Thanks to the efforts of the education department and Seidenstricker, the PDS relationship with 13th and Union has not only remained intact, but it has grown and developed as well. Thirteenth and Union teachers have attended in-services supported by Albright faculty, elementary students have been tutored and Albright student teachers have been allowed to grow professionally thanks to the partnership.

New iPads Help Kindergarteners Learn

Center time in Susan Shober’s Kindergarten class has taken on a new meaning thanks to the purchase of iPads, made possible by a grant from the partnership through the Wyomissing Foundation.

On a recent visit, partnership coordinator Dorothea Miller watched as the students opened programs on the iPads and became engrossed in their letter and word work. Students are able to work in programs that match their reading level, so each lesson is individualized. They practiced letters and numbers, and worked on reading passages, comprehension and addition. Thoroughly engaged in their lessons, the students proudly showed off their accomplishments.

More research is needed, but Shober says that the students’ skills have improved. The iPads make it possible to practice more frequently than with pencil and paper alone.

Grants Awarded for Asphalt Forest Project

Two grants totaling $8,000 have been received to fund the Asphalt Forest Project, a project that will convert an area of campus with wetlands and forest biomes into an educational center for use by 13th and Union Elementary and Albright College students. For the project, Susan Seidenstricker, Ed.D., of the education department is working with the teachers at 13th and Union to write curriculum, based on the Common Core Standards, that can be used in science classrooms. Biology professor David Osgood, Ph.D., is also working with groups on campus to develop the area.

The grants were awarded by the Kurr Foundation and the Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation, thanks to proposals written by Seidenstricker, Sheila Simyak and Dorothea Miller. Books have already been purchased using funds from the Wyomissing Foundation.