

Aldo Leopold Charter School

Weekly Update

2.23.21



(575)538-2547

410 West 10th Street

Silver City, NM 88061



Trail crew from left: Titus, Crew Leader (12th), Michael (10th), Malikah (hidden behind Michael, 11th), and Joseph (11th)

By now you've probably heard

The plan is to return to in person school on Monday, March 22



The staff spent last week's inservice days working on what this return will look like. In general, **1).** all classes will be outside, most students will only be on campus two days a week, **2).** class size will be small, **3).** free lunch will be provided to all those who want it, **4).** all students who want to return to in person school will be given a time to come back before Spring Break to see the campus (middle school students have never been to Ritch Hall!) and to get acquainted with each other, and **5).** we are grateful that we don't live in Minnesota where outdoor school would be soooooo cold. An email was sent to all parents about the specifics related to their child's grade. If you have any questions or concerns please call your child's teacher or Mr. Sherwood or Miss Bailey. *We are here to help* and we want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to make this a safe return to school.

Grounded

No one is going anywhere on Aldo buses right now. So since Pete and Maddy could not take the Cultural Geography and Economics, and Environmental science class to [Macho Springs Wind Farm](#) as per usual this time of year, they brought the farm to the class. Via the internet. The purpose of this tradition is two fold: 1) to introduce students to a possible well paying career choice (“a good career choice because a newly graduated highschool student can make \$18.50 an hour with full benefits and paid time off. You get to travel a lot” and it turns out you must have your phone on 24/7 in case of emergencies at the farm-what teenager wouldn’t love that!)and 2) for students to see for real (well on the internet, like I said) a renewable energy source. We all know there is a lot of ding dang wind here! According to their Give Me 5 journal entries, students learned that it costs 2.3 million dollars to manufacture and transport one wind turbine. “It takes...4-5 cranes, 200 people at each crane just to set it up, plus more people on site.” The wind turbines are 24 stories tall and the blades are 150 feet long! The 50.4 megawatts of power from just 28 wind turbines can provide power to 14-16,000 homes and the power generated at Macho Springs Wind Farm goes to Tucson.



Back on the trail or in the ocean or in the clouds

The middle school has returned to our pre-Thanksgiving Boston Hill Hikes on Friday mornings. At this point we are able to take about half the kids who want to go each Friday, so that means that every other week your middle schooler will be able to see actual real live kids (at a six foot distance and with a mask of course)

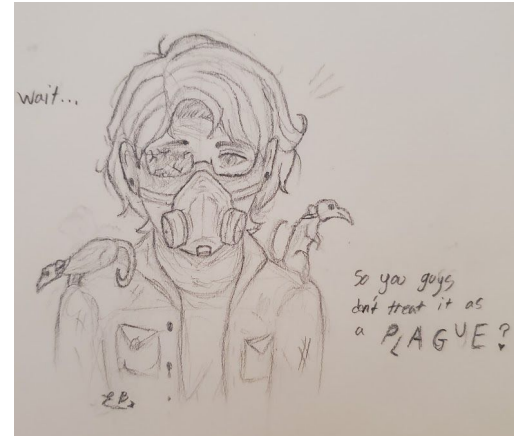
When not on Boston Hill, the middle school students have chosen from four different rotations. Ms. Chaney went total middle school and taught about the importance of **whale poo**. Mr. Cantrell got into **octopuses**. Erik helped to bring out the inner **cartoonist** in the kids. And Jennifer introduced her students to the [Cloud Appreciation Society](#). Ms. Chaney’s group watched these videos about [wolves](#) and [whales](#) (if you dream about narrating nature videos, you better practice your British accent) and then they made slides to show the other species that are affected by the preservation of these species. You can see the cartoon creations throughout the Update. And check out these newly named clouds from the [Aldo Cloud Appreciation Society](#).

7th grade imagination + science = the elusive origami bird

This week Group B students investigated natural selection by completing a study on the [elusive Origami Bird](#). You may have seen these strange straw-like birds flying around your home. Don't worry, they are shy and only eat pencil erasers.

Students completed their investigations in groups and practiced what they learned about group dynamics last Friday. Students in Group A made modifications to their curious creatures to find out who could create the ultimate organism in...(cue gladiator

music)...[Adaptation Wars](#)! Finalists will compete next week in the final *EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS* round.



Our stories are all the same!

The seniors of Jim's World Writers class have a long term project about the tale (almost) as old as time-Gilgamesh. By March 4th students will have made a 14 page book with their highlights of this bromance. Jim provided them with a template of how to cover the highlights and he found on [YouTube a tutorial on how to make this book](#). To help your senior (who along with dodging the Covid virus is also likely battling the dreaded Senioritis), here are two videos that tell the Gilgamesh story: [Gilgamesh and Enkidu](#) and [Gilamesh and Humbaba](#).



The early bird gets the worm

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund, in partnership with the New Mexico State University Student Success Center, New Mexico State University Undergraduate Admissions and The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, will be presenting a **virtual College 101 workshop** on **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 from 5 PM - 8 PM**. The HSF College 101 is a **free, three-hour college preparation workshop** that is designed to assist *middle and high school students—and their parents/families*—**identify and address the various steps necessary to plan for a college education**. HSF College 101 sessions provide valuable information about *how to prepare, plan and pay for college, apply for scholarships and research financial aid opportunities*. The HSF College 101 virtual workshop will be offered in both English and Spanish. The HSF College 101 opportunity is free, however, registration for the event is required and a brief registration form may be completed at <https://www.hsf.net/college-101>. The **deadline for registration is Wednesday, February 24th at 10:00 AM**. For additional information please call the New Mexico State University Aggie One Stop at 575-646-6678.

Now that you have taught your 8th grader algebra...

Maybe with all this help you've been giving to your kid this year with their online schooling you've been bitten by the teaching bug (OR you are certain that anyone who becomes a teacher is bonkers). If that is the case WNMU has a program for you! If you already have a degree and would like to become a teacher through alternative teaching, contact **Renee Howard** at the **WNMU School of Education** (575)538-6416 OR SchoolofEd@wnmu.edu OR <http://soe.wnmu.edu/>