



Albany Options School
Greater Albany Public School District

AOS Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 6

May, 2016

A Word from the Principal

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ROCKS

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

So here we go, down the home stretch to the end of the school year!

As the calendar turns we are completing finals and heading into our last six-week grading period! This is always a difficult time for all of us with the warmer weather pulling us in many different directions. Make sure to remind your student to get to school on time and to study. It makes a difference when we make school a priority too. We must continue to attend every day and enjoy your friends, teachers, and the staff at AOS. This is your home away from home!

Our Leadership class continues to add to the AOS experience. They have come up with a Spirit Week. During Spirit Week students will be allowed to dress up to show their school spirit. We will finish up the week with our new tradition of a school-wide lunchtime

luau with amazing food prepared by the students in the Foods class and festivities to go along.

The last day of school for our seniors is June 10th, and what better way to celebrate them and their successes than by having a huge BBQ that day with the whole school and all of our graduates from this school year? We will have a special schedule that day so we can take time out to celebrate and enjoy being all together one last time.

We are currently preparing for graduation. The graduation ceremony will be held out at LBCC in the Takena Hall Building in the Russell Tripp Theater. This has become a great tradition at AOS and is an amazing evening

of celebration; it is like no other graduation ceremony. There will be plenty of

parking and lots of seating for all of the family and friends of our graduates to join in the pomp and circumstance.

Parents, make sure you are regularly checking your student's grades, especially if you have a senior planning on graduating. Directions on page 4.

Once the final six weeks begin, the graduating seniors have just 28 school days remaining to complete all of their Oregon Graduation Requirements. That is not a lot of time. There will be some that will make it with ease and there will be those that will need every last second of every single day. Please encourage them all along the way. High school is hard work.

Last day for seniors is:

Friday, June 10th. All assignments must be turned in by 3:30pm in order to walk.

Graduation rehearsal:

Monday, June 13th at 11am at the LBCC Russell Tripp Theater

Graduation:

Monday, June 13th at 7:00pm at the LBCC Russell Tripp Theater. Seniors need to be there by 6:15 in their caps and gowns.

Spirit Week Schedule:

- Monday: Pajama Day
- Tuesday: Crazy Colors/Mismatched Day
- Wednesday: 60's/70's Day
- Thursday: Twin Day
- Friday: Hawaiian Day and Luau

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 NO SCHOOL 7:30pm Holocaust Presentation OSU	3 Start of final grading period!	4 Early Release	5	6	7
Teacher Appreciation Week						
8 <i>Mother's Day</i>	9 4:30pm—Albany Library: Peace Makers Awards	10 Construction Career Day in Salem	11 Early Release School Nurse Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Early Release	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Early Release	26	27	28
Spirit Week!						
29	30 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	31				

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Early Release Youth Special Olympics	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Early Release	9	10 LAST DAY FOR GRADUATING SENIORS Senior BBQ at 1:25 at AOS	11
12	13 Grad rehearsal: 11:00am @ LBCC Graduation at 7pm Russell Tripp Theater LBCC	14	15 NO EARLY RELEASE TODAY	16 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!	17	18
19 father's Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Important Information

Youth Special Olympics

Interested in volunteering at the Youth Special Olympics?

Every year AOS students help run the events at the Youth Special Olympics for young children at the SAHS track.

When: Wed. May 27th, 8am-1pm

Where: Meet at AOS, event at SAHS track and field

What: Wear your AOS shirt

Who: See Mrs. Harryman for info

Graduation Slideshow

If you plan on walking at graduation, please bring in the following to school by **June 1st** for the graduation slideshow:

- Baby picture
- Senior portrait (if you took them)
- Any photos from school activities at AOS

Photos should have your name on the back of them and be given to Mrs. Harryman, or be emailed to Mrs. Harryman at:

anna.harryman@albany.k12.or.us

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school for graduating seniors:

Friday, June 10th (all work is due by 3:30pm if you plan to walk at graduation!!)

Last day of school for the rest of the school

Thursday, June 16th

Wednesday, June 15th is a full day and ends at 3:20pm

Students with Perfect Attendance go to Blazers Game

For the fifth year in a row, students who have earned a perfect attendance award have been treated by the school to attend a Portland Trail Blazers



NBA game and dinner at Red Robin.

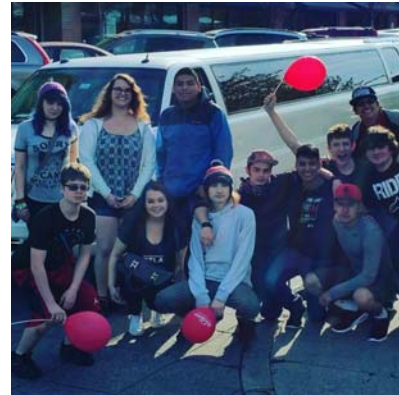
In order to receive the award students had to attend school for an en-

tire six-week grading period without ever being tardy or absent.

This year sixteen students attended the game, along with staff and their family members. Over twenty students had qualified for the event!

To add to the festivities this year, the students were also treated to limousine rides to

Portland and back, as well as a Dutch Bros treat, all provided by the Hope



Albany non-profit, which was a huge surprise for all of the students attending.

The students enjoyed a Blazer win against OKC!

Leadership Class Hosts Earth Day Celebrations

The AOS Leadership Class took a special focus on Earth Day this year and incorporated many activities and opportunities for the week to bring awareness and change.

The students began by creating recycling and composting signs around the school building as part of the Oregon Green School application process, as AOS works to renew their qualifications.

In addition, the students coordinated a dress up day on Earth Day, sold "dirt cups" as a lunchtime fundraiser, and posted educational posters around the building on how to be more environmentally friendly and aware.

The Leadership class finished off



the week by coordinating a group of students to go with Mrs. Mitchell to North Albany Park on Saturday, April 23rd, and volunteer with the

SOLVE ivy cleanup at the park, where students removed the invasive species in an attempt to protect the native trees and plants.

Students Calculate Driving Distances While Texting

Many of our math classes are incorporating more task-based activities to help students become better prepared for Smarter Balanced testing.

One of those activities this term was a unit on texting and driving. Students simulated sending a text message while trying to keep



track of short messages being written on the board.

At the same time, another student was timing how long their head was down each time they looked at their phone.

Students were surprised to find that 3 seconds of looking at the phone at 55 mph translated to the better part of a football field

being traveled!

We discussed the importance of being focused on the road, while getting practice on unit analysis and rate of change problems.

Tasks like these are common on the Smarter Balanced test, and students enjoy the chance to do something more applicable and different to their regular math lessons.

This lesson was able to combine an important life lesson with important math skills.

How to Check Student Grades

If you are unsure of your student's progress in a grading period, or in high school in general, please contact our counselor, Kevin DeCoster. He can help you access "Pinnacle", which tracks students' progress on a real-time basis. You can see current grades as well as what assignments are completed or not as long as you have the appropriate password. Any of our

front-desk staff can help you with this.

Mr. DeCoster can also go over students' transcript with you if there are any questions about how close students are to graduating, how many credits they have earned, what classes are still needed, etc.

You can contact Kevin through the main AOS phone number – 541-967-4563.

GED Completers

Congratulations to the students who completed their GED during the month of April:

Mercedes Arevalo

Brandon Olivos-Stansberry

David Davis

English Teachers Align Reading Standards for Year

The Common Core State Standards function as a road map for high school teachers: while the standards don't tell teachers what or how to teach, they give teachers a direction to go in, and they ensure that teachers are on the same page.

To that end, it is important to aim instruction toward the standards.

The English Language Arts team has been working towards improving its teaching by using assessments to inform instruction, and Language Arts teacher Lindsay Jansen spoke to the

School Board on April 25th to report on their progress.

Common assessments are given at the beginning of each trimester and at the end of the school year in order to evaluate student progress in reading skills.

Each trimester, instruction is focused on a set of target standards, which means that students get the same "big idea" in every English class, regardless of the topic of the class. It also means that teachers can collaborate to improve instructional strategies.

Last year the ELA department spent a great deal of time collaborating to make the common assessment and align them to the standards selected for each trimester.

In evaluating the data from first trimester to second trimester, student growth is apparent. 57% of students improved on standard RL.1, and 78% of students improved on standard RL.2. For the teachers, it is rewarding to see students grow, learn, and achieve.

New Forensics Science Class Solves First Crime

This term, Mrs. Gillispie introduced a new science class where students learn the science behind forensics! It has turned into a fun and engaging alternative to your traditional science classes, but students continue to expand their understanding of the standards and sciences.

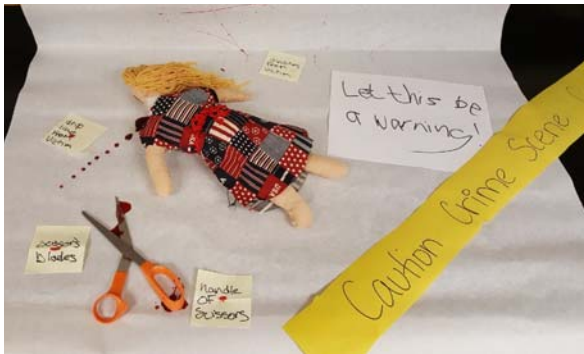
During the course of the six-week grading period, students have had the opportunity to learn about chromatography, the science behind blood splatters and patterns, and bloodwork.

After over a month of learning about forensic sciences, students in Mrs. Gillispie's Forensic Science class put their skills to the test for their final.

A mishap happened with a doll and some scissors and the students had to

use their skills to figure out who committed this heinous crime.

The students have been building up their observations skills along with learning techniques used in real



Here is the "crime scene" the students had to investigate as part of their final project in the Forensics science class.

crimes to solve the mock scenarios in class. For the final the students needed to use their skills in measuring the size of the blood drops to determine

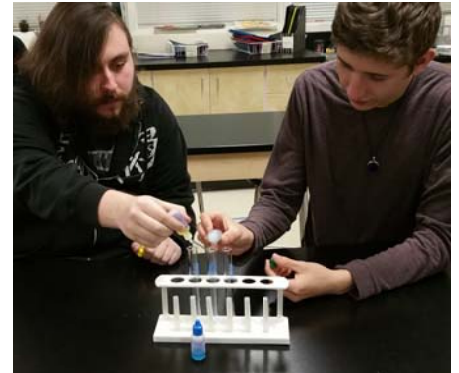
the height they were dripped from and come up with the story of what happened.

Next the students learned about blood types and were able to take "blood samples" from the crime scene and send them to a lab for analysis. Once

the four suspects were apprehended, they compared these samples to the suspects to see if there was a match at the crime scene.

Lastly, the students needed to analyze the note left behind at the scene. They learned techniques to figure out whose handwriting might have matched the note as well as how to use chromatography to figure out what pen wrote the note.

Using all of this evidence the students were able to narrow down a suspect in who they think committed this crime. Make sure to ask a forensics student to find out which staff member was guilty.



SENIORS: Graduation Reminders from the Counselor

Seniors Get Ready to Continue Their Education:

Working with Angela Spencer, the GAPS Career and College Readiness Coordinator, the staff of AOS has gotten most of our seniors qualified for the "Oregon Promise" and "Post-Graduate Scholar" Programs. These are the official names for the State of Oregon's funding for students to attend state community colleges. Since most of the living wage jobs in our community require training beyond a high school diploma, we want to make sure that our graduates and GED recipients have opportunities to contin-

ue their training and education, and qualify for careers with employers throughout the Greater Albany area.

For more information about these programs please contact Angela Spencer or Kevin DeCoster at 541-967-4563.

AOS Graduation is on Monday, June 13th, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Tripp Theater at LBCC.

Graduates must be at the theater by 6:15pm in cap and gown before graduation.

All graduation requirements must be met by 3:30pm Friday the 10th, and all students must attend graduation

rehearsal that morning in order to walk in the ceremony.

Walking in graduation:

If you plan on walking in graduation you must have already ordered your cap and gown.

You should have already received the Senior Exit Survey either in person or in the mail. Please turn yours in as soon as possible.

Be sure to turn in your baby photo for the graduation slideshow. Bring in your best quality photo and we will scan it. If you took senior portraits you can turn in your favorite photo.

**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/

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Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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