



ASK News

Answering the questions you want to ASK



Education Through Exploration

ASK's Creative Academy By Danielle Leopold

From the beginning of November to Thanksgiving break, the older kids read a book called "Surviving the Applewhites" for Literature Circle

The book is about a boy who has been kicked out of a lot of schools. Then he is transported to a school called the Creative Academy that is run by a family of artists. The thing is, is that he is different from all the others, but he changes his ways throughout the book.

In the Creative Academy, students choose their own projects to work on. The teachers don't tell the students what to do. The students plan their own schedule and follow it.

The final project for Literature Circle was to plan our own Creative Academy lesson. For a week, Tanya had us pick our own projects and do what the Creative Academy does.

Everyone picked a topic for their project to work on. Ellen picked interior designing, Jordan picked to work on his moped, Brian chose to do electro magnets, Lenox picked to do electricity, Tyler did a project on rockets, and I chose to study the ferrets.

Tanya had us do a project in one week so we would know what the Creative Academy is like. For my project, I've spent sev-

eral hours a week playing with the ferrets, researching them, building them toys, obstacles, and making a book about them.

I asked Ellen Wines what she liked about the Creative Academy. She said that it is a good way to be independent and it is a good skill for learning. She would like to do it again, but do two projects so you don't get bored with just one project.



This is Ellen and the little kids working on little houses for interior designing. This was part of her project.

March 2009

Special Dates

- ✓ RAGBRI registration, waivers, and payment due—March 12th
- ✓ Spring Conferences—March 11th & 12th
- ✓ No School—March 12th & 13th
- ✓ Spring Break—March 17th-20th
- ✓ Tech Night for Non-Techs—March 24 & April 21st 6:30-8:00



RAGBRAI By Lenox Parsons

On July 22, a group from ASK will be riding an extravagant challenge on a one day ride from Indianola to Chariton during RAGBRAI.

The most important thing you need is enough supplies. Kittie, a retired teacher and principal of the Des Moines School District and pro BMX rider, is holding a bike night. This night is for fixing your bike and making sure your bike runs

well for RAGBRAI. Kittie has friends that are going to be there so they can help us if we need to fix our bikes.

Kittie says that the group from ASK must train for the challenge of RAGBRAI. For six weeks we will ride two or three times a week. When we start training we will start at short rides of 5-20 miles and work our way up to a couple of 40 mile rides.

Nutrition is also important. We need to drink lots of water so we can stay hydrated. We need to eat food that is nutritious and lets are body stay in shape.

Tuesday we will camp in Indianola. The day of RAGBRAI, we will ride from Indianola to Chariton. The mileage is 44.4 miles and the climb total is 2,182 feet. We will start at 5:30 a.m. and end by 2:00 p.m.

Look out RAGBRAI, here comes ASK.

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The Gift of A Grant

By Jordan Turnbull



Warren County Philanthropic Partnership awarded a \$2500 grant to ASK Learning Center on December 4, 2008.

The grant is for new technology for the school. Things we would like are new computers, a digital camera, and a printer.

What it means is internet ac-

cess on more computers and more reliable computers and also easier printing, better quality pictures for our newsletter and web site.

How we got the grant is that one of our student's parents wrote the grant for us. Her name is Amy De- senberg-Wines. We

plan on using the money at the beginning of the New Year.

Warren County Philanthropic Partnership is a charitable public foundation for the purpose of improving the quality of life throughout Warren County. We would like to thank WCPP for the money they gave us for new technology.

Hola!

By Ellen Wines

¿Cómo te llamas? What is your name? My name is Ellen, and my class at ASK just started learning Spanish. We have Spanish every Friday.

Right now in Spanish we are learning about conversation, such as, how are you, what is your name, my name is, and so on and so forth. We are also learning simple words such as pretty; bonito, ugly; feo, happy; alegre, and sad; triste. We also have a little Spanish book. In the book there are different ways of transportation such as car, boat, and plane. There are also body parts such as hands, feet, legs, and arms.

Now I'm going to tell you about our Spanish teacher. Her name is Mrs. George. She grew up in a small town in Panama. She lived there for 20 years, and has two brothers and five sisters. She has two children, both boys. She has lived here for 17 years, and only knows English and Spanish.

People don't always realize, but there are great benefits to knowing other languages, like Spanish. Let's say you are going to a place where people speak Spanish. It really helps to understand what they are saying.

I have really enjoyed learning Spanish, and until next time, adios!

ASK Tours Polk County Court House

By Cody Warren

Court is in session. On Jan 30th, ASK's older students went to the Polk County Court House to see what a real trial was like.

The trial was in a very small room. The judge sat up front. The witness stand was to the right. The court room assistant was to the left. The court reporter sat in front of the judge. We sat in the back. We got to come in because it was a public trial.

The trial was about a very bad car accident. The plaintiff was suing for damages for the car and himself. He has some permanent disabilities. The defendant was found guilty and has to pay \$40,000.

There was a Spanish translator there to speak in Spanish for the 1 Mexican there. That 1 only spoke Spanish. The Spanish translator

spoke everything in Spanish for the Mexican.

After the trial, the judge wanted us to come up and ask him questions about what happened at the trial. He told us what everybody did. Then he told us why the defendant lost. He let me touch the wooden mallet thing.

After we got done, we toured the court house. Man was that fun. It got a little scary though because it was so tall. We got to look from the top floor down to the bottom floor. It is very tall. There are a lot of paintings of Indians and pilgrims. Then there was a giant stained glass window in the top of the court house.

If you've never been to the court house, I suggest going to learn your rights as a citizen of the United States of America.

Diamonte Poem

Lion
big, intelligent
growling, running, roaring
cat, predator.....rat, rodent
crawling, sleeping, squeaking
quiet, sneaky
Mouse

-Danielle Leopold

Trip to Mexico By Tyler Hixson

Hola, want to know a little about Mexico. My family and I went to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. We went from January 31 to February 7 for a family vacation.

The highs are around 85°F, and the lows are around 55°F. It is humid, but you don't sweat very much because it is very dry. It doesn't rain very often. Not all of Mexico is a desert, just some places including Cabo San Lucas.

We had so much fun. We

went to the pool almost every day. We also went to the beach and my favorite thing that we did was wave runners. Wave runners are like jet skis.

In Mexico, they speak Spanish. If you don't know much Spanish, it is very hard and frustrating when you are trying to understand them. I could see that the people in Mexico could not understand us very well.

It is very fun to go to Mexico. I go every year in February. Adios amigos.

Valentine's History

By Jordan Turnbull

Valentines Day was February 14, 2009 on a Saturday. Valentines Day is only celebrated in the Americas and Europe.

St. Valentine was a priest. He married couples secretly. The only reason he did that is because there was an emperor named Claudius and he did not want people to get married because he thought single young men made better soldiers. So the emperor had St. Valentine killed.

Cupid is another symbol of Valentines day. Here is some history on Cupid; Cupid is the son of Venus, Goddess of Love. They say he goes around and shoots humans with his arrows and makes them fall in love.

On Friday February 13th, we had a Valentine party here at the school. We made boxes and we all brought candy and put some candy and cards in each others boxes. After that, we made yo-yo balloons with the younger kids.



This is all of us having fun at our Valentine's Day party.

The Art Thing By Ellen Wines

On December 7th, there was a big fundraiser held at 925 Main Street. It was for ASK Learning Center and it was called "The Art Thing".

Part of the Art Thing was the silent auction. The silent auction was part of the fundraiser. You see, there is art work, and gift baskets with sheets of paper by them. People can bid on the gift baskets and art work until the affair ends. The person with the highest bid gets the item they were bidding on. The art was made by students or donated by real artists. Some of the baskets were donated by local businesses.

The silent auction wasn't the only thing going on. Upstairs there was a bake sale, and a gift shop. The bake sale took place in the purple room and the gift shop took place in the light blue room. The gift shop was decorated for Christmas. There were lights on the walls and a mini Christmas tree and sleigh. The gift shop was selling all sorts of things, from magnets, to student

designed greeting cards. In the purple room, where the bake sale was, we were selling all sorts of goodies. There were cookies and cupcakes, bunt cakes and a pie. There was even chocolate covered pretzels.

It took so much time to get this ready. It took two weeks to get the building decorated. But it took two months to get every thing planned. We had a lot of volunteers, which we are all very happy about.

I would like to thank everybody who made that day possible, for all of the donations and support we got. Thank you.



This is one of many horse pictures Danielle has done that was in the art thing.

Three Word Form Poem

SOCCER

kick, run, pass
run, pass, trip
pass, trip, card
trip, card, out
card, out, goal

-Tyler Hixson

Deer Hunting By Lenox Parsons

(This article was written in December of last year.)

It's the best time of the year. It's deer hunting season. Hi ,I'm Lenox Parsons, and I like deer hunting.

Every deer season when I go hunting, I pack a lot of equipment. I get everything ready the night before we go hunting, so that I don't have to pack it in the morning .So, what I do is get all my stuff like my water bottle, my butt bag (a bag that goes around your waste), and my knife and take them out to the truck. Next, I get my pants and boots ready. The last thing I put in my bag is 50 to 60 packs of hand and feet warmers so they don't freeze.

When I'm out hunting, my hunting party sits most of the time .We also push. That means

that 2 guys walk 2 miles away from the hunting party, then walk 2 miles inward. Then they shoot at the nearest deer. They do this to scare deer toward the hunting party.

This is what I do after shooting my deer. If the deer is still alive, I shoot it again to take it out of it's misery. After that ,I will gut it. That's when you cut the deer open and take all the guts out like the heart and lungs.

When we go home with our kill, we can either take it to a meat locker or our shed. When we do it in our shed, we skin it, de-bone it, and bag it. Then we take it to a deep bed freezer. When we take it to a meat locker ,they process it and package it for us.

I can't wait until next deer season.



Winter is finally coming to an end and Spring is taking its place! Spring will be with us from March 20th to June 21st.

You'll know when Spring starts when you see these signs. Usually the first sign is the temperature gets warmer and the snow starts to melt. Then it starts to rain. Trees come back to life and burst their leaves. Birds fly back and animals come out of hibernation.

Here are some ideas of what to do in Spring. Spring is a good time to get back to last years to-do list. Some people like to plant things. You can plant a garden or flowers. Tanya likes to plant her body in the sun to soak up vitamins and nutrients.

Wood working has become a passion for many people. You could build a bird house, a chair, a table or anything else out of wood.

When there's nothing to do, I find going outside and seeing our animals quite enjoyable.

I hope you all have a good spring into Spring.

-Danielle Leopold

NASCAR By Brian Millard

NASCAR season is here and it started February 8th at Daytona International Speedway in Florida.

It was created February 21,1948 by Bill France. What NASCAR stands for is (National Association for Stock Car Racing.) The first race was at Charlotte International Speedway . Jim Ropper won the first race with his 1949 Mercury and his reward was \$5000 .

This season Matt Kenseth won the first point race. The other two races were not point races, and they were before the first point race. What that means is

they just race around the track. They don't get points.

Joey Logono is an 18 year old kid racing in the Daytona 500. This year is the 50th anniversary for the Daytona 500 whoever wins gets a lot of money.

I wish I could go to a NASCAR race but I don't know if we are going to go to one. NASCAR is a great American sport. I think it will be around for awhile. Boogity, boogity, boogity. Let's go racing boys!



Synonym Poem

DIRT

Dirt, soil, mud,
taste gross to
the taste bud

-Jordan Turnbull

Teacher's Note: I would like to remind our readers that this is a student written and edited newspaper. Our purpose is to give the students a meaningful project in which to practice their writing and editing. As teachers, we are able to use this format to introduce new skills and monitor growth. There is not a better, more entertaining way to view a writer's evolution than to look back through several years of articles. This is the product of seven student reporters, all with varying writing abilities. We hope you enjoy watching their writings grow over the years. Included in this month's edition is some poetry that the students have been writing. Enjoy!—Tanya