

Ackley World Journal

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Susan Brandt, AGWSR K-5 Reading Recovery teacher, led students and other teachers through an adventure of communicating by touch. Students didn't share what was inside the box, so others didn't know what to expect. Below top right, Lennon Bach was able to assist magician Lance Nicolai during his presentation to the students during an in-school field trip held at AGWSR's Ackley center last Friday.

Lessons in communication

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

For the first time since COVID, Kindergarten through fifth grade students at AGWSR took part in an in-school field trip held last Friday. The experience is designed to provide them with a learning experience different from their regular school day. Each student participated in the trip which was planned and organized by the AGWSR library program under Beth Janssen.

"The entire day is standards-based meaning the learning includes all of the classes each of the students take part in throughout a 'normal' day of education at AGWSR," explains Janssen, the Media Specialist at the school.

This year, students' lessons surrounded the theme of 'Communication' and included centers on braille, sign language, rebus letter writing - where students used pictures as representations of words or syllables to make a sentence or phrase, as well as using the Sphero indi - a learning robot used to teach fundamentals of computational thinking - that is the process of solving problems by breaking them down into simple pieces.

The opening presentation was provided by Lance Nicolai, a magician who graduated from AGWSR and overcame his own personal communication issues to find the courage to follow his dream.

Students gained exposure to ideas and experiences that they don't normally receive in an average school day, or life in general.

"This event featured guest speakers in sessions about braille, sign language, and even how animals communicate," explained Janssen. "These are experiences which help students gain empathy for situations they may never have considered their peers live with every day."



Above, Kelly Rotgers, AGWSR elementary associate at the Wellsburg center, works with Jackson Valverde, during a session on Signs in Our Community. Right, a box turtle, provided by Franklin County DNR, provided students with a different kind of communication to learn about.

The experiences in communication - not necessarily those which require speaking or listening - will help the students communicate differently in their own world.



PHOTOS BY BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

"Every kindergarten through fifth grade staff member takes on a role," Janssen said.

While the day can be difficult to pull off for the students, Janssen says it's all worth it and is one of the most rewarding projects she plays a role in.

Janssen chose to provide students with the 'trips' after falling in love with the Magic School Bus books. In fact, the first in-school field trip was based on those books - The Magic School Bus Under the Sea. The trips have been organized and provided for students who not only learn something new, but have fun doing so. ●

Ackley to receive funds through loan forgiveness program

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

The City of Ackley will be receiving forgiveness of up to \$1 million for a portion of funding borrowed for the wastewater treatment plant construction project. The refund is provided through the State Revolving Fund Program's 2022 Clean Water SRF Base Program and the 2022 CWSRF Bipartisan Infrastructure Lawn General Supplemental Funds which fund wastewater treatment, sewer rehabilitation, and stormwater quality improvements.

The project is among seven others across the state meeting the requirements, all of which met one of five project priority types, as well as meeting the SRF Program's definition of 'Disadvantaged

Community' - those which would experience substantial and widespread economic and social impact and qualify as disadvantaged as a result of complying with wastewater regulations. These communities, including Ackley were also considered based on the readiness to proceed with a project and have executed a loan with the SRF Program.

The City of Ackley borrowed \$3,760,000 for Phase II of the wastewater treatment project. That loan was proceeded by a CDBG grant of \$500,000 for the same.

During Phase I of the project, the City borrowed \$3.2 million for storm sewer lining throughout the community. Both phases of the project were made in an attempt to meet an enforcement action taken

against the City in the early 2000s.

The loan forgiveness award to the City of Ackley is capped at \$1 million. Ackley fell in fourth place on the list of eight projects, nearly in the middle of the list which was provided in order of most disadvantaged to least. The awards are part of the second and final round of projects to receive loan forgiveness from the Fiscal Year 2022 Clean Water SRF Base and BIL General Supplemental Funds. In total, the eight projects were awarded \$7,380,400 in loan forgiveness.

A formal letter will be issued through the SRF Program at a later date describing the actual award amount and loan forgiveness terms and conditions. ●

'Shake and bake' meth lab dump discovered north of Ackley

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

A method for making small batches of methamphetamine, known as 'shake and bake', is causing concern from Ackley Police Chief Gerry Frick. Frick discovered evidence of such a lab dump site just north of Ackley over the past weekend.

The lab dump was the first Frick has found thus far this spring.

Frick warns residents, especially those who might be walking, have small children or pets with them, that such sites can be hazardous, even deadly.

"Obviously, I just want residents to be safe," Frick said. "Suspicious items include plastic bottles with an off-white sludge, which may be fluid or somewhat dry. There's a high

risk of chemical exposure with these items."

Frick went on to say that bottles with hoses attached, mason jars with clear liquid and/or white sludge, empty bottles of Heet (which is sold to remove water from gas-lines of vehicles), cans of ether - a class of solvents, window defogger, cold tablet boxes, camping stove tanks with valves removed, coffee filters, and often chemistry glassware and plastic hoses, are among the items that the public should be aware of.

The process of making methamphetamine in this manner involves the combination of chemicals and converting pseudoephedrine (cold tablets) to the drug, through shaking, hence the name of the method 'shake and bake'.

"A person coming across these types of items should call law enforcement so the dump can be cleaned up," Frick said. "Never attempt to clean up such a site on your own."

Frick urges anyone coming across such dump sites to call their local law enforcement through the emergency number, 9-1-1. ●

