



# ASK News

Answering the questions you want to ASK



Education Through Exploration

## Seeing History Through Our House's Eyes

By Emma Wines

At the beginning of the school year the ASK students, myself included, started researching the history of our new school at 925 Main St. We are using historical documents and interviewing citizens of Norwalk to find information. We are studying American history so, we thought it would be fun to see it through our house's eyes.



This is our school house at 925 Main St. Imagine what it looked like 107 years ago.

James N. Casady became the very first owner of the house, built in 1900. James worked as a cashier at Norwalk bank, and vice president at the Spring Hill and New Virginia banks. He was born on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1872 in Warren County, IA. He was the son of Wilier Casady and Hannah Hart. He married Miss Minnie L. Blakley. They had two sons named Wier and Wayne. When and why he died is still a mystery to us. He sold the house to Mr. W.R. Thomas in 1917.

W.R. Thomas was the 2<sup>nd</sup> owner of the house that is now our school. To

some he was known as Roy. He was my great grandpa's half-brother. Roy also worked at the bank. He married a woman named Maude. They had two sons and one daughter. Their son's were named Fred and Mark. Their daughter died young of food poisoning. His wife and kids preceded him in death. He sold the house in 1937 to B. F. Gallaway. A woman named Lou Kurtz took care of Roy until he died.

While we were looking through our house's eyes I found out that I was

related to both of the first owners of the house. I found that interesting.

I will continue to report about what we learn about our school house. So I guess I have to say,

To be continued in the next issue of *Ask News*...

*A different school,  
a different way to  
learn.*

# ASK

Come check us out!

October 2007

### Special Dates

- ✓ Oct. 26 Votes for board members due
- ✓ Oct. 30th Trick-or-treat
- ✓ Oct. 31-Conference
- ✓ Oct. 1&2 No School conferences Oct. 1
- ✓ Nov. 6 Parent Meeting 7-8:30
- ✓ Nov. 14th Board Meeting 7-9
- ✓ Nov. 22nd & 23rd Thanksgiving Break

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## ASK's New Pets

By Danielle Leopold

This school year ASK received some new pets. Their names are Chica, Steve and Crush. They are our pets at ASK Learning Center. They arrived roughly around the beginning of school . We use them to learn how to care for them and to have fun with them.

Chica is a blue parakeet . She likes to talk a lot. We are still training her. She is a nice bird. She might be 5 years old, because she has stripes on her head that are fading away. She came from Betsy Hosier. Betsy thinks the odds are 95% that Chica is a girl. There is a slim chance she might be a boy. For her care ,we have a paper towel at the bottom of her cage. When that gets dirty, we have to take it out and replace that paper towel with another one. We also let

her fly around with all the doors and windows closed. We have to supervise her when she flies. We also have to get her some seeds and change her water.

Steve is a hermit crab. He is now in a superman shell. He is a nice hermit crab. He will get as big as your fist without his shell on. He just might become Crabzilla or Crab Kong . He came from Mrs. Routh, who retired from teaching. So, she gave him to us. For his care, we give him apples, grapes and other stuff. Tanya sometimes dunks him in water a couple of times to give him a bath.

Crush is a snapping turtle. She is probably 5 inches long and 4 inches wide . She is nice and has never snapped anyone. She will get around 1-2 ft long and 1 ft wide. She came from my sister Kari. For her care, we

take her out of her cage and put her in a different one while dump the water out of her cage and let it sit out in the sun. After that, we fill it with water and put her in it. We give her turtle pellets to eat. We give her two pellets a day.

I asked Ellen Wines why she liked the pets. "Because a lot of schools don't have pets. I also have a lot of experience with animals". I asked Emma Wines which pet is her favorite. "Steve the hermit crab. I like Steve because I think it is fun to watch the way he moves".

We have a pet that is visiting. That pet is Jumpy, the guinea pig. I'm not sure if we'll get any more pets. All our pets are fun.



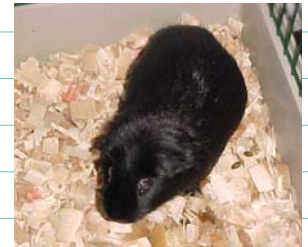
Chica is sitting on her cage.



Steve is walking on the table.



Crush is taking a walk outside.



Jumpy is in his cage.

## Along way from Chicago Book review

By Emma Wines

Quite recently the older kids at ASK, myself included, read the book *A Long Way From Chicago* by Richard Peck. This book is set in the 1920's, the time period we are learning about.

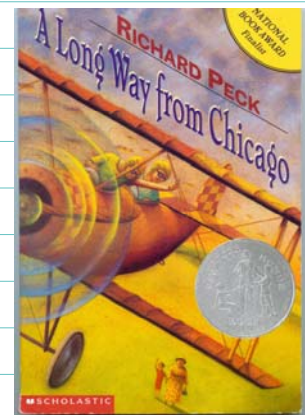
The main characters are Joey and Mary Alice Dowdel. The storyline is that they go to their grandma's house for seven fun-filled summers. Grandma always

has a mischievous plan.

If you like funny easy-to-read chapter books, then you will like this book . I liked it a lot. I would give it four stars. If you have read it and liked it, there is a sequel called *A Year Down Yonder* .

Join Mary Alice, Joey, and Grandma Dowdel for seven mischievous summers.

I would read it if I were you.



# Badminton Comes to Town

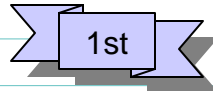
By Jordan Turnbull

The students of ASK have been playing badminton for PE. We have been playing it at the Wines' house every two nice days.

Badminton is an Olympic sport. You hit a birdie with a long racket and it includes two or four players. A team scores every serve. You score if the birdie touches the ground on the other team's side or if your opponent hits it out of bounds. You play to fifteen points for a game. The team to win two out of three games wins the match.

The upper pod and the lower pod got together and learned bad-

minton. The teachers helped us learn badminton before we played. After we practiced badminton we did a tournament for singles and doubles. The ones who won in the doubles were Jordan Turnbull and Tyler Hixson. The winner for singles is Jordan Turnbull.



ABOVE: 7th grader at ASK Jordan Turnbull is the singles champion for badminton.



LEFT: Doubles champions Tyler Hixson and Jordan Turnbull line up for badminton.

# Recycling and composting at ASK

By Tyler Hixson

This year the students of ASK are recycling and composting at our school every day. Our goal is to reduce the amount of garbage we produce.

What is recycling? Recycling is a way we can make old things into new things and keep the environment a lot cleaner. What do we recycle? We recycle paper, plastic, cardboard, aluminum, and glass. We put these items in a recycling bin. We use the curb side recycling program where the truck picks the bin up. Sean Hixson is a student with the responsibility to take the bin out to the street. Last year we went on a trip to Weyerhaeuser, a recycling plant. A recycling truck picks the bin up, takes it to the plant and puts it in a sorting machine. Then they put it in

another machine that compresses the different materials into squares and they get shipped off to people who make the squares into new items.



LEFT: This is Sean Hixson. He has the responsibility to take out the recycling at ASK.

What is composting? Composting is the controlled microbial decomposition of organic matter, such as food and yard wastes. We compost vegetables, fruits, and any scrap food that has not been fried or cooked. We compost by just dumping a bucket of food scraps in a pile in our back

yard. Soon there will be a student responsibility to take the bucket out and dump it. We want to get a worm farm for composting. A worm farm is a big bucket with dirt and worms that eat the scraps.

Recycling and composting help to keep the environment cleaner and also helps the amount of trash that goes into the land fills.



ABOVE: This is Jordan Turnbull dumping apple scraps in to our composting pile.



## Mrs. Mourning Dove Lives Here Too

By Danielle Leopold

A mourning dove named Mrs. Mourning Dove, lives on our porch pillar. She moved there to have a place to live and to lay her eggs. She built her nest out of sticks.

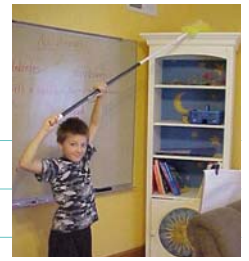
She also has been on our roof. She might be spying on us. She might be wanting to send her kids to ASK. She has had a few batches of babies. In the summer she flies up to the telephone pole and coos. The class discovered her the first day of school. Tanya and Sherri gave us a tour of the school, and showed us Mrs. Mourning Dove.

We think she might have flown south for the winter, because she is not in her nest, and it's getting colder. I hope she comes back this summer.



Mrs. Mourning Dove's nest.

## Students Learn About Money With Jobs At ASK



Max Hosier, Isaac Anderson and Gunnar Alexander at "work" at ASK

By Tyler Hixson

This year the students of ASK have jobs to help keep the school clean. We have sweeping, garbage, windows, bathroom, dishwasher, animals, dusting and table jobs. Danielle has the job of sweeping. She likes sweeping because it's fun and it will keep the school clean. Emma has the job of cleaning the bathroom. She kind of likes cleaning the bathroom because no one wants to have that job and it keeps the bathrooms cleaner.

We get paid ASK Bucks every week for the jobs we do. We have to use the ASK Bucks to rent a chair to sit in, a table to write on and materials like pencils, paper and erasers to use.

I asked our teacher, Tanya Apana, why we do this.

"The purpose of starting students with jobs this year is two-fold. First, with the much larger school, we really did need students to be more responsible for keeping it clean.

The second purpose is to start teaching the older students about economics in a way that makes it real to them. So, not only do they have jobs that earn them "ASK Bucks", but they also learn about using their imaginary money to support themselves by paying "rent" for certain classroom items. The students are learning life skills such as writing checks, balancing a check book and how a savings account and interest works. Then, when we talk about things like the Great Depression, students have some concept as to how money affects people's lives."

## Scenes From ASK



Above: Sean Hixson poses in front of our fall garden. Lettuce, turnips, and mustard greens were the vegetables that grew for us this fall.

Below: Becky Stover teaches Tyler Hixson, Ellen Wines, and Danielle Leopold how to crochet. Their first project was a dish cloth or hot pad.



ABOVE: Contributing writers dressed as their 1920's characters. Left to Right: Jordan "Babe Ruth" Turnbull, Tyler "Charlie Chaplin" Hixson, Emma "Lillian Gish" Wines, and Danielle "Charles Lindberg" Leopold.

