



All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

Week I
December 12, 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
Kristin Kollis, editor
ace4news@gmail.com
www.allcitypta.org

From the PTA President:

At a glance Calendar Events

- Friday, Dec 16th
-Dow Rummel
2:00 pm
-Kids care
1:15 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 22nd
-Class Holiday Party
- Dec. 23rd–Jan 2nd
NO SCHOOL

January 16-20 !--

All Families must have one representative 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 attend! Attendance will be tracked!

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

Traditions

It is always interesting to me that each year at this time I find myself saying the same thing as the calendar goes from November to December; "Wow, where did the year go?" or, "Didn't we just have winter?" or even better, "Only 365 days until it comes around again!" It's amazing how quickly those 365 days fly by and we are right back in the thick of the holiday season once more. I get a kick out of my wife, the diligent planner that she is, begins hounding the kids for there Christmas lists somewhere about the time the last firework explodes on the 4th of July. But I quickly find myself getting on board with her ridiculous, I mean brilliant, spirited planning nature; because while everyone else is last minute shopping we are adding more activities and stress to our lives during an already busy time of year....YES!, I am really thinking we need to re-evaluate the whole Christmas process; some tweaking is definitely in order!

The best thing about the holidays is the traditions that we have passed down through the years. One tradition that I find the most enjoyable, but unfortunately one that so often gets passed over because of the stressful nature of our lives; is going out on Christmas Eve and getting a real Christmas tree. The kids would decorate it with nothing but home maid decorations. Stringing popcorn and making the little hoop garland out of construction paper and finishing it off with the big "bulb" colored lights. Then before bed we sit down and read the book, "The Tale of the Three Trees" by Angela Elwell Hunt. This is truly my favorite holiday book that our family thoroughly enjoys. I look back at those times and say to myself, "Wow, where did all those years go"?

Take a few moments during your busy schedules to reflect on your family traditions, you may surprise yourself and remember ones that have slipped through the cracks over the years.

To all the ACE families a very Merry Christmas and a joyous 2012 from the Stearns' family.

Scott Stearns, PTA President, sstearns@sio.midco.net



All City Scientists!! It's that time of year to start thinking about participating in the ACE's annual Science Fair which will be held Thursday, January 26th!! Anyone may enter! What do you need? An idea, a card table and a backdrop!! More information to come, but put on your thinking hats and get ready!! Permission slips will go out in Monday folders sometime in January. See Mrs. Lundquist for any questions.



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

4th 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

ACE Family Volunteer Giving Opportunity:

Volunteers are still needed for ACE night helping out at the backpack program of Feeding South Dakota on the evening of Tuesday, January 17, 2012. This is an amazing opportunity for the entire family. If you can help, please send an email RSVP to Michelle Krier at kmkrier@yahoo.com with the number of adults and children that will attend. We need a total of 40 volunteers minimum but can accept all who are willing to help. We start at 6pm and are hoping to finish in about 2 to 2 1/2 hours. It is ok if you are only able to stay for a portion of this time but let me know in advance. Feeding South Dakota is located at 3511 N. 1st Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD (just east of the airport). Please RSVP by December 21. Thank you and feel free to contact me with any questions.

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



Musher to Present to All City Students!

Hugh Neff lives in Tok, Alaska and on the shores of beautiful Annie Lake located near Whitehorse, Yukon. Hugh Neff is surrounded by 6,000' mountains and our 60 furry friends. He has developed a competitive long-distance racing kennel and in the past 10 years Hugh and his team have competed in 7 Iditarods and 10 Yukon Quest races. Hugh is one of a handful of mushers that have completed the Yukon Quest and Iditarod in the same year - and he's done it the last 6 years in a row! He has already signed up for both races again for 2011. This past year we competed in the Knik 200, the Copper Basin 300, the Yukon Quest, Iditarod, Roadrunner 100, Percy deWolf 200, and the Kobuk 440. That's over 3,200 miles of racing in 3 months!

Hugh will be visiting All City Elementary on December 21st in the morning. He will make a presentation to the students about his wonderful experiences. All parents are welcomed to join us on the morning of December 21 st at 9:00 AM in the gym.

Fourth and Fifth graders and their teachers are extremely excited to have Mr. Neff visit our school. For over 18 years they have presented an Iditarod unit. You may have noticed in the past the dog sled in the hall. In order to offer a few souvenirs the we will be taking preorders for some of Hugh Neff's items. Please look in your Monday folder for items that will be offered. Prices have been raised only by 50 cents or a dollar. The money raised will help 4th and 5th graders on their end of the year field trip.



MUSH – GEE – HAW

Here comes Hugh Neff, musher of the Iditarod!

Hugh Neff will be here to talk to All City Elementary students on December 21st.

As a small fund raiser 4th and 5th graders will be taking orders for items below.

Orders are due December 15th along with payment.

Prices have only been marked up by a few cents or dollars so that we can keep the cost down, yet sell these items at school.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Check items wanted / total items / include payment

"Annie, My life on the Trail so Far..." (Book)	\$21
Laughing Eyes Kennel Hoodie (size ____)	\$45
Shirts/hats	\$21
Dog pix	1 for \$8.00/ 2 for \$11.
Used dog booties	\$2.50
Dog bandanas	1 for \$ 8.00 / 2 for \$11.00

Anything can be autographed as well!

_____ Please autograph my items.

_____ No thank you I do not need my items autographed



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IMPORTANT Health and Safety Alert



Adolescent use of designer drugs is appearing more frequently in our community. These drugs are promoted as stimulants and marijuana substitutes. They are “legal,” but can cause possible life-altering consequences. Because these drugs are easily accessible and do not show up in **routine** drug screens, many teens are using them - not knowing they are drugs with serious consequences.

Brand names include K2, Spice Gold, and Herbal “Incense,” however there are more than 100 different types. Brand names for **bath salts** include Blizzard, Blue Silk, Charge+, Ivory Snow, Ivory Wave, Ocean Burst, Pure Ivory, Purple Wave, Snow Leopard, Stardust, Vanilla Sky, White Dove, and White Lightning and White Knight.

Long-term effects of these drugs are not yet known, but research indicates the effects are more serious than marijuana use.

These drugs are causing:

- **hypertension;**
- **increased heart rate;**
- **chest pains/agitation;**
- **hallucinations;**
- **extreme paranoia and;**
- **delusions.**

Cases of suicide and permanent brain damage are occurring after use of these drugs.

The packaging and names of these designer drugs are geared to attract the attention of youth. They are sold legally, because the packaging states “not for human consumption.” The drugs can be purchased online, in smoke shops/head shops and are sold locally. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) recently invoked its emergency authority and made five brand names illegal, but new substances are developed every day.

More information about these drugs can be found on the following websites:

www.K2drugfacts.com

www.webmd.com

www.abovetheinfluence.com

We urge parents/guardians to partner with us to keep these dangerous substances, and others, out of the hands of our students. If you have questions, please contact your principal, counselor, school nurse or the School Resource Officer.

