

Happy 2018,

Welcome back to school! This spring semester begins Monday, January 8. I hope everyone had a good holiday break and is ready to return for an exciting and busy semester. We have many new changes to look forward to including two retirements of staff. Dave Chandler is retiring, but he will still be available as a consultant for our grants such as YCC. Deb Priesch is also retiring this year in February. I want to thank both of them for their many years of service and dedication to New Mexico students, they will be greatly missed at Aldo. Our school will not be replacing Dave's position of Community Outreach Coordinator, but the position of internship coordinator will be performed by our staff member and experienced teacher, Guy Ramirez.

Some very exciting news to share is Aldo Leopold Charter School is moving forward with the remodel and move to Regents Row building on WNMU campus in the fall of 2018. There will be many advantages to being housed on WNMU campus. The location is accessible and safe, allowing more students to walk and bike to school. Many more facilities will be available for the school's use such as fields for PE, the Webb theater for our school assemblies and theater productions and the WNMU library. Regents Row and the adjoining WNMU campus offers outstanding outdoor teaching space with great views and very little traffic noise.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@32.7770093,108.2901615,3a,60y,103.63h,88.49t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s!1vDalEjEN67ot1YJ0DEJg!2e0!7i13312!8i6656?hl=en>

Another bit of news is our school's new and improved web site. The web site will be online in the next couple of weeks and will take over the interim web site. Fortunately, the web site address will remain the same (aldocs.org). The new web site was generated by parent volunteers that have put many hours into researching the best format, organizing the content and creating a web site that demonstrates the awesomeness of our Aldo students. We are very excited to have a more interactive website that is user friendly and has the information that you will need to stay informed of upcoming events. Speaking of upcoming events, the enrollment lottery dates for 2018 and lottery forms will be available on the new web site. Whether the child who wants to attend Aldo is a new student or a sibling of a current student, the lottery forms will need to be filled out and turned into the school by the deadline.

On another note, many families and staff had flu or colds in their families this Winter Break. I asked our knowledgeable school nurse, Jim McIntosh, to write a paragraph explaining the best ways to prevent the flu or transmitting to others.

Some of you may be wondering what the year has in store for you, however, if you were hammered by the influenza virus over Winter Break. The Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is reporting that the 2017-18 American flu season is shaping up to be a nasty one, with epidemiologists predicting a higher number of cases here after Australians (whose flu season precedes ours) logged in 2 ½ times more cases of influenza than they did last year. There's no reason to be alarmed, of course—but since it looks like more of us than usual may be laid up by

the flu this season, I am sending along an information sheet from the CDC (below). It offers pretty standard stuff, but it's worth mentioning that two of the most effective ways to limit the spread of the flu virus is to wash your hands & sneeze into your elbow. (The CDC also recommends receiving a flu vaccine; even though they advise people to receive the vax in late October, it can still prove effective if administered now, since there's still plenty of flu season left to endure. The vaccine usually takes two weeks to become fully effective.)

Flu sufferers usually experience fever & body aches, which most cold sufferers do not. If you do spike a fever, it's best to stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever subsides, in order to keep from infecting others. If you do find yourself laid low with the flu, be sure to keep yourself hydrated.

Here's to staying healthy & taking care of ourselves. We all know how to do that--& you probably don't need any advice from the school nurse. But a little reliable information from a trustworthy source might come in handy.

With kind regards,
Jim McIntosh, RN
Aldo Leopold Charter School

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/everyday-preventive-actions-8.5x11.pdf>

Thank you for continuing to support Aldo Leopold Charter School, as we know, you make a choice to send your child to this school. Parent volunteering and an outstanding staff make this the best middle and high school in Grant county.

Sincerely,
Wayne Sherwood, Director