



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

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ROCKS

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

AOS Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 4

February, 2106

A Word from the Principal

As we move into February, we enter the fourth grading period, which means we are halfway done with this school year!

The first half of the year was filled with great accomplishments, as we had several students earn their high school diploma, others complete their GED, and many students reach even closer to graduation by earning credits and passing their state required essential skills.

These students should act as role models for all of our students at AOS who strive to complete their high school journey in a positive manner.

What made these students successful high school graduates or completers?

- Good School attendance!
- Positive study habits!
- Hard work!
- Fantastic Attitude!
- Understanding success is earned, not given randomly!
- Asking for help and then using this help!
- Laughing and smiling each day (makes your days and classes go faster!)

Looking ahead, I am excited about the many possibilities to come for our students.

Graduating Seniors: Be sure to check out the graduation checklist on **page 5** of the newsletter to make sure you are doing everything you need to be prepared for graduation!

Over the previous grading periods we have had a number of students who have had perfect attendance. Those students will be honored by AOS and the Portland Trail Blazers with tickets to an upcoming game in Portland and dinner.

As you read the February publication of this newsletter you will be amazed at the positive and engaging activities our staff and students have been involved in recently.

AOS brings unique opportunities for students to learn and grow. We believe these opportunities are why our students are experiencing

more successes while our curriculum becomes more rigorous.

I am also very excited to finally have an Office Manager once again at AOS. We have hired Gwen Barker and she is settling in very well in her new role. I know all of you will find her helpful, friendly, and a positive addition to AOS.




I am eager to see what the second half of the school year brings to AOS.

I am excited to see more student successes, more students involved in Service Learning, higher levels of student attendance, and students being successful in the classroom! I believe in you! Hard work does pay off!



Happy Birthday to Mr. Hunter, who celebrated his birthday with his staff on Monday, February 1st!

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NO SCHOOL Grading Day	2 Start of new grading period	3 Early Release	4	5	6
7	8 Superbowl Day	9 <i>Mardi Gras</i> Day!	10 Early Release President's Day/Patriotic	11 Groundhog Day	12 GPA Awards <i>Valentine's</i> Day	13
14 <i>valentine's</i> Day 	15 President's Day 	16	17 Early Release	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Early Release	25	26	27
28	29 LEAP DAY! 					

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Early Release	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Early Release	10	11 FINALS	12
13 Daylight Savings Time Starts	14 NO SCHOOL Grading Day	15 Start of the third trimester	16 Early Release	17	18	19
20	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 SERVICE SATURDAY: SOLV Beachside Cleanup in Newport
27 <i>Easter</i> <i>Sunday</i>	28	29	30 Early Release	31	April 1 NO SCHOOL Staff Develop- ment Work Day	

Important Information

Weather Make-Up Day

Since school was canceled on Monday, January 4th after Winter Break, the School Board has voted to add February 15th as a school day to make up for missed classroom time.

There will be school on Monday, February 15th.

That day was previously scheduled as a holiday for President's Day, but is now a school day.

UPCOMING DAYS OFF:

Monday, February 1st

Monday, March 14th

Week of March 21st-25th

Friday, April 1st

SNOW DAYS

In case of inclement weather such as snow or ice, check the district website to see if there will be school. You can also sign up for text notifications from the website.

Spirit Week Dress-Up Days

Monday—Superbowl Day
(wear your team's gear, etc.)

Tuesday—Mardi Gras (wear green, gold, and purple)

Wednesday—President's Day
(dress as your favorite president or wear your patriotic gear)

Thursday—Groundhog Day
(Dress for a long Winter or early Spring)

Friday—Valentine's Day
(wear your pinks, reds, purples, hearts, etc.)

Senior Parent Night Success!

We started hosting a senior parent night last year and three families showed up, which was a good start. This year 16 students showed up with a parent or family member. A total of 35 people attended the evening, including a handful of our teen parents!

The evening started with a delicious chili dinner cooked by students in Mrs. Harryman's Family and Consumer Sciences class. The cafeteria was full and looked like Open House!



Students came early to help set up and serve the food (and many stayed late to clean up too!).

Our counselor, Kevin. De-Coster, went over what

students need to be doing between now and graduation, with everything ranging from ordering caps and gowns, FAFSA, budgeting, school, jobs, fees, and deadlines.

The families all left with FAFSA and Oregon Promise info,

Turn to page 5 for the graduation checklist

graduation checklist and packet, and Miners order forms for graduation.

A special thank you to Angela Spencer, the College Readiness Coordinator, who came and spoke to the parents and students about what they need to be doing and what options are out there, and to our neighbors in the Welcome Center who

joined us and served as translators so that no one would be excluded.



AOS Welcomes New Office Manager

All of us here at Albany Options School are thrilled to welcome Gwen Barker as our new Office Manager and Registrar.

Before joining us Mrs. Barker spent time working at the Linn County Taxes and Assessment Office, as a South Albany High School Administrative Secretary, and as a



GAPS Classified Substitute. In addition, she and her husband owned their own business for which she worked.

Mrs. Barker came highly recommended by all and we are confident she will be an excellent addition to our AOS family. Welcome!

Pic of the Month



Monet and Dakota performing their lip sync to "No Air" by Jordin Sparks in Mrs. Mitchell's Theater Class.

Writing Essentials Class Meets Grad Requirement

In Oregon, one of the key graduation requirements is the essential skill of writing. The state believes that all high school graduates should be able to write clearly and accurately.

To demonstrate this, students complete a number of work samples showing their ability.

At AOS, students receive multiple opportunities to develop and display this essential skill, including the Smarter Balanced assessment.

Since it is a graduation requirement,

it is a priority for seniors to get their writing work samples done. To that end, the school has a Writer's Workshop class with Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Jansen for students who need to improve their skills in order to pass the essential skills requirement.

The course focuses on building the ability to write with ease in the various modes: narrative, expository, and persuasive.

As part of the course, students have the chance to grow this important skillset while also showing their im-

provements through multiple work samples.

In addition to a deeper understanding of the writing process, students also gain the ability to stick with a tough task. Drafting, editing, and revising help students cultivate persistence.

Many students have already completed a passing writing work sample this first six-week grading period and are well on their way to completing their second one by the end of the trimester and meeting this graduation requirement.

Student Article: Earning PE Credit in the Pilates Class

At AOS we don't have a gym so we don't have many PE classes. However, we do have a Pilates class during school now that gives students a break from sitting in chairs and you get PE credit.

We start every period with stretches to prepare our bodies and lower our chances for injury. We also keep

ourselves challenged by adding 10 seconds to our plank time each week. We've managed to hold this position for 60 seconds!

We also do a variety of workout videos everyday ranging from abs to legs and glutes.

This class is really important to me for many reasons. Starting with the

stretches it manages to calm me down and keep me relaxed. I always feel pushed to try harder and accomplish more. After being in this class, not only have I become more confident in myself, but I'm doing things that are benefitting my body in a positive way! - Monét



Monét is a sophomore at AOS and is on track to graduate early!

Graduates

Congratulations to the following students who met their graduation requirements during the last six-week grading period:

Stephen Hobbs

Brian Welker

Ashlea Davenport

Zachary Null

Bryce Spowehn



Changes to GED

Exciting news for GED students!

The State of Oregon will be implementing a new scoring system per GED Test Services recommendations.

Now students will pass each of their four tests with a minimum score of 145 instead of the previous 150.

This will be implemented on March 1st and will be retroactive for former GED students.

What this means for our students in the GED program is that we will now have four students automatically earn their GED and four from last year!

GED Completers

Congratulations to the students who passed their four tests and earned their GED during the month of January:

Brett Backer

Zachery Griffin

*Students who will have retroactively passed their GED as of March 1st, 2016, will be announced after that date.

GRADUATING SENIORS

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On January 12, 2016, we had a night for the parents of seniors. Information was available on LBCC, college funding, entering the armed services, and the graduation ceremony in June, 2016. Please see the following "Dirty Dozen" of what should be done before graduation from your counselor, Kevin DeCoster.

AOS SENIOR "TO DO" LIST, 2016 "THE DIRTY DOZEN"

- Track your credits – If we are both doing it, we should keep things current!
- Order your cap and gown for the graduation ceremony, June 13, 2016. Miners Graduate Services is our provider.
- Pay all fees, or clear up your account at your referring high school (or you won't receive your diploma).
- Return all books – Here at AOS, and at your referring school (or you won't receive your diploma).
- You must have all work completed for your classes and all fines paid by June 10, 2016.
- Complete the FAFSA and "Oregon Promise" application
- *Get a final copy of your high school transcript (**available after the end of the school year*)
- Get at least one letter of recommendation from an adult who knows you (but not your parent)
- Make sure you have a current copy of your resume', and a list of activities in addition to attending classes at AOS (Volunteering, jobs, church-related work, caring for family members)
- Have a plan! I don't think you want to live with your parents and work at Burger King forever. At least try some things out – college, a job, training, or a combination of these. Moving on goes along with growing up!
- Set a budget! Whether you stay at home or get a place of your own, knowing how much money you have, and what you need to spend it on is important. Getting a credit card can be dangerous!
- Turn in a copy of a picture of you as a baby, and a graduation picture if you have them, turn them in to Mrs. Harryman.

Save the dates:

Last day of school for seniors is Friday, June 10th.

Graduation is the evening of Monday, June 13th at LBCC.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. DeCoster. We are already halfway through the school year and graduation will be here before we know it.

For a copy of the senior graduation packet and/or a Miners packet please see Mr. DeCoster.

Students Learn Geometry through Hands-On Activity

Most students enter my Geometry class with a fear of Mathematics, complaining that it is boring or uninteresting.

That is one of the main reasons I decided to teach math in the first place, because I wanted to show students that learning can be fun and engaging.

Last week the students

in my class started to explore volumes of different types of

3-D shapes, but rather than simply giving them the formula and have them compute the answer, I had them explore and create formulas on their own from different hands-on experiments.

One activity had students fill



pyramids and cubes that they built with cheerios to discover the formula, the students enjoyed the activity and if they were hungry could even eat the cereal at the end!

The vacuum cleaner was on hand for any cheerio spills and to keep Mr. Hunter happy with a

clean classroom!

- Christy Fitzpatrick, Math, GED

Greater Albany Public School District

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Visit us online at:
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.....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: Month: February, 2016
Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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