyone," stated Mrs. Chaplin when asked about Riverbend.

Mrs. Chaplin's family is from Texas, but as a kid they lived in many different states. She was born in New York and went to schools in Virginia, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Texas. "I loved moving and meeting new friends. Now as an adult (and thanks to Facebook), I am still in contact with many of those classmates and I have friends all over the United States," she added. She met her husband when they were in the 7th grade. She has known him for over half her life! They have been married for 17 years and have two children. Kylie is a sophomore and Trey is in 8th grade.



*"I love how friendly and encouraging the students and staff are. It is great to start the day with a smile and a good morning greeting from everyone." – Mrs. Colette Chaplin, seventh-grade para-educator*

## Miss Lakoda Kelber

Miss Lakoda Kelber is a student teacher with Mr. Doug Dodd in agriculture education. She spends first hour at Riverbend student teaching the 8th grade Intro to Agriculture, then the remainder of her day is spent at Iowa Falls – Alden High School. Her hometown is State Center, and she is attending Iowa State University.

Miss Kelber most enjoys, "... the positive energy that everyone in Riverbend Middle School has." Miss Kelber also competes in rodeos all over the United States, in the areas of team roping and breakaway roping. She is also in state breakaway roping director for the Iowa Rodeo Cowboys' Association.



*"I enjoy the positive energy that everyone in Riverbend Middle School has." – Miss Lakoda Kelber, middle school and high school agriculture student teacher*

Thanks, 🍏 Teach!

## Rock Run School News

### 2014 Summer Reading Challenge: Wild About Reading

For the 3rd Annual Summer Reading Challenge, the Rock Run staff challenged incoming third, fourth, and fifth graders to a reading duel. Students were given a book log to record the minutes they read over the summer. Each student also received a United Book (a specific title to read for that grade level) to read over the summer. When students turned in a book log this fall, they received a bookmark and pencil. Then, for every 60 minutes students read, they were able to fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win prizes such as: a tablet, an iPod, a comfy reading chair, being a banker for a day at Iowa Falls State Bank, presenting a donation to the Greenbelt Humane Society sponsored by Green Belt Bank & Trust, and a pizza lunch with Mr. Swartzendruber.

An assembly was held the first Friday of the school year to draw for the prizes and announce other surprise rewards. Students that read over 600 minutes learned they would receive a free book choice in the next classroom book order. Students that read over 1,200 minutes received a certificate and learned they soon would be receiving a special "Wild About Reading" t-shirt. The top reader from each grade level also earned a "Readers Are Leaders" cinch bag, along with a traveling trophy to display proudly in their homeroom.

But after all was said and done, perhaps the most motivating part for the students was the chance to beat their teachers again. Each grade level of students faced a group of about 10 staff members, with the reward being not only bragging rights but also a popcorn party. This year's totals proved that every minute counts, especially in 4th grade! Here are the results:

#### 3rd Grade

Teachers: 31,245 minutes  
Students: 23,006 minutes  
\*Teachers won!

#### 5th Grade

Teachers: 30,970 minutes  
Students: 49,619 minutes  
\*Students won!

#### 4th Grade

Teachers: 36,000 minutes  
Students: 36,035 minutes  
\*Students won!

#### School Totals

Teachers: 98,215  
Students: 108,660  
\*Students won!

As you can see, 5th graders were able to crush their competition, and 4th graders squeaked out a narrow victory. They will both be joined by 3rd grade teachers for a popcorn party. As a school, we met our goal of 200,000 minutes again by reading a total of 206,875 minutes! We are very proud of our students and their commitment to become better readers. Nothing beats the "summer slide" like reading all summer long. Congratulations to students who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and read over the summer!



Hailey Copeland winner of the donation to Green Belt Human Society.

### Students vs. Businesses Reading Challenge

This summer, at the BIE breakfast, students of Rock Run Elementary challenged local businesses to get Wild About Reading! The Students vs. Businesses Reading Challenge, set to kick off September 1st, will put students head to head...or book to book... with area participants. Logging minutes read, participating businesses will compete with an assigned classroom at The Rock. Minutes read will be score boarded at Rock Run, so students and businesses can keep tabs on who's ahead. The challenge will wrap up in May...just in time for the Teachers to issue a challenge of their own.

### Third Grade Thankfulness

Third grade students are beginning their day with their thankful journals. Each child has a small notebook that they are recording anything they are thankful for. They are encouraged to think of at least 2 things that they are thankful for each day. Most students have easily gone beyond that expectation. Their goal is to get to 100 items. Students are asked to think beyond material items. Even though one student was very excited about getting a new bed. Of course, they are thankful for their computers and TV's.

On Wednesdays we have been sharing the items they are writing down. Several students shared how another student in the class had been kind to them. They also are thankful for their families and their pets.

We have talked about even on a bad day we have so much to be thankful for. Students are noticing things in their environment as well. On hot days we can be thankful for shade trees. They seem to be thankful for their nice playground, their school and their teachers. Students also have been thankful for their basic needs like food, clothes and a bed to sleep in. We also use this as a time of celebration for big things like new siblings and vacations. Children are now sneaking their notebooks out to record yet another thing they are thankful for. We all have so much to be thankful for!

### Collecting For Education

It's time once again to start collecting Hy-Vee receipts for the Shop Smart for Education program. Save your receipts from our local Iowa Falls Hy-Vee and send them to school. Rock Run also collects Box Tops for Education, located on a multitude of General Mills products. Cut out the small Box Tops rectangles and send them to school. Pizza Ranch Wagons (off of pizza boxes), are also collected. Pop tabs are also collected to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. These can be sent to school with your child or dropped off in the main office. Saving these items and sending them to school only cost you your time, but provide us with much more than that. Each year funds from these sources enable us to provide books, resources and materials for students that would not otherwise be possible. Thanks for your support.

### Elementary Fund Raiser

The annual Elementary Fundraiser kicked off on September 17th and ended on October 3rd. Family and friends again had the opportunity to purchase Chip Shoppe food items from Rock Run and Pineview students. The fundraiser money will be used for technology, curriculum, student activities & rewards. The delivery date is November 5th from 4-6 pm.

## Rock Run Computer Students Explore AEA Online Resources

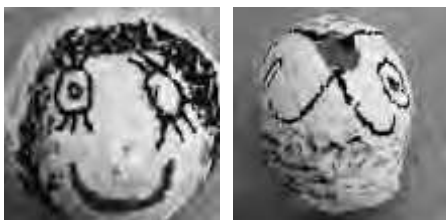
By Lisa Heiden

The students at Rock Run Elementary have been exploring the many uses of the Iowa AEA Online Databases in computer class. These educational tools are available to all students free of charge. The students are given time in class to explore each site in hopes of becoming an "expert" at locating information. We have also discussed examples of how each site could help students with different tasks throughout the school year and even scenarios for how it might help them at home. So far student favorites include: Britannica Online, Culture Grams, and Learn360. Your students can access the AEA resources from the following site: [www.iowaaeaonline.org](http://www.iowaaeaonline.org) (username and password are available from the school).

### Let the Creativity Begin!

Students at Rock Run Elementary have put on their thinking caps and got down to art. Students started the year with digging into a discussion of what they want to get out of art this year and developed classroom goals and their own personal goal. Students will track the progress of their personal artistic goals throughout the year. Goal setting served as a perfect transition for each grade level project.

The 3rd graders began the year with making a Daruma. Darumas are an artistic symbol of good luck and perseverance from Japan. Students used papier-mâché to wrap around their plastic egg form, and designed their Daruma as themselves, a character or



an animal. The image they chose had importance for each individual student since it was their own personal representation of hard work.

3rd graders will continue the year by looking at different elements of art such as line and color and artists who use those concepts in their own art, explore the concept of symbolism and learn about art that was created by other cultures.

4th grade students continued the discussion of goals by incorporating them into their own self-portrait. Portraiture will be a huge part of art for these students. Students learned about facial proportion when they created their own self-portrait. Their self-portrait included the goals that they want to accomplish this year. Along with this project, students will create a QR code of their own voices. Students will record their voice stating their goals and why those goals are important to them. Students will continue the year by learning about other artists that create portraits and their unique styles.



5th grade students took goal setting in a different direction. With age comes more responsibility. With more responsibility, come more things to worry about. Students learned about how other cultures use art for emotional needs. Guatemala creates worry dolls to meet these needs. When a person has a lot on their mind, they tell their worry doll their worries before they go to bed. The legend is the doll will worry in the person's place, allowing them to have a good night's rest. Students used a clothespin, embroidery floss to form their own character. This year, the 5th graders will focus on becoming better artists by learning and using the elements and principles of art, and work on developing their drawing skills.



This year is going to be a great year, filled with learning and creativity! Check out student artwork throughout the year on Artsonia and our classroom website.

[www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)

<https://sites.google.com/a/ifacadets.net/terhark-artroom/>

# Pine View School News

## Off to a GREAT Start in Preschool

Preschool is off to a great start! Mrs. Barnhart and Mrs. Schreck visited all three-year-old preschool students and new afternoon four-year-old students before school started. This eased the transition from home to school and has continued to be a memorable moment for those students. Our beginning of the year theme is All About Me! The children have been learning many new centers, including arts and crafts, literacy, toys and games, cars and blocks, sand table, discovery, writing, dramatic play, and I pads. The preschoolers who attend school all day on Wednesdays get to eat lunch at school. This has been an exciting adventure for many of the children!



## Excited for an AWESOME Year in K-Prep

K-Prep is very excited about this school year! Everyone is happy and ready to learn. We will have many exciting adventures. One of our focuses for K-Prep is learning about the "Leader in Me". K-Prep will learn about the 7 Habits through stories, songs and fun activities. We will concentrate mainly on Habit 1, Be Proactive, Habit 2, Begin With The End In Mind, and Habit 3, Put First Things First. As the year progresses we will send home ideas and activities for each family to do at home.



K-Prep is going digital! We are excited to offer two new ways for us to communicate. Remind101 is a free service. It is a one-way service for teachers to send out quick reminder texts to parents. K-Prep is also on Facebook. This will allow us to post information on the exciting things going on in our classroom.

## Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off to Kindergarten We Go!

We are off and running in Kindergarten! Some faces have been in Pineview before but many faces are new so we have been spending the last few weeks learning about our new friends, new class routines, and learning about being a leader using Covey's 7 Habits! We have been practicing how to be leaders at recess, in the lunchroom, the hallways, and in the classroom. We are also getting ready for Open House on September 16 and are very excited to show our families everything we have started learning about this year! This year in Pineview we added an art teacher, Ms. Sufi, so our students have had the opportunity to enjoy 40 minutes a week of art class and creating art projects. It's going to be a fun year in art and in Kindergarten!



## 1st Grade Rotations

In First Grade, the students have started Rotations, which consist of Science, Social Studies and Health/Nutrition. In Health/Nutrition, the students have been learning about My Plate and the types of food we need to have on our plate each time we eat. They learned they need vegetables, fruits, dairy, grains, and proteins to be healthy and grow strong. The students went to the Pineview Garden and picked fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and green beans to taste test and voted on which vegetable was their favorite. They also had a special visitor, Tracey Sauke, the Hy-Vee Dietitian, who spoke to our first grade classes about My Plate and then they played a game sorting the foods from the five food groups for My Plate. We continue to harvest our vegetables from the Pineview garden and learn even more how we can eat healthy!



## Subject Spotlight on Writing

This year the second grade students are switching classes in the morning for 30 minutes of work on different subjects. In Mr. Johnson's room they are focusing on writing. This year the students will be focusing on the 6-Traits of Writing. Each month of the school year will focus on one of the traits. This month we are working on some introductory writing activities just to get back in the mode of writing at school. This week the kids wrote about their summer. In October we will focus on Ideas and Content. In November we will focus on Organization where kids will make sure their stories have beginnings, middles, and endings. In December we will focus on Word Choice where students will be challenged to use strong verbs and interesting adjectives. In January we will focus on Sentence Fluency where students will work on varying sentence length and fixing run-on and rumbling sentences. In February we will focus on Voice where students will need to use formal and informal language and use different writing styles. In March we will focus on Conventions. The rest of the school year will be spent working on perfecting our writing skills by writing creative stories. Be sure to check your child's Leadership Notebook for the exciting stories they will be writing this year!



## What Is Reading Recovery?

"Just give me that book. I can read it myself." Hearing those words is every Reading Recovery teacher's dream. It is the goal of the Reading Recovery program to develop strategic independent readers. Iowa Falls has endorsed this philosophy through the Reading Recovery Program for the last eighteen years, serving 259 students. The district has three Reading Recovery teachers: Miss Adams, Mrs. Hastings, and Mrs. Hunt. They not only use this training with Reading Recovery students but also to effectively reach Title I Reading students in kindergarten, first and second grade.

Reading Recovery is an individualized program for selected first graders. Each child receives a thirty-minute one-on-one lesson designed to work on early reading and writing strategies. During each lesson the student rereads familiar books, learns how words work, writes sentences about the books he/she reads or happenings in their lives, and reads a new book that is slightly more challenging. Through running records and observations, teachers form teaching points to direct a student's learning. Teachers encourage rereading, learning word chunks, and checking the picture. Within the lesson, students work on fluency and flexibility in both reading and writing. Students build up a writing vocabulary of known words and learn to stretch through new words they want to use in their writing.

Parents are a vital part of this program. Daily home reading practice is

essential for the student's success. Classroom teachers and Reading Recovery teachers work closely to help the students make progress. A student is ready to be discontinued (graduated) from the program when he/she is independently reading and writing at the average of their class. The goal is for the child to have a self-extending system that allows him/her to read increasingly difficult text as he/she continues through school. Reading strategies taught in the Reading Recovery program are good for all children. The techniques taught in the Reading Recovery program are the same strategies that are taught in the classrooms. They are just selectively taught, as a child needs them in an individualized manner. Since all of us become better readers by reading and reading often, it is important for all students to practice reading books at his/her reading level every day.

If you have any questions about reading to or with your children, please feel free to call one of the Reading Recovery teachers at Pineview, 648-6410.

## Pineview Mentors Needed

The Pineview Mentoring program is looking for a few good mentors to work with children in grades kindergarten through second for this year. We still have several children who need mentors for this school year. Pineview mentors serve as role models for children who are currently identified as needing support in their academics or in learning important social skills.

A mentor might read with a child one-on-one, play a game together, work on writing skills, talk, or enjoy working on math problems. Currently, our mentors work with students in the areas of reading, math, writing, and social skills.

If you are interested in becoming a Pineview mentor or are thinking that you might enjoy this role but have questions, please feel free to contact Kate Hornung at Pineview Elementary, 648-6410.

## We Need Your Help!!

All you have to do is save your Hy-Vee receipts, Pizza Ranch Wagons, and General Mills box tops and turn them in to the school! The school receives money from each of these receipts or box tops. Last year the school redeemed approximately \$1000 from Box Tops, \$600 from Hy-Vee, and over \$100 from Pizza Ranch. Thank you in advance for your help with this great fundraiser!!

Pineview is in need of a volunteer to add the Hy-Vee receipts that are turned in for the Dollars For Scholars program, as well as a volunteer to count and bag box tops. Please contact Melanie in the office (648-6410) with questions or if you are interested in helping us out.

## A Rainbow of Faces at Pineview!

Miss Sufi: Pineview Elementary Art Teacher

The start of the school year has been off to a phenomenal start at Pineview! All of Pineview has been hard at work in art class. Students started out the school year by learning what a self-portrait is. Each class was assigned a

few colors to create their "silly" self-portraits. Each self-portrait needed to include all parts of the face and had to be colored in using the colors that their class was assigned.

Here, you can see samples of our self-portraits in each of the colors we used. Each image comes from a different grade (top left: kindergarten, top right: 1st grade, bottom two: 2nd grade). I will be displaying our beautiful self-portraits in the gym at Pineview to create a rainbow of faces! Be sure to stop by next week to check it out!



Coming up in art class our preschool and kindergarten-prep will be creating "All About Me" books to showcase themselves. First graders will read the book *The Rainbow Fish*. Students will then learn what the difference is between 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional. They will demonstrate their newfound knowledge of 3-dimensionality by creating a 3D fish. Second graders are learning about the different parts of a landscape (background, middle ground, and foreground). They are in the process of creating a landscape scene of a field of poppy flowers demonstrating their new knowledge on perspective.

Last, but certainly not least, I just wanted to thank ALL of you for the incredibly warm welcome! It is such an honor to be a part of the Iowa Falls Community School District. Being an art teacher has been my goal since I was four-years-old, so the whole process of starting an art program at Pineview and bringing art into the classrooms is really a dream come true! I couldn't have asked for a more warm and welcoming community! Go Cadets!



## Pineview Students Learn About Dot Day

By Lisa Heiden

The students at Pineview Elementary learned about "making their mark" in honor of International Dot Day on September 15, 2014. They kicked off the week in library class with a reading of *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. The story is about a young girl named Vashti who isn't very confident in her artistic skills. Her teacher tells her to "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." The girl slams her marker down on the paper and makes a

splatter. The teacher then asks her to sign her artwork so she can hang it on the wall. This small act of encouragement turns Vashti into a budding artist, creating various dots of all shapes and sizes. The end of the book shows us Vashti interacting with another student in need of encouragement and she helps him begin his artistic journey.

The Pineview students talked about all the ways they could “make their mark” in our school, at home, and in the community. Then the students were given time to create their own original artwork. Some classrooms used the CoLAR Mix app on the iPads to make the dots appear 3D. Dot Day was so much fun this year, that we are already making plans for Dot Day 2015!!

## Alden School News

### Go! Fight! Win! Cadets!

What if we were ALL able to win?! Obviously, there is a time and place for competition—on the volleyball court or football field for example. However, in the classroom and in life, it is important that when we work with others, we can all ‘win’ if we have an abundance mentality. What is an abundance mentality?

Through the 7 Habits, we learn a lot about ourselves and our relationships. Habit 4 is ‘Think Win-Win’ which stems from the paradigm that there’s plenty out there for everyone. All students can be leaders, ‘all belong, all succeed,’ are just examples that can impact how we interact with one another. As shared on StephenCovey.com:

Many people think in terms of either/or: either you’re nice or you’re tough. Win-win requires that you be both. It is a balancing act between courage and consideration. To go for win-win, you not only have to be empathic, but you also have to be confident. You not only have to be considerate and sensitive, you also have to be brave. To do that--to achieve that balance between courage and consideration--is the essence of real maturity and is fundamental to win-win.

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

We look forward to 100% attendance for fall conferences this year! 6th grade is an open house format, with times running 3:30-7:30 PM, on October 23 and 28. Mrs. McDaniel will be scheduling K-5 conferences with notes coming home by the middle of October. If those dates do not work for your schedule, please let us know so we can set up an alternate time. 6th Grade conferences are a come and go format. However, if you wish to meet with teachers, we will schedule individual appointments. We are also available before or after school as well. We are excited to share your child(ren)’s progress and fall assessment scores.

### Fall Fundraiser

All PK-6 students will bring home information on October 1st, about our school fundraiser. This year we are selling food items, including cookie dough, pizza, and much more! Orders will be due October 15 and items will be delivered the week of November 16. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 this year to support our purchase of technology items.

### Fall Parties

PK-5 students will have the opportunity to wear their costumes on Friday, October 31, for our annual fall parties and costume parade. The parade will begin at 2:30 PM. Sixth grade students will have an alternate activity that day, based upon the Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum. Information will be sent home in Wednesday folders in regard to their expectations. A reminder to parents of the costume areas to avoid:

1. No masks (not safe when going on our parade up/down steps)

2. No make up—no time to apply
3. No weapons

PK Students:

\*Only 4-5 year olds will bring costumes and will join K-5 students in the parade

### Title 1 Reading and Math K-6

Alden has a Title 1 program for both reading and math. Title 1 is a federally funded program designed to improve educational opportunities for students who meet the criteria for supplemental instruction. The program at our school is designed to provide reinforcement of reading and math skills and strategies already being taught in the regular classroom.

Students are selected for assistance based in part on recommendations made by the classroom teacher, as well as classroom performance data, local assessments, and standardized assessments. Parental requests for Title 1 assistance are also considered for their child to participate in the program.

The goals of our Title 1 program are to: increase math and reading achievement, support the classroom instructional reading and math programs, develop positive attitudes toward reading and math, to help transfer reading and math skills and strategies to other content areas, to develop functional, literate readers and mathematicians and to develop independent study skills and work habits.

If you have any questions regarding the program in Alden, please contact Kim Nelson or Katy Jensen.

### Preschool News

“Let’s Go! Let’s Go! Let’s Go! Preschool Rocks” This is a chant you will hear in our classroom everyday and we believe it! Alden Preschool is filled with leaders (just look at our leader chart) and fun (playdough is our number 1 choice). We have celebrated the first few weeks of school by reading “Pete the Cat” books. This groovy cat has colorful shoes, groovy buttons and even drives a school bus. The students love to listen to his stories and do literacy, math and science activities around the books. In the words of Pete the Cat...“It’s all good” in Preschool!

### Iowa Youth Survey

Our 6th grade students will again be participating in the Iowa Youth Survey this fall. A letter was sent home within the first few weeks of school, explaining the purpose and goals of the anonymous survey:

The purpose of the survey is to collect information about Iowa youth so we can better understand their beliefs, values, and decisions about what makes them feel secure, strong, and safe in their communities, schools, and families. In addition, information is collected about their ideas on alcohol, tobacco, drugs, bullying and harassment, and violence prevention. The information collected will help the state planning agencies, our

schools, and local community task forces put together valuable future programming. It is important to ask children to tell us what is good and working about their life in Iowa, and what needs improvement, in their eyes.

Parents were then invited to alert the school if they preferred their child NOT participate in the survey. If you did not alert the school, please do so immediately.

## Veteran's Concert

Our Alden Elementary School Sixth Grade Band and Choir invite all family and community members, especially those who have served in our armed forces, to our Veteran's Concert on Monday, November 10 at 7 p.m. in the Alden School gymnasium. This year's concert lifts up the service and sacrifice of our veterans. The concert features selections by both band and choir, as well as students narrating the program.

Additionally, the Veterans Wall gives community members an opportunity to lift up those veterans who are family or friends. To be included on the veterans wall, please send the following information, either by returning this form or e-mailing koliver@ifacadets.net by November 5.

Veterans Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Military and Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Any interesting fact about their service (if desired)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to seeing you at this year's concert!

## Back to School with First Grade

First graders in Ms. Richards' class are excited to be back to school to see their friends and learn new things. This year in first grade, we will focus on The Leader in Me and incorporating leadership notebooks. In math, we are very excited for the hands-on approach to Every Day Math. In reading, we have been doing the Daily 5 while our teacher works with guided reading groups and in Science, we are learning all about balance and motion. It's going to be a FANTASTIC year!



## Leader in Me Gallup Student Poll

Our fifth and sixth grade students will participate in a 10-minute survey to measure the three key indicators shown to drive student achievement, future employment and leadership skills: 1) student hope for the future, 2) engagement with school, and 3) well-being. The poll is a part of our Leader in Me efforts and will be anonymous.

## Upcoming Dates

September 25: PK-6 Open House, 6-7:30 PM

October 1: PK-6 Fundraiser Kick-Off

October 23 & 28: 1 hour early dismissal, P/T Conferences

October 31: K-5 Fall Parties

November 10: 6th Grade Veteran's Concert, 7 PM

November 26-28: No School, Thanksgiving Break



Teachers assumed their super hero identities in a special school wide assembly.



Two Iowa Barnstormers visited Alden Elementary earlier in September. Students asked questions about their careers, leadership, and more!



Students in 2nd grade synergize to complete a math assignment!



Students wrote thank you notes to Walmart for new books and other classroom supplies due to Walmart's generous donation of gift cards!



Students are learning about classroom expectations and working hard to start the year!



Mrs. Wiese has a 'spy' theme for her classroom this year. Our learners are focusing in on details and making sure they comprehend all they read!