



A Word from our Principal

Time sure flies when you are having fun! It is hard to believe that it is already February. The students and staff have continued to work to make AOS the best school that it can be. As we continue to grow and evolve here at AOS there are some new changes to let you know about.

We have modified our schedule and will no longer be having a daily Advisory class. Instead we will extend the length of the periods throughout the day. Once a week we will have a class period called Writing ROCKS, where students will work on their writing skills. We feel that this will allow us to better

reach our state testing goals.

We have also added a new teacher. We are happy to announce that Lorina Johnson, who was a Scholastic Art/Alliances for Young Artists 2010 National gold



medal recipient for teaching and mentoring, will be teaching two art classes. This gives our students the ability to earn credits to-

wards graduation with one of our country's best art teachers.

AOS has also added a music class for the rest of the school year. Tori Tverdy, our outstanding math teacher, came to us with an extensive background in music. We have found a way to put her talents to work by allowing her to teach a class that will provide our students with a better understanding of the music that they listen to as well as the history that created it. Music is an area that students have requested to have at AOS for many years, and it is truly a pleasure to get to grant them this wish.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Students earn tickets to Portland Trail Blazer Basketball Game
- ◆ Credit Recovery at AOS
- ◆ What courage means to AOS Students
- ◆ AOS Advisory Council Creates Changes

Staff Changes at AOS

Please read about the recent staff changes that have taken place at AOS.

Wendy Marks has replaced Nora LePage at the front desk. She has previously worked throughout the district and we are all looking forward to having her on board here at AOS.

Larry Trachtenberg is unfortunately no longer at our school. After working here for many years he will now be working as a Special Education case manager at both North Albany Elementary and Oak Grove Elementary School. We wish him the very best and will miss him greatly.

Kelley Guilliot will be taking over the duties as Special Education case manager for Larry Trachtenberg here at AOS. She will no longer be teaching in the Middle School program due to this change. She will, however, continue to teach in the Innovative High School.

Holly Mitchell will be moving to fill the Middle School position. She has previous experience working with the Middle School program and will be a tremendous asset.

Lorina Johnson will be teaching two art classes beginning this term. We are excited to have her here with us at AOS.

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FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 No School!	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Deadline for March SAT Registration	11
12	13 No School!	14 <i>Valentines Day</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20 No School: <i>President's Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 OAKS Reading Testing Day	29 OAKS Reading Testing Day			

MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 No School!	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Daylight Savings</i>	12 AOS High School Board Report @ School Board Meeting	13	14	15 End of Grading Period Oregon FAESA Deadline!!	16 No School: <i>Teacher Grading/ Work Day</i>	17
18	19 New Grading Period Begins	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Spring Break

Attention Seniors!!

The time to sign up for **FAFSA** is **NOW!** Talk to our school counselor Ms. Smith for questions and help in filing for Federal Financial Aide for the 2012-2013 academic year. For more information and to begin your application go to:
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Rule Reminders

****Cell phone use is only permitted outside of the school building during designated times.**

****Students must wear their seatbelt when riding in the Activity Van.**

AOS in the News

*AOS students had the privilege of helping to fix up an A-4 Skyhawk fighter jet at the Albany Municipal Airport as an extracurricular weekend activity.

*Students built twelve raised bed planter boxes for the future AOS garden.

*Senior, Daniel Naylor, was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce for his success at the Youth Job Fair in the February Chamber of Commerce Newsletter.

To view these articles and more please visit the AOS website and click on the "AOS in the NEWS" link.

<http://www.albany.k12.or.us/aos/news.php>

Parents using Pinnacle

Parents and students can both access students online pinnacle account. This application allows you to **view your student's grades and attendance**. By using your student's **ID number** and the **password** assigned by the school district, parents and guardians can view student's current information as well as information from previous grading periods.

Please call AOS at (541) 967-4563 if you have questions about Pinnacle.

OAKS Testing Schedule

- February 28-29: Reading
- March 20: Math
- April 10-12: Writing
- April 24: Science
- May 17: Last testing day

Courage: What does courage mean to AOS students?

Each and every day AOS students and staff exhibit courage in their personal and academic life. During the first of January, AOS spent time discussing with students what the word courage truly means and identifying character traits of courageous people.

In Advisory class students had the opportunity to write letters to members of the National Guard currently serving our county in Kuwait. We have already received one letter back from one of our servicemen. Students also took time to write about what they believe makes someone courageous and who the true heroes are in everyday life. Here are some of their responses.

"I hope that someday I will be as courageous and be the kind per-

son that my sister and mom are. I hope I can be strong and courageous like them when I have to face life's ups and downs, because I can't think of better people to idolize...They are the most heroic and courageous people in my mind, no one can surpass them. They are my definition of courage."

"I am courageous because I am myself, not the person people want me to be."

"You don't have to be the hero of a war or the only one to run into a burning house to be courageous...Here at AOS we all show courage, and I know that many of us do not see it, but it is true."

"Courage is facing challenges that intimidate you."

Advisory Council Making a Difference

This year AOS has created an Advisory Council. This council is composed of one student representative from each advisory class. These students are the voice of the AOS student body. They meet every other week to discuss changes and issues that students feel need to be addressed.

Thus far this year Advisory Council has helped to implement several changes at AOS. Due to proactively advocating for the student body, students are now allowed to eat outside during lunch time, have a hand sanitizer dispenser installed in the cafeteria and get to select the school lunch menu each month. The Advisory Council also had the opportunity to share their concerns and opinions about the school dress code and met with a local police officer who answered their questions relating to gang and drug affiliated clothing. They were then able to report what they learned back to the rest of the student body.

In addition, the Advisory Council helped to design t-shirts for AOS staff and students. Students will receive the AOS ROCKS t-shirts for free following ten consecutive days of perfect attendance.

With guidance from staff, students are learning how to respectfully use their voice and make positive differences around the school. Advisory Council is a safe place for stu-

Students Earn Blazer Game Tickets

The Portland Trail Blazers provide schools throughout the State with the opportunity to award free Blazer tickets to students

that meet and exceed behavioral and/or attendance standards set by the school.

During the October 18-December 2nd grading period AOS promised these free tickets

to any students that achieved perfect attendance. Three students at AOS accomplished this by having zero absences or tardies for the entire six weeks.



On January 24 Debra Leonor, Kristen Bumgarner, and Angelica Garza went with two AOS staff members to

Portland for the Blazer vs. Grizzlies game. It was an exciting game that resulted in a Blazers win.

Credit Recovery at AOS

Albany Option School has a credit recovery program called Choices. This year we have added a second session so now there are two 2 ½ hour sessions that run from 7:40 to 10:12 and from 12:30 to 3:00 Monday through Friday. Students in this program work independently on proficiency based classes either in packets or on the computer.

Last year, Choices became the pilot for the district to test a new computer program called OdysseyWare. We are very pleased to be able to offer our students this online courseware in addition to our old standby program PLATO. With the addition of OdysseyWare, we are now able to offer a wider selection of classes including several electives such as Consumer Math, Personal Finance, Psychology, Digital Media, Family and Person Health and The Vietnam Era.

Most students in Choices are close to graduation and simply need to make up a few credits as quickly as possible. Students must be self-motivated, be able to work independently and be at or near grade level in reading. To remain in the program, students must earn a minimum of one credit every six weeks. This requirement is in place to ensure that students stay on track for graduation. Each year, several students finish their graduation requirements from this program.

AOS Students Earning College Credit Now

As of January 9, 2012 AOS has six students taking advantage of the Expanded Options Program by taking college courses at Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) winter term. In 2005 Senate Bill 300 was passed providing eligible junior and senior high school students the opportunity to take classes at Oregon community colleges and universities, paid for by the school district. These classes count for both high school and college

credit.

This term AOS students are taking full advantage of this program by taking a variety of classes not offered at AOS such as Circuit Weight Training, which will count as a high school PE credit. Additional classes that students are taking this term include College Success and Reading, Understanding Art, Basic Design Composition, College Writing Fundamentals, and Practical Accounting. Each of these

courses provides students with the opportunity to take courses they would otherwise not be able to take unless enrolled in college.

Prior to beginning the classes, each student completed a three day orientation class preparing them for taking college classes. AOS is excited to have students participating in the Expanded Options Program and look forward to more students taking advantage of this opportunity in the future.

Seniors Shinned at the Linn County Youth Job Fair 2011

On December 13, 2011 the Seniors of AOS came to school dressed in their best professional attire ready to attend the Linn County Youth Job Fair hosted by the Albany Chamber of Commerce. The Youth Job Fair is a graduation requirement for all high school students in the district.

Leading up to the Job Fair, the AOS Business to School Liaison, Anna Sokolov, worked with the seniors and helped them to update their resumes, fill out job applications, and fine tune their interview skills. AOS was also

privileged to have guest speakers come and talk to students about what employers are looking for and how prospective employees should present themselves.

Additionally, Miss Sokolov coordinated with the district Business to School Liaison, Josefine Fleetwood, to have three students taken shopping to purchase a new professional outfit for the Job Fair with donations from community organizations.

The 2011 Youth Job Fair included a keynote speaker, informational booths about various

local job opportunities and educational programs, and mock interviews with professionals from throughout the Albany area who volunteered their time to serve our youth.

AOS students returned from the event with phenomenal results. Students earned high scores and reviews from their mock interviews and greatly impressed the employers with how prepared they were. Multiple students were invited by employers to have real follow-up interviews and one student got a job following this second interview.

Student Awards: December 5th– February 2 2012

Innovative High School

Exceptional Ethos in Persuasive Writing Award: Angelica Garza

Chinese Master in World History Award: Tahnee Ankarberg

High Style in Persuasive Writing Award: Shannon Cooley

Positive Attitude and Great Work in English Award: Brit-tany Newman

Golden Tape Measure Award in Woods Class: Cody

Rotsolk

Understanding of Literature Award: Tanisha Wilson

Exceptional Effort Award: Cary Olson

Over the Top Award, 100% in Biology: Angelica Garza

Courage Award: Debra Leonor

Expository Writing Award: Ismael Ramiriz-Martinez

Enthusiasm in Algebra Fundamentals Award: Cody Rot-solk

Deep Thinking in Algebra II Award: Brian Little

Going the Extra Mile in Ge-ometry Award: Tahnee Ankarberg

Persistence in Algebra I Award: Trevor Sappenfield

Persistence in Physics Award: Shelby Lucero

Community Service Award for Cadet Teaching: Caitlynd Bishop, Kristen Bumgarner, Daniel Naylor, and Cody Rot-solk

100% Attendance Award:

Angelica Garza

100% Attendance Award: Kristen Bumgarner

Middle School

Hardest Worker Award: Cassidie Reller

School Board Reporter: Bryce Walling

AOS Woods Class Builds Big

This year several AOS students had the privilege to take an elective Wood Shop class at South Albany High School. This class provided students the opportunity to partake in multiple Service Learning Projects including painting a shed for Habitat for Humanity and constructing a shed that will accompany a Habitat home.

In building the shed for a Habitat for Humanity house on Adah Drive they learned homebuilding skills very similar to those needed to build walls for a full-sized house. Building a sturdy shed that will withstand extreme weather conditions and hold supplies, comes down to accurate measuring and cutting of the 2 x 4's and plywood used for

framing and siding the walls. The students involved in this project included Adrien Bennett, Antonio Ramos, Chance Adkins, Cody Rotsolk, Dakota Allen, Daniel Naylor, Daniel Shoop, Falvio Lopez, James Cox, Lacey Edmiston, and Rafael Avila. All those involved operated chop-saws, skilsaws, snapped chalklines, drilled, hammered, roofed and put a door in.

The Woods class allowed students to work on projects that will make a positive difference in the lives of people in our community while simultaneously teaching them safety and building skills that they can use throughout their life. During the final three weeks of

the term, students constructed 12 raised bed planters for the future garden at AOS. Lacey Edmiston designed the planters and their layout on the AOS site and each student assisted in the construction of them.

"This group of students was so productive and enthusiastic in building," remarked Woods teacher Chava Neuhaus. "It was like watching a well-oiled machine rapidly bringing planters into existence!" Their enthusiasm paid off when they delivered the oversize planters to AOS to launch the garden project, the next large AOS legacy endeavor.



GED Graduates

Congratulations to our most recent GED Graduates. As of January 1, 2012 the following students earned their GED at LBCC.

Andrea Black

Denia Contreras

Jacob McMichael

Alex Martinez

Brittiany Needham

Marcos Raya

Shawn Smith

We're Proud of you!!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO

TOM KRUPICKA AT

TOM'S GARDEN

CENTER FOR DONATING

SIX CUBIC FEET OF

POTTING SOIL FOR THE

AOS PLANTER BOXES!

GREATER ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Albany Options School
701 19th Ave. SE
Albany, OR 97322

Phone: 541-967-4563
Fax: 541-924-3780

VISIT US ONLINE:

WWW.ALBANY.K12.OR.US/AOS/

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.....**7-855-846-8376**
- **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 District.....**541-924-3720**
- **Albany Helping Hands:** Emergency shelter, phone, mail, three meals per day, laundry, and showers upon approval: 619 St. SE. Albany.....**926-4036**
- **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
701 19th Ave. SE
Albany, OR 97322

ALBANY OPTIONS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2012

Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety