



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

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**ROCKS**

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

# AOS Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

October, 2014

## A Word from the Principal

As the new Principal at AOS I have been amazed by the staff's commitment to your students both academically and emotionally. They do amazing things each and every day to make AOS a place that students can take risks, enjoy learning, and feel safe.

I hope you enjoyed a fun-filled summer with friends and family and are ready to partner with us at AOS to begin our "quest" for excellence. I challenged my staff to create an environment of excellence before your students arrived this year at AOS:

Excellence in our leadership, excellence in our instructional practices, excellence in our commitment to students, excellence in our commitment to our AOS families, and excellence in our commitment to one another.

I would like to "challenge" you as I did my staff and ask you to make sure your student comes to school each and every day, to promote the importance of academics in their life's, to engage them in making positive and healthy choices, and to enlist our help to assure each of these challenges are fulfilled. Only together can we do our best work for the students at AOS.

It must be noted we are soon approaching the end of the 6-week grading period on October 9<sup>th</sup>. This will include final tests and final grades. Please encourage your students to study, attend, and complete homework as we enter these final two weeks before the grading period ends. If they need help make sure they are connecting with their teachers and planning a

time to get some extra academic support. They are ready and willing!

I have really appreciated the warm welcome I have received as the new Principal at AOS by the students and families at AOS. It is my honor to assist in providing all students at AOS the opportunity for successes now and in the future. However, they must take this opportunity as it cannot be "forced" upon them.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at our annual Open House on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Family involvement in a student's school is a huge factor in their successes. This would be an easy way to show your involvement and meet your student's teachers and the rest of the AOS staff.

## OPEN HOUSE—SEPTEMBER 30th

Albany Options School is hosting their annual Open House on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The event will be from 5:30pm-7:00pm. Come join us for a meal prepared

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**Sep. 30th**  
**5:30-7:00pm**

by our Foods Class, and an opportunity to meet our principal and staff. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00pm followed by an opportunity to meet your student's teachers, and discuss their classes and the student's success.


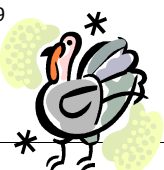
Por favor acompañenos a nuestro evento anual "Casa Abierta" el día martes 30 de septiembre, tendremos una cena y la oportunidad de conocer a los maestros y el personal de la escuela preparatoria alternativa (AOS).

## October, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30 <b>OPEN HOUSE</b> 5:30-7:00 pm	1 Early Release	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Early Release	9 <b>END OF GRADING PERIOD</b>	10 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	11
12	13 <i>COLUMBUS DAY</i>	14 ROCKS	15 Early Release	16	17	18
19	20	21 ROCKS	22 Early Release	23	24	25 SERVICE SATURDAY: 9-12pm
26	27	28 ROCKS	29 Early Release	30	31 HALLOWEEN	November 1



## November, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> 	3	4 ROCKS	5 Early Release	6	7	8
9	10 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	11 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Veteran's Day	12 Early Release	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Early Release	20	21 <b>END OF TRIMESTER</b>	22
23	24 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	25 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	26 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Thanksgiving	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29 
30	December 1	2 ROCKS	3 Early Release	4	5	6

## Important Information

### SENIOR REQUIREMENTS

**All seniors are required to attend the LBCC Job Fair on December 16th.**

To attend you must have three resumes completed as well as three job applications.

If you do not attend that day you must complete some make-up assignments through the career center with our counselor, Ms. Smith.

Seniors need to complete a PEPP (Personal Education Plan and Profile), which includes a list of any of the courses seniors have taken, also including your goals and Career Related Learning Standards. See the counselor for questions.

### OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for our annual Open House event on Tuesday, September 30th at 5:30-7:00pm.

Dinner will be prepared by our Foods Class and served from 5:30-6:00pm.

Come meet the AOS staff!

**Congratulations to Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Gillispie, who each welcomed a baby into their families.**

Mrs. Gillispie gave birth to a baby girl on September 19th.

Mrs. Mitchell welcomed a baby boy on August 19th.

### New AOS T-Shirt

Students have submitted designs for the new school t-shirt for the 2014-2015 school year. The winning design will be selected soon and announced to the school, and the shirts will be made.

## AOS WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Smith is our new Special Ed teacher. Before coming to AOS Smith worked at West Albany High School, he owned and operated his own hair salon, was a bartender, limo driver, and also a youth pastor.

He earned his BA at OSU and his Master's at Pacific University. He is also going to school to get his Education Specialist degree from Lewis and Clark. Smith enjoys spending time with his family, which include his wife and two kids, ages 25 and 19. He also enjoys his fantasy basketball league and reading.

**Mr. Smith**



We are excited to welcome Mr. Hunter

as our new principal. He was born in Long Beach, CA and moved to Albany, OR where he went to school his whole life and graduated from South Albany High School and was the first in his family to graduate college.

Hunter earned his BA from OSU and his Master's from Portland State.



He has been a principal at two different elementary schools in our district and an assistant principal at both South Albany and West Albany High Schools.

**Mr. Hunter**

Mrs. Allen is our long-term sub for Mrs. Gillispie while she is on maternity leave.

Mrs. Allen has been a teacher for ten years. She is from Alabama and has two children, a boy and a girl.

"I enjoy working at AOS because of how small it is, you meet lots of new people," said Mrs. Allen.



**Mrs. Allen**

Mrs. Rist is a student teacher in math for Mr. Corliss and Mr. Kriz. She has her degree in math and is currently working on her Master's from OSU.

Mrs. Rist was born in Japan before moving all over the country with her family because her father was in the military.

She graduated from West Albany. Her hobbies include beekeeping, children's books, longboarding, antique shopping, and indoor soccer.



**Mrs. Rist**

**Mr. Harry**



Mr. Harry is a substitute for Mrs. Mitchell while she is out on maternity leave. Mr. Harry received his Master's in Political Science and Teaching from Utah State.

He has three children, all boys, ages 29 and twins who are 24. Harry's hobbies are gardening, spending time with his dogs, swimming, and sports. He has also worked in construction, summer camps, and in restaurants.

## New Landscaping at AOS

Over the last few years there has been some thoughts of having a new landscape in front of our AOS school building.

"This idea was to give our school a bit of a better look,"

said Suzanne Collette, the office manager and registrar at AOS.



The outcome of this idea is new grass in front of our school, giving the school a greener look.

In the beginning of this school year we saw people from the District Physical Plant out front putting down the concrete, then later on we saw them putting down sod to make this plan

come to life.

The new landscaping also includes new sprinklers to keep the grass green throughout the year.



## Horticulture Class in First Regional Garden Hub Event

On Wednesday, September 17th the Horticulture class participated in a garden tour coordinated by Oregon's first regional school garden hub.

AOS became one of the original schools to create the first hub, which is located in Linn County and coordinated by Rick Sherman, a

Check out the article about the event in the Democrat-Herald publication on Sep. 25th.

former GAPS employee, who now works for the Oregon Department of Education.

Other schools who participated in the tour on Wednesday included Calapooia Middle School, Memorial Middle School, and Sunrise Elementary School.

Mrs. Harryman and her Horticulture

class have been busy focusing on preparing for the changing season. In class the students have built cloches, which function as mini greenhouses above the raised beds.

The students have also been busy harvesting the last of the produce and starting the winter crops in the greenhouse, which include spinach, kale, and other winter greens and onions.

## Running for Fitness with Mr. Wolfe

A new class that AOS has to offer this Fall is Running for Fitness with teacher Mark Wolfe.

Last year AOS wanted to start a program that could earn PE credits here at school, which began with a Yoga class. Mr. Knight, the former principal, asked Mr.



Wolfe if he would like to teach a running class.

The goal for the class is that the overall health of the students will improve, and that they will be able to say that they ran the same length as a marathon during the course of the six weeks.

The students come to class dressed down to run for class everyday except for Wednesdays, which is

the day they spend in class learning about running and health and walk a lap around the school.

Mr. Wolfe has extensive past experience with running, which includes running twenty-six marathons, which include running the Boston Marathon ten times!

Those interested in supporting the running class are invited to participate in sponsoring new running clothes for the students by going online to: <http://www.donorschoose.org/AlbanyOptionsSchool> and donating.



## Journalism Class Writes School Newsletter

This school year Mrs. Harryman handed off the responsibility of writing the AOS newsletter to her students in the Journalism English class. Previously Mrs. Harryman wrote the newsletter while in the position of AOS Business to School Liaison, but now that she is a teacher she shares the responsibilities with the students. Students are in charge of gathering

information and taking pictures for their articles, as then utilizing their writing skills to produce the articles.

Jennifer Moody, a reporter for the Albany Democrat-Herald, came and spoke to the Journalism class about what it takes to be a jour-



nalist on Wednesday, September 24th.

The students are also scheduled to tour the Democrat-Herald facilities on Monday, September 29th.

The students have been learning about the writing styles used in journalism and reporting, they have been reading daily news articles, and practicing their new writing skills.

The newsletter is also available online at:

[albany.k12.or.us/aos/newsletter.php](http://albany.k12.or.us/aos/newsletter.php)

## New Rocks Period at AOS

We have instituted a ROCKS class every week on Tuesdays. This class is made for students of AOS to assist them with building connections with staff, and time to catch up on homework. This class is also for students to have a homeroom, track grades, and get to know others.

Students will also be using this time to work on career exploration and complete Career Education credits during the ROCKS period.

The period will be used for school-

wide assemblies and career guest speakers.

Although the students will not be earning credit for this class time, the students will be using this time to earn their Career Education credits.

Due to the added period on Tuesdays, the other classes will be shorter than normal.

We also encourage students to wear their AOS t-shirts on Tuesdays for ROCKS days.

## GRADS AND GED

Congratulations to the two students who completed their graduation requirements for their high school diploma already this Fall:

**Ashley Gray**

**Cody Rezanow**

Congratulations to the students in the GED program who have already completed all of their tests this Fall to earn GED!

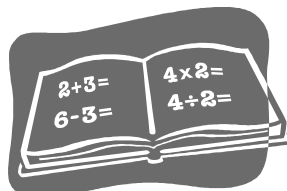
**Aundra Tilson**

**Frank Camilton**

## Students Volunteer at Sunrise

The students in the Project Citizen Leadership class at AOS have been spending their Thursdays volunteering at Sunrise Elementary School during their class period.

The students spend the whole class time working in three different 3rd grade classes where they assist the teachers by playing games with the students, helping stu-



dents learn in small groups or one-on-one, and teaching them math.

The AOS students are divided into groups of three or four students for each 3rd grade class.

The elementary students are always excited to see the high schoolers arrive, and we are looking forward to continuing this partnership for the remainder of the school year.

## Pic of the Month



## Greater Albany Public School District

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Visit us online at:  
[www.albany.k12.or.us/AOS/](http://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 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/](http://www.albany.k12.or.us/AOS/)

Albany Options School Newsletter: September 2014  
Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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