



# All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

**Week 2**  
**February 6, 2012**

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

From the Principal:

Mid Year Assessments Looking Positive!!

While the Governor is criticizing public education for not making enough gains on students achievement in the last few years, All City continues to excel in test scores in comparison to other schools in the district. Each year in December, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders take the nationally normed SAT tests, and the 4<sup>th</sup> graders take a district writing assessment in January. The results are in for both of these assessments and the individual scores will be shared with families at conferences, but the group's scores look fantastic!! The district always puts out the results in comparison to other schools and programs in the district. Now, one word of caution, our hope is that families do not join ACE simply for test scores. While they are one measuring stick, they are not the only thing that ACE focuses on. While other programs may work to develop test taking skills and drill specific types of test materials before testing happens, that is not the ACE mission. Rather, our purpose is to involve families in the community of learners we have built here, and as a group, work toward building lifelong learners, enriching and enhancing students and families lives with our activities, as we strive to make the community part of our learning, bringing our classrooms to the community, and the community into our classrooms. We want to teach life lessons that will dictate how a student will learn and pursue future educational endeavors, not just focus on one short-sighted set of achievement scores.

However, we have also experienced that this mission, as well as parent involvement, community awareness and the life lessons have manifested themselves into fantastic scores in the past, and this year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade writing tests and 5<sup>th</sup> grade SAT scores are no different! Our 4<sup>th</sup> grader writing scores out-performed EVERY school in Sioux Falls on the overall scoring criteria average. And our 5<sup>th</sup> grade percentile rank of the Total Battery was second in the city. Our Total Reading score was second in the city, and our Total Math was third. While some of our test scores were a little lower than in the past in some sub-areas, this is one of the best performances when compared to Sioux Falls that I can remember. The reason for this drop could be testing a different group of students, or some other reasons. As I had written in an article in fall, our teachers look at trends, standards, and what all of this means to our instruction, focusing on certain goals for their own specific group of student they are working with this year! Nice Job, students, teachers and parents!! I am anxious to see how our mission and program shows its rewards on the spring battery of tests we will embark on, shortly. More ACE successes to come!

ACE GALA CHANGES—UPDATE:I understand there has been some mis-information circulated about the changes to the ACE GALA this year. Please see the enclosed info on page 2. Just to be clear about the process, when confronted with a potential over-crowding situation, myself and Scott Stearns, PTA President, formulated the current plan and presented it to the PTA for approval. It was approved, and we went forward. The Coordinator of the event, Joni Merkley had no input into this plan, and it was simply her job to implement it. It is our intention to sell any leftover tickets after everyone has had their chance at the first one to whomever would like one more for a spouse. Any concerns or feedback about this plan should be directed to myself, Scott, or a PTA executive. Thanks for your support. Mr. D.

**Deadline: Friday, noon**  
**Kristin Kollis, editor**  
**ace4news@gmail.com**  
**www.allcitypta.org**

## At a glance Calendar Events

- **Wednesday Feb 8th**  
-P-T Conferences  
1:30-7:30  
-Book Fair  
1:00-7:00
- **Thursday Feb 9th**  
-P-T Conferences  
4:30-7:30  
-Book Fair  
3:00-7:00
- **Friday Feb 10th**  
-Choice Day

The **Book Fair** will be held on **Wednesday, February 8th** from **1pm to 7pm** and **Thursday, February 9th** from **3pm to 7pm** in the Gym during conferences! The dollars raised from the "One for Books" program will go directly to our own EIC to purchase books!!!

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

PTA Nominations! February is the month to gather interest forms from ACE families that are interested in serving on the PTA board. This year we have Secretary and 2nd Vice President positions available for the 2012-2013 school year. Secretary is worth 20 hours of outside commitment time and a 2-yr term. 2nd Vice President is a 70 hour position. Following your 2nd Vice President year you would be 1st Vice President and the 3rd year you would be expected to be the PTA President.

Please consider submitting a letter stating why you would be a good candidate and also why you would like to have the particular position you are interested in. We are a community of learners working cooperatively to maximize individual growth and success in a changing world. Be a proactive part in our children's education!

To submit a letter of intent, please email [tsspader@sio.midco.net](mailto:tsspader@sio.midco.net). If you have any questions feel free to contact me, Stephanie Spader (1st Vice President) or any teacher, PTA member or Mr. D. Thank you!

**You're invited to All City's Gala Event**

**Wednesday, February 29th at 11:45 a.m.**

Hosted by: Westward Ho Country Club

3400 W. 22nd St. Sioux Falls, SD 57105

**Casual Elegant Dress Attire**

Please join us for this All City luncheon tradition. We will be celebrating with family and friends as we use our good table manners, build community relations, and enjoy an elegant meal prepared by Westward Ho and served by Mrs. Lundquist's 5th grade class (with the help of teachers and club staff.)

**Menu:** Lasagna accompanied by Seasoned Corn, Whipped Butter, Bakery Fresh Breadstick, Warm Brownie, and Small Scoop of Vanilla Ice Cream.

**Reservation deadline is February 14th, 2012.**

**Cost:** \$6.50 per person Please note that even though this event is being held at the Westward Ho Country Club the price is very minimal, thanks to one of our own All City Parents, Riccardo Tarabelsi, WHCC's General Manager.

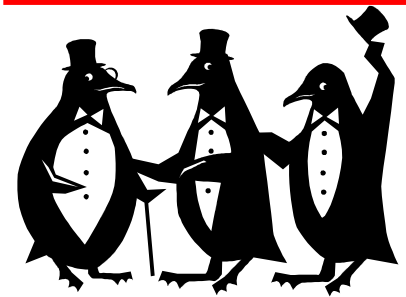
For questions or concerns please call **Joni Merkley** at

**274-6107** or e-mail at [jonimerkley@hotmail.com](mailto:jonimerkley@hotmail.com).

The following link is for meal sign up during parent teacher conferences. Thank you for your generosity, the food is very appreciated!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0448AAAC2AA46-allcity>

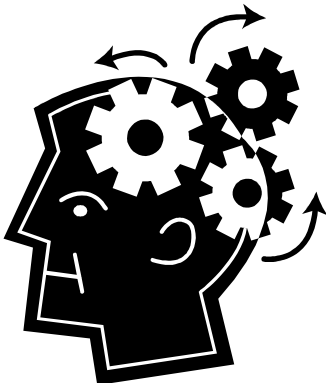
**Sarah Sarbacker and  
Joni Merkley**



Please note the **CHANGES** to this years Gala:

In an effort to keep costs low we will not be renting tables this year. This limits us to seating for 326 people. **BECAUSE** of the limited seating we are restructuring the way we do ticket sales.

- Every student at ACE can bring one adult with them.
- You will order your tickets on the order forms that came home in the Monday folders.
- This will leave us with a surplus of tickets.
- I will be setting up a booth to sell those tickets at school on Wednesday, February 22nd, on a first come first serve basis. SO, if you are a family that would like to bring additional adults, you can purchase those extra tickets at that time.
- Ticket sales on the 22nd will take place at 1:00 pm when school is dismissed. The exact location of the booth is still being determined.
- Please call or email me if you have any dietary restrictions or allergies, the Westward Ho would love to try and meet your needs.
- Thank you to Mr. D. and our PTA President, Scott Stearns, for coming up with a way to make the Gala work with the limited seating! They put in a lot of thought to try and make this change as fair as possible to everyone.



**Science Fair Entries to the City Exhibit:**

**Kade Stearns—Does it Matter How Much Air is in a Basketball?**

**Elise Ethreim—Frozen Force**

**Sam Rector—Cooking Question**

**Alternates:**

**Dante Tarabelsi—Spinning Soccer**

**Chandler Kolling—How Do Video Games Affect your Heart Rate?**

## CONFERENCES - SPECIALS SPRING - 2012

Stacy Sip, Orchestra, Thursday, February 9, 4:30-5:30 pm

Kurt Skogstad, PE, Wednesday, February 8, 3:00-7:30

Katie Doohen, Music and Band Wednesday, February 8, 2:30-7:30 pm  
Thursday, February 9, 3:30-5:30 pm

Susan Schmitz, Art, Wednesday, February 8, 3:15-6:15pm  
Thursday, February 9, 3:15-6:15 pm

Louise Fonder, Speech, Thursday, February 9, 6:00-7:30 pm

Beth Adams, Counselor, Wednesday, February 8, 4:00-7:00 pm

Devon Stoffers, Nurse, Wednesday, February 8, 4:00-6:30pm

Katie Martin, Gifted, Thursday, February 9, 5:00-7:30 pm

Rebecca Assam, Resource, Wednesday, February 8, 4:00-7:15 pm

Beth Wells, Librarian, Wednesday, February 8, 4:00-7:30pm  
Thursday, February 9, 4:30-7:30pm

### Points Committee to meet soon.

The ACE Points Committee will be meeting toward the end of February. This is the group that considers the commitment hours value for any out-of-classroom commitment responsibilities. Also, this group will consider any proposals for "new" out-of-class commitment positions. Get proposals to Scott Stearns or Mr. D. If you have input about hours value, that should be turned in with your evaluation of your position to Stacy Chedester, Parent Coordinator or Kari Dykstra, Parent Co-coordinator. Let any of the above know, if you have questions.

**Thanks.**

### ACE SERVES THE BANQUET:

TO FUND THIS EVENT, WE NEED  
TO SUPPORT THE MEAL

WE WILL SERVE ON FEBRUARY  
24. THE RECOMMENDED

DONATION IS \$5.00 PER ACE

FAMILY. PLEASE PUT \$5

IN AN ENVELOPE AND

LABEL IT "ACE SERVES

THE BANQUET" AND SEND

IT TO SCHOOL IN MONDAY FOLD-  
ER OR TURN IN TO OFFICE.

THANKS