



## *Bi-Weekly-ish Update*

**September 15, 2021**

**(575)538-2547 410 West 10th Street Silver City, NM 88061**

### **Senioritis**

Perhaps if you are a parent of a senior, you cannot believe your baby is this old already and you cannot believe that in the blink of an eye they will be *finished* with school. *How did this happen??* As the parent of two grown women, I can tell you that spending some time reflecting who you know your child to be and the patterns you've seen them exhibit, and the interests you've seen them pursue or talk about, can be of great help to them as they consider what they want life after high school to look like. To that end...here are a couple opportunities for upper class people.

- The deadline for this year's **United States Senate Youth** scholarship (USSY) program is **October 15, 2021**. This competitive scholarship program is open to NM juniors and seniors serving in an elected or appointed position with their student government or another educational or civic organization representing a constituency of their peers for this academic year. Two qualified applicants will be selected for the scholarship; and an intensive week-long educational program held in Washington, D. C. Your school counselors can find the program application, competition guidelines, and more info on the program located under the USSYP tab on the [www.nmassp.org](http://www.nmassp.org) website.
- The **PSAT/NMSQT test** will be administered to **all sophomores** and any *interested juniors* on **Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:45 am**. This test is an amazing opportunity for all students to assess their progress in reading, writing and math and their readiness for taking the SAT college admissions test. Additionally, this test can serve as demonstration of competency required for graduation in those subject areas. For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students the PSAT/NMSQT exam is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship program and other scholarship opportunities as well. The PSAT/NMSQT is free for all sophomores and is free for any juniors who qualify for free/reduced lunch. The test is \$18 for juniors who do not qualify for free/reduced lunch. Contact Cheryl if you have any questions or want additional information. Practice/example questions are available at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>  
Additional info about the test: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/inside-the-test>

## Lunch for September

13 Fettucine Alfredo Roast Chicken + Veggies Balls Salad Fruit	14 Bean + Cheese Tacos Steamed Quinoa Shredded Veggies Fruit	15 Spaghetti Bolognese Roast Veggies Garlic Bread Salad Fruit	16 Burger French Fries Baked Beans Lettuce/Tomato/Onion Fruit	17 Bring the BIGG!
20 Hog Dog Mac n' Cheese Salad Fruit	21 Pot Stickers + Egg Balls Rice Stir Fried Veggies Salad Fruit	22 Chicken Noodle Soup Lentils Bread Salad Fruit	23 PIZZA - Again!!! Yey! With some other stuff.	24 Bring the BIGG!

## Fort Bayard forever!

On Thursday, September 9, the middle school spent alllll day (and we mean every bit of it plus more) at Fort Bayard. This outing was in lieu of our usual overnight at Camp Thunderbird (enforcing masks in cabins seemed like a nightmare!). This time at Fort Bayard we focused most of our rotations on the cosmos because once the stars came out we got an in depth view of the universe beyond our own selves from nearly-professional astronomer and Aldo 11th grader Allen.

- Jennifer (8th grade language arts and social studies teacher) asked students to get in touch with their inner groovy self to listen to and comment on poems about the infinite within and without. Students drew pictures of the progression of life from the ground up to accompany the poems and in the end they were linked together with cosmic yarn bracelets to remind them of their connection to everything.
- 8th Math and science teacher Garrett helped the students to consider Earth's place among the planets by creating a model of the scale of the solar system.
- Mz. Phillips taught the students how to make a cosmic tie dye t-shirt so that they could wear their connection to the galaxy.
- And then because snakes are so cool, the Association for Snake Preservation brought snakes for the kids to hold and touch, told the kids that 38 of the 40-something species of snakes in New Mexico are found in our local area, that they are dedicated to educating the public about the importance of snakes because they play such an important part of our ecosystem.
- Allen's knowledge, understanding, and enthusiasm for space and all that it contains was contagious. Students asked question after question about black holes, time, constellations, stars, and the magnitude of the solar system all the while staring up into the vastness of the universe.

## Communication

We are getting the hang of, or so we think, our new communication platform [ParentSquare](#). While all parents' contact information is available on this site for teachers, we know that some parents/guardians have not downloaded the app or logged into their ParentSquare account, and so you all are missing out on some news about what is going on. We are also trying to figure out why some of you can't connect--please contact the office if you are one of those people. Please take a few minutes to log into and familiarize yourself with this new platform. We hope this eases and simplifies communication between us and you!

## Finding their way



Community Orientation is a class that all Aldo students take their first semester here. So that means all the 9th graders and any older student from any other grade who is just starting at our school. Pete, Orien, Antoinette,

Mark, and Nathan lead this class whose aim is to weave kids into the high school community, introduce students in a deep way to their surroundings and the people and other living things in those surroundings, and to get them ready to be on a YCC crew or at an internship next year (next semester for those students who are 10th, 11th,



or 12th graders). In these photos, see students learning about tributaries to and the ecology of the Mighty Gila River, cultural geographies, and watersheds, while also building their own community in the mud and water.



## **It's not a day off**

Fridays are the ultimate day here at Aldo. It is when we for sure get outside, get moving, engage with the wider community, hang out with some of our friends, make new friends, learn about the place we live, talk about things that interest us, work together to create things-including our school community, and get stronger and more confident. All of these things feed and enrich our time together throughout the rest of the week when we study math, science, language arts, social studies, Spanish, art, primitive skills, drama, and health. So please don't think of Fridays as a day that can be missed with no effect. We miss your kid when they are not with us, not doing their part, not seeing and hearing and experiencing all that the rest of us are getting to do.