

## May Day, May Day

It is hard to believe that it is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May. May is my favorite month of the year. The days are warmer and long, the wind settles down, and flowers are blooming. People around town plant their gardens and water their lawns. The cottonwoods shed their white tufts of cotton, that look like snow floating through the air. There are signs of new growth everywhere, and the change of season is the most evident in the month of May.

May is also a time of change in school. Our seniors are preparing for what is probably the biggest change in their life so far: college, tech schools, military service, missionary work, or just getting a job and moving out. The younger students are looking forward to advancing into a higher grade, especially the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will enter high school. And everyone, even teachers, can see the light at the end of the tunnel and are excited about summer break.

This Spring has been different of course. The countryside is still going through its metamorphosis, but school closure has been a different kind of change. Kids have been home for seven weeks, but to many it feels like much longer. Spring break did not feel like a break because so many plans and trips had to be cancelled. Parents now have the added responsibility of making sure school lessons are understood and assignments are completed. Tech problems must be solved at home also, many times while parents are trying to work from home. Teachers have had to learn a new way to teach via the internet. All these changes were unexpected and unfamiliar.

The last day of school and end of a school year is a traditional way we enjoy closure. This year won't end that way. Students left school Thursday before spring break without the knowledge that they wouldn't return for the rest of the year. All school supplies were left in their cubbies and it feels as if the school expects the students to return at any time. The calendar in the hallway includes the Spring dates of much-anticipated school trips, like the Junior trip to Mexico, and the Senior NM History trip which were not taken. It is an eerie feeling to walk into an empty quiet school building and not know when it will return to normal.

As we prepare for some type of closure, it will be different than in the past. Seniors will still graduate from high school and the younger grades will still advance to the next grade, but the pomp and circumstances will have to be different. The type of ceremony type is still unknown, but I guarantee our senior class will be honored and celebrated as best we can during these unprecedented times.

The last 13 days of school may be the hardest yet. Some students have lost interest in Zoom classes, and many parents are tired of forcing children to complete their assignments. (I am speaking from my own experience). Aldo Leopold Charter School really needs your help to complete these last couple of weeks. Please encourage your child to finish the school year strong by regularly logging into their Zoom classes and participating in the lessons. This method of learning might be part of the new normal.

Stay healthy, get lots of exercise and sun, and be strong.  
Wayne Sherwood