

# Alma Intermediate School



## News

March, 2014

**Student Mission Statement:** *As students our mission is to learn what we need to know for successful living. We are responsible, life-long learners, using our knowledge and skills to help others right here, right now!*

### Upcoming Events

March 14: Yearbook order deadline (color yearbook for grades K-5 only \$20.00)

March 24-28: Spring Break

April 7-11: State Benchmark Testing

April 15-16: Two 5th grade classes doing PARCC pilot test

April 22: Fourth Grade Quiz Bowl Tournament

April 23: Fifth Grade Quiz Bowl Tournament

April 23: Honor Choir to Springdale

April 6-7: Two 3rd grade classes PARCC pilot testing

May 20: Donna Wilkins Blood Drive from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

May 20 and 21: Third grade to Prairie Grove one of these two days.

May 23: Fifth grade to the Oklahoma City Science Museum from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### From the Principal...

I grew up outside of town where there was no garbage pick-up. My father and I occasionally hooked up an old trailer and took a load to the county landfill. As an 8-year old I enjoyed these trips because I liked watching the huge bulldozer that compacted the garbage. Guess my entertainment options were pretty limited.

An elderly man was tending the entrance gate on one of our trips. He was a different race than us and poorly dressed. As my father paid the entrance fee I noticed that he addressed this man as "sir" and they shared several friendly comments before we proceeded. Seated in the passenger seat of that old pickup truck, my dad taught me that every person is important regardless of their economic status or race.

My father played basketball and football in school so I learned a lot about these sports while attending games with him. There have been times when he questioned the calls made by referees. He had a sharp eye and good judgement because of his experience as an athlete, but he never never threw a fit if he disagreed with a call. He never yelled and he certainly never cursed because of it. He would often say, "Calls usually average out over the course of a game."

I doubt that my father thought he was teaching lessons to his son as we watched games together, especially when the scores were close. It probably never entered his mind that our trip to the county landfill would produce a memorable life lesson for his son. My life would have been quite different if I had witnessed my father talking down to or being rude to others. The lessons learned would have been damaging to me and others for years to come. (continued on page 2)

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As parents and educators, we are teachers of character to our children. We teach more by who we are and what we do than by what we say. If we want our children to be life-long and enthusiastic learners, we must live these qualities in front of them. If we want children to treat others with respect we must model respect in our interactions with children and adults.

Unfortunately some children see adults acting poorly and we sometimes see the results in our schools. Thank you to the parents and teachers who are making a conscious effort to demonstrate good behavior in front of children. You are teaching positive, life-changing lessons each day through your words and your example.

Principal's blog: [PrincipalNotes.com](http://PrincipalNotes.com)

## Literacy Grant

Fifth grade literacy teachers wrote a grant to purchase a number of novels for tying literacy skills into social studies content reading. Students are presently enjoying *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L Swanson.

## Poetry Slam



Brianna Marshall was named Grand Champion for this year's Poetry Slam. Kessler Cluck, Lydia Bowerman, Shelbi Hesson, and Kylie Hollenstein were also winners in this year's slam.

Clayton Scott teaches poetry through an Artists in Education Grant.

## Poem Written for Local Soldier

The following poem was written for Chris Yarbrough when he was given recognition on March 7th in the Safe Room by four fifth grade classes.

### Our Soldier

by Brianna Marshall, 5th grade

We will always remember that flag,  
that ol' red, white, and blue  
stitched so fine with a majestic  
appearance.

We cannot forget the purpose behind  
that priceless weathered flag. Useless  
without the many  
who gave their all to defend it.

We will always remember the heroic  
soldiers.  
Our heroes, willing to sacrifice precious  
moments  
away from their families for our epic  
freedom.

Standing guard, the military bravely  
encompasses  
our American lives. Protecting us so we  
remain unscathed. Global missions that  
endanger their lives but hold us safe.  
Thank you, soldiers, for your fulfilled  
quest  
to protect our freedom.

## Thank you volunteers for making our Book Fair a success!



## Quiz Bowl Teams



Fourth Grade Quiz Bowl Team



Fifth Grade Quiz Bowl Team

Fourth and Fifth Grade Quiz Bowl Teams have represented Alma in a great way at practice meets and in competition. Fourth grade will compete in the Regional Quiz Bowl Tournament on April 22. Fifth grade on April 23. Our quiz bowl team coaches are Stephanie Hartley and Pam Ingold.

Jim Warnock, Principal

Suzy Ferguson, Assist. Principal

Office Staff: Candy Humphries,  
Amie Nicholson, and Tammy  
Malone

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Web link: [Alma Intermediate School](http://Alma Intermediate School)