

**Live. Learn. Lead.**



**Some of the 9th graders hiking at Allen Springs**

**ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL**

*WEEKLY UPDATE*

**March 16, 2019**

**(575) 538-2547**

<http://www.aldocs.org/>

[www.facebook.com/aldoleopoldhs](http://www.facebook.com/aldoleopoldhs)

## **COVID-19**

Since we last spoke the landscape of life has changed a bit. This Coronavirus thing has gotten way more serious with 10 confirmed cases in New Mexico, the NBA postponing its season, March Madness being cancelled, for goodness sake, and, devastatingly, the Tour of the Gila has been cancelled-that one really hurts. Aldo staff met Friday to discuss the New Mexico Public Education Department's closure of all New Mexico public schools, which includes our school, until Monday, April 6. What we know as of 11:00 am Friday:

- a. Schools won't be making these days up at the end of the year.
- b. Schools will continue to pay their staff during the closure so there is no pay gap. I believe this includes hourly employees, as the Secretary stated they didn't want interruptions.

- c. Schools with 1:1 devices should provide online learning opportunities during the closure if they are able, but there are no requirements (*we will not be doing this*)
- d. Sports calendars will be adjusted to conclude the season (*this will affect our students who are athletes at Silver*)

Self-quarantine/self-isolation and social distancing are preventative measures that have been proven to limit exposure and therefore, the number of cases, keeping more people healthy and preventing our health system from being overburdened. It is the Governor's plan that grab-and-go lunches will be served. We are talking with the Montessori School--they provide lunches to the school--to see what we can put together at this time. Bottom line: Wayne will send out text and e-mail blasts when we know where and when breakfasts and lunches will be distributed.

And for those parents of seniors who are wondering about graduation...at this time we hope to keep the date as-is. Life is up in the air right now. The Governor and her staff are working on measures to provide financial relief to hourly workers and the U.S. Congress passed a bill yesterday that will help support those who are dealing with the direct effects of the virus as well as those who, like many of us, are under a self-quarantine. What an opportunity to play board games with your kids, start a garden, do that mending you've been putting off, walk Boston Hill! Please stay healthy by washing your hands frequently for 20 seconds, eating well, being conscious of your exposure, and managing stress.

## **Important numbers**

The Governor's office has set up help lines. If you have **questions regarding your health**, call **1-855-600-3453**. For **everything else**, like unemployment benefits and medicaid: 1-833-551-0518. Also go to [newmexico.gov](http://newmexico.gov) for information about COVID-19: what the state is doing, frequently asked questions, questions about schools, jobs and the economy.

## **Some date changes**

Monday 3/25 - Grades due (check PowerSchool)

Friday 4/10 - No School (Good Friday)

Monday 4/13 - **No Inservice** Normal School Schedule

Monday 4/6 - HS projects due

Monday 4/13-15 - HS Project Presentations

## Combo day



The Community Orientation class spent the past two Fridays at the Wolf Sanctuary and hiking Allen Springs. 9th grader Aria sent the following journal entry to let us know what the day with wolves was like:

*At the Wolf Sanctuary, host DeeDee taught the freshmen about how wolves work together in packs and how they create a sense of oneness. The freshman class practiced remaining calm and collected around these delicate creatures. Students had the opportunity to listen to stories about how loving and territorial the wolves are towards their packs and also their human companions. They also learned how much effort and hard work goes into rescuing "wolf dogs" and running a sanctuary.*



## **We can't do this without you!**

One of the many ways this statement is true is financially. We take a lot of trips here at Aldo Leopold, and those **trips cost money**. Almost every time we ask for permission for your child to go on one of our trips, we also ask you to help defray the cost. Generally the only amount we **require** is the cost of food; this is because we, as a government agency, are not supposed to give public money (or things purchased with public money) to private individuals. The feds can do that via the school lunch program, but we can't.

**Many of you** *are wonderful* about paying these fees in a timely way. Others, not so much. PLEASE **check your student's PowerSchool page** to see if you have any **outstanding fees**. Unfortunately, the odds are that you do; **17 out of 20 seniors**, for example, **have unpaid fees**, as do **18 out of 21 juniors**. (If you do not have access to PowerSchool, you can **call Harry at 538-2547** to find out if you have a balance.)

Your friendly school business office **hates** being a collections agency. We – and the rest of the staff - **love** it when our school community supports what makes us a special school. Help us feel the love!

## **This may surprise you....(not!)**

We have had some drama in the middle school recently that started online with an Instagram account. This came to light because a teacher saw the account. We have taken class time to sort out online bullying, misunderstandings, and misuse of phones. With three weeks away from the structure of school, we assume that online activity will be high. Please parents, help us return to one another with no drama or baggage by being aware of what your child is doing online and whom they are communicating with and about.

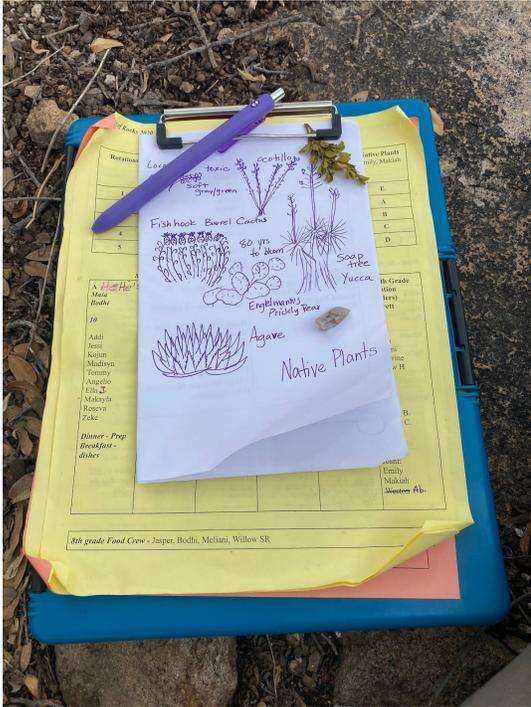
# Fort Bayard

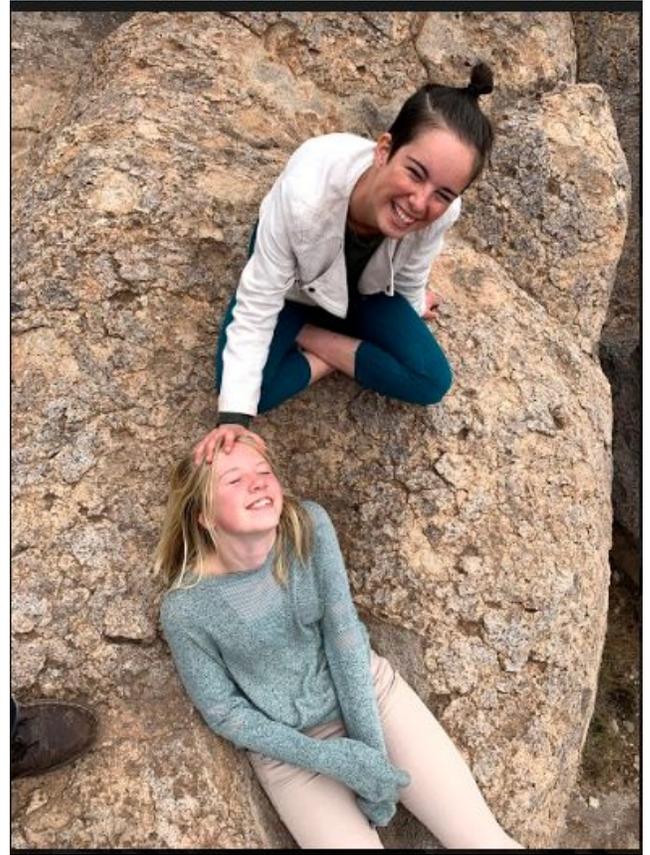
The middle school went to Fort Bayard last week and had a great time. The Fort Bayard Historical Society hosted us and we are not sure who had more fun! We picked up trash, raked up leaves, and removed fallen branches. We hiked the surrounding grounds, toured the museum and parade grounds, played some time-period-specific games, and learned what a “coffee cooler” was (that’d be the friend you have who, in order to avoid work, stands around cooling off his coffee so he can drink it thus dragging out his break time and not getting a thing done!).



# City of Rocks

Clockwise from top left: Ms. Chaney's plant drawings; Kojun, Bodhi, and Tommy on the rocks; the early birds who rose at 5am for the hike up to Table Mountain; Willow at the top.





Clockwise from above left: Music class taught by 8th graders Brandon, Nathan, Ella, and Nathan; Maya and Cedar; Roseva; Yulan with her rock shape inspired creature from the 8th grader led art rotation; students on the trust walk, led by 8th graders Sonny, Joshie, and Pranay.

