

IOWA FALLS & ALDEN  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



EMPOWERING  
EVERY STUDENT  
TO LEARN, LEAD  
AND SUCCEED!

# Cadet Gazette

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

## From the Superintendent

### Receive Quick and Timely Winter Weather Announcements

Through GovDelivery.Com Iowa Falls and Alden Schools participate in a state-sponsored communication program entitled, GovDelivery.Com. This program provides another means by which parents, staff and community members can be immediately notified when our schools have a delayed start, an early release, or are cancelled due to adverse weather.

Participation in the GovDelivery.Com is free and easy. Anyone who would like to receive emails and/or text messages when there is a change in the school schedule can sign up to receive these announcements by subscribing through the following web link: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/IAEDU0108/subscriber/topics?qsp=CODE\\_RED](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/IAEDU0108/subscriber/topics?qsp=CODE_RED)

#### Important Notes:

Persons who have subscribed to receive these announcements via School Alerts in past years must subscribe again.

Email and text messaging subscriptions are unique. Receiving announcements through both emails and text messages requires setting up one subscription for emails and one subscription for text messages.

Select (check) School Alerts box after "Submitting" email or text messaging information to complete the subscription process.

#### Wednesday Weather Reminder

If there is a delayed start to school on a Wednesday, there will not be an early dismissal for teacher professional development.

### Annual Progress Report on Student Academic Performance for 2015-16 – Part #2

The October/November Issue of the Cadet Gazette provided information for the federal accountability program, "No Child Left Behind." This issue of the Cadet Gazette will focus on

state accountability information and will include:

- Student proficiency percentages for reading, math and science
- Success in meeting student achievement goals for reading, math and science
- Graduation rates

#### Student Proficiency in Reading, Math and Science

The tables found below display the percent of students who are proficient in reading, math and science according to their performances on the Iowa Assessments. Iowa Falls and Alden student information is reported separately in grades three, four and five. Reports for grades six through 11 include both Iowa Falls and Alden students combined. Proficiency percentages include all students at each grade level.

#### Percent Proficient in Reading

The table below displays the percent of students, by grade level, who are proficient in reading. Percent proficient comparisons can be made for Iowa Falls, Alden, Iowa Falls-Alden, AEA 267 and the State of Iowa. Six out of 10 grade levels (highlighted) equaled or exceeded proficiency percentages for AEA 267 and/or the State of Iowa in reading.

Reading	Iowa Falls	Alden	AEA 267	State of Iowa
Grade 3	74	60	74	76
Grade 4	71	66	74	75
Grade 5	74	68	74	76
		Ia Falls-Alden	AEA 267	State of Iowa
Grade 6		73	73	75
Grade 7		83	74	75
Grade 8		79	73	74
Grade 11		89	77	78

#### Percent Proficient in Mathematics

The table below displays the percent of students, by grade level, who are proficient in mathematics. Percent proficient comparisons can be made for Iowa Falls, Alden, Iowa Falls-Alden, AEA 267 and the State of Iowa. Seven out of 10 grade levels (highlighted) equaled or exceeded proficiency percentages for AEA 267 and/or the State of Iowa in mathematics.

Mathematics	Iowa Falls	Alden	AEA 267	State of Iowa
Grade 3	74	80	78	79
Grade 4	71	75	78	78
Grade 5	82	79	75	75
		Ia Falls-Alden	AEA 267	State of Iowa
Grade 6		74	74	76
Grade 7		89	85	83
Grade 8		74	74	74
Grade 11		91	82	81

#### Percent Proficient in Science

The table below displays the percent of students, by grade level, who are proficient in science. Percent proficient comparisons can be made for Iowa Falls, Alden, Iowa Falls-Alden, AEA 267 and the State of Iowa. Eight out of 10 grade levels (highlighted) equaled or exceeded proficiency percentages for AEA 267 and/or the State of Iowa in science

Science	Iowa Falls	Alden	AEA 267	State of Iowa
Grade 3	79	87	80	82
Grade 4	82	94	84	84
Grade 5	84	79	79	79
		Ia Falls-Alden	AEA 267	State of Iowa
Grade 6		90	75	75
Grade 7		91	79	79
Grade 8		91	82	82
Grade 11		82	78	78

#### Annual Improvement Goals for Reading Math and Science

Listed below are the results of all annual improvement goals for the 2015-16 School Year. All goals were established by the School Improvement Advisory Committees in each school district and approved by the respective board of education.

#### Goals for Reading

##### 4th Grade (Iowa Falls): Not Achieved

The percent of fourth grade students who are proficient in reading on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of third grade students who were proficient in reading in 2014-15. Third grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 81%. Fourth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 71%, or a decrease of 10%.

##### 4th Grade (Alden): Achieved

The percent of fourth grade students who are proficient in reading on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of third grade students who were proficient in reading in 2014-15. Third grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 56%. Fourth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 63%, or an increase of 7%.

##### 8th Grade: Achieved

The percent of eighth grade students who are proficient in reading on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of seventh grade students who were proficient in reading in 2014-15. Seventh grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 76%. Eighth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 79%, or an increase of 3%.

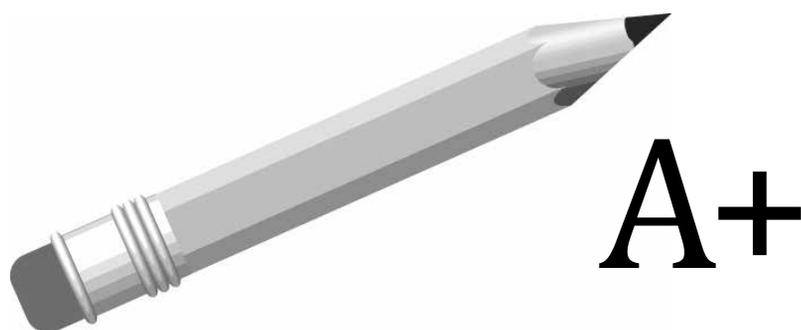
##### 11th Grade: Achieved

The percent of 11th grade students who are proficient in reading on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of 10th grade students who were proficient in reading in 2014-15. Tenth grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 85.7%. Eleventh grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 89%, or an increase of 3.3%.

#### Goals for Math

##### 4th Grade (Iowa Falls): Not Achieved

The percent of fourth grade students who are proficient in mathematics on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of third grade students who were proficient in mathematics in 2014-15. Third grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 72%. Fourth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 71%, or a decrease of 1%.



## 4th Grade (Alden): Not Achieved

The percent of fourth grade students who are proficient in math on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of third grade students who were proficient in math in 2014-15. Third grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 81%. Fourth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 72%, or a decrease of 9%.

## 8th Grade: Not Achieved

The percent of eighth grade students who are proficient in mathematics on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of seventh grade students who were proficient in mathematics in 2014-15. Seventh grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 84%. Eighth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 74%, or a decrease of 10%.

## 11th Grade: Achieved

The percent of 11th grade students who are proficient in mathematics on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of 10th grade students who were proficient in mathematics in 2014-15. Tenth grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 83.8%.

Eleventh grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 91%, or an increase of 7.2%.

## Goals for Science

### 4th Grade (Iowa Falls): Not Achieved

The percent of fourth grade students who are proficient in science on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of third grade students who were proficient in science in 2014-15. Third grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 86%. Fourth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 82%, or a decrease of 4%.

## 4th Grade (Alden): Achieved

The percent of fourth grade students who are proficient in science on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of third grade students who were proficient in reading in 2014-15. Third grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 84%. Fourth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 94%, or an increase of 10%.

## 8th Grade: Achieved

The percent of eighth grade students who are proficient in science on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of seventh grade students who were proficient in science in 2014-15. Seventh grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 75%. Eighth grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 91%, or an increase of 16%.

## 11th Grade: Achieved

The percent of 11th grade students who are proficient in science on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 will increase over the percent of 10th grade students who were proficient in science in 2014-15. Tenth grade proficiency in 2014-15 was 78%. Eleventh grade proficiency in 2015-16 was 82%, or an increase of 4%.

## Graduation Rates

The graduation rate at Iowa Falls-Alden High School slipped below the state and AEA 267 averages for the first time in six years.

Iowa Falls-Alden =	89.9%
AEA 267 =	90.8%
State =	91.3%

## High School News

### Citizenship in a Social (Media) World

As we approach the end of the first semester and another school year is halfway over, I would like to take a moment to discuss one of the challenges that our students face that many of us did not experience in high school. Social Media has the ability to keep people connected, no matter how far apart, but the impact for our students is very different than the intended use.

Students are now connected instantaneous to our world of digital information. Our students have the ability to post, like, share and comment on “news” in real-time. They have the ability to experience world events while they happen and get multiple opinions, ranging from experts and average Joe’s. The impact this has on education is significant. We have the ability to network with experts, get up to the minute election results, and watch historic events unfold from virtually anywhere in the world. We have the ability to be 100 percent connected to the outside world at all times.

Herein lies the problem. It is not simply world-events that we are connecting to. We are connecting to friends and local events, gossip and potential bullying, Instagram posts and tweets, motivational quotes and insult pages.... the list goes on and on. Our students are so constantly connected to their peers that the peer pressure aspect of school can be all-consuming for some. They cannot leave the walls of our school and get a 16-hour break from their peers anymore. There is a constant social pressure to be connected, act a certain way, think a certain way and this peer pressure can really be detrimental to the overall well being of our students. This is where our shared responsibility begins.

As a school, we do our best to educate our students about digital citizenship, electronic information sharing, and overall how to be a responsible adult. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to monitor all of their accounts; there are just too many apps out there (I personally have nine different apps that I use to “stay connected”). The question becomes, how do we really know what our students are doing socially on these sites?

To be honest, we will probably never really know all that goes on. Many students create accounts they use with their family and then other accounts to connect to with

friends. They speak in a language that is hard for an outsider to decipher. The only real solution is to educate our students about being a responsible adult. What would a responsible adult post? How would a responsible adult handle this situation? The reality is there are a lot of mean and irresponsible people out there. It is our job to help educate our students how to act appropriately prior to posting anything, how to respond appropriately to a negative post and how to deal internally with the added stress this constant connection can create.

Educating our students about social media is really not that new of a concept. We essentially want our students to treat people fairly and respectfully. This is not anything we have not tried to instill in our students from a very young age. The change comes from the power of the technology; the “safety” of being removed from people or posting anonymously has created a problem. People making “sub tweets” about others have created a problem. People not taking responsibility for their comments they post have created a problem. It our shared responsibility to help solve this problem by educating our students about social media, instilling a respect for all individuals – no matter how different, and being aware of what our own students/children are putting out there for the world to see.

Here is a link to an interesting article that talks about this same issue. It is a little over a year old, but still very relevant today: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/04/health/being13-social-media-teens-parents-stress/>

As always, thank you for supporting our students. It is a committed team effort that makes our school so successful, and I greatly appreciate all of the support our community continues to show our students. We are creating a great experience for our students for years to come.

**Go Cadets!**

**Mr. Tony Neumann**

**9-12 Principal**

**Iowa Falls – Alden High School**

## Quote of the Day

Since the second day of school this year I have emailed out a different quote of the day to our students. The quotes differ in theme, but are mostly used to get the students thinking about behavior in a different way. I would encourage you to possibly discuss your student's thoughts on different quotes throughout the year. There is even a growing trend of students submitting possible quotes for me to use. I am sure some students have started ignoring this daily ritual, but as a high school we do not always send home talking points to parents. This could be an easy transition to discussing your child's day at school. If you have any quotes that have really made an impact on you, please send them to me and I will get them to our students.

## End of the Semester

The end of the semester is quickly approaching. Students should start thinking about their schedule for the Spring '17 semester and get any changes to Mrs. Kriegel or Mrs. Rieber as soon as possible. We are in the process of moving a few courses around to try and meet the needs of our students and staff, but we do not want to wait until the next semester starts to move students around.

When making a course change, we need to make sure it is for a sound educational purpose and not simply switching periods to be with friends. We have a very tight schedule and do our best to balance our course offerings. This does not always allow students to take their preferred order of courses, but we do our best to get students into as many courses they request as possible.

Moving forward, we are working on developing a master schedule that will allow long-term planning for our students. We will discuss this with students more as we get closer to spring, but we just wanted to give you a heads up.

Also, the end of the first semester is very important academically. Beyond the state eligibility requirements, any student failing a high school class misses an opportunity to earn credits. Depending on the course, the student may have to enroll in the course again. Our school has developed graduation requirements that align with the state code. We will discuss these requirements in the next newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 28th – G/B Basketball at Home
- Nov. 29th – High School Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Dec. 1st – High School Home Wrestling Meet
- Dec. 4th – High School Vocal/Instrumental Concert
- Dec. 23rd – Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 3rd – School Resumes
- Jan. 13th – End of 1st Semester

# Riverbend Middle School

## RMS Music Students Thrive in Updated Rehearsal Space

*Submitted by Mr. Jeff Schmitt, RMS Instrumental Music Teacher*

It was a little more than one year ago that the Iowa Falls Board of Education took their annual building tour, including a stop at Riverbend Middle School. As part of the tour, the Board was asked to visit the aging music room, a room in which some of the Board members had experienced as students themselves. Though the room had been well taken care of over the years, it was evident that it was time to make some improvements. Broken shelves, worn carpeting and a lack of ventilation made for a less than comfortable learning environment. However, with a growing number of students enrolled in music classes, inadequate space and a poor layout was also cause for concern.

Recognizing an opportunity to improve the classroom environment, a vision was put forth by the music faculty and building administration, including a plan for an updated and expanded rehearsal space. A brief proposal was given to the board, knowing that this would be a significant investment in our school facilities. It soon became clear that this project would need to move quickly, if it was going to be finished in a timely manner. However, it was also important to make thoughtful decisions, working to create an ideal acoustic space for singing and playing instruments. With the help of Structure Architects and Smith-Gehrls Construction, the spring and summer months brought a whirlwind of planning, with demolition and construction beginning in May.

Fast forward to today, as middle school students have begun reaping the benefits of a brand new classroom. Whether it's the expanded instrument storage area, the new layout, the flat floor, the acoustic treatments or simply the sun streaming through newly installed windows, visitors to Riverbend's new music room have been impressed by the improvements. Most importantly, the students have a rehearsal space they can be proud of, a classroom where they can reach for new levels of musical excellence.



Riverbend Middle School instrumental music teacher Jeff Schmitt directs the seventh-grade band during a rehearsal in the new and improved music room.

## NCIBA Honor Band Festival

*Submitted by Mr. Jeff Schmitt, RMS Instrumental Music Teacher*

On Saturday, Nov. 12th, 200 of the finest middle school musicians gathered at John Adams Middle School in Mason City to participate in the North Central Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band Festival. The students participating in this prestigious event were selected by a committee of music educators, based upon their successes and achievements in their respective band programs. Each student was also required to prepare for a chair placement audition, to demonstrate their elite playing abilities. During the day, students had the opportunity to rehearse with a master teacher and prepare a concert performance given later that night.

This year, Riverbend Middle School and Mr. Schmitt were honored to have eight students participate in the 2016 NCIBA Honor Band Festival. Jaden Bartlett (percussion), Hannah Elerding (alto saxophone), Mikayla Fjeld (baritone), Jennifer Garibay

(flute), Sydney Hullinger (horn), Quincey Lascheid (clarinet), Mikaylan Winters (bari saxophone) and Olivia Winkels (clarinet) all participated in this respected event. These eighth grade students represented our school with pride, and the evening concert was absolutely spectacular! Congratulations to these students and all their hard work and dedication to musical excellence.



Riverbend NCIBA Honor Band Musicians include (front row, left to right) Quincey Lascheid (clarinet), Hannah Elerding (alto saxophone), Olivia Winkels (clarinet), Jaden Bartlett (percussion), (back row, left to right) Sydney Hullinger (horn), Mikayla Fjeld (baritone), Jennifer Garibay (flute) and Mikaylan Winters (bari saxophone).

## We Write Wednesdays

*Submitted by Mrs. Jessica Christensen, RMS 7th-grade language arts teacher*

In seventh grade Language Arts, we are trying something new on Wednesdays! It is called We Write Wednesday, and it is an opportunity for students to spend time writing in their writer's notebooks about whatever topic they choose. They can also choose what genre they write it. The latest writing research shows that students grow best as writers when they are given uninterrupted time to write about what is important to them. We Write Wednesday seeks to fill that need for seventh grade students.

Each quarter, students are required to turn in some of their writing from We Write Wednesday. For quarter one, students had to publish one piece of writing. In order to always be looking for ways to improve writing, students have reviewed their rubrics and set writing goals for the next quarter. There were 12 students who achieved a 100 percent on their first writing for the year. These students include: Avery Buresh, Paige Nicolle, Angelina Flanagan, Rebecca Jackson, Elly Wood, Zoey Carter, Merisa Wagoner, Emma Bartling, Ivan Orozco, Cainan Ralph, Alivia Terveer and Natalie Gerstein. Their pieces were placed on our Writer's Spotlight bulletin board, so others are able to see their exceptional writing.

Students are excited about We Write Wednesday. Zoey Carter said, "I like We Write Wednesdays because I feel like I don't get time to write otherwise. When I write, words just flow out, and I can express myself through that." When asked her opinion about We Write Wednesday, Merisa Wagoner said, "No matter what I'm writ-

ing about, I know I can just express myself without judgment or drama. "I like how it gives us a short break each week from our daily activities," said Emma Olberding. We Write Wednesday is something that will continue in seventh grade Language Arts for the foreseeable future.

The We Write Wednesday bulletin board in Mrs. Christensen's language arts classroom; this board showcases great examples of students' writing.



## IXL Added to Riverbend Classes

*Submitted by Mr. Brendon McNulty, RMS 7th-grade math teacher*

This year at Riverbend Middle School, we will be welcoming the addition of IXL to our math and language arts classrooms. IXL is an online learning platform that is aligned with the Iowa Core State Standards. This technology allows teachers a lot of flexibility in their classrooms because learning through IXL can be tailored to individual student needs.

IXL allows students to practice problems in math and language arts in the classroom or even at home. Students have access to their own account, which lets them practice an unlimited number of problems that cover all standards and benchmarks below, at, or above their current grade level. Along with the ability to practice wherever, students also receive real-time feedback on their progress. This instant feedback provides students with reasoning as to why their answers may be incorrect and guides them with explanations and examples, so they can correct their mistakes.

This new technology easily lends itself to helping teachers meet the diverse needs of our student population. Teachers can adjust the grade level and standards for individual students, which gives each student a chance to practice at the level most appropriate for them. All of the data produced by the students is archived online in a variety of reports that the teachers can utilize to make informed instructional decisions on a student-by-student or class-by-class basis.

In addition to classroom use, Riverbend Middle School uses IXL during our Cadet Time as a form of remediation or enrichment. Our students can go back and practice skills from previous grades that need to be reinforced, or students can work ahead on skills that have not yet been covered in their classes. In general, the addition of IXL in seventh and eighth grade has been a positive gain for our students and teachers. We have added yet another tool to strengthen practice and instruction to help our kids continue growing as learners.

## 8th Grade Universe

*Submitted by Mrs. Amanda Puffett, RMS 8th-grade science teacher*

This year in the eighth grade science classes at Riverbend Middle School, students started off the year learning about astronomy and all things space. This is a difficult topic for some students to grasp, as it is pretty abstract. You can't visit these places or touch the things we talk about, you just have to believe the pictures and information handed to you.

To help make the topic easier to understand, students were instructed to create

and label their own galaxy from plates, paint, cotton balls and glitter. Each color of glitter represented a star at a different point in its life cycle. The cotton balls and colors helped to represent the various gases and nebula, as well as make it 3D.

The end result was 100 beautifully distinctive galaxies hanging from Mrs. Puffett's classroom ceiling, each labeled with their own quarks and characteristics, spinning and glistening in the daylight. There was glitter in every classroom in the school by the time all was said and done, but it was well worth it as students really understood what a galaxy was composed of and how they were all a part of something bigger.



Completed galaxies hang from the ceiling in Mrs. Puffett's eighth grade universe.

## Iowa Falls and Alden Train New Teachers on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Three summers ago, a group of teachers and administrators from both Iowa Falls and Alden traveled to Waukee for a two-day training on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. During this training, this group of teachers was trained to be trainers for new teachers on the fundamental principles of the 7 Habits. This "Signature Training" for new staff has taken place on two days this school year during the month of September at Calkin's Nature Center. Signature trainers for Iowa Falls and Alden are Julianne Howard, Jessica Christensen, Patty Willadsen, Jen Schreck, Derrick Elman, Emily England, Gregg Winters, Matt Becker, Kim Nelson and Jeff Burchfield.



Iowa Falls and Alden staff show the certificates they earned for the 7 Habits training they received earlier this school year. L-R Michael Collison, Amanda Puffett, Shelley Adams, Joanne Adams, Kasey Horn, Becky Young and Olivia Tebben.

## Riverbend Middle School Hosts Fall Dance

The first Riverbend Middle School dance of the 2016-2017 school year was held on Thursday, Oct. 27, 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, Elegant Entertainment, was set up in half of the gymnasium for the dance portion of the event. In addition, throughout the evening students participated in karaoke and board games in the cafeteria,

Wii Just Dance in the music room, and the student lounge was also open for students. Concessions were available for purchase throughout the evening in the cafeteria, including Pizza Ranch pizza.

We look forward to our next scheduled Riverbend dance scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 9.



Riverbend Middle School students gather in advance of the fall dance on Thursday, Oct. 27.



Seventh-grade students who chose to wear costumes to the dance gather for a picture during the costume contest.



Eighth-grade students gather for a group picture at the conclusion of the Riverbend Middle School fall dance.

## RMS Hosts Annual Volleyball Battle

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, the fall sports season concluded with the annual Volleyball Battle, featuring the seventh and eighth grade girls' volleyball teams playing seventh and eighth grade boys' teams. The volleyball battle was held after school in the Riverbend gymnasium.

The action began with the eighth grade girls playing the eighth grade boys and the seventh grade girls playing the seventh grade boys. The eighth grade girls won their first round game, and the seventh grade girls also won their first round game. In the consolation match, the seventh grade boys defeated the eighth grade boys. In the championship, the eighth grade girls defeated the seventh grade girls.

The volleyball battle concluded with the eighth-grade girls' volleyball team taking on the Riverbend Middle School staff team. Each of the four eighth-grade girls' volleyball teams played the Riverbend Middle School staff team, comprised of Riverbend teachers and coaches. For the first time in the history of these battles, the staff team suffered a loss at the hands of the "A" team in the final game of the night. The main focus for our volleyball battle is to have fun, to celebrate the end of a successful season and to emphasize participation.

Riverbend Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball players line up and sing the national anthem before the RMS Volleyball Battle on Oct. 25.



## Student Lighthouse Team Attends North Central Conference Leadership Retreat

*Submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield, RMS Principal*

Several Riverbend Middle School students applied this year to become members of the Student Lighthouse Team. Applicants completed applications where they answered questions about what it is to be a leader and how they want to make a positive impact with their leadership at Riverbend Middle School during the 2016-2017 school year. Members of the team serve as lighthouse team members for the entire year to provide leadership and continuity throughout the school year and are also members of our student council.

The eight student leaders from Riverbend Middle School who were selected for the student lighthouse team attended the North Central Conference Leadership Retreat on Wednesday, Oct. 5, at Lake Cornelia near Clarion. Student leaders from each conference school attended the retreat, led by Craig Hillier from Winning Edge Seminars. The all-day retreat focused on the dynamics of teen leadership. Mr. Hillier challenged the students not to be afraid of making mistakes, which he referred to as "great moments." He also challenged them to avoid "reckless moments – something you knew was dumb, but you did it anyway." He further challenged students to have a positive outlook on things: "If your 'Have-To's' become 'Get-To's' then you don't 'Have To' anymore! To be a good leader, you need to have a smile on your face." He further focused on four key areas of leadership: principal, people, passion, and process. "Confidence comes through experience, and experience comes through failure. We sometimes think we need to be so perfect in leadership. What if we focus less on being perfect and more on being PRESENT."

The four seventh-grade and four eighth-grade students who attended the leadership conference were challenged to take what they learned from the retreat and make a positive difference at Riverbend Middle School this school year. Student lighthouse team members for the 2016-2017 school year are:

7th : Avery Buresh, Natalie Gerstein, Jackson Krukow, Jacob Michaelson

8th : Anika Jelmeland, Faith Jones, Garret Renaud, JT Uhlenberg

When asked what she learned by attending the retreat, Lighthouse Team member Avery Buresh stated, "I like the activities that we did, because it was a fun way to learn about the qualities of a leader." Garret Renaud added, "It is okay if you are wrong at first. Learn from your mistakes."



The Riverbend Middle School Student Lighthouse Team gathers for a group picture after the NCC Leadership Retreat at Lake Cornelia near Clarion on Oct. 5, 2016. Front row from left to right: Garret Renaud (8th grade), Anika Jelmeland (8th), Faith Jones (8th) and Avery Buresh (7th). Back row from left to right: Jackson Krukow (7th), Jacob Michaelson (7th), JT Uhlenberg (8th) and Natalie Gerstein (7th).

## RMS Students get introduction to the Learning Land Lab

*Submitted by Mr. Doug Dodd, RMS Introduction to Agriculture Teacher*

Riverbend Middle School Agriculture students recently had some special visitors

during their class time with instructor Doug Dodd. Students were introduced to two head of Low Line feeder cattle that are currently being managed and cared for at Iowa Falls - Alden High School. The cattle are part of the program's Learning Land Lab, which allows students hands-on experience in production agriculture, sales, marketing, and business.

The students also had their first opportunity to see the program's newest edition, a 24 foot livestock trailer, which was recently acquired from EBY trailers in Story City. The trailer purchase was made possible from sales of beef and pork, community donations and the Barlow Family Challenge. During the project, students in grades 7-12 all have the opportunity to feed, groom and exhibit LLL animals at fairs, shows and community events.

At the conclusion of each year, the animals will be marketed at local lockers to be sold within the community. To learn more, or to express interest in buying the locally raised meats, please contact Instructor Doug Dodd by email at [ddodd@ifacadets.net](mailto:ddodd@ifacadets.net)

Riverbend Middle School eighth-grade students learn about Low Line feeder cattle during their introduction to agriculture exploratory class under the direction of agriculture teacher Doug Dodd.



Riverbend Middle School students who were top sellers in our fall fundraiser attended movie day during the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 30. These students also were rewarded with a variety of prizes during this event. A special congratulations to our top salesperson, seventh -grader Kaden Eugenio (far left). The students chose to watch the movie "Max" during their movie day.



Riverbend Middle School students participated in their annual bus evacuation drill on Friday, Oct. 27. Eighth-grader Brant Reed assists Jazzline Castorena, as Katie Cearley waits to exit next.



## Art Club News

Art Club meets EVERY Monday after school until 4:30 p.m.! This is open to any student attending Riverbend Middle School throughout the year! We are in the process of designing our very own T-shirts. Students use this time to work on their individual art skills from drawing to painting to clay! We have guided lessons alternating with a free-choice Monday. Students have learned how to make 3D letters, how to hand build with slab and coil out of clay and we will be starting photography next Monday! Students during art club have even got a chance to experiment with a 3D doodler

pen donated to the art club program by current freshman, Jaclyn Lewer. This allows students to draw in the third dimension similar to a 3D printer.



Elijah Stauffer and his 3D Pen Creation



Thais Nunez and Jennifer Garibay

## What have Riverbend Middle School students been up to in art?

Seventh- and eighth-graders are into their second exploratory penta already! Seventh- and eighth-graders just finished up learning about architecture through a competition put on by Structure Architects called #igeekschoolsdesign. Students worked in teams to think of areas of the school that they could re-design. They created a new design for a problem that they identified and used various computer programs to render their designs online. They even created their own sales pitch and uploaded these videos to YouTube. It was a great real-world problem based on the everyday lives of the architects and interior designers at Structure.



Seventh-graders are using text in creative ways to create I Am Poem art projects. They are sharing things that they are interested in and are even learning about iPad apps that allow you to draw with a string of text. Typedrawing and PicsArt are two apps that can do this feature. Eight-graders are learning about printmaking techniques as they complete their first linoleum block print. They are also experiencing what it is like to throw on the potter's wheel.

## Rock Run Elementary

### Leader In Me

At Rock Run our students have been working to learn and use the 7 Habits of Highly Effective people through our Leader In Me initiative. This year our focus has been on students finding their voice (the 8th Habit). A voice council has been established to provide an avenue for students to provide feedback about our school. Through voice council representatives and classroom discussions, students let us know what changes they would like to see and to allow them the opportunity to brainstorm how to make our school better.

This year at Rock Run students are participating in LEAD time groups once a month. LEAD time groups are an opportunity for students to experience different interests. LEAD time groups teach students how to work together, be leaders, listen and respect others, and be a productive part of Rock Run Elementary. Students have enjoyed the opportunity to be involved with the success of our building.

We have 17 groups that each focus on a different leadership role within our building. This LEAD Time empowers all students to lead in our school and allow each student to identify how they are leaders at Rock Run. Staff members help facilitate these groups of student leaders on the second Monday of each month from 1:15-2:15. Here is a brief description of what our LEAD Time groups have been doing.

**Public Relations Leaders:** The public relations LEAD time group is focused on creating and strengthening partnerships between our community and our school. They want to recognize businesses and employees for the many great ways they support our students and teachers, as well as finding more ways for students to support local businesses and our community.

**News Crew Leaders:** The news leaders are busy finding interesting things happening at Rock Run. Each time we meet, students in this group get together to write short articles for a newsletter shared each month. Our goal is to spread the news about all the good things happening at Rock Run!

**Yearbook Leaders:** Students have been busy planning for the upcoming 2016/17 Rock Run Yearbook. They have decided that the theme for the yearbook this year will be "Find Your Voice at Rock Run." Since the focus of our building this year is on Habit #8, the students wanted our yearbook to reflect all the new ways that students are being leaders. Our motto is "Keep Calm and Take Pictures." Students have been working hard on learn-

ing how to take pictures and which pictures will be good pictures to put in the yearbook.

**Habit Harold Leaders:** The Habit Harold LEAD group keeps Rock Run students fresh with the habits. The group synergizes to create a monthly newsletter for the bathroom stalls. Each issue includes a teacher spotlight, Rock Run news, important dates in the month ahead, jokes and monthly tidbits. Each issue includes a focus section on the 7 habits. The Habit Harold group gives students and staff something to think about while using the restroom.

**Public Speaking Leaders:** The Public Speaking group has been letting their voices be heard on school announcements, at assemblies, and on the radio. This group's mission is to be the voice of Rock Run.

**Student Leaders:** Student Leaders are working to make all students feel welcomed and successful. We are busy creating welcome bags for any new students coming to Rock Run throughout the year. These bags include information about each grade level and the school as a whole. We will begin working on mentoring techniques and other ways to help the students at Rock Run.

**Green Crew Leaders:** The leader group known as the 'Green Crew' has focused their work on reusing, recycling and monitoring 'The Giving Garden'. They have counted 1,064 plastic bags that students have brought in. The Green Crew is going to reuse some of these for extra filling to 'fluff up' the beanbag chairs in the library. Team members are also in charge of weighing the recycled material collected in each classroom's container. So far they have weighed 506 pounds of paper to be recycled! In addition, the Green Crew has also helped with some harvesting and cleaning up in and around 'The Giving Garden'.

**Performance Leaders:** Performance group is enjoying a variety of activities that teach us to think outside the box and feel comfortable sharing our talents with others. Recently, each student chose a poem to perform for residents of Scenic Manor. We will be performing during our next LEAD time.

**Special Occasion/ Bucket Filler Leaders:** The goal of the Bucket Filler group is to remind our students to look for the good in others. A simple compliment or "hello" can brighten someone's day! In September, our group decided to make birthday cards for every student in Rock Run. In October, we made Veterans Day cards for our veterans who live in Scenic Manor. We look forward to visiting them during our LEAD group time in November.

We will continue to work on creating an atmosphere of community during our LEAD time groups every month!

**Design Leaders:** The Design group has been busy creating for the school! Students made welcome signs for Rock Rock's Open house. They have started to work on the winter concert program artwork. They are even thinking about ways to share their creative works with the school by decorating windows and make decor to hang up throughout the elementary.

**Technology Leaders:** Tech Cx cleans the computers in the carts and the lab and makes sure they are plugged in properly and charging. We will be having special demonstrations on how to connect presentation systems and run sound through and amp system soon.

**Office Leaders:** These students have been helping with office duties, organizing box tops and other collections. They have been learning about the organization that takes place to keep our school functioning. They have learned how to answer the phones, monitor security cameras and just how busy a school secretary is.

**Maintenance Leaders:** Maintenance leaders have been learning about how the physical climate of our school is kept up. Students have had the opportunity to work on some building improvement projects and help with some of the daily upkeep.

**Coaching Leaders:** Our LEAD time group is dedicated to help motivate students to be active and have fun playing games that we come up with or find online. We are all working together to determine the rules of each new game and provide students with the equipment they need to enjoy them. They have been a great group to work with thus far because they themselves are highly motivated to help kids enjoy their time at recess.

**Food Service Leader:** Our food service leaders are working hard to help our lunch ladies serve breakfast and lunch to our fellow peers each day. We are also learning proper serving etiquette, helping out with the Backpack Buddy program, serving students at our Rock Run Ritz Restaurant, serving snacks and drinks to guests as needed in our building, as well as looking for opportunities to serve or help out in the community and teaming up with local restaurants to clean/clear tables.

**Greeter Leader:** The greeter leaders are working on how to formally greet others in various situations in and out of school. We are working on positive phrases to say when greeting others as well as shaking hands. Please keep an eye out for our Rock Run greeters during special events at school.

**Service Leaders:** Community Service Leaders are all about helping serve others outside of our daily school lives. We look for ways to advertise, organize and run service projects. Currently we are working on collecting items with our reading business partners to donate to the MICA food drive.

## Holiday Concerts

Rock Run students will entertain guests with holiday music on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 15. All the Rock Run concerts will be on the same night, but each grade will perform separate concerts. The concerts are a special event and we would like our students to dress nicely. The fifth grade concert will be at 6:15 p.m., our fourth grade concert will be at 7 p.m. and our third grade concert will be at 7:30 p.m. There will be a transition time between each concert so guests can exit before the guests for the next performance enter. If you are arriving for the third or fourth grade concerts we ask that you wait in the student center until the previous concert is complete and the audience has had time to exit the auditorium.

## Improving our School

One activity we are planning to help improve our school is to collect "Box Tops for Education", Hy-Vee receipts, Pizza Ranch Wagons and pop tabs.

Each box top is worth 10 cents. Therefore, 10 box tops would be \$1 ... 100 box tops would equal \$10 ... and 1,000 box tops would be \$100! Box tops are found on all types of items like General Mills® cereals, and products for Pillsbury®, Yoplait®, Betty Crocker®, Ziploc®, Green Giant®, Huggies®, Hefty®, Scott®, Cotton-



elle®, Nature Valley®, fruit snacks, and many more!

Each Hy-Vee receipt is worth a percentage of the total amount purchased. We are collecting the receipts from our local Hy-Vee and you will see at the bottom of the receipt a note that says "Dollars for Scholars." We are also collecting Pizza Ranch wagons worth 25 cents.

Students would benefit from collecting by working together for a common goal, seeing the value of saving and having extra books or other educational materials to use.

Even though these items can be collected all year, the Rock Run students will be having a friendly competition to see which grade can bring in the most box tops to help their school. As you're doing your holiday baking, or before you throw away that box of Kleenex®, please stop and clip any "Box Top for Education" coupon, Campbell soup label or Hy-Vee receipt. Then, send it to Rock Run with any third-, fourth- or fifth-grader. It's an easy way to help your local children, or future community members and their school. :)

## Acceptance

By: Kristin McClellan, Ivy Sparks, and Kadynce Winters

For the past six weeks of school, the fifth-graders in Rock Run Elementary have been working on the concept of Acceptance in reading. They have read a variety of books such as: Schooled, The Man Who Loved Clowns, Ugliers and Stargirl. All these books tie into the theme of acceptance in similar ways. Ugliers is about a society in the middle of nowhere and the people there judge others upon how they look. In the books Stargirl and Schooled the main characters weren't like the other typical students. They choose to be themselves, but most students didn't accept them because they acted different, dressed different and weren't "normal." We even watched some videos to learn more about Acceptance. In the clip from Forrest Gump, we learned that you should accept everyone even if they have a physical disability. In conclusion, we hope every fifth-grader walked away understanding that Acceptance has many meanings. Some of the meanings were that you have to learn to accept yourself and not compare yourself to others, you shouldn't change yourself to fit in, and you should not judge people on the outside but accept them for who they truly are as a person.

## Exploring Resources

Where do we get what we need? Fifth-graders at Rock Run have spent the first trimester deeply investigating the concept of resources. Beginning with the resources that living things need to survive, students experimented with plants and how they would survive without air, water, sunlight, or soil. After finding out about living things, students focused on how humans use other living things as resources and depend on them to survive. To help understand how Iowa Falls was started and has grown based on its available resources, students went on the Volksmarch, or a walking tour around town. Volunteers from the Historical Society, local businesses, and community members led tours and shared about how resources have shaped our town.

To provide another historical perspective on resource use, students worked together to learn about how Native American groups depended on



different resources depending on their region. Students discovered that unlike that way people today waste resources, the Native Americans wisely used their resources. Calkin's Nature Center brought many artifacts from the Plains Indians to show how much of the buffalo was used for food, tools and weapons.

Throughout the unit, students gained an understanding of how dependent we are on our resources and how the resources that we use has changed over time. As we talked about many times in class and this unit showed, we are very lucky to have the human resources that we do in Iowa Falls. Without the people of our community, this unit would not have been possible.

## 4th Grade Store - Opening Soon!

The fourth-graders at Rock Run Elementary will soon be opening the Fourth Grade Store, and with that comes the exciting opportunity to raise money to sponsor Leader Dog Puppies for the Blind. These puppies will be trained to be the eyes for visually impaired people, so that they can live a more normal life.

In order to raise the money needed to sponsor the puppies, the students will sell a variety of items ranging from pens and pencils all the way up to holiday gift ideas and much, much more.

The kids even have a chance to bring in gently used toys and items from their homes to sell at the store. It is a great way to clean out their toy closets before the holidays, and all items sold go toward the sponsoring of the puppies. Last year we added another community outreach by donating items that don't sell at our store to the Pass Along Program at Bethany Lutheran Church. This program helps families in need during the holidays. It truly is a Win-Win for everyone, and something that the kids can be very proud to be involved with.

The store will open on Tuesday, December 6th, and be open through the holiday season. Store hours are every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:00 - 8:15 A.M.

This is the ultimate shopping experience for all ages, so come and shop the "Mall in the Hall" and help the kids raise money to sponsor Leader Dog Puppies for the Blind.

## Art At Rock Run Elementary

### What have students been up to in art?

Students have been hard at work creating their Fire Prevention Posters based around this year's theme, "Don't Wait Check the Date, Replace smoke alarms every 10 years." Did you know that you should check the back of your smoke alarms to see if they are expired? Students learned how to create a composition, along with how to blend colored pencils by using various colors in one area. These amazing

masterpieces really helped students learn about art and fire safety!

A HUGE thank you to the Iowa Falls Fire Department for judging this artwork and for awarding trophies to the top place winners! These winners will be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 20, during the fire prevention assembly at Rock Run. Also a big shout out to McDonald's for providing five free hamburgers to award as prizes for each grade!



### DONATIONS NEEDED:

#### **Trash to Treasure!**

If you have any of the following items that you no longer need and would like to give them to the art room we will be putting them to good use through various art projects!

Please drop items off at Riverbend Middle School or Rock Run Elementary!

- Yarn: Any color, any kind
- Bowls, plastic or ceramic in various sizes
- Hair Blow Dryer in working condition- Used to dry clay and other items
- Shoe Boxes
- PVC Pipes- Used as a rolling pin to create slabs of clay
- Stencils for alphabet letters
- Stencils with designs

#### **Looking to support the arts?**

Please contact Chelsie Meyer via email [chelmeyer@ifacadets.net](mailto:chelmeyer@ifacadets.net) if you would be willing to volunteer your time helping in the art room. This could include taking photos of students' artwork, sorting supplies, and helping organize students' artwork for display opportunities. If you would like to help with Fine Arts Night, we are also looking for volunteers for this date as well!



# Pineview Elementary

## Preschool and K-Prep Field Trip

The Preschool classes, and K-Prep class visited the Community Orchard in Fort Dodge. The children went on a Crusin' for Pumpkins Tour, and picked a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. They enjoyed some apple cider, popcorn and had a picnic lunch. They played at the Back 40 Playground! The Back 40 had a jumping pillow, milking "cow," pedal karts, rope maze, petting zoo, corn box, train, slides and a tire mountain that was enjoyed by all!



## Science In Kindergarten

This fall, Kindergarten students have been busy learning about trees and wood during their science classes. The children learned the difference between a deciduous and a conifer tree, as well as the parts of a tree. Currently, they are learning about the properties of various kinds of wood. Some of their investigative questions are, "Can wood be made to sink in water?," "How can



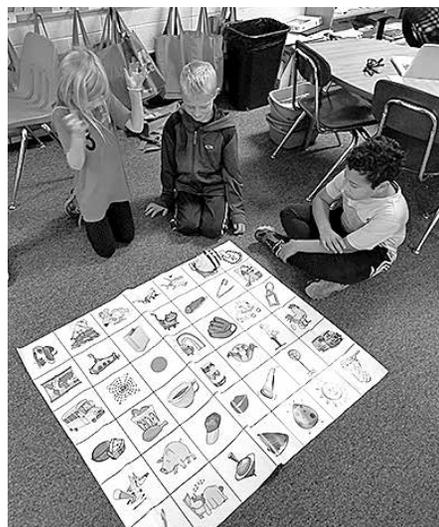
you change the appearance of wood with water or sand paper?" and "Can sawdust be recycled into usable wood?" The experiments used to answer these questions bring new excitement to the kindergartners each day!

## First Grade Holds Election

In preparation for the upcoming presidential election, the first graders at Pineview have been learning the basics of voting. During Social Studies, they were taught the importance of voting, the legal voting age as well as the importance of registering to vote.

Since the first-graders are not old enough to vote, they held a mock election during their Social Studies class. However, instead of voting for a president, they voted for something they could have an opinion about, "What is your favorite way to eat corn?" Each child filled out a voter registration card and took turns voting. They were given three choices on their ballot: caramel corn, corn on the cob or popcorn.

After each child had the opportunity to vote, we tallied up the results. The students sat on pins and needles anxiously awaiting the results. In the end, the winner of the first grade mock election was....POPCORN!



## Computer Science In 2nd Grade

This year second-graders have been working on computer science activities weekly. Second-graders have learned about words like algorithm, program and loops. They have done unplugged lessons, which are lessons to learn about computer science topics without the use of computers. They have also spent a lot of time working on Course 2 in code.org.

To provide a real life experience with code.org they were able to use Bee Bots robot. The Bee Bots tie directly into the course the second-graders are working on in code.org. The Bee Bots have a CVC map for the Bee's to navigate on. The kids were able to put in the commands forward, left, right, and backward and run the program to try to navigate to the correct square. Here is a link to a video of some of the kids working with the Bee Bots: <https://youtu.be/Y9G8pykd1e8>

## Pineview Elementary Fundraiser is a Huge Success!!

Pineview Elementary recently completed our annual fundraiser with Cherrydale. Our goal was to sell at least 2,000 items. We sold almost 2,000 items. Way to go!! Pineview El-

ementary profited over \$11,000 from the fundraiser. This money will be used to purchase instructional supplies for the many programs at our school. Thank you to everyone who purchased items from our students and to all of the students and parents who worked so hard at selling.

## Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free life.

Pineview Elementary celebrated Red Ribbon Week Oct. 24 -28. Our focus at Pineview was healthy choices: eating right, taking care of our bodies and exercise.

### During Red Ribbon week all students participated in the following activities:

**Monday - Wear Red Day:** Habit #4--Think Win-Win-Everyone can win when everyone makes healthy choices

**Tuesday - Wear silly shoes or socks:** Habit #2--Begin with the End in Mind-Kick bad habits before they start

**Wednesday - Students wore workout clothes:** Habit #7--Sharpen the Saw-Take care of your body and your brain so there is no need for bad habits

**Thursday - Students wore hats to school:** Habit #1—Be Proactive-Think with your head, you are in charge of you. Don't do drugs!

**Friday - Wear your favorite team colors or jersey:** Habit #6—Synergize-Pick your team wisely so your friends help you make good choices.

Pineview is PROUD to be a Leader in Me School!!!!

### What is The Leader In Me?

The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model that acts like the operating system of a computer — it improves performance of all other programs. Based on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People®, The Leader in Me produces transformational results such as higher academic achievement, fewer discipline problems, and increased engagement among teachers and parents. Better yet, The Leader in Me equips students with the self-confidence and skills they need to thrive in the 21st century economy.

What would be possible if your school was filled with students who were responsible, who showed initiative, who were creative, who knew how to set goals and meet them, who got along with people of various backgrounds and cultures, and who could resolve conflicts and solve problems?

This is reality at Leader in Me schools across the country. It started in 1999 when struggling school A.B. Combs Elementary was asked to reinvent itself or be shut down. When principal, Muriel Summers, asked parents and business leaders what they wanted in their schools, she heard the following:

- Leadership
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Cross-cultural Skills-Responsibility
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Creativity
- Teamwork

This feedback represents what most people believe — that our schools should not merely be focused on improving test scores, but should provide opportunities for students to develop their full potential. As Muriel searched for answers she attended a 7 Habits seminar and noticed how comprehensive the habits were in covering the same needs expressed by her community. She and staff developed a leadership theme and a school mission statement: To Develop Leaders, One Child at a Time. They taught the 7 Habits not as a curriculum, but in a ubiquitous fashion, integrating them into the curriculum, traditions, systems, and culture of AB Combs.

In 2006 A.B. Combs became the #1 magnet school in the country. The leadership model began to be replicated by other schools with similar results. In 2008, Dr. Stephen R. Covey, published the book—The Leader in Me—which documents the leadership model these schools pioneered and its outcomes for staff, students, parents and community.

\*\*Go to [www.theleaderinme.org](http://www.theleaderinme.org) to learn more about The Leader in Me!!

# Cadet Gazette

## Alden Elementary

**"Nothing can dim the light that shines from within." -Maya Angelou**

Alden Elementary has been putting forth great effort to achieve Lighthouse Milestone with The Leader in Me initiative! We will have a pre-Lighthouse evaluation in December which will give us feedback on our progress. On Tuesday, Jan. 24, representatives from Franklin Covey will join us for the day. They will visit with a student and parent panel, observe classrooms, and review documentation on what we have done with Leader in Me. This is a huge accomplishment for our school and we are excited to have guests in our building to see all of our hard work!



Our tour guides are getting prepared for our upcoming Leader in Me visit!

### Holiday Gift Shop

Our fabulous FAB volunteers will be organizing this year's gift shop for K-6 students on Thursday, Dec. 1. This gives students an opportunity to purchase surprises for family members as well as working with a budget! Information will be sent home for all K-6 students that wish to participate.

### 6th Grade Band/Vocal Annual Veterans Concert

Congratulations to our sixth grade band and choir students on their excellent performances in our annual Veterans Concert!

Many thanks to all those volunteers who helped make the evening successful, especially our Fine Arts Boosters!

It is an honor to perform for those that have served our country.



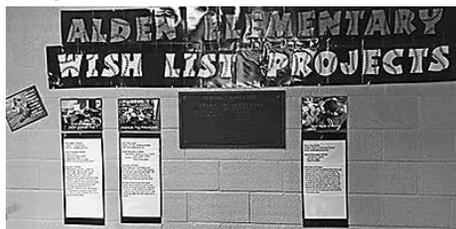
To go with Veteran's Day/Concert lines in the document.

### 7 Habits of Happy Kids

Once a month, your child will have a yellow paper in his or her Wednesday folder that focuses on what that habit looks like at school and what it looks like at home. We will also encourage discussion about that habit on our Alden Elementary Facebook page, so we can hear many of the awesome ways your children are being leaders at home.

### Fall Fundraiser and Book Fair

Special thanks to everyone who supported the Alden Elementary fall fundraiser and book fair! Our fundraiser brought in over \$4,000 in profits to use on classroom technology and literacy. We will share items that we purchase with the funds soon! The book fair allowed us to earn funds towards books for the library and classrooms this year. We will have two more book fairs—one at our family night in late winter and the last one



Alden Wish List projects are posted online at [www.ifacadets.net](http://www.ifacadets.net) under Schools (Alden Elementary).

at our spring concert in May. Special thanks to Melanie Kinsinger for being our lead parent in organizing the events!

### Winter Music Program

Our PK students will be joining our K-6 students for a festive evening of holiday and seasonal tunes! The event will take place on Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. The PK-6 program will have some intermission times in order to allow audience members to take a break or 'come and go' if needed. We will send a schedule home as the time nears so you can plan accordingly!

### Winter Parties

K-5 classrooms will celebrate the afternoon of Dec. 22. Sixth-grade students will be participating in Winter Olympics starting at 10 a.m. in the gym. Parents and guests are welcome to attend to watch the events.

### Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, December 1: Holiday Gift Shop for K-6  
Monday, December 12: K-6 Winter Concert, 6:30 PM  
December 23-January 2: No School, Winter Break

### Alden Reading Challenge

The Read Like a Champion reading challenge is in full swing. This year we are measuring average minutes read per grade level. The graphic above illustrates how important it is to read each day.

If you encourage your child to read 20 minutes each day research has shown that your child will score higher on standardized test and have a larger vocabulary.

K-6 students continue to 'hit it out of the park' with our school-wide reading goal



## WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**