

Aldo Leopold Charter School

Weekly Update

3.26.21



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Cedar, 9th grade

The Return to Aldo

As of March 13, 2021, it was exactly a year since the lockdown began. Since then, we've been having to deal with the "absolute joys" of staying cooped up in our homes to avoid the pandemic. Said joys also include online classes. But now, that all changes. On **Tuesday, March 23rd**, almost all Aldo students returned to **full-time, in-person school. 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM**. Gone are the days of seeing your pals and teachers through the screen, janky internet connections, (at least, we *hope*...) and muted microphones. Bring your masks, and be ready to come back, everyone!

Bid Adieu to Digital Work! (Mostly)



Rachel, 10th grade

Even though the rules for how and where students can be educated are changing, let us look back on how Aldo has handled online learning, and what resources the students used to keep track of their work. The primary homebase, magnum opus, king of kings, work haven...whatever you'd like to call it, is **Google Classroom**. Many have said that Google Classroom made it easier, while the rest prefer in-person. At this point, we doubt the in-person school vs. online school debate will ever reach a conclusion... Another resource used, for the most part, by **Peter Hurley's** high school math classes, is Khan Academy. Khan Academy has a whole treasure trove of videos, learning documents, and quizzes. The progression is akin to that of an in-person math class, and you can even go back to previous lessons to recap and understand them better. It's like asking your teacher to repeat a question...except without the dreaded act of *speaking up* (don't worry, we understand). Even as we move to in-person, it's possible that these online resources could be here to stay, or at least be a secondary learning source.

Internship Quarter 3...that's a wrap!

We know. You all are getting the “second semester drag.” The symptoms? Mostly just falling out and getting TOO relaxed once the second part of our school year rolls around. But don't you worry! We can all pull through this. And it looks like it's working. Aldo students have jumped right back into their internships and YCC work. As you've seen in the previous issue, YCC had returned to in-person already, which is a phenomenal start. Hopefully soon, everyone will be able to go to their internships as their own selves and not as a little icon in Google Meets. One of the most convenient internships is at the Aldo Leopold Weekly Update with **Jennifer Lepisko**. As a matter of fact, she's MY mentor for this semester! My identity? You may never know...just kidding. Ava here. I'm a 10th grader, and it's an honor to be assisting with the Weekly Update this semester. It's great to see everybody working so hard and staying safe in this crazy time.



Angelica, 10th grade

What about the trips?



Josephine, 10 grade

A staple of Aldo Leopold are the outdoor experimental trips we take throughout the school year. No matter what grade you are, our school always encourages students to get out and about and see the world. Whether that be through Community Orientation, the school camping and backpacking trips, or other outdoor adventure opportunities of the sort. So that begs the question: Will these kinds of trips still be held once we return to in-person classes? And the answer is....hopefully! Community Orientation is already back on track, but as for those other trips like City of Rocks and the Sonoran Sojourn, they're still up for discussion. So let's take a moment to give the Aldo staff a round of applause! They're all working very hard to try and make the most of what we have left of this school year. Thanks to everyone!

Don't be Negative about Negative Space!

As you've read through this issue, you may be asking yourself: “What the HECK are all of these black and white squares doing on the pages?” Well, fret not! These are just the Negative Space projects done by **Alison Phillips'** Art Class. Ms. Phillips, in all of her eccentric glory, gave the students an assignment. Since most people are used to drawing on white paper, the art students were challenged with drawing on black paper instead. One side of the black paper would feature details, just like a standard pencil drawing.

However, the other side of the paper is nothing but outlines and patterns. It seems like many of these pieces would end up looking similar, but nnnNNNOPE! The art class delivers again with creative and well thought-out works of art. Each masterpiece is so uniquely...them. If that makes sense...anyway, take a look at some!



Kaleena, 12th grade



Sarah, 12th grade



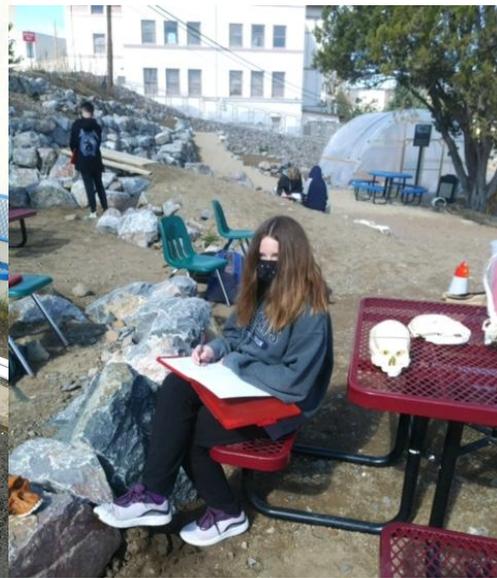
Ava, 10th grade

Getting ready

The high school anticipated that to encourage kids to come back to school after a year of isolating in their bedrooms, they would need to launch a PR campaign. So along with ultimate frisbee and mountain biking, they offered archery the week before Spring Break to entice the reluctant to give outside a chance.



Outside learning



Last week brought a lot of new learning for everyone in the middle school! Some of it was about geology, plants, algebraic equations, and literary analysis. But most of it was about how to dress for the weather and how to be patient with ourselves and others as we transition from doing school in our pj's in our bedrooms to being outside surrounded by way more people than most of us have been anywhere near in over a year. Thanks to parents for oodles of support and understanding as we email you every day with some new logistical hurdle we need your help with. Hang in there, everyone, together we will keep our center as the events of the world rush past us.

