

# Aldo Leopold Charter School

## Weekly Update



9th graders Pranay, Katherine, and Meliani walking in the Big Ditch with the Community Orientation class.

**September 22, 2020**  
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### The big news this week

There will be **no classes on Thursday and Friday this week**. Let me repeat: ***There will be no classes on Thursday and Friday this week***. Why? you might ask. These days are reserved for **Student Led Conferences**. **What are those?** Students will present to their parents(s)/guardian(s) examples of work that they have struggled with and work that shows their strengths. **Why?** Because by saying out loud, where they succeed and where they struggle, to people who care about them helps kids take ownership of their learning, and then they can see how much control they have over their performance. **How** is this going to happen?? All conferences will be virtual. In the middle school, students and their significant adult(s) will be meeting with one of their core teachers (all the 6th graders will meet with Mr. Cantrell) through their google meet link (sorry, that always sounds gross). For High School students and the person who pays the bills, you will be meeting with your advisor through their google (I have to say it again, I'm sorry) meet link. **To schedule your conference, call Cathie at the front office.**

## Things happen

So on Friday night U.S. Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died. For us social studies teachers, the loss of the second woman to hold a seat on the nation's highest court could not go unacknowledged. Jim pushed the due date for his senior government class assignment "The Constitution in Your Own Words" to next Tuesday, September 29 to accommodate a lesson on Justice Ginsburg and the other Supremes. He is also offering extra credit to anyone who watches the documentary [RBG](#).

Jennifer's 8th grade students also spent time learning about Justice Ginsburg by watching a remembrance of her from the [NY Times](#), hearing her speak about [regret](#) (spoiler: she doesn't have any), and answering a question one of the 8th graders had posed last week, ["Why do we have to learn all this stuff, and get other people's approval if we are just gonna die some day?"](#) (Fast forward to 38:20)

## Ms. Chaney's 7th grade weekly round up

### Math

Up to this point, students have been exploring scaled copies, or two-dimensional images that have been recreated at certain scale factors. This week, they began to look at scale drawings or scaled two-dimensional representations of actual objects or places. Students see that although scale drawings capture three-dimensional objects or places, they show scaled measurements in only two of the dimensions, and that all information is projected onto a plane.

### Science

We discussed characteristics of life this week. Students are finding their knowledge of systems is helpful in recognizing what makes something living. We will use these characteristics of life to guide our lessons throughout the year, beginning with "Living things have different levels of organization." Next week, students will design a pendant showing these levels of organization. If you have not picked up the materials from the school, please do so as these are being used more and more. They will need the large, beige paper for their pendant.

### Experiential Education

This Friday, students explored the habitats surrounding their homes. After gathering data, they created maps of these habitats. We would like to put all of the maps together in a slide show that we can share with all of you. Some reminders about turning in a photo of their map will help make this possible - thanks in advance!

### Announcements

- **Student Led Conferences** are next week. Conferences will be held virtually on Thursday, September 24th and Friday, September 25th. ***There will not be classes on these days.*** Cathie or Andrea (our wonderful secretaries) will be calling you to schedule an appointment. Students in Group A will meet with Ms. Aversa and students in Group B will meet with Ms. Chaney. Students will have time to prepare their presentations next week. If you do not have your conference scheduled yet, please call the front office at 538 - 2547.

# We call them the wanderers



This past Friday all those new to Aldo High School spent time outside. Students who chose the outdoor option of Community Orientation walked through the Big Ditch to San Vicente Farm. Those that chose to stay home did a quiet sit observing their surroundings and a bit of yoga. Both groups (those that went out and those that stayed home) stayed connected by reading an excerpt from *The Lost Language of Plants* by Stephen Buhner that included these thought provoking ideas about our connection to plants and cultivating empathy to forge connections to one another.

"The holes within us possess particular shapes - that of stone or tree or bear. It is not only plants that are our teachers and healers; not only plants that are among our community of life; not only plants that have a language we have long known.

The solution is rekindling our capacity to use the heart as a sophisticated organ of perception. This goes far beyond the exploration of sentimental emotions such as love, or sadness, or fear. It moves into the ability to sophisticatedly think in emotional complexes that come to us from the touch of the world upon our heart. It enables us to identify the thousands of unnamed emotions that daily cross the faces of those we meet. It enables us to understand the point of view of the external world and to hear the language of plants."

Everyone wrote Journal entries that followed the Give Me 5 prompt:

1. *What did we learn? (Think about our circle discussion after the hike)*
2. *Why did we learn that?*
3. *What skills did we practice?*
4. What does this learning connect to in the community (local, national or global)?
5. How does this connect to sustainability?





This part of the Big Ditch Trail (above) was built by the Aldo Summer YCC Crew.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

One of the cool things about living in a small town is that when you see something that is broke you can step in to try to fix it. That is just what Stuart Egnal and Aldo alum Stephen Lindsey did after the town of Silver City discontinued curbside pick up of recycling. These guys started **Trash to Treasure** with the mission “**...to divert reusable and recyclable items (paper, plastic, metal, cardboard, glass, and compostable kitchen waste) from the landfill and turn them into valuable commodities and useful products.**” You can join their mission by going to the [T2T website](#) and signing up for biweekly or monthly curbside recycling pickup.

## Think locally

Aldo parent and chair of the School Advisory Council Andrea Warner writes the weekly [Grant County Corona Virus Update](#) for the Gila Community Radio website. This column tells where to get a coronavirus test, explains the state’s extension of Free Lunch For All Kids!, free tutoring services from NM public libraries, how low income families can get high-speed internet and help with electric bills, how to get an absentee ballot, and more.

## Win-win

Soon the state is going to issue **another round of EBT cards** for families who qualify for free and reduced lunch. In the spring this meant about \$300 in food assistance. If you use this card **at the Farmers Market, you will DOUBLE that amount** because they participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program. So it's like you got \$600 to buy micro-greens, tomatoes, root vegetables, seasonal produce, as well as grass-fed meats, baked goods, tortillas, tamales, pecans, honey and fruit trees. You get twice the produce and meat and with your support, local farmers get to keep being farmers. Win-win. The **Farmers Market** is on **Saturdays from 9-noon behind the old Life Quest building** on the corner of Pope and College and on **Wednesdays from 9-noon in the Ace Hardware parking lot.**



Image by AnnaliseArt: <https://pixabay.com/users/annaliseart-7089643/>

### Call for Student Artists

### 2020 Día de los Muertos Virtual Exhibit

### Silver City Public Library

As part of the community's collaborative Día de los Muertos celebration, the Silver City Public Library will host a virtual exhibit for student artwork. The library seeks Día de los Muertos themed artwork from students of all grade levels. Artwork will be displayed in a virtual gallery on the library website, [silvercitypubliclibrary.org](http://silvercitypubliclibrary.org).

There is a limit of 150 pieces total. Images of the artwork will need to be in jpg format, and no larger than 1200 pixels on a side. Please contact Lillian Galloway at 575-538-3672 or [programs@silvercitymail.com](mailto:programs@silvercitymail.com) to arrange delivery of the digital files.

Art must be received by 5pm Friday, October 16.



