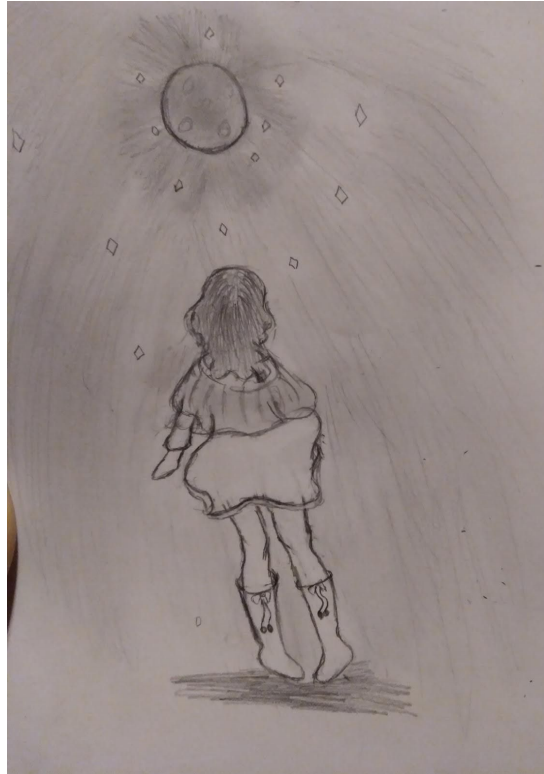


# Aldo Leopold Charter School

## *Weekly Update*



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October 22, 2020  
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<http://www.aldocs.org/>  
[www.facebook.com/aldoleopoldhs](http://www.facebook.com/aldoleopoldhs)

### Welcome back!

We hope that fall break gave your family a chance to relax, reflect, reorganize, and reinvigorate for these next nine weeks. It is important to check in with your kid about what is working and what is not working. Is their school Chromebook still functioning? (we have more computers at the school, so let us know if you need a new one) How is the WiFi at your house? ([Comcast offers excellent internet service for \\$10 a month for families who qualify.](#)) Do they have what they need to do the work they've been assigned? Do you come on Thursdays to pick up materials? Is their study space conducive to learning? This time is a ripe opportunity for students to take more responsibility for their learning because where they are at and what they need is only really obvious to them (it's a toss up about if we should tell them we cannot read their minds....)

## Speaking of help....

Back in March the state of New Mexico launched a program called ENGAGE to support students who disengaged from their learning when we went from in person learning to online learning.

*The program starts with a multi-modal outreach strategy designed to reach eligible students and families you refer via phone, mail, text, or social media. Once re-connected, students are given the opportunity to work with a dedicated coach through the end of the school year. The coach helps to identify and mitigate the obstacles preventing engagement, helps the student learn the skills necessary to succeed in the remote learning environment, monitors the student's pace and progress, and provides the support the student needs to stay engaged, helping them continue their educational journey and progress toward graduation.*

For more information on this totally free program call (505) 340-3250 or email [EngageNM@GraduationAlliance.org](mailto:EngageNM@GraduationAlliance.org).

## As of this writing....

Community Orientation, YCC, internships, and for the first time this year, Middle School Friday adventure is happening on Friday. With the safety of students, staff, and the greater community always in mind and based on what is allowed by the governor, these groups (minus internships which are a 1:1 situation) will be in groups of five students to one teacher. Students and staff will be outside only and the groups will not mingle (no mingling!). As most of you probably know, the numbers of Covid-19 cases are spiking in the state and in our county, so between now and Friday we may have to pull back to online only for CO and Middle School Friday Adventure. We will keep you posted!

## They get around

Community Orientation is getting wheels! This Friday Nathan, Jamie, and Jim administered the ALCS bike test to the CO class so they can use bikes to go on their adventures (silver lining to Covid-19: can't use the busses, must walk or ride bikes!). Bring your own helmet if you have one or the school can lend you one. CO starts at 12:30, but students can arrive by noon and get a free lunch.

## Lunch



Heidi Pendleton, the food maven at Guadalupe Montessori where our school lunches are prepared, tells us that “**90%** of the fresh produce students are seeing in their lunches has been locally sourced August - October. This includes the corn meal and pinto beans. Amazing!!!! As the growing season slows down we will see less of this, so it is worth celebrating now!” By supporting local growers we are keeping money in our community that supports other businesses and families. Thank you to Heidi and the whole staff at GMS who make these delicious lunches and this community support possible! ❤️

## Resources

We understand that none of this pandemic situation is ideal for anyone and that all families are struggling to balance work, school, and home life. Please remember that there are resources available to help with all sorts of situations. On the [Gila/Mimbres Community Radio website](#) you will find detailed information about locations and hours for local food pantries, early voting, hotline numbers for counseling services and the NM Department of Health, the latest information from the governor’s office, local testing locations and hours, Double Up Food Bucks (get half off of any purchase at the Farmer’s Market and on purchases of local produce at the Silver City Food Co-op with your EBT card!), how to apply for financial assistance for childcare, and more.

## Middle School gets out. Finally!

Middle school parents responded resoundingly that they are ready for their kids to get out of the house! So with that support, following the lead and lessons learned by Community Orientation and the YCC program, as well as the directive by the state that students can return to school at a 5:1 ratio BUT recognizing that being outside is best, Mr. Sherwood gave us the go-ahead to take small groups of kids out on Friday. This Friday was **our first outing** this year and we simply walked around to see how far we could get in the time we have (**8:45 - 12:00**). ALL GROUPS MADE IT UP AND ABOUT BOSTON HILL. YAY!

Parents will be sent the roster of who is going walking and who is going to be online each week. If your **child is going out**, they must be at the **school between 8:30 and 8:45, wearing appropriate clothes and shoes for a hike, have a water bottle filled with water, some healthy snacks, a brimmed hat, and an approved mask. NO BANDANAS, OR BAKLAVAS** (the thing that goes around your neck, like the turtle part of a turtleneck, that you pull up, also known as a gaiter). We are so excited to see your kids, but **please do not bring them if they have a temperature of 99 or above, if you've recently been out of the state, if they've been exposed to someone who recently tested positive for Covid-19, or if they show any symptoms of Covid-19.**

## Space cadets

Middle schoolers who were online Friday learned about [life on other planets](#) (perhaps that is where some of them are when we are calling their names over and over again in google meet?), investigated their own yards for signs of life, and with the gourds and googly eyes they got at materials pickup they made an alien, named it, gave it three adaptations, and prepared to engage with other **alien gourds** next week.

## Staying connected

If I had a dime for every time a student just disappeared from Google Meet, only to show up a few minutes later because of their internet connection, I'd be a rich woman! (Of course, there are plenty of times, when it seems their disappearance is related to dis-connection issues, if you know what I mean.) One thing those of you whose children are borrowing a school Chromebook can do to help with this is to update every weekend. From Bart Brown our IT guy here's what you do:

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