



Albany Options
School
Greater Albany
Public School
District

AOS Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

February, 2013

A Word from the Principal

Inside this issue:

School Calendar	2
Students Build Playhouse for Habitat	3
Students Improve on Assessment Scores	3
Students Earn Tickets to Blazers Game	4
Rotary Club Student of the Month	4
FACT and AOS Teen Parent Class	5
Mock Trial Class	5

As we move into February we enter into the forth grading period, which means we are more than half way done with this school year. Looking back over the previous 18 weeks I am amazed at all of the success that our students have had. Our Habitat for Humanity project is completed and has been donated to a church in Albany. I know that their pre-school students will be excited to climb up into its tower.

Tahnee Ankarberg was named Student of the Month at the Greater Alba-

ny Rotary Club. She was honored at their monthly luncheon and gave a moving speech about how she has overcome many obstacles to be on track to graduate early.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the possibilities to come for our students. 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 Blazers with tickets to an upcoming game in Portland.

I would like to warn students interested in entering the GED program that there have been some structural changes in how the test is administered. These changes have caused a backlog in testing opportunities. Students currently in the program are registered, but will not be able to test until late February or even early March.

I am eager to see what the next grading period brings as it will set the tone at AOS for the remaining 18 weeks!

Amnesty International ROCKS AOS

ROCKS

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

This past term AOS used the ROCKS period every Thursday to focus on making a difference around the world through Amnesty International's Global Write-a-Thon event.

Students took the opportunity to improve margin note taking while reading about specific human rights violations in multiple different countries. Students chose individuals and

causes and wrote letters to officials calling for change.




Some students even had the opportunity to write a



letter to the victim encouraging them to continue fighting for human rights in their country.

This is the second year AOS has participated in the Write for Rights letter writing campaign hosted by Amnesty International. Students shared their letters and the stories of the victims they had studied at an assembly on January 24th.

February, 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Groundhog Day
3	4	5 Testing Schedule	6 Early Release	7 Testing Schedule	8	9
10	11	12	13 Early Release	14 ROCKS	15	16
17	18 President's Day! No School 	19 Blazers Game at Rose Garden @ 7:00pm	20 Early Release	21 ROCKS	22 OSU Clothing Event at AOS	23
24	25	26 ROCKS	27 Early Release	28 Testing Schedule		

March, 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Green School Summit in Portland	2
3	4	5	6 Early Release	7 ROCKS	8 Last Day of Grading Period	9
10 Daylight Savings Begins 	11	12	13 Early Release	14 ROCKS	15	16
17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! 	18	19 ROCKS	20 Early Release	21 Testing Schedule	22 Testing Schedule	23
24	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30
Spring Break						

Important Information

FAFSA

Senior students and parents may now begin filing their FAFSA applications for the 2013-2014 school year once they have completed their taxes.

Once you have done your taxes it is simple to link your FAFSA and taxes together online, which makes the process much easier.

For more information see Miss Sokolov or Ms Smith.

www.fafsa.gov

School Delays and Closures

GAPS subscribes to the FlashNews network, a service that notifies television, radio and newspapers in the event of school closures/late starts/early dismissals, etc.



The District also subscribes to FlashAlert, which takes the same emergency/ delay/ closure information relayed to the media and sends it to subscribers via e-mail or text message. For more info go to:

albany.k12.or.us/delaysclosures.php

SAT DATES

The next SAT test date is

March 9th.

Online registration for this date is on

February 8th.

See Ms. Smith for more information!

AOS in the NEWS

If you've missed the recent stories about AOS in the news go online to:

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

Playhouse Structure Completed for Habitat

Last Spring AOS was awarded a Service Learning grant from Habitat for Humanity International and State Farm to build a playhouse structure. The grant, worth \$5000, was only awarded to nine schools across the country!

Students at AOS met every Saturday during the last trimester to build the project, which is going to a local church in our community.

This project was part of the "Service Saturdays" program, which provides students with the opportunity to

earn additional credits outside of their regular school day.

Students involved in this project were able to earn .25-.5 Elective credits based on the numbers of hours they worked.

The grant is also paying for the school's Service Learning coordinator, Anna Sokolov, to attend the National



Service Learning Conference in Denver, CO later this Spring to help further Service Learning at AOS.

We would like to thank our community partners and the individuals who made this project possible.

AOS Shows Appreciation to Board

Every year students at AOS put together something to show their appreciation for the Greater Albany Public School Board.



On Monday, January 28th students Angelica Garza and Debra Leonor attended the School Board meeting at the District Office and presented the gifts

from AOS to the board members and the student liaison.

Students in the Family and Consumer Science class made jam and fresh baked bread and cookies for the board members in class.

The students in the Leadership class made and wrote cards to the board members thanking them for all of their hard work, time, and dedication that they give every year.

Alumni News



Flavio Lopez (2012) is a wild-land firefighter, and after his first successful season he is enjoying "hibernating" during the winter off-season.

GED GRADS!

Congratulations to our students who recently completed their GED:

- Alyssa Coe
- Olivia Nowell
- Kylar Milligan
- Tyson Studier
- Amanda McCoy

Student Earns \$1000 Scholarship!

Congratulations to senior, Debra Leonor, who received a \$1000 scholarship for college!

Debra was selected as a recipient of the 2013-2014 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship. This award, funded through the Comcast Foundation, recognizes high school seniors from Comcast communities for their commitment to community service, academic



achievement, and demonstrated leadership.

Debra has been recognized multiple times for her outstanding commitment to the community while at AOS. Amongst her awards and recognitions Debra has been the recipient for the Prudential Spirit of Community award as well as the President's Award for her hundreds of hours of community service., which she received last year.

Congratulations, Debra!

Students Earn Tickets to Trail Blazers Game!

Students who have had outstanding attendance at AOS will be treated to an exciting opportunity next month. Every student who has received a perfect attendance award at the end of a six-week grading period will receive a ticket to a Trail Blazers basketball game at the Rose Garden.



In order to receive the perfect attendance award students must be present for every single period during the six weeks.

Since these students worked so hard to be at school AOS will not only be taking them to the game, but will also

be taking them out to dinner prior to the game as a treat on behalf of the school.

AOS will have the opportunity to offer this to students again in March following the next six-week grading period. We hope students will work hard to earn the award so we can take them to go see the Blazers live in action!

Rotary Club Student of the Month

Congratulations to Tahnee Ankarberg, junior, who was recognized on Monday, January 14th, by the Greater Albany Rotary Club as the Student of the Month.

Tahnee was nominated by AOS because she has managed to accomplish so much during her time here. In addition to being a star student in her classes and a leader at school, Tahnee has also been taking classes at Linn-



Benton Community College and is on track to graduate a year ahead of her cohort!

Tahnee was the guest of honor at the Rotary Club luncheon on the 14th and had the opportunity to share her story with everyone in attendance.

The club gave Tahnee a \$200 gift certificate to the LBCC's bookstore.

Congratulations, Tahnee!

Picture of the Month



Happy Birthday

to Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Wichman, and Mr. Knight (not pictured) who celebrated their birthdays in January!

AOS to send 5 to Green Summit

Last Spring students in Mrs. Muller's Ecology and Biology classes worked to turn AOS into the first certified Oregon Green School high school in our district.

The first day of school AOS was honored with the

framed certificate, which now hangs proudly in our school building.



On March 1st AOS will be sending five former Ecology students who participated in the Service Learning efforts to the Oregon Green School Summit in Portland.

Schools from across the state will be in attendance to share what they are doing in their schools to make them "green," celebrating their accomplishments, and learning more about the efforts being made.

AOS will be one of many schools on display in the exhibit hall.

Clothing Event

Last year OSU sorority Sigma Delta Omega hosted a clothing event a AOS for all of the students. They collected clothes from multiple sororities and fraternities and turned classrooms into little boutique shops for students to come and try on and take home some clothes with them.

AOS will be partnering with Sigma Delta Omega again on February 22nd for another clothing event. If you would like to donate or learn more about the event see Anna Sokolov at the AOS Outreach Office.

Perfect Attendance

Students with **100%** perfect attendance during the last 6-week grading period :

Alan Ruiz
 Fabian Silva
 Connor MacAuley
 Greg Diehl
 Cory Houser
 Angelica Garza
 William Bumgarner

FACT & AOS Teen Parent Class

FACT is currently offering a teen parent class, which is available for pregnant and parenting teens currently enrolled in the Greater Albany Public School District.

The class is offered weekly at AOS and our very own Mrs. Hart is the teacher.

The class addresses



things like prenatal development, nutrition, safety, discipline, the importance of reading, and much more.

The students have the opportunity to earn up to 0.5 Elective credits through this class by completing the requirements set by the teacher, which include attendance and assignments.

For more information see the FACT office of Mrs. Hart in the Special Education office at AOS.

Mock Trial Class Solves Murder Case

During the previous six-week grading period students in Mr. Wolfe's Mock Trial class not only learned about law and the legal system, but they also had the opportunity to delve into a case and really learn the ins and outs of trial.

Students were divided into the prosecution and defense and had to learn the individual roles of attorneys, witnesses,



victims, cross examiners, etc.

The students learned about a case involving domestic violence, which resulted in murder. The defendant, played by Josie DeLaCruz, was accused of murder in the first degree of her husband! The

students recreated the case, wrote the examining questions, opening and closing statements, and had to convince the jury, made up of staff, as to whether or not the woman being prosecuted was guilty.

The students did a phenomenal job and the jury voted not guilty!



**Greater Albany Public
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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.....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/

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Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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