



All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

Week 2
December 5, 2011

Our Mission: "To create a community of learners: children, teachers, and parents working cooperatively to maximize individual growth and success in a changing world."

Deadline: Friday, noon
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A message from the principal:

At a glance Calendar Events

- Monday, Dec 5th
-PTA Board Meeting
12:00 PM
- Friday, Dec 16th
-Dow Rummel
2:00 pm

January 16-20!--
All Families must
have one representa-
tive attend a Parent
Training Session from
11:30 to 12:00 (it will
be offered each day
of that week) Even if
you are a WEEK TWO
ONLY parents, you
must have one family
representative at-
tend! Attendance
will be tracked!

Complete School Year
Calendar is available at
www.allcitypta.org

Our school year just keeps rolling along. We are into December, already, and a wonderful Thanksgiving season is in the books, we are officially into the Christmas shopping season, and we have also now completed the ACE Snowflake shuffle—another piece of evidence that we have officially entered the favorite season for many students, it's almost Christmas time!!!

In an earlier article, I explained a bit about the School Improvement process and the Plan that is determined each year for our school. Our school plan to improve in these areas is set to be approved by the Sioux Falls School Board, tonight! Our Professional Development (teachers) and instructional efforts will be focused on the following areas of improvement in each of the following grade levels. When you look at this list, think about the activities you may be asked to lead during your commitment time in these classrooms. Also, think about what activities you could do at home or outside of ACE to improve our students understanding of the content objectives! Thanks for all the enrichment you provide your students, to make our addressing these objectives that much more effective!

Reading:

Kindergarten:

- Students will develop phonemic awareness by making new words and rhyming words by changing letters in the words

Students will use reading strategies to decode new words in print

First Grade:

- Students can identify the difference between genres including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Students can identify root words and their inflectional forms in text

Second Grade:

Students can identify the literary elements of character, setting, plot, and theme in literature

Third Grade:

- Students can compare and contrast different versions of literature from different cultures.

Students can choose reference materials

Forth Grade:

- Students can use organizational features of text.

Students can research a topic by gathering information from at least two sources

Fifth Grade:

Students will apply knowledge of text structures, literary devices and elements to develop understanding.

Math: see the continued article on page 6



Reflections Program

2011 - 2012

ACE Parents –

Students at All City Elementary are invited to participate in the 2011 – 2012 Reflections program, an initiative of the national PTA designed to enhance a quality arts education.

Students are encouraged to create and submit original works of art in one or more of the following six areas:

- dance choreography,
- film production,
- literature,
- musical composition,
- photography,
- visual art (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage).

Students can enter work in more than one category, and, if they wish, they can enter more than one piece artwork in each category. So, as just one example, a single student might decide to enter a piece of writing in the literature category and two (2) photographs in the photography category.

All entries are organized into two divisions: primary (K-2) and intermediate (3-5). Student works are critiqued against other works in the same grade division, with judging and awards given at the local, city, state, and national levels. All participants receive recognition.

Information about the Reflections program—including the items listed below—can be found in the “Documents” section of the ACE PTA website (<http://allcitypta.org/>):

- **ACE Student Entry Form:** This form is a printable PDF with information for our local PTA already inserted. Please complete and print one (1) copy of this form for each entry.
- **Consent Form:** New this year, a completed consent form must accompany any artwork submission and Student Entry Form if a person’s recognizable image or voice is included in the submission.
- **General Student Participation Rules**
- **Category-Specific Rules**
 - Dance Choreography
 - Film Production
 - Literature (Writing)
 - Musical Composition
 - Photography
 - Visual Arts (drawing, painting, collage, etc.)
- **Links to additional information and a gallery of national award winners from previous years.**

Any questions or requests for additional information can be directed to Greg Dyer by phone (605.731.6250) or email (gad@sio.midco.net). **Entries for the Reflections Program may be dropped off at the ACE office. The EXTENDED DEADLINE for entries is Monday, December 12th.**



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Elementary, January 2012

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greetings From PCN

This is a letter to thank all the parents and schools who have supported Parent Communication Network over the past seventeen years. The funding that has supported the PCN mission will no longer be available as of January 1, 2012. The difficult decision to dissolve this organization was made by the PCN Board of Directors effective January 1, 2012. This is the last newsletter that will be provided by Parent Communication Network for your school. The good news is the PCN board has worked with Prairie View Prevention Services and their board to continue the "Celebrating Families Back to School Fair". This annual event will continue under the guidance of Prairie View Prevention and the Dakota Board. In addition, the Prairie View website will continue to provide the parenting information regarding substance abuse and other parenting issues just as the PCN website has in the past.

The PCN Board of Directors and I hope that over the years we have provided you and your family with tools and information to assist you in parenting. We would like to express our sincere thanks for the support we have received as we worked to accomplish our mission of providing education and information for parents of today's youth.

I encourage you to visit the Prairie View website for parenting tips and information on how to recognize the signs of substance use. There are substance abuse/prevention counselors in your schools who are available to talk about any concerns or questions you may have regarding substances. Please use these resources; the PCN board knows parenting is an important job and we all need help and encouragement. Again, thank you for supporting our mission. Darcy Jensen and the PCN Board.

Learning Geography Can be Fun!

All you may remember about geography is memorizing countries and continents. But today's kids live in a world that gets smaller each day.

Today, geography is more than maps. It's about how places shape people - and people shape places. Here are some fun things to do at home:

- ▶ **Map it!** Keep an atlas or a globe nearby when you watch the news. When you hear a story about an unfamiliar place, check it out.
- ▶ **Go on a virtual trip.** It's a way anyone can travel the world. Visit your library and check out books about a country you'd like to visit. Then go online to see more pictures.
- ▶ **Learn about your community.** Why is your town located where it is? Who first settled there? How are you connected to the rest of the world?

Questions & Answers

Q: My son wants a cell phone. He says his friends all have them. I'm worried that he's not old enough for the responsibility. On the other hand, I would feel safer if I could call him. How young is too young? And how can I help him use technology responsibly?

A: A cell phone can provide peace of mind and help your child learn to be responsible - if you stay involved and monitor his phone use carefully. Unsupervised cell phone usage can lead to many problems, including poor school performance. Consider these suggestions:

- 1) Explain that having a phone is a privilege, not a right. With your son, review school policies involving cell phone use.
- 2) Start with a basic phone without a camera, to avoid any chance of sending inappropriate photos.
- 3) Ask your cell phone carrier to disable text messaging and Internet access capability until your son is ready. Review and use the parental safety controls.
- 4) Keep the phone charger in your room, not his, so you can monitor his usage.
- 5) Talk about costs and review the bill with your child at the end of each month.

As your son proves to be responsible, add text messaging - and discuss cyberbullying. Consider having an unlimited texting plan to avoid extra charges from incoming texts. Remind your child that his text messages may be forwarded to or viewed by others.

Discuss Cyberbullying; Promote Online Safety

Millions of kids in all age groups are online and on cell phones every day. Unfortunately, studies show that 42% of kids have been bullied while online. How can you protect your child from this new kind of bullying behavior? Here are some tips:

Talk about cyberbullying. Let your child know that no one should put up with bullying.

Keep the computer in a place where you can monitor your child's online activity.

Remind your child to keep his passwords private and to change them often.

Tell your child never to share personal information online, such as his phone number, address or age.

Have your child use the privacy tools available on social networking sites to make his profile or photos visible only to friends.

Tell your child never to respond to cyberbullying-- even to a text message. Responding only encourages the bully.

Document cyberbullying. Save screen shots of comments made to or about your child. Share them with the school and with law enforcement.

Tree Ornaments:

Each year, an opportunity is given to ACE families to hang an ornament on our ACE Christmas tree. New families to ACE can bring an ornament and put it on the tree. If you have previously given an ornament, it is still displayed on our tree. If you would like to update this ornament, you may do so. Ornaments should have your family's name on them. Ornaments that display a common family interest, or represent your family in some way are encouraged. You can bring these ornaments to the office for us to display on our ACE Community Tree. Thanks



ACE Parent Announcement:

To promote energy savings, the ACE refrigerators are unplugged on each break that are more than 3 days (example—Thanksgiving and Christmas break). If you have any items you would like to save through any of these breaks, please take it home before the break begins. Thanks





Enrollment Update:



All City is a terrific place for students and families to learn and grow. Do you have friends who you think would enjoy our educational environment? Students can currently fill the following spots, with no waiting to get in. January 3rd would be a great transition time for these students to begin at ACE. Talk to your friends, and if they are interested, have them contact the school office, to make arrangement for January 3.

Kindergarten—4 spots

3rd grade—1 spot

We are continuing our efforts to assign our class list and identify the waiting list for Kindergarten 2012-2013. One of our Enrollment Procedures is to post the list of Kindergarten Siblings in the first two issues of the ACE PTA newsletter in December. For safety reasons, this document will be e-mailed to the Alert Now list that we have of all ACE families. A follow up e-mail will give a password to open the file. After you have opened the file and reviewed it, please let the office know of any discrepancies that might exist. Thanks

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE PTA NEWSLETTER

An email address has been created specifically for any items you would like placed in the ACE PTA newsletter. Please use this email address going forward: ace4news@gmail.com

In the subject line of the email, please **ONLY indicate the date** you would like your information run in the newsletter (include ALL dates if you'd like it included multiple weeks).

Thank you!!

School Improvement Components—-continued Principal article from page 1

Math:

Kindergarten:

- Students will decompose numbers 0-100 into tens and ones
- Students will name shapes - square, circle, triangle, rectangle, oval, sphere, cube and cylinder
- Students will use oral problem solving skills to explain answers and if an event is possible or impossible

First Grade:

- Students are able to determine common attributes in a given group and identify those objects that do not belong.
- Students are able to read, write, count, and order numerals to 50.

Second Grade:

- List possible outcomes of a simple event and make predictions about which outcome is more or less likely to occur.

Third Grade:

- Students will solve number sentences from word problems.
- Students can identify points, lines, and segments

Forth Grade:

- Simplify whole number expressions involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- Recognize and use the commutative property of addition and multiplication
- Relate the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to one another.

Fifth Grade:

- Student will apply measurement concepts in practical applications.