

Volume 11, Issue 3

December, 2021

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

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## ROCKS

Respect  
Ownership  
Courage  
Knowledge  
Safety

# A Word from the Principal

Dear Students:

As the 2021 year winds down, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and a half. In the course of that time, we have lived through a world-wide pandemic, local forest fires threatening people's homes, and a generational ice storm. Any of these occurrences alone would be a big deal, but to have them all happen in the course of such a short period of time has been surreal. This is all to say that the transition back to school as we know it (or at least close to it) has been met with some challenges. I have appreciated the commitment you have shown to getting back into school and working toward your goal of graduation or a GED.

As we approach the mid-point of the school year, however, I want to remind you to not fall into old habits. Attendance is critical for you to achieve your goals. Our staff cannot support you if you are not here. Additionally, you have the opportunity to work with your teachers to pass those courses that you didn't pass last grading period. Please reach out to your teachers to work out a plan for credit recovery. Lastly, I want to remind the Options Academy students that we have received clear direction from both South and West counselors that you need to be able to access and utilize Canvas to be successful upon your return. You will also note that homework will be assigned at both high schools, so your Academy teachers may be assigning you some homework to get you back into the habit. Again, nice job so far and keep up the good work!





Have a relaxing, safe, and wonderful winter break, and I look forward to seeing you again in the new year. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,


Mr. Hannan



## December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Dec. 1 Early Release	2 <b>FINALS:</b> End of Trimester 1	3 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Grading Day	4
5 	6 <b>Start of Trimester 2,</b> Grading Period 1 <i>Hanukkah ends</i>	7	8 Early Release	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Early Release	16	17	18
19	20 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Winter Break 20th—31st	21 	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day 
26	27	28	29	30	31 	January 1 <b>New Year's Day</b>

## January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Teacher Work Day	4 Classes resume	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 	17 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> MLK Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 <b>FINALS:</b> End of Grading Period	28 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Grading Day	29
30	31 <b>Start of Trimester 2,</b> Grading Period 2	For the latest calendar updates, please visit our website calendar at <a href="https://aos.albany.k12.or.us">aos.albany.k12.or.us</a>				

## Important Information

### SENIORS: FAFSA and Oregon Promise

If you still need help completing the FAFSA and Oregon Promise, please email Mrs. Harryman right away to get help! Mr. Diaz is also available to assist with financial aid application for families needing assistance in Spanish.

Financial aid is first come, first served, and it's almost scholarship season, so please do not wait to get it done!

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

"Like" us on Facebook at:

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

"Follow" us on Instagram at:

@AlbanyOptionsSchool

#AlbanyOptionsSchool



### GRADES

Parents and Guardians,

You are able to check your student's grades on Pinnacle, just like in the past.

You can access the Gradebook at: <https://aos.albany.k12.or.us/students-parents/pinnacle/>

and use your assigned DBN **number** to log in.

Need your number? Just call the school.

### HAVE A JOB?

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

## Graduates

*Congratulations to the following student who completed their high school diploma in November:*

**Hunter Webster**

**Nollan Wogomon**

**Aunika Butler**

**Tori Teem**

**Gage Pearson**



## GED Completers

*Congratulations to the following students who earned their GED in the November and December:*

**Dakota Roofener**

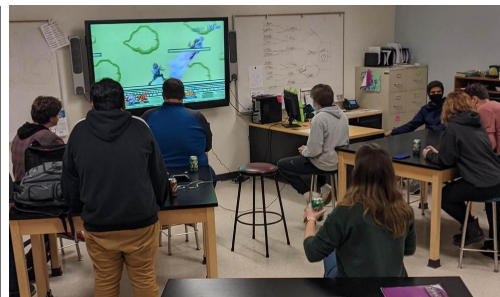
**Zane Miles**

**Neptune Pedder**

**Clara Mills**

**Elizabeth Preston**

## Pic of the Month



Students started a new video game club in November, which meets after school. If you would like to learn more, talk to Mr. Corliss or Mr. Looney.

## AOS Offering Full-Time Mental Health Services

AOS is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with North Albany Wellness Center (NAWC) to provide full-time mental health services here on campus.

Please join us in welcoming Taryn Borsch, who is a licensed clinical social worker with NAWC! Taryn began working with us



part-time back in October as she built her caseload. She is now a full-time member of the family here at AOS providing individual mental health services to students, consulting services to the school counselor and staff, and will begin group counseling services after winter break. Group topics to

include anxiety, anger, and sexual assault survivors.

Taryn quickly settled in as a natural fit here at AOS both with the students and as a member of our staff.

If you are interested in receiving services from Taryn or learning more, please reach out to Mrs. Harryman.

Welcome, Taryn!

## Student Work from Poetry Class

*Here are some poems written by students in Ms. Lawrie's Short Stories and Poetry class from the last six-week grading period:*

### Bunny Blue I Love You

So important since the first time  
I met you. After surgery I was in so  
much pain, but you made everything  
better. My favorite little bunny  
You're so sweet and soft, almost as if  
your light blue fur was real. There  
will always be a place for you in my  
arms. My snuggly little bunny  
You smell so nice like lavender. It fills  
my senses with euphoria. It's like I'm  
in a field of beautiful flowers. My  
calming little bunny.  
No matter where I sleep, you are in  
my arms every night. Dark clouds  
never appear as you fill my dreams  
with little bunnies just like you. You  
are my protector. My brave little bun-  
ny  
I hope you never truly leave my side,  
my loyal little bunny.

-Lilya Sunseri

### The Family Home

The rundown home at the dead end  
used to feel cozy now feels creepy  
The last family lived here about  
twelve years ago, not a single soul  
has stepped inside there since.  
The joy the family must have felt  
when moving into their new home,  
but now all that's seen is the chipped  
paint on the walls, broken windows.  
As you walk through the burned down  
doorway the smoky smell fills my nose  
The leftover ash of their old belong-  
ings  
I can see the old life that had once  
stood here  
Slowly but surely the home will fall  
and disappear with the memories  
made there along with it

-Sophia Martinez

### The Monarch butterfly

Orange and yellow,  
They shine when flying by,  
Their wings burning  
like bright light in our eyes,  
Fluttering like leaves in fall.  
After their beauty sleep of 8 months,  
They come back to visit like ghosts of  
relatives  
Saying hello.  
They land on each flower,  
Closing their fragile wings in prayer.

-Laura Strickland

### A Sister to a Sister

Your brother will be gone when you  
turn six,  
But don't yell, don't scream with an-  
ger,  
His arrest isn't something you can fix,  
Just write him letters, and keep your-  
self sober.

He still loves your blue eyes,  
You're still his jelly bean,  
Don't let him hear your cries,  
Or you'll break his heart with your  
scream.  
Call him everyday,  
Tell him, "I love you," like a sister  
should,  
Stay with him when he tries to pray,  
He's doing the best he ever could.  
But in the future he will get sick,  
With an illness called corona,  
Stay on the phone 'till that very last  
tick,  
Tell him about the ark and Noah.  
He may leave you,  
If this illness ends his life,  
Just know he's in the ICU,  
But you still won't feel,  
Alright.

-Roman Smith

### The Forest

As I lay at peace alone,  
I realize that I have grown,  
Mystic Pines surround the night,  
And the sky is like an auburn light,  
Dusk to Dawn I lay quiet,  
Despite my old city consumed in a riot,  
So I shut my eyes in a calming slum-  
ber,  
As the moss and fungi hides humani-  
ties blunder,  
My body fades into the soft ground,  
And the night is left with a quiet  
sound,  
As my body leaves this life my soul  
ascends,  
As the forest is something we will nev-  
er truly comprehend.

-Oliver Madsen

### The Wondrous Night

She is the girl with galaxies on her  
mind, the sun and  
the moon in her heart and billions of  
stars in her eyes.  
She lays beneath the sky because she  
could not live an ordinary life  
with the mysteries of the universe hid-  
den in her eyes.  
She weeps beneath the wild sky as  
stars tell stories of ancient times.  
They say, like a beautiful star shining  
in the night sky,  
your purpose is not to compare your  
light or brightness to  
any other star, your purpose is to  
acknowledge the light  
of others while acknowledging your  
own light too.  
Because only when we are all shining  
our own unique lights,  
can we light up the entire night.

-Angel Pacheco



## Cont. Student Work from Poetry Class

### No Escape

in the dark of night, stranded on the  
horizon  
stuck with no thought of escape  
far from society like they disappeared  
alone like an orphan on Christmas  
Just land for miles and miles  
quiet enough to hear an ant  
so quiet you could hear the loneliness  
yet it was sometimes calming

-Travis Ridders

### The Bridge

The bridge where we go to escape  
Where the train tracks lead across the  
water

And the fields stretch for eternities  
The sunset wraps around us like a  
blanket

As the sun goes down and the stars  
come out

All you hear is the swaying of the  
trees

And shuffling of rocks beneath our  
feet

I look ahead seeing the bridge  
Less than fifteen feet in front of me  
I walk skipping every other track

I get to the bridge and stop

I stop, sit on the edge

My feet dangle over the water

Like the tire swing

That was once there

This bridge is more than some wood  
and tracks

It's the place I go to get over my prob-  
lems

And through my day

Bella Rutland

### Ode to rain

The rain falls down  
from the sky;  
it's cold and  
piercing and harsh.

It cuts through skin  
and bone and  
makes a mockery  
of your clothes.

It changes and  
flows like life and  
as such fills me  
with life and love  
like a large pail  
It cries as I cry  
and falls as I fall  
and it changes.

It changes as I  
change and as  
you change and  
it is not afraid.

-Raymond Dickmann

### Distraction of Time

This is to you my distraction.

you distracted me from reality.

you've pulled me away from the pain  
that I feel.

You keep me entertained.

You keep me feeling safe from the  
world.

I don't know what I would do without  
you.

Oh my xbox you have a powerful  
meaning in my life.

You have so much to offer from video  
games to music to movies.

I would never know the things I know  
now without you.

Thank you so much for the memories  
with friends and the love of new mu-  
sic.

You've shown me how to make  
friends.

When we part ways I'll never forget  
the people I met with your help.

-Lane Worstein

### Ode to my Vinyl Records

To my vinyl records, my sweet sound-  
ing molds of oil and plastic.

My angelic, singing disks of wonder,  
How your crackle and pop fills my soul  
with worry

But your songs fill my ears with sweet  
honey.

Ah, my stubborn child that screams  
and hisses if not taken with the utmost  
care.

My bleak and sad treasure that wal-  
lows in pain if not bathed and shined  
before every play session.

How you are so difficult to manage and  
raise, but the pay off is like no other.

Your sweet and somber lullabies get  
me through the toughest of days,

Accompanied by the warm hugs of the  
fire and the rich elixir of wine.

Nothing will ever be more important to  
me than my sweet sounding molds of  
oil and plastic,

My angelic, signing disks of wonder,  
my stubborn, screaming child.

These sweet words and thanks are for  
you.

My vinyl records.

-Avery Reynolds

### No Escape

in the dark of night, stranded on the  
horizon

stuck with no thought of escape

far from society like they disappeared  
alone like an orphan on Christmas

Just land for miles and miles

quiet enough to hear an ant

so quiet you could hear the loneliness  
yet it was sometimes calming

-Travis Ridders

## Latino Club Back in Action

The Latino Club is back at AOS and we have been busy this fall working on two events with the support of Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Fitzpatrick.

The first event our students participated and organized was Dia de los Muertos on November 1st & 2nd. Leading up to this special day, our students painted and decorated items such as skulls and picture frames that were then used to

display pictures of family members.

The students then set up the Dia de los Muertos table in our common area for the whole school to partake in. There was even Pan de Dulce and hot chocolate students could eat and drink as they visited the table display.

The other event our club took on was our annual coin drive fundraiser to buy holi-

day gifts for a family. Over the course of a month, our school was able to raise almost \$400!

The fundraiser is a school wide community builder where the school is split into 3 teams (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors) to see who can raise the most money.

The final winner of the coin drive was our Junior class! Congrats to them and all they brought in for the fundraiser.

The students in the Latino Club went shopping for gifts for the family, which they wrapped and delivered to their school. We are very thankful we have this opportunity to love and serve our community!



## A Special Thank You

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Saint Anne Orthodox Church for their generous donation of 25 food boxes to be sent home to families in need over the Winter Break.

The congregation at St. Anne has put together food boxes for both AOS and the FACT program in previous years, and we are very humbled and grateful for their on-going support and love.

If you could use extra support at any time, please let our counselor, Mrs. Harryman, know. It is a priority for us and our partners in the FACT program to ensure that our student and family needs are always taken care, and are grateful to the congregation at St. Anne for helping us meet those needs.



*Pictured (from left) are Fr. Stephen and Mona Soot of St. Anne, Principal Mark Hannan, and counselor Anna Harryman.*

## Resources for Winter Break

### Pollywog Holiday Resource

**Guide:** Extensive list of food pantry, meal, and holiday gift and food info available on our website at: <https://aos.albany.k12.or.us/parents-and-students/>

**Youthline:** YouthLine is a free teen-to-teen crisis support and help line. Text "teen2teen" to 839863 or call (877) 968-8491.

### District FACT Program Resource

**Page:** includes resources for utilities, transportation, COVID resources, free educational resources, food, child care, CSC, recovery and addiction, and more! Available on the district website at:

<https://albany.k12.or.us/about/family-resources>

## RESOURCES

**MRS. HARRYMAN EMAIL**  
anna.harryman@albany.k12.or.us

**NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE:**  
1-800-273-8255

**LINEA DE AYUDA NACIONAL DE PREVENCIÓN DEL SUICIDIO:**  
1-888-628-9454

**LINN COUNTY CRISIS**  
1-800-304-7468

**OREGONYOUTHLINE.ORG**  
1-877-968-8491  
Text "TEEN2TEEN" to 839863

**JACKSON STREET YOUTH SERVICES**  
Mental health and outreach  
541-220-2955

**CALL: 211 - INFORMATION HELPLINE**  
Connect to health and human services

**EMERGENCY- 911**

MENTAL HEALTH

# Academic Awards for Trimester 1, Grading Period 2

Congratulations to the following students who earned academic awards in the second six-week grading period:

## Mr. Aitken

Molly Ramseyer—OdysseyWare  
Justin Leydens—Geometry  
John Llamas—Geometry  
Lillian Baker—Biology  
Logan Mier—Biology  
Mariah Hunt—Photography

## Ms. Bellando:

Raymond Dickmann—Art  
Jered George—World Literature  
Laura Strickland—World Literature  
Bella Rutland—Journalism  
Dyllen Burkhart—Mythology  
Emma Hernandez—Mythology

## Mrs. Mitchell:

Laura Strickland—US History  
Aunika Butler—Graphic Literature  
Dyllen Burkhart—Graphic Literature

## Ms. Fitzpatrick:

Tuesday Mentzer—Health B  
Jordanne Hanson—Health B  
Logan Mier—Fitness & Conditioning  
Brisa Tecpile—Geometry B

## Ms. Lawrie:

Kaitlyn Hayner—World History  
Tyra Kawaihalau—World History  
Karyssa Negrete—World History  
Mariah Hunt—World History  
Ahna Eastman—World History  
Bella Rutland—Poetry  
Jered George—Poetry  
Roman Smith—Poetry  
Lisa Strickland—Art  
Kasper Williams—Art

## Mr. Wolfe:

Roman Smith—Creative Writing  
Madilyn Markwood—Sociology  
Tori Teem—Current World Topics

## Mr. Corliss:

Lane Worstein—Geometry A  
Gage Pearson—Algebra II  
Madilyn Markwood—Financial Alg.  
Nollan Wogomon—Financial Algebra  
Otis Smith—Algebra I  
Kaitlyn Hayner—Digital Media

## Mrs. Hekman:

Bella Gutierrez—OdysseyWare  
John Llamas—Young Adult Lit  
Alan Contreras—Young Adult Lit  
Gajen Winningham—English 10A  
Halona Valesquez—English 10A  
Nick Friesen—Pilates

## Mr. Looney:

Garin Jochimsen—Film Appreciation  
Emma Hernandez—Biology  
Dyllen Burkhart—Biology  
Roman Smith—Microbiology  
Lisa Strickland—Oregon Wildlife  
Karyssa Negrete—Oregon Wildlife

## Mr. Diaz:

Justinnia Ruiz—CTE Construction  
Garin Jochimsen—CTE Construction  
Bryce Robbins—CTE Construction  
John Llamas—CTE Construction  
Ryker Pittam—CTE Construction  
Bella Gutierrez—CTE Construction  
Brisa Soto—CTE Construction  
Olivia Hand—CTE Construction  
Alan Contreras—CTE Construction  
Dyllen Burkhart—CTE Construction  
Cesar Franco-Mireles—Construction  
Travis Ridders—CTE Construction

## 4.0 GPA:

Jered George  
Karyssa Negrete  
Lisa Strickland  
Laura Strickland  
Emma Hernandez  
Hunter Webster

## 3.5-3.99 GPA:

Bella Gutierrez  
Kaitlyn Hayner  
Dyllen Burkhart  
Bella Rutland  
Roman Smith  
Tyra Kawaihalau  
Oliver Madsen  
Justinnia Ruiz  
Mariah Hunt  
Sophia Martinez

## 100% Attendance:

Alan Contreras  
Brisa Soto  
Kasey Clark  
Emma Hernandez  
Karyssa Negrete  
Justinnia Ruiz  
Otis Smith  
Laura Strickland  
Lisa Strickland  
Emylie Ridders

## 100% Attendance for Whole Year:

Emylie Ridders  
Otis Smith





**Greater Albany Public  
School District**

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Albany Options School Newsletter: December 2021  
Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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