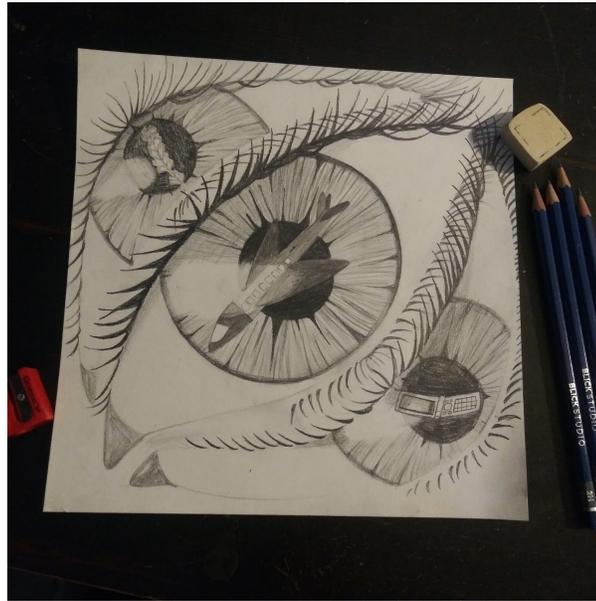


Aldo Leopold Charter School

Weekly Update



Reflecting the eye, Sarah, 12th grade

September 17, 2020

(575) 538-2547

<http://www.aldocs.org/>

www.facebook.com/aldoleopoldhs

That old adage is wrong!

There *is* free lunch! Thanks to the world wide pandemic, the state of New Mexico, and the Guadalupe Montessori School all students can get lunch for free. For reals! Drive around to the back of the school at Ritch Hall between 11:45 and 12:15. If you have kids in your household who are not Aldo students, they can get lunch too!

Write more

Madge Slavec, Director of the Gila Valley Library and local **author Sharman Apt Russell**, invite Aldo students to join a **student-directed reading and writing club** that will meet on Wednesday afternoons, time to be determined by students. Two Cliff students are involved as well. **The Gila Valley Library will pay for the books that the students** decide to read. **Sharman will use her writing experience to guide budding authors.** Contact **Emily Aversa** if interested at emily.aversa@aldostudents.org ASAP.

Silver lining

Lots of people have rediscovered their kitchens and a love of cooking during this lock down/self-isolation. Alex Olsen the high school culinary arts teacher used to be a Mexican food historian. Not even kidding. She used all her vacation time to travel to different parts of Mexico to learn about their food traditions. Alex and her class of foodies will be honoring Mexican Independence with week: September 16th (and a little bit of the 15th) is Mexican Independence Day!! So we are making nixtamal (raw, dried corn cooked with limestone to make it useful and digestible), then hand-made corn tortillas & tacos (to be shown Tuesday morning).

Tomorrow, we'll make the traditional dish of this holiday, Chiles en Nogada (shown Thursday)!

History in a simply written blogpost here:

<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/mexico/articles/chiles-en-nogada-mexicos-most-patriotic-dish/>

This is the dish that always surprises students. They usually break into groups and prep fruit (pear, apple, peach and plantain), nuts (pinenuts, walnuts, almonds), and meat (pork and beef). Then I tell them to add that all to a pan with garlic, onions and baking spices. They cringe and cry. No one wants to eat it! Meat with cinnamon and peaches!? but then, as they roast and peel chiles together, the filling simmers in the background and by the end of class, they want to eat it. Smothered in a creamy white walnut sauce with a garnish of cilantro and pomegranate seeds, chiles en nogada is made of almost everything in season at this moment and is plated to look like the mexican flag (green, white, red).

You know those fancy overproduced cooking shows where they travel the world to show you the best this and that. Well, sit back and enjoy these homespun videos (a [tour of Forrest's Pizza](#) and Alex's test of the [best yeasts and flours](#) for making your own pizza) made right here by Alex for last week's culinary arts class's study of gluten and yeast.

All of the middle school

Grades 6-8 remain online on Fridays. With 76 kids, resuming our outdoor Fridays is not an option right now. So....we have been focusing on where we are all spending so much time right now: home. We started with what home means to us, then we moved on to home as place, and last week we looked outside for signs of wildlife in our backyards. This week we are going to map our yards to make a record of the wildlife that make their homes next to ours. Kids are in and out of **Google Meet from 8:30-11:30**, then they have a **lunch break from 11:30-1:00**. After that, **all students need to check in with their core teacher** about work that is due. To keep up with what we are up to check out the [Middle School Experiential Education](#) page on the website.

They found each other



The new students to the high school started “regular” Community Orientation this past Friday. Witnesses to this grand coming together said it was so sweet (so embarrassing, you guys, sorry) to see new and familiar students gathering (with masks and socially distanced). The 9th grade CO students have math and language arts from 8:30-10:15 and then can choose to come to the school for in-person CO or can stay put for online CO. For both groups, things wrap up at 1:30.

The rest of the high school

We just completed our 4th week of internships. Most of the 10th grade have been placed on Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crews. Here is what they are up to:

Trails: Under the direction of Asher Gelbart and Toxtli Sanchez, this crew is continuing the work of completing the student drop-off area next to Ritch Hall. In the summer with JB Bjornstad, the crew completed a trail from the back parking lot to the drop-off area and a series of garden beds designed to slow and sink the flow of water from the parking lot above. They also completed a pad for the 16X16 ft. greenhouse that the garden crew will construct with alumni Stephen Lindsey. This semester Asher is using his expertise in rainwater harvesting to guide crew members in the design and installation of more garden beds that will control erosion and support native plant species. Toxtli is bringing a wealth of knowledge in masonry to the project, where crew members will be learning how to use specialized hand tools to construct dry stack garden bed retainers.

Murals: Under Diana Ingalls-Leyba's direction, crew members are completing the Dia de Los Muertos Mural located at the Silver City Museum. They have finished installing the remaining tiles and are working to grout the project. This mural has been in the works for two years and has the most tiles that has ever been used by the crew in one project.

Garden: With the expertise and guidance of Tricia Hurley, garden crew has been completing the butterfly-shaped garden beds at the Silva Creek Botanical Gardens that are a memorial to Ella, Michael, and Ella. They are also continuing to maintain the 10th Street median and Gough Park Orchard. They look forward to designing and installing the native plants in the student drop-off area, building the greenhouse with Stephen Lindsey, and developing the new Ella, Michael, and Ella Memorial garden here on campus.

Eco-monitoring: With instruction and guidance from Mike and Carol Fugagli the eco-monitoring crew has been doing training in the San Vicente Creek. They just completed a bio-blitz along the Dragonfly Trail and look forward to sharing their data on national platforms. This Friday they will be bird banding in San Vicente Creek.

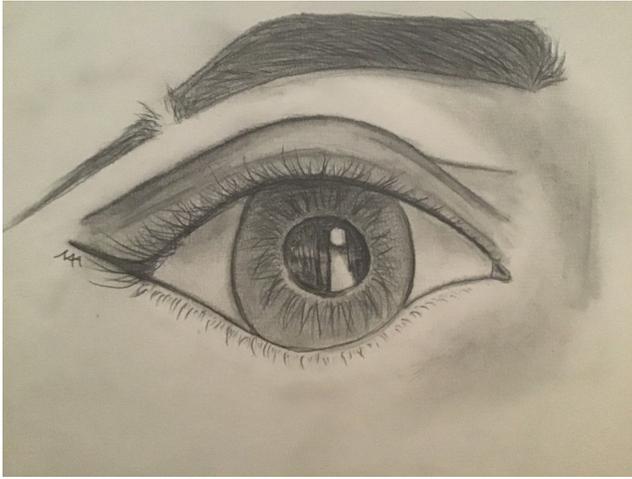
Community Interns have been enjoying a number of placements in our wonderful town. We have interns placed at End of the Road Ranch, Future Forge, Syzygy Tile, The Mint Chip Creamery, The UPS Store, The Murray Hotel, Javalina's, US Forest Service, Arena Valley Animal Clinic, Montessori School Food Service, Mis Amigos, Corner Kitchen, Mark Bighley Construction, Hacienda Realty, and Pampered Pets. Thank you, Silver City!

Finally, some students have elected to take dual-enrollment course work, leading to a career interest. We have students in Web Design, Forensic Science, Psychology, and Art.

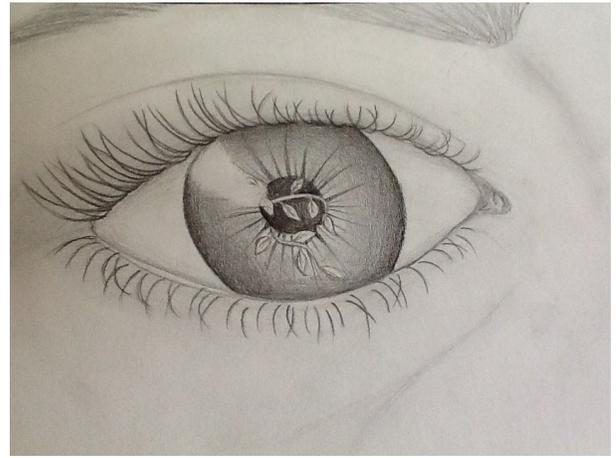
It has been an exciting semester so far! I love seeing our resilient kiddos in the community. Go Wolves!!!

Reflected in the eye

Mz. Phillips and her art students are geniuses with the graphite!



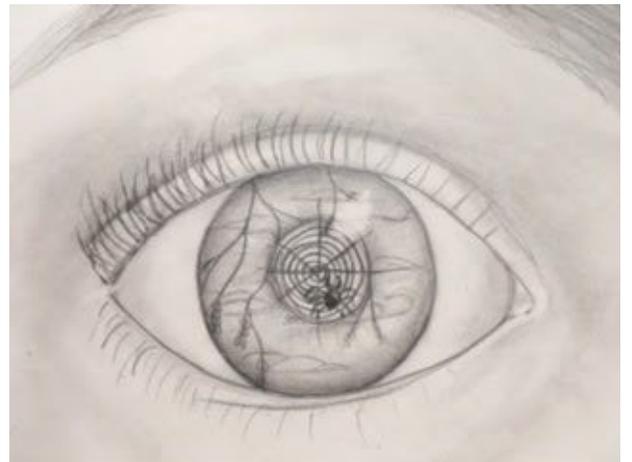
Maya, 9th grade



Cedar, 9th grade

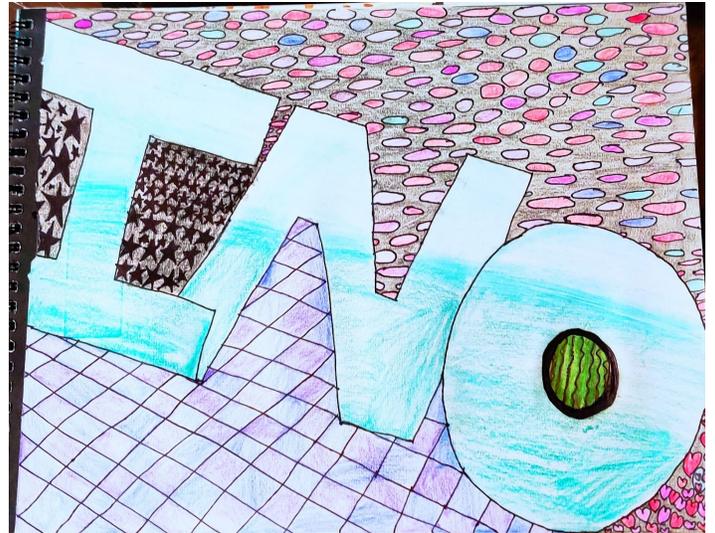


Minnie, 10th grade



Trinity, 10th grade

Sketchbook covers



The first project in visual arts class each semester is putting your name on your sketchbook in an artsy fartsy way. Here are some samples of the middle school students' covers. In a circle from the top left: Marley, 6th; Ino, 6th; Chloe, 6th; Violet, 7th; and Ivy, 7th

