

Aldo Leopold Charter School

Weekly Update



The middle school teachers at their last concert.

November 3, 2020

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Finding new ways

The indoor and outdoor Community Orientation class is focusing on sustainable living. To start with, the outdoor group is riding bikes from the school all the way through downtown and onto the trails at San Vicente Creek to the farm. Here they are building human scale homes with found materials. Kind of like the mini-village project from their middle school years but this time there is more flirting, and they have to be able to fit in their houses. The indoor group is watching videos (along with enjoying silent sits and yoga practice) about how real people in Australia managed to create a sustainable life ([Creatures of Place](#)) and how one buff crab loving guy made a [mud hut in the forest with hand tools](#).

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Vision: Aldo Leopold Charter School Graduates will use the skills, perspectives, and information they gain at school to enhance their own lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Learning outside the desk

Once students at Aldo have completed Community Orientation they move on to working on a YCC crew or an internship.

This is required for graduation and supports the mission and vision of the school (notice that those are now at the bottom of each page of the Update).

Students spend time with local mentors learning skills in a field of their own interest. This year Aldo YCC/Internship coordinator Catalina Claussen had 72 high school students to place (not an easy task during a pandemic).

Thirty-four students are on one of the four YCC crews. Six students are taking a class at the university (a way to accommodate families who need to keep their exposure

down). And 26 kids spend their Fridays learning about food (4), animals (8), trades (1), retail (1), hospitality (1), the Forest Service (2) real estate (1), IT (1), making a living as an artist (3), and 4 students volunteer at Future Forge (started by Aldo graduates, thank you very much, what a circle!). We are so grateful to the adults in our community who take the time to mentor our young people! **Above: juniors Tru (l.) and Jaedan (r.) at their internship at End of the Road Ranch.**



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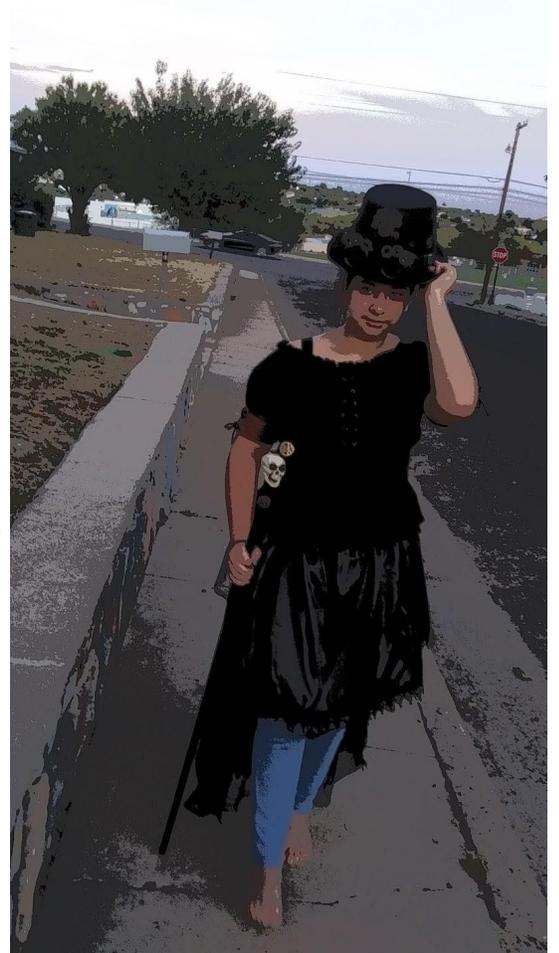
Middle School Pumpkin Carving-Snowman Making-Alien Gourd-Costume Contest winners!

Costume Winners



Most Artistic: Kaelyn (6th)

Classiest: Teneal(6th)



Snowman Contest Winners!



Best Use of Produce: Wyatt (and his little brother) (6th)

Friendliest: Ivy (7th)



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Alien Gourd Winners! From top left: Most Creative: Sebi (8th); Best Capture of Gourd Alien in its Natural Habitat: Dillion (6th); Most Adorable: Ivy (7th)



Pumpkin Carving Winner! Classiest: Teneal (6th)

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Carrying the torch



The whole middle school cannot go out all at once (pandemics get an F in our book), so for the past two Fridays 20 students and four teachers (that's a 5:1 ratio for you English majors) are keeping the Friday Adventure flame alive by ascending the magnificent open space that is Boston Hill. We come back happy to be sore from actually doing something. It's a beautiful thing.



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