

Aldo Leopold Charter School Weekly Update

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It's all about gratitude, dude!

This time every year, the middle school heads to our **friend's place on the Gila** or our **friends' place on the Mimbres** to make our **annual gratitude feast**. We haul all the food we will need to feed about eighty-five, Dutch ovens to bake all this food in, firewood to cook on, cooking utensils, tables (well, we did forget those one year....) to prepare the food on and serve from. Half the kids work on a project at our friends' place to thank them for letting seventy-five middle schoolers invade their patch of paradise for the day and the other half puts together the feast. Everyone is served their share and more, we clean up, then sit in a big circle and each person gets the opportunity to tell what they are grateful for (all the teachers are saying to themselves, "I'd be really grateful if no one gets food poisoning.") Then like Thing One and Thing Two we load up the busses and no one can tell we were even there. This year of course **things are different**. Instead of going on the busses to one of our mighty and beautiful rivers, we watched a TED Talk from Louie Schwartzberg called [Nature. Beauty. Gratitude.](#) In place of our service project we read an article about the [mental health benefits of being grateful.](#) Since we couldn't make food all together, we made a [cookbook](#) (it's a work in progress and let us know how the PooPoo Balls turn out). And finally, sitting close in a circle and sharing what we are grateful for is not possible, so we made a [slideshow](#) to tell each other and you about all the things we are grateful for.

The good old days

As the staff headed out the figurative door on Tuesday after our virtual meetings, our director Mr. Sherwood sent us [Escher Bower's film](#) about Aldo. It is such a beautiful, heartwarming reminder of who we are in spirit. Someday we will get to do these things together again, but until then we can be grateful for having done them at all.

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DIY Thanksgiving

We are all celebrating with fewer people than we usually do this Thanksgiving. For some that might mean that you are **making a turkey for the first time**. Alex Olsen, Aldo's culinary arts teacher, walks you through it all in this [super helpful video](#). I now know why I don't want to over toast the slivered almonds for my **green beans**, I now know to listen to the pop of the **cranberries** when making that sauce, I now know to prevent the **potatoes** from oxidizing I should only cut one or two at a time then put them in the salted cold water before cutting more, and I now know why my brother always lets meat rest before we can eat it. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

And so after all that eating....

In all of his spare time, Jim has planned and organized a 6.55-mile (Quarter Marathon) **time trial trail race on Boston Hill**. This is in place of the traditional **All Souls Race** (everything is in place of something these days). In this one you go it alone when you want (but it has to be by the **close of business on Friday, November 27**) and record your time (runners are into that sort of thing). Below are the rules and Jim's contact information because he lives for running.

Rules of the Trail:

- You must run alone or with someone you live with.
- You must wear a mask whenever you are within 15 feet of another person. (Carry a mask in your pocket or wear one around your neck in case you meet other runners, bikers, or hikers on the trail).
- You can't race in the dark—it's too risky.
- Carry a phone with you. If you are seriously injured, dial 911.
- I will endeavor to provide a trail map, a cue sheet, & a Go Pro film of the course. You must e-mail me to receive these: mrgreendreams@msn.com.
- Entrants time themselves & send finishing times to mrgreendreams@msn.com. If your time is to be believed, I will post it. Please send me your name (as you want it listed in the standings), your address (in case you win a prize, we will mail it or deliver it to you), your phone number, & your time to the nearest second.
- You must sign a Pledge of Honor, claiming that you ran the course exactly, did not cut any trails, & that your time is 100% accurate.
- While an Honor System prevails, if you can provide evidence of your race (via Strava, &c), the judges will bless you.
- Prizes will be awarded at the whim of the judges. Right now I have \$70 worth of downtown gift certificates to divvy up among champions. I will purchase more if more people sign up for the race.
- Neither Aldo Leopold nor Silver City Adventure Trails can insure this event. I've

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spoken with town officials about the race, & they have given their blessing, but neither SCAT nor the Town of Silver City can be considered liable for any mishaps on the trail.

- We will sell T-shirts at cost, but only if there is a minimum of 12 shirts ordered. The shirt design will be revealed next week (& will be Dias de los Muertos Covid-19-themed).
- There is no registration fee for the race, but we encourage you to purchase at least one raffle ticket (each one costs \$10, or you can buy 3/\$25) from Aldo Leopold Charter School. We cannot charge admission for this race without insuring it, so we will instead raffle off a pair of first-rate running shoes (with the winner choosing size; “shoe gender” on November 28). *Every penny raised* for this race will end up in the **Ella, Michael & Ella Scholarship Fund, which honors beloved Aldo Leopold students Ella Kirk, Michael Mahl, & Ella Myers.**

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