



Albany Options School
Greater Albany Public School District

AOS Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

February, 2014

A Word from the Principal

Inside this issue:

School Calendar	2
Rotary Student of the Month—Connor	3
Students Volunteer at Tangent School	3
AOS on Show “This American Land”	4
Seniors Attend Youth Job Fair at LBCC	4
Ecology Visits Talking Water Gardens	5
Students Attend Comic-Con	5

- ### ROCKS
- * Respect
 - * Ownership
 - * Courage
 - * Knowledge
 - * Safety

When school begins on Monday, February 3, we will officially be halfway through our school year! That is as exciting as the things that have happened since the last newsletter.

In December, Conner MacAuley was honored by the Greater Albany Rotary Club as Student of the Month at their luncheon.

Our seniors represented themselves and AOS very well at the annual Youth Job Fair and made us very proud. This is a great opportunity for our students

to hone their resume and interviewing skills as they move out into the real world.

In January, AOS became a certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The students continue to amaze me in their dedication to the bioswale and garden area. They have seeds germinating and bulbs growing throughout the building to soon plant in the raised beds.

We added a new teacher to our ranks! Mrs. Harryman,

formally Miss Sokolov, returned to AOS to teach Ecology, Health and Child Development. We are excited to have her in this new capacity.

We continue to closely monitor our students’ attendance and again will take students who have perfect attendance during any one of the six-week grading periods to dinner and a Trailblazer game in the Spring. Let’s make a hard push for lots of students to have perfect attendance and attend the game!

AOS Becomes Certified Wildlife Habitat

Returning from Winter Break the students in the Ecology class examined the characteristics of a habitat and applied them to the Albany Options School grounds.

The students took into consideration the three major aspects needed for AOS to become certified by the Na-

tional Wildlife Federation as a wildlife habitat, which



included food sources, water sources, and then cover and places for wildlife to raise their young.

Since developing the school’s bioswale rain garden last year the school grounds now

provide multiple sources of water, food, and cover.

The students completed the application process on their own and then as a class we submitted it to the National Wildlife Federation.

This is one of many efforts the school has made to be eco-friendly, including developing the bioswale and becoming a certified Oregon Green School.

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3 Beginning of new grading period	4	5 Early Release	6	7 Making College Happen—WOU	8
9	10	11	12 Early Release	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15
16	17	18	19 Early Release	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Early Release	27	28	MARCH 1

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 Early Release	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Begins 	10	11	12 Early Release	13	14 LAST DAY OF TRIMESTER	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL Grading Day	18	19 Early Release	20	21 FIRST DAY OF SPRING! 	22
23	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29
30	31	APRIL 1 	2 Early Release	3	4 NO SCHOOL	5

Important Information

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Students wishing to get their **driver's license** will not receive their proof of enrollment from the school unless they have at least 80% attendance and are earning all passing grades.

Reminder that absences are unexcused unless accompanied by a letter from the doctor or other official. Multiple unexcused absences will result in the involvement of the school's truancy officer, Dina Ratzlaff.

School Delays and Closures

The Greater Albany Public School District 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

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Have you earned a perfect attendance award this year?

Students who have perfect attendance for any 6-week grading period will have the opportunity to go up to Portland for dinner at a restaurant and a Trailblazers game.

This is your last six-week period to earn the award to be able to go to the basketball game!

Greater Albany Rotary Club Student of the Month

Congratulations to student, Connor MacAuley, for his recent recognition as the student of the month from the Greater Albany Rotary Club.

Connor was presented with a framed certificate and a \$200 gift card to the Linn-Benton Community College bookstore from the Rotary Club for his outstanding work as a student.

Connor was chosen as the student of the month for all of his many accomplishments he has received while at AOS, including his many hours of volunteer work, involvement in Lead-



ership at AOS, his consistently outstanding GPA, and regularly perfect attendance.

Connor, his parents, and the school counselor, LaDonne Smith, attended the Rotary luncheon as guests of honor. At the luncheon Connor was given the opportunity to share his story of overcoming his struggles at both WAHS and SAHS and becoming a leader and achiever at Albany Options School. Congratulations, Connor!

Students Volunteered at Tangent



In preparation for the holidays, a group of students from AOS volunteered to spend an afternoon at Tangent Elementary School to help them decorate and prepare for the holidays and their annual Senior Dinner.



AOS on "This American Land" Aired on PBS

Last Spring the film crew from the PBS show, "This American Land," visited AOS to film an episode.

The Ecology class was filmed working on the school's bioswale rain garden and several students and staff were interviewed about our program, student body, and our efforts as a "Green" school to deal with the water runoff and infiltration.

The series was only broadcast in Oregon on OPB PLUS, which restricted most from being able to watch it, but

the episode is available online at:

<http://www.thisamericanland.org/Episodes/season-three>

Season 3, Episode 3

The episode is also available on our school website and facebook page.

Efforts have been made to contact OPB and request that it be aired locally. To help in these efforts please contact OPB at:

<http://www.opb.org/about/contactus/>



GED Completers

Congratulations to our recent GED completers:

Shelby Gayheart
Emmett Jackson-Grimes
Joni Fetter
Keenan Henry
Matthew Schoeman
Joseph Thompson

Weather Make-Up Days Added

Reminder that due to the week of snow days earlier this Winter, several days have been added to the school calendar to make-up for the loss.

President's Day, February 17th, has been added as a school day and is no longer a three-day weekend.

The last day of school has been pushed back and is now Thursday, June 12th,

for the afternoon programs and IHS.

The last day of school for the morning programs is Friday, June 13th.

This is subject to change due to additional inclement weather we may experience later this Winter.



Seniors Attend the Youth Job Fair

The seniors at AOS spent the day on December 17th at Linn-Benton Community College attending the annual Linn County Youth Job Fair.

Students came dressed professionally and prepared to learn about career



and school opportunities. Each student was given time to sit with professionals from the community and practice being interviewed. The students were given direct

feedback at the time of the interview as well as on an evaluation form. Every student from AOS received excel-

lent scores on how they presented themselves and answered the interview questions. As always the school was extremely proud of the students and what they accomplished.



Ecology Class Visits Talking Water Gardens



Mrs. Harryman's Ecology class visited Talking Water Gardens on a field trip led by the City of Albany's Heather Slocum to learn more about habitats and the efforts our community makes towards sustainability and our environment.

The students spent all morning walking around the Talking Water Gardens and learning about the different plants, animals, and what the man-

made wetland does to serve the community and manage our wastewater.

The students also enjoyed helping to germinate cattail by releasing the seeds into the wind directly from the cattail plants.

Thank you, Heather Slocum and the City of Albany, for providing a great and hands-on learning opportunity.

Students Attend Comic-Con in Portland

On Saturday, January 25th, students from Mrs. Gillispie and Mrs. Mitchell's Super Heroes themed classes attended the Comic-Con in Portland.

A dozen students attended, even some in costume, with teachers Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Gillispie, and Mr. Corliss, who all dressed for the occasion.



Mrs. Mitchell teaches a Literature class about Super Heroes, and Mrs. Gillispie teaches a corresponding science class that investigates the different gadgets, super powers, and connects them to real life science. The classes are blocked so that students participating in one class gets to also enjoy the other.



Teachers Ms. Corliss, Mrs. Gillispie, and Mrs. Mitchell in costume at Comic-Con in Portland.

**Greater Albany Public
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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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