

Live Learn Lead



Katrina, Anna, Marin, Angelica, and Jesse in the suburban on the way to United World College

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

WEEKLY UPDATE

February 26, 2019

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It doesn't come easy

While it seems that HB-147 (a bill to restore small schools funding) will not see the light of day, *in our favor* this legislative session Aldo was **awarded capital outlay** (money given for fixed expenditures like buildings, improvements to existing structures, or vehicle purchases): woo hoo! Thanks to the [Grant County Prospectors](#) who organize all the wish lists and set up a forum for the legislators to listen to the requests from the county entities, (government agencies and nonprofits) and Representatives Rebecca Dow and Rudy Martinez and Senator Gabriel Ramos, Aldo was awarded **\$40,000 for building improvements**, and **\$25,000 for vehicles**. This is the second year Aldo has received Capital Outlay.

You thought this was a done deal

The Public Education Commission has **officially approved the renewal of our charter** with no strings attached from 2020 to 2025! In April, we can submit amendments to our charter to the PEC. We are considering changing the wording (not the spirit) of our mission statement and our charter specific goals. These goals are the ones that we choose, not ones that the PEC requires of us. Currently these goals are: MAP testing to show improved academic performance, an accounting of the time each student spends in the field (MS Fridays, HS CO, internships, and YCC), and the 4 Cs (communication, critical thinking, creativity, and

collaboration) which are used to grade students on these days in the field. Because this would be the time to change these goals, as a staff we are asking ourselves: do these goals completely and adequately represent our school as we enter our 16th year?

From The Man

This is a notice to let you know that **YCC crews will be subject to random drug testing** as stated in the YCC contract that all students who work on one of these crews sign (see below for a reminder). *Please be advised that these tests will occur this spring.*

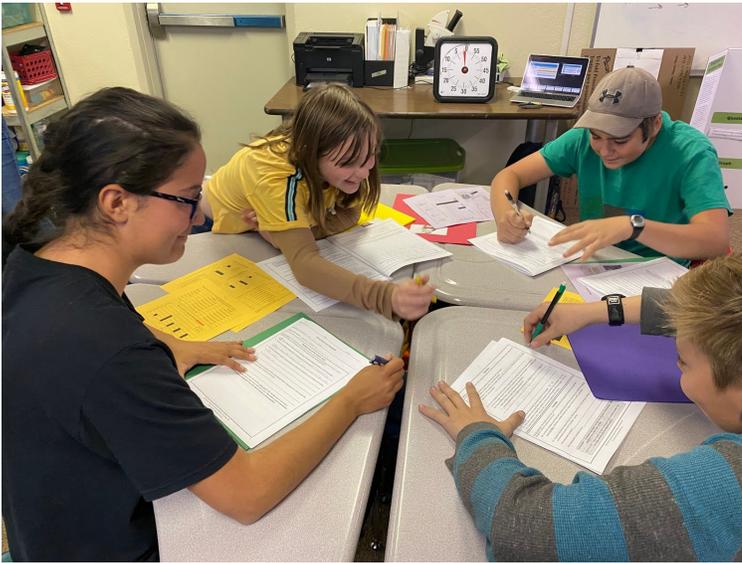
Student agrees to adhere to all rules that apply to the YCC Project including the following Drug and Alcohol Policy for YCC Crew Members:

- Absolutely no possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or another person's prescription medication, or using or possessing drug paraphernalia at all YCC Project work sites and related activities.
- All YCC crew members and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must agree to Student being subject to random drug testing.
- YCC crew members will not talk or otherwise communicate about illegal substances while at work.
- In addition to random drug testing, if reasonable suspicion arises about drug or alcohol use or possession while YCC crew member is at work, the YCC crew member will be asked to submit to a drug test. If the YCC crew member refuses to take a drug test, or if there is a positive result, the YCC crew member will be terminated immediately. If the drug test is negative there will be no consequences.
- If a YCC crew member is found in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, local law enforcement authorities will be notified as well as minor YCC crew members' parents/guardians.
- If a YCC crew member is fired for use of illegal substances, he/she may not work for ALCS YCC again.

The paperwork

Our Business Manager, Harry Browne, would like all **YCC Crew Members and Crew Leaders and their parents** to know that Wage and Tax Statements (more commonly known as Forms **W-2**) are available for anyone who earned wages during calendar year 2019. Because very few of our student employees earn enough to file income taxes, we do not routinely print and mail these forms (except to last year's graduates). But if you need one or would just like to receive one for your records, please let Harry know and he'll be happy to oblige. Best option: send him an e-mail with your request to hbrowne@aldocs.org. Next best: call Andrea at 538-2547 and ask her to pass your request along to Harry.

Reading the tea leaves (or graphs, or charts, or numbers)



The **7th and 8th grade science classes** will begin working on their [Desert Data Jam](#) project this Tuesday and Thursday. We will have visitors from Asombro on those days and they will introduce research projects that are conducted at the Asombro Institute. Students will take the data that is generated from those projects and present it in a creative and interesting way. A few chosen projects will travel to Las Cruces to compete in the Desert Data Jam competition April 21.

(Clockwise from left) Emma, Lola, Bodhi, and Kyuss work together to begin their Desert Data Jam project.

How the garden grows

This Friday the middle school will be working in a couple town gardens. At the **Commons: Garrett's, Jennifer's, and Ms. Aversa's advisories** will work on cleaning up the parklet next to the Commons, help prepare for the food distribution that happens on Saturday, and write letters of encouragement to put in the weekend backpacks that go home to school children. Additionally, we will contribute to the service learning project of one of our middle school parents by writing letters to active duty military personnel. The other three advisories - Mr. Cantrell's, Ms. Chaney's, and Erik's - will be working at the Aldo garden spot on the WNMU campus. At the end of the day we will meet up at Gough Park, lie on our backs, and stare up into the trees.

Go Lobos!

Last week, the Community Orientation class was on campus because of the weather. So this week they start their two Fridays at the Wolf Sanctuary and hiking Allen Springs. Be sure your kid has what they need to be outside all day.

Dream Makers get real



Ms. Chaney and her Dream Maker club went to Albuquerque to visit the UNM medical school. Dream Makers is an after school club for 7th and 8th graders who are interested in careers in the medical field. Students from Red Mountain Middle School in Deming traveled to ABQ with the students from Aldo (top left). At the medical, students learned about how to work together to achieve a common goal (left), and Jasper volunteered to have his Body Mass Index calculated. During the school year, students went to Gila Regional Medical Center to see and sit in the Medivac helicopter (left).



EMTs from Lordsburg taught students how to take blood pressure (right).





Local physicians taught students how to suture (fortunately we have a lot of klutzy kids (jk!) and those same Lordsburg EMTs showed students how to do a tracheotomy (on a dummy, you guys!)

Going viral

“So what do you all know about Covid-19, the coronavirus that’s been in the news this month?” I asked my advisory group yesterday. One student told me that US researchers had just developed a vaccine and that, at least in this country, we would be safe.

When I replied that we had not developed a vaccine, he seemed irritated by my killjoy spirit. “Well,” someone else added, “that’s what my mom’s boyfriend told me.”

Alas, I knew that, even if every step in the vaccine-development process goes perfectly, it takes at least a year for a vaccine to make it to market. But maybe I’d missed something—so I tuned in to National Public Radio this morning and heard that—a vaccine against Covid-19 is at least a year away.

(To be fair: human testing of a potential vaccine will begin in April, according to a *Time* magazine article—but we’re a good long ways away from having a vaccine available to the public.)

Another student reported he’d read that the Chinese government had deliberately loosed Covid-19 upon its people to address overpopulation in that country. I did what I could to debunk that one, but if you’re convinced that world governments are malignant entities, an earnest teacher’s rational argument is probably not enough to persuade you otherwise.

A third student actually reported a way to prevent Covid-19 infection—which it turned out was a “factual” version of a joke that I referenced in my last “Nursing Notes”—the one about Corona beer being a potent antidote against the virus. He didn’t mention the bland Mexican beer by name, but instead told us that he’d heard that drinking alcohol could prevent getting the virus. I laughed and tried to explain the source of that unfounded claim—but I think I undermined my message by laughing first. Shouldn’t have done that.

It was a fascinating 15 minutes I spent with my students, and I began wondering, “Maybe they picked up some of their notions from internet sites?” So I hit a couple sites after school to find the source of their misinformation.

As you might guess, it wasn’t hard to find “rumor platforms”—dubious sites peddling dubious “facts.” One of the most preposterous finds informed me that promoters of the QAnon conspiracy theory “were urging their fans to ward off the illness by purchasing and drinking dangerous bleach.” (If you think I’m making this up, see Will Sommer’s January 28 article on the topic in *The Daily Beast*.)

Most of us—my students included—are skeptical enough not to drink bleach to fend off a coronavirus, of course. But the other Covid-19 health rumors got by their BS-meters—leading me to wonder, *Where do young people go to find accurate health information on the internet?*

Face it: for some young people, some questions are just too embarrassing to ask a parent about—so they ask friends (just as we of a certain age did “back in the day”). Or, to avoid appearing naïve in front of their friends, they search the internet hoping for an answer to their mortifying question.

As we all know, it takes skill, skepticism, and sometimes a sixth sense to suss out the shysters.

And that’s a segue into my topic for next week: How do find the “truth” about a health matter far more likely to affect our lives than Covid-19—for instance, using marijuana.G

They live in a castle!?

The high school student council and a few other Aldo students went to United World College’s



annual Peace Conference. This year’s topic was sustainability and technology. The point of the conference as always is “to hear and listen to some viewpoints that are different than yours and even some with which you strongly disagree. Please remember that without attempting to understand one another’s perspectives, conflict cannot be transformed.” The Aldo students that attended the conference are expected to bring back what they learned and share that in as many ways as they can with the Aldo community.

Back row: Hawk, Jessie, Heather, Sophiana, Quinn, Dena, Angelica
Front row: Molly, Marin, Rae, Sylvia, Tigerlily, Anna, Morgan, Katrina