



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

## Inside this issue:

School Calendar	2
AOS Welcomes New Staff Members	3
Latinos Unidos: AOS Latino Club	3
AOS Students Volunteer at NAE Night	4
AOS Hosts First Latino Parent Night	4
Academic Awards for First 6-Weeks	5
AOS Starts New Book Club	5

## ROCKS

Respect  
Ownership  
Courage  
Knowledge  
Safety

# AOS Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

October, 2018

## A Word from the Principal



Hard to believe we have already completed the first six-week grading period!

Four years ago I was just starting out at Albany Options School and I was so excited to be the principal of this school. I can promise you that I only get more and more excited every fall to be returning here. There is nowhere better than AOS and nowhere I would rather be. Go Knights!

Our school continues to grow and expand, providing our students with more opportunities and a better experience at AOS.

Last year we surprised even ourselves when we graduated 61 students, by far the largest graduating class in AOS history. We hope to continue to set records and graduate more students from year to year.

This year we welcomed two new staff members, Kenny Roundy as our new Special Education Assistant, and Gabe Diaz as our new Bilingual Liaison. You can read more about them in the article on the next page. We are really grateful to have them as part of our team, and we can already see the positive impact they are having on our school.

This year we are asking the question, "Why not?" For many of our students, life and circumstances have provided many "whys" for them to not succeed, whether it be unstable living situations, poor health, family insecurities, and life challenges, or self-doubts.

Not anymore though. We are going to continue to challenge our students to be successful, achieve great things, dream big and reach for those dreams, and ask themselves, "Why not me?" I want every student to envision their dreams and then ask

themselves, "Why not?" What they'll find is that there are many more reasons why they can and should.



Last month we hosted our annual Fall Open House and enjoyed a delicious chili dinner prepared by staff and our Foods class. As always, this is one of my favorite days of the year. I love getting to meet parents, siblings, grandparents, and loved ones. It is so important to come together for our students so we can work as a team to help them meet their educational goals.

I wish a wonderful 2018-2019 school year to all of our students and families.






Mr. Hunter (right) with Superintendent Dr. Tim Mills (left) at our Fall Open House.

## October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>FAFSA Opens</b>	2	3 Early Release	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i> <i>Girls Group 11:20</i>	11 <b>FINALS:</b> Last day of term <b>Noche de Familias Latinas de AOS 6-8pm</b>	12 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Professional Development	13
14	15 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Grading Day	16 Start of new grading period <b>National Boss' Day</b>	17 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i> <i>Girls Group 11:20</i>	18	19 (Regular School Day)	20
21	22	23	24 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i> <b>PARENT CONFERENCES</b>	25 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>PARENT CONFERENCES</b>	26 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27
28	29	30	31 Early Release <b>Halloween</b> <i>Ophelia's Place</i>			

## November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	5	6	7 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i> <i>Girls Group 11:20</i>	8 <b>ASVAB Test at AOS</b>	9	10
11 <b>Veteran's Day</b> 	12 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Veteran's Day Observed	13	14 Early Release <b>Classified Appreciation Day</b> <i>Ophelia's Place</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i> <i>Girls Group 11:20</i>	22 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Thanksgiving Day	23 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	24 
25	26	27	28 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i> <i>Girls Group 11:20</i>	29 Last day of trimester	30 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Grading Day	31

## Important Information

### Parent Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences do not require an appointment. Please just drop in when it is most convenient for you. We look forward to meeting you all!

Oct. 24th—4pm-8pm

Oct. 25th—7:30am-12pm

Oct. 25th—1pm-6pm\*

*October 25th—No School*

*Oct. 26th—No School*

\*Mrs. Mitchell will not be available

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

“Like” us on Facebook at:

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

“Follow” us on Instagram at:

[@AlbanyOptionsSchool](https://www.instagram.com/AlbanyOptionsSchool)

[#AlbanyOptionsSchool](https://www.instagram.com/AlbanyOptionsSchool) [#AOSknights](https://www.instagram.com/AOSknights)

### Have a job?

Students can earn Work Experience elective credits for having a job. See Mrs. Harryman if you have questions. You could earn as much as 2.0 elective credits for work you're doing!

### SENIOR REQUIREMENTS

**All seniors are required to attend the LBCC Youth Job Fair on December 11th.**

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

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

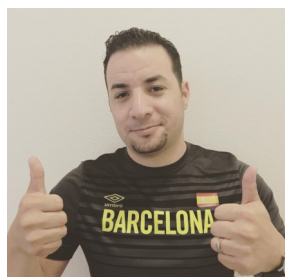
**This is a state requirement for graduation.**

## AOS Welcomes New Staff

### **Gabe Diaz**

AOS is excited to now have a Bilingual Liaison who will serve as a Latino Community Coordinator in our building.

Gabe Diaz is from the island of Puerto Rico where he grew up in a small town called Barranquitas located in the center of the island. There he attended college for computer draft-



ing and architecture.

Mr. Diaz is married and has an 11-year-old daughter. In 2011 he and his family moved to Oregon for a new adventure.

Prior to AOS he was the Bilingual Clerical Assistant at North Albany Middle School.

### **Kenny Roundy**

Kenny Roundy was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. He moved to Oregon in 2015 to con-

tinue graduate education at Oregon State University.

Mr. Roundy joined us as a Special Education Assistant (SEA), and is working with students individually and in the classroom.

Prior to AOS he was an SEA at Periwinkle Elementary School.

We are very excited to welcome both into our little AOS family.



## Latinos Unidos—AOS Latino Club

Mr. Diaz, the new Bilingual Liaison at AOS, took over as the staff mentor for the Latino Club at AOS.

The club was founded last year and was lead by Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Fitzpatrick, who are still involved with the club.

The club renamed themselves Latinos Unidos and meet weekly.

In addition to planning school-

wide events such as Dia de los Muertos, the students participate in fellowship, study groups, volunteer, and cultural educational opportunities.

Next month the students will be going on a field trip to the multicultural centers at Oregon State University, volunteering at the public library, and starting their construction project on our school grounds.





## AOS Students Volunteer at NAE Event

17 students from AOS volunteered at the North Albany Elementary Carnival on Friday, October 12th. They

gave up their Friday night to help set up, run, and take down the event.

The high school students really enjoyed spending some time with the ele-



mentary students and seeing them get excited doing Candy Corn Bowling, Bean Bag Toss, Mini Golf, and much more!

This was a great opportunity to get our students involved and do something for the community. This is the second year in a row that AOS has helped run this event at North Albany Elementary School.



## AOS Hosts Latino Parent Night

Earlier this month AOS hosted its first ever Latino Parent Night on Thursday, October 11th.

The evening was an opportunity for our Spanish-speaking parents of our seniors and graduating students



to learn about post-high school opportunity.

There was a guest speaker from LBCC, Tania Mendez, to help with the application and financial aid process, who was able to explain all of the options and

how it all works.

Families were able to begin filling out financial aid applications that evening with the aid of Mr. Diaz and Tania Mendez from LBCC.

If you have questions or would like more information about financial aid options, please contact Gabe Diaz at [gabe.diaz@albany.k12.or.us](mailto:gabe.diaz@albany.k12.or.us) or call at (541) 967-4563.

## GED Completers

Congratulations to the following students who earned their GED during the first six-week grading period:

**Luis Lopez**  
**Mark Esparza**  
**Davida Gordon**  
**Neci Bashaw**  
**Josephine Wood**  
**Caleb Howard**  
**Tylar Transue**  
**Henry Menes**

## Graduates

Congratulations to the following students who completed their graduation requirements during the first six-week grading period:

**Autumn Benthien**  
**Samuel Rodriguez**  
**Ramona Maciel Muniz**



## Pic of the Month



From left: Gavin Maloney, Elise Hart, Cole Bussell, and Caleb Mitchell were students who received the attendance award for never being tardy to class last grading period.

## Academic Awards Trimester 1, Grading Period 1

*Congratulations to the following students who earned academic and attendance awards during the first six-week grading period:*

### Mr. Corliss:

Alejandro Padilla—Geometry  
Kylend Hart—Financial Algebra  
Champayne Perry—Algebra I  
Alaina Fosdick—Financial Algebra  
Sarah Watts—Algebra II  
Ernie Berridge—Leadership

### Ms. Fitzpatrick:

Ramona Maciel—Health  
Kendra Deleon—Health  
Christian Reynolds—Geometry

### Mrs. Gillispie:

Annaliese Papesh-Schmidt—Art  
Liliana Sanders—Biology  
Lilianna Childress—Physics  
Gracie Chagnon—Chemistry  
Cimantha Hormel—Chemistry  
Gemini Soules—Physics  
Sage Floyd—Astronomy

### Mr. Wolfe:

Sarah Watts—Weight Training  
Alaina Fosdick—Street Law  
Annaliese Papesh-Schmidt—Psychology  
Cimantha Hormel—Sociology

### Ms. Jansen:

Connor Hemzacek—Modes of Writing  
CJ Womack—Contemporary Fiction  
Ethan Sjolander—Contemporary Fiction  
Ernie Berridge—Contemporary Fiction  
Jordan Gaede—Speculative Fiction  
Elise Hart—Speculative Fiction Lit.

### Mrs. Mitchell:

Elise Hart—Pilates  
Anna Hiner—U.S. History  
Cimantha Hormel—Cultural Literature  
Charles Shelton—Cultural Literature

### Mrs. Roundy:

Cimantha Hormel—Mythology  
Hunter Treglown—Current World  
Anna Hiner—Technical Writing  
Omar Vera—Technical Writing  
Elias Utt—Foods

### 100% Attendance:

Jose Mendoza  
Alejandro Padilla  
Alex Sandoval  
Gavin Maloney

### No Tardies:

Cole Bussell  
Elise Hart  
Gavin Maloney  
Caleb Mitchell

*Congratulations to the students who earned a place on the Honor Roll during the first six-week grading period:*

### 4.0 GPA:

Anna Hiner  
Elise Hart  
Ernest Berridge  
Sage Floyd  
Cimantha Hormel  
Gavin Maloney  
Annaliese Papesh-Schmidt  
Ethan Sjolander  
Hunter Treglown

### 3.5-3.99 GPA:

Lilianna Childress  
Liliana Sanders  
Mackenzie Gruenhagen  
Alaina Fosdick  
Nayely Orozco-Valencia  
Caleb Mitchell  
Sarah Watts  
Connor Hemzacek  
Leo Brown  
Gracie Chagnon  
Jose Mendoza  
Omar Vera  
Mikayla Weis

## New Book Club at AOS

In October, AOS received a Great Stories Club grant from the American Library Association to start a supplementary book club directed toward underserved teens.

The club, held at lunch in Ms. Jansen's classroom, attracted several participants for its first meeting. Students will read Sherman Alexie's highly engaging novel, *Flight*, and over the course of several meetings, discuss the novel with their peers

with guidance from Ms. Jansen and Mrs. Burton, the school's media specialist.

The books selected for the club follow two key themes: empathy and heroism. In sum, there are nine books besides *Flight* that the club will read. These high-interest books are meant to appeal to reluctant readers in a variety of ways, as they are accessible and thought-provoking.

Through the books, students will

wrestle with big ideas, their understanding of the world around them, and their place in it as thinkers and creators.

The students who have joined the club will each receive a copy of the book that is theirs to keep. AOS is one of only 100 organizations nationwide to receive the Great Stories Club grant, which aims to serve youth-focused community organizations, including alternative schools.

**Greater Albany Public  
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[www.aos.albany.k12.or.us](http://www.aos.albany.k12.or.us)

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/)

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Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety**

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