



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

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**ROCKS**

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

# AOS Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

October, 2016

## A Word from the Principal

Welcome to the new school year. We have had a fantastic start already and it's hard to believe we are already a month in!

It is clear that our staff and students have created a really positive and fun environment at AOS, and I am already excited about the innovative projects, collaborations, cross-curricular projects, Service Learning, and field trips taking place.

This year your teachers are working on the following goals at AOS:

- #1:** To develop cross-curricular partnerships between classes.
- #2:** To provide more hands-on, relevant, and community based learning.
- #3:** Create more credit packets for students wanting to earn additional credits.
- #4:** Incorporate Service Learning into classes.

Last year we implemented a new schedule so that our students could have even more opportunities to earn credits, and as a result we saw our largest graduation class ever. It was such a

positive way to end the last school year, and a great reminder of all the amazing things being done here and all the hard work of our staff and students.

I am excited to keep building off of our success from last year so that we provide students with more opportunities and hopefully break our graduation record yet again.

On the evening of Tuesday, September 27th, we had our annual Open House, where we hosted more families and students than ever before. It is always so powerful to see how much our parents and guardians care about the education of their students, and see how invested they are in their future.

Please continue to support your child throughout the school year. Never hesitate to contact us to see how your student is doing in their classes or how you can better support their hard work. With your support, your child will have a much better chance

of meeting their educational goals.

Our first six-week grading period is quickly coming to an end on Thursday, October 13th. These last two weeks are a crucial time to make sure everyone is passing all of their classes. If your student needs help make sure they are connecting with their teachers and planning a time to get some extra academic support. They are ready and willing!






If you need assistance checking your grades or your student's grades, please call the school and we will be happy to assist.

Of course, the most important factor in being successful in school is attendance. When comparing grades and attendance there is a clear connection between the two. Please urge your student to make it to all of their classes and work hard so that we finish the first term and face the rest of the school year on a positive and successful note.

## October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 Early Release	6	7 Manufacturing Day at LBCC	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12 Early Release Boys Council Class 2:30-4	13 End of Grading Period: FINALS	14 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Staff Development	15
16	17 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Grading Day	18 Start of New Grading Period Mock Debate	19 Early Release Boys Council Class 2:30-4	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Early Release Boys Council Class 2:30-4	27	28 Leadership Haunted House	29
30 	31 Halloween					

## November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Early Release Boys Council Class 2:30-4	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time 	7	8 <b>Election Day</b> 	9 Early Release Boys Council Class 2:30-4	10	11 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Veteran's Day	12 
13	14	15	16 Early Release Boys Council Class 2:30-4	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	24 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Thanksgiving	25 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	26 
27	28	29	30 Early Release Boys Council Class 2:30-4	December 1 	2 End of Grading Period: FINALS	3

## Important Information

### SENIOR REQUIREMENTS

**All seniors are required to attend the LBCC Job Fair in December.**

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

Students in the Innovative High School program as well as the Choices programs will work with Ms. Kozak to complete the assignments.

Students who do not attend this event will have alternative assignments to complete.

**See Ms. Kozak for more information.**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

"Like" us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/albanyoptions](http://www.facebook.com/albanyoptions)

"Follow" us on Instagram at:

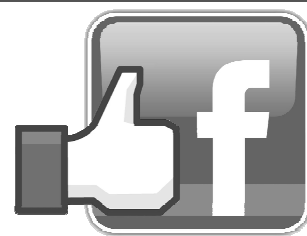
@AlbanyOptionsSchool

and always tag us and use the hashtags:

#AlbanyOptionsSchool

#AOSrocks

#AOSknights



### **CHANGE IN CELL PHONE POLICY**

Students returned to a change in our cell phone policy. The new rule now gives teachers the right to determine if and when a student is permitted to use their phone in class. Violations still face the same consequences.

## AOS Hosts Annual Open House

Albany Options School successfully hosted another annual Fall Open House for our students and their families on Tuesday, October 27th.

Mrs. Harryman's Family and Consumer Sciences Class prepared a dinner for the families that consisted of meat chili, tortilla soup, corn bread, vegetables, and an assortment of cookies.

Students in the class also decorated the cafeteria and volunteered for the

evening to serve the food and clean up afterwards. We were overjoyed at how many students and families joined us that evening. We had so many present that we ran out of room in our cafeteria, resulting in families enjoying their dinner on the picnic benches out front.

Partnerships from the community were also present in the library to share local resources and

opportunities for our students and families.

After the dinner, families had the opportunities to meet with the teachers to discuss their classes and student successes.



## STUDENT ARTICLE: Students Visit State Capitol

On Tuesday, September 27th, the AOS Leadership and American Government classes went to the Oregon State Capitol.

Our first stop was the Oregon Seal, where we learned Oregon history trivia including what bird is on the emblem and why, and how it relates to the birthday of the State of Oregon.

Our second stop

was the Governor's conference office, which is where bills are signed and important meetings are held. (See picture below). We were able to see the Oregon flag that they flew on the moon and four moonrocks.

We then climbed up to the top of the basilica and saw the gold pioneer statue on the top. The pioneer man is 24 feet high and covered in gold plating.



Following that we headed to the Senate and learned how they vote. They have 60 people who vote using green and red buttons.

Our last stop of the trip was the House, where 30 members vote using the same button procedures.

It was great getting to see so much history and learn so much about our government from our tour guide.

*Article was written by student Anessa Johnson (15) who came to AOS last Spring. Anessa is in Leadership class.*

## Service Learning at South Shore Elementary School

On Wednesday, September 28th, AOS students from Mrs. Harryman's Horticulture class visited South Shore Elementary School for some Service Learning.

The students put their gardening and landscaping skills to use as



they assisted the elementary school in meeting some of their landscaping needs including weeding, spreading mulch and wood chips, trimming the bushes in front of the building, and removing blackberries.

The students partnered with one of the second grade classes to get the jobs done.

Afterwards, the AOS students joined the second graders for lunch in their cafeteria.



The students really enjoyed working at South Shore, especially with the elementary stu-

dents, and look forward to continuing to work with the school and building the relationship.

*Check out the article in the Albany Democrat-Herald on September 30th!*

## Biology Participates in Stream Studies

On September 15, both of Mrs. Gillispie's Biology classes boarded the bus, water quality monitors in tow and, and headed to Periwinkle Creek near Mega Foods.

This fall both classes will be monitoring this small section of Periwinkle Creek to see what kind of water exists in the heart of



Albany. Some of the tests that are being performed are pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and temperature.

All of these qualities work together to allow different species to successfully exist in the water system.

Recently Mrs. Gillispie partnered with a non-profit organization called Blue Ocean Project. This group focuses on the cleanliness of water around Oregon. One of their employees is focusing on this very section of Periwinkle Creek, due to

its poor conditions.

Over the next year we, as a school, hope to take multiple readings of the water, clean up the stream, and help this section of Periwinkle to not only be healthier, but to grow and sustain aquatic life. Stay tuned for tree planting and river clean up opportunities.



## Teachers Focus on Cross-Collaboration for New Year

Every year the teaching staff at Albany Options School tries to focus on new ways to improve their teaching strategies to better serve our student population.

In addition to continually revisiting the standards, how they are met, and using data collection to drive instruction and interventions, the staff truly believes in providing meaningful, hands-on, and relevant learning opportunities for our students.

In an effort to bring new and engaging strategies and opportunities to the classroom, the teachers have partnered up to create cross-curricular projects and lessons. Each collaboration team will complete at least one project by the end of the first trimester.

Mrs. Mitchell's Leadership class and Mr. Wolfe's American Government class have already begun their project, which focuses on the November elec-

tion through researching of issues and the stance of the candidates, to putting on a mock debate and election later in the month.

Some other partnerships include a Financial Algebra class with the Horticulture program to reduce water waste. The Art class has also partnered with one of Ms. Jansen's English classes to bring written work to life through artwork. We are excited about the many innovative projects and partnerships.

## Leadership to Host Haunted House

Leadership class will be putting on their 2nd annual haunted house fundraiser on October 28th from 5pm-8pm.

There will be carnival games, face painting, a bake sale, as well as a scary yet fun haunted house geared towards elementary students.

All proceeds will go towards helping

**Leadership  
Haunted House:  
Friday, October  
28th from 5pm-  
8pm.**

local families in need during the holidays.

The annual coin drive fundraiser for this same cause will also begin in October.

We hope everyone can come out to support our efforts and enjoy the hard work of the Leadership students.



## Boys Council

This October we will be offering a new credit earning opportunity for the young men at AOS through Jackson Street Youth Shelter Services.

Starting Wednesday, October 12th, there will be a Boy's Council offered from 2:30-4pm after school, which will run until Winter Break.

Students who participate will earn .25 credits! See Mrs. Harryman for more information.

## Welcome Fall



September 22nd was the first day of Fall, and AOS students celebrated with hot chocolate, pumpkin spice cookies, and of course a selfie wall.

## Attendance

Students who earn perfect attendance for a whole six-week grading period will get the opportunity in the



Spring to go to a Portland Trail Blazers basketball game at the Moda Center for free, and enjoy dinner at a restaurant on the way to the game paid for by the school.

Don't think you will be able to earn the award this term? No worries! Each six-week grading period until the game is an opportunity.

## Pic of the Month



AOS staff and students volunteered at the SOLV Riverside Cleanup Day at Tadena Landing Park on 9/24.

## GED Completers

Congratulations to the following students who have completed all of their tests and earned their GED during the month of September:

**Gabe Eggers  
Aryanna Weis  
Brittney Girard**

## School-Wide Service Learning

Each student has a weekly homeroom class, called ROCKS, where they work on career and character education.

This year we added a school-wide Service Learning dynamic to the ROCKS periods class.

The school has partnered with our neighboring non-profit, FISH of Albany, which is located on the other end of our block.

The classes are collecting hygiene products, which will be used to create

hygiene kits that FISH can give out to those who need them.

Each class is responsible for collecting different types of products in unopened or unused condition.

If you would like to contribute to the efforts of the students, please bring in your travel or full-size hygiene items such as toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer, deodorant, mouthwash, and floss.

## Greater Albany Public School District

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Web: [www.albany.k12.or.us/aos](http://www.albany.k12.or.us/aos)

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
- **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/](http://www.albany.k12.or.us/AOS/)

Albany Options School Newsletter: Month October 2016  
Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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