



**Albany Options
School
Greater Albany
Public School
District**

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ROCKS

- * Respect
- * Ownership
- * Courage
- * Knowledge
- * Safety

AOS Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 6

April, 2017

A Word from the Principal

Hard to believe we are already well into the final trimester of the school year. Summer will be here before we know it!

However, that also means that graduation is quickly upon us, which means crunch time for our seniors. Make sure you do not let the warm weather distract you from working hard, showing up, passing your classes and essential skills, and doing whatever else stands between you and your high school diploma.

When we return from Spring Break, I will begin speaking with each individual senior to check on the status of their credits and graduation goals. Until then, hold on to your copy of your transcript and make sure you are doing everything you need in order to pass your classes.

Parents and guardians of our seniors, please keep an eye on the mail for letters from the school. As we get

closer to graduation, we will be sending letters with instructions and announcements for graduation and the ceremony. In the meantime, please save the date for graduation, and the final day of school for seniors.

I would like to personally congratulate our very own science teacher, Mrs. Gillispie, who has been accepted to be part of a national curriculum team. This is a huge honor and award, and I am very proud of her for this accomplishment. Read the article on page four for more information about it.

I would also like to congratulate our student, Juan Ortiz Cortez, who won first place in the art contest at the Cesar E. Chavez Youth Leadership Conference in Monmouth. There is more information about his award on page three of the newsletter.

This year AOS began a new tradition called our AOS Day of Service. On this day,

LAST DAY FOR SENIORS:

Friday, June 9th

We will also have our annual Senior BBQ celebration that day.


all of our students in our IHS program split into four groups to participate in day-long community and Service Learning projects.

This year students participated in projects at South Shore Elementary School, where they built raised beds and started a garden for the school, at LBCC, where students planted trees, and at the Humane Society and the Albany Carousel, where the students volunteered for the day.

With our commitment to serving the community, we are excited to have this be an annual AOS tradition.




Check out the green page of the newsletter with pictures and stories about our first AOS Day of Service, which took place Thursday, March 24th.

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 SERVICE SATURDAY: SOLV Beachside Cleanup in Newport
2	3	4	5 Early Release	6	7	8
9	10	11 PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION DAY	12 Early Release	13	14	15
16 Easter Sunday 	17	18	19 Early Release	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Early Release Administrative Pro- fessionals Day	27	28	29

School Volunteer Recognition Week

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 30	1	2	3 Early Release	4 End of Grading Period: FINALS	5 NO SCHOOL Grading Day	6
7	8 Albany Peace Seekers Awards— 4:30 Albany Public Library	9	10 Early Release	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day 	15	16	17 Early Release	18 OMSI Field Trip for IHS Students	19	20
21	22 Theme: Pajama Day! 	23 Theme: Tie-Dye Day	24 Theme: AOS ROCKS (AOS shirt) Early Release	25 Theme: Jocks vs. Geeks	26 Theme: Hawaiian Day! Luau BBQ 	27
28	29 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	30	31 Early Release Youth Special Olympics			

Spirit Week

AOS Day of Service

AOS Introduces First Annual Event

Albany Options School is excited to have ushered in our first of hopefully many more AOS Day of Service Events.

AOS has always been committed to providing our students with as many hands-on, Service Learning, and community involvement opportunities as possible. We believe it is a cornerstone of creating responsible and engaged members of society. Learning is so much more than reading, writing, and math, and here we all believe being active in the community is key.

We are always being flooded with support from our local Albany community. This community is so generous and willing to help whenever asked. Therefore, we wanted to have a day where we could thank our community as a school by giving back.

On Thursday, March 23rd, all of our students in the Innovative High School (IHS) Program participated in one of

four projects out in the community. The following articles will share stories and pictures from the event.

Check out the article from the Albany Democrat-Herald about the event, published on Friday, March 24th. The article can be found online at aos.albany.k12.or.us.

This was a huge effort and took the involvement of many behind the scenes, including donors and partners. We would like to thank everyone who helped make

this possible. I cannot wait for how our AOS Day of Service will continue to grow and evolve in future years.

-John Hunter, Principal

Students Create School Garden at South Shore



Mr. Corliss's Construction Math class and Mrs. Harryman's Horticulture class partnered up to help create a school garden for South Shore Elementary School.

Earlier in the school year, students in Horticulture class visited South Shore Elementary School to help with some landscaping needs and maintenance, which sparked a partnership between the two schools.

The principal at South Shore shared that he had dreams of having a school garden in a sunny, but neglected, space. The project grew from there.

The Construction Math and Horticulture classes began the third trimester of the school year building the raised beds. (See the article on page six of the newsletter).



A group of the students at South Shore for the day worked on creating the garden space, digging the post holes for the legs of the raised beds, loading the beds with soil, and spreading mulch



around the beds.

The rest of the students worked in little teams with second graders to weed and spread mulch throughout the school's landscaping areas to beautify the school for some outdoor spring cleaning.

Both classes look forward to continuing to help develop the garden space so that they can enjoy their first harvest this spring!

Students Plant Trees at LBCC



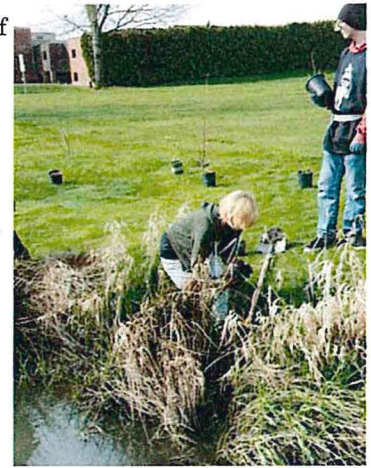
One of the larger groups visited Linn-Benton Community College, where they enjoyed the sunshine and beautiful day by planting tree starts.

This project was in partnership with the Blue Ocean Project,



a national non-profit out of the Willamette Valley, that focuses on cleaning up waterways.

As part of these efforts, the students planted native trees on the campus banks.



Students Volunteer at Safe Haven Humane Society

One of the groups spent the day volunteering at Safe Haven Humane Society.

The students helped by socializing with the pets, cleaning around the facility including the kitch-



en, meet and greet areas, and the welcome room.

Student, Makenzie Vineyard, who participated in the project, said that, "the best part was helping the animals have a cleaner environment to live in."



Students Volunteer at Albany Carousel and Museum



A group of students spent their time volunteering at the Albany Carousel and Museum, where they helped organize and sort boxes in their basement.

The students jumped into action and

accomplished the work so quickly that the carousel staff were blown away.

The students also helped move the carousel pieces into place.

Ms. Fitzpatrick, who coordinated the project with Albany Carousel, commented, "I was blown away by the students who participated. When we first arrived to the location they took us

downstairs to the basement to show us what we would exactly be doing. She opened the basement door to a very large room which was over-

whelmingly full of items that needed to be organized into boxes. I felt frozen as far as where to even start, but the students amazingly took charge and jumped right into action!



Announcements and Important Information

GED COMPLETERS:

Congratulations to the following students who earned their GED during the month of March:

Morgan Sheffler
Staranna Salisbury
Lerisa Gonzalez



GRADUATION INFORMATION:

The deadline has passed to order your caps and gowns. Missed it by accident? Talk to Mr. DeCoster or Mrs. Barker.

Seniors should be bringing in their baby pictures for the graduation slideshow. Give your picture to Mrs. Harryman.

DRESS CODE

As the weather begins to warm up for Spring, please be mindful of our dress code at school.

If you have any questions or need a reminder, please review the student handbook or ask.

Spirit Week

Mary 22nd-26th

Themes for Spirit Week:

Monday: Pajama Day

Tuesday: Tie-Dye Day

Wednesday: ROCKS Day (wear your AOS shirt!)

Thursday: Jocks vs. Geeks

Friday: Hawaiian Day and our annual Spirit Week Luau

Student Art Earns First Place at Conference

AOS student, Juan Ortiz Cortez, won first place in an art contest on March 3rd, 2017, at the Cesar E Chavez Leadership Conference in Monmouth, Oregon. Students

could submit art work of or inspired by Cesar Chavez and his work related to labor and civil rights activism. Juan Ortiz Cortez submitted a portrait of Chavez drawn in pencil.



The conference is considered the largest Latino youth leadership conference in the Pacific Northwest. This year about 2,200 students attended, including several from Albany Options School. Ortiz was encouraged by the counselor to submit a piece of artwork for the contest.

Ortiz won \$250 for earning first place, which he plans to use to buy more art supplies. He is mostly self-taught, but has taken some art classes, especially at AOS with Mrs. Gillispie. Ortiz

stated that he dreams of being an artist as his career.

The Albany Democrat-Herald published a snapshot story about Ortiz in the entertainment section of the paper on March 16th, 2017.

Ortiz also created the artwork and designed the AOS school t-shirt for the 2016-2017 school year.



Classes Partner to Build Beds for South Shore

Mr. Corliss' Construction Math class and Mrs. Harryman's Horticulture class began the term by partnering for a large Service Learning project for South Shore Elementary School.

This project is part of the larger AOS Day of Service project.



Parr Lumber donated and discounted cedar planks and posts for the project. Students in both classes were responsible

for measuring, cutting, drilling, and assembling the raised beds.

The raised beds are for South Shore Elementary School to help them start their new school garden.



AOS Teacher Selected for National Curriculum Team

Albany Options School science teacher, Tassay Gillispie, has been selected to be a member of a group of fifty educators from across the country. She is now a member of the WGBH Teacher Advisers who have been chosen to help design and develop instructional resources that address diverse student needs through the K-12 STEM education project, Bringing the Universe to America's Classrooms, a WGBH initiative in collaboration with NASA.

WGBH is a public radio station located in Boston, Massachusetts and is a

member station of National Public Radio. They have partnered with NASA to develop STEM curriculum focused on climate change, on which Gillispie will serve as an adviser.

Gillispie will be working with the Oregon State University Center for Research on Lifelong STEM Learning. She will begin her training by attending the National Science Teaching Conference in Los Angeles, CA in April.



Gillispie has taught at Albany Options School for five years, and has previous experience at South Albany High School, Jefferson High School, Linus Pauling Middle School, and Timber Ridge School. Through her teaching she has partnered with organizations including SOLV, City of Albany Public Works, City of Albany Parks and Recreation, Calapooia Watershed Council, Blue Ocean Project, and Oregon Museum of Science Institute (OMSI).

Students Visit Japanese Gardens and Oregon Zoo

Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Jansen took their literature classes to the Portland Japanese Garden. Both classes had been reading novels that portray Asian culture and the importance that Feng Shui plays in both Japanese and Chinese cultures.



The students experienced the five gardens, each with their own style, but all aiming to provide peace, tranquility, and harmony. The students were awed by the beauty and tranquility of the gardens.

After a morning of experiencing the

gardens, the students were able to visit the Portland Zoo. This was the first time visiting a zoo for many of the students, whose excitement was contagious.

Mrs. Mitchell, Ms. Jansen, and Mrs. Burton (who joined the group as a chaperone) all agreed that watching the kids experience both the Gardens and the Zoo for the first time, was an unforgettable experience.

AOS Wins at iRun 5K and 10 Mile

This year the Albany Public Schools Foundation put on their 15th iRun for Kids race.

This is a fundraiser for the Albany Public Schools Foundation and each year they have over 650 participants. The run is a fun event with sponsors handing out goodies, massage therapists to ease post-race pain, and even pizza and chocolate milk to consume after the exertion of the run.

Each year the Foundation awards a \$500 scholarship to the school that has the highest percentage of participants.



Pictured: AOS Staff and students before the run.

This year Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Fitzpatrick thought it would be wonderful if AOS tried to win that \$500. Through coordination, AOS ended up 47 participants!

As runners were lining up to begin the race, the scholarship winner was announced as Albany Options School. This year the donor of the \$500 is Dr. Brown. A presentation is in the works for the awarding of the scholarship.

Academic Awards for Trimester 2, Grading Period 2

Mr. Corliss:

Destiny Thompson—Geometry
Kenzie Vineyard—Geometry
Karla Franco—Algebra I
Breanna Volkens—Prob and Stats
Joe Williams—Algebra II
Andrew Middleton—Game Theory

Ms. Fitzpatrick:

Briana Miszczak—Math Proficiency
Jacob LaFond—Geometry
Kobe McLaren—Geometry
Josh Partain—Geometry
Bobby Weatherford—Geometry
Madison Frederic—Team Building

Mrs. Gillispie:

Destiny Thompson—Biology
Kobe McLaren—Art
Bobby Weatherford—Biology
Matthew Cleveland—Chemistry
Mary Bursey—Astrobiology
Monet Jackson—Astrobiology

Mr. Wolfe:

Breanna Volkens—Sociology
Stephni DeMello—Personal Finance
Izza Eppart—Current World Topics
Mary Bursey—Running for Fitness

Mrs. Mitchell:

Amber Scott—Entrepreneurship
Michael Lux—US History
Kobe McLaren—Cultural Literature
Robert Sheffield—Writing Workshop

Mrs. Harryman:

Karla Franco—Ancient Civilizations
Lucas Vaughan—Ancient Civ.
Juan Ortiz Cortez—Ancient Civ.
Antonio May—Mythology
Makenzie Vineyard—20th Cent. Lit
Cyra Berry—20th Century Literature
Megan Carter—Foods

Ms. Jansen:

Briar Lynch—Media Maven
Andrew Middleton—Writer's Workshop
Kobe McLaren—Contemporary Lit.
Matt Cleveland—Contemporary Lit.
Michael Robb—Speculative Fiction
Mary Burssy—Speculative Fiction

Congratulations to the students who earned the 100% Perfect Attendance Award:

Josh Partain
Madison Frederic
Isac Huesca

Congratulations to the honor role students from the first six-week grading period!

4.0 GPA:

Bobby Weatherford
Kobe McLaren
Emily Nelson
Cyra Berry
Calvin Roskelley
Joseph Williams

3.5-3.99 GPA:

Anessa Johnson
Makenzie Vineyard
Breanna Volkens
Stephni DeMello
Mary Bursey
Jacob LaFond
Andrew Middleton
Briana Miszczak
Jared Iverson
Monet Jackson
Josh Partain
Matthew Cleveland
Kaleb Washington
Seth Garrett
Mia Spiroski
Emily Sterner

Pic of the Month

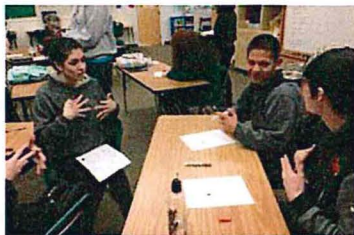


From left: Jacob LaFond, Kobe McLaren, Ms. Fitzpatrick, and Bobby Weatherford being recognized at the Academic Awards Assembly.

AOS Introduces New Sign Language Class

This trimester AOS is now offering Sign Language as a new class!

Mrs. Mitchell is now teaching Sign as one of the Applied Arts electives offered in



Students practice asking each other for different color markers.

the morning.

Students are learning the very basics of Sign, starting with finger spelling, numbers, and colors. Within the first week the students learned the alphabet.



Students Stefani, Ivy, and Griselda sign out AOS.

The rest of the six-week grading period they look forward to learning how to sign different foods and other basic term gestures.

**Greater Albany Public
School District**

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Web: www.albany.k12.or.us/aos

Visit us online at:

www.aos.albany.k12.or.us

AOS encourages students and families to take advantage of the many resources our community has to offer. Below is a list of services and organizations available throughout Linn County that are available to the public.

- **Family Connections:** The people to call for child care, parenting information, family activities and more.....(541)917-4899 or 1-800-845-1363
- **Comcast Internet Essentials:** Affordable internet may be available for families with a child receiving free school lunches.....1-855-846-8376
- **Oregon Health Plan (OHP):** Provides health insurance to qualified citizens, includes dental services.....1-800-359-9517
- **Families and Agencies Coming Together (FACT):** Community resources for families with children in the Albany School District541-924-3720
- **Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Cornerstone Youth Outreach Center:** Overnight and drop-in resources for youth in Albany, Corvallis.....541-207-2958
- **FISH Clothes Closet:** Free clothing available; must bring name with current address. 1880 Hill St. SE. Albany.....928-4460
- Call **211** for free and confidential information regarding help with food, housing, employment, health care, counseling and more.

**For more community resources please visit the Albany Option School webpage:
www.albany.k12.or.us/AOS/

Albany Options School Newsletter: March 2017
Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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