

Aldo Leopold Charter School



Weekly Update

September 3, 2019

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

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“...I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?” Aldo Leopold (1949)

News for all

Welcome back, everyone!

It is so nice to see all the familiar faces and we are happy to welcome all the new ones! Since school began three weeks ago, the middle school created their mini-villages far down San Vicente Creek, and each group put together a presentation that they shared with the whole MS, plus some brave parents. The high school utilized the grass and trees at its new campus at WNMU for the first day then took it out to Little Walnut for Backpack Basecamp. This annual event is intended to give students hands-on experience and training with some of what they might encounter in the backcountry. Everyone has cracked open the books and those school supplies are being well used at this point as we all dive into the academic portion of our program.

The Update

The Weekly Update is here to inform our Aldo families about all things Aldo. This weekly info blast, posted most Tuesdays on the website, is brought to you by the Middle School elective class, which this year is staffed by some creative, goofy sixth graders; earnest, enthusiastic 7th graders; and one sweet, charming 8th grader. So take us as we are and we hope you enjoy the voice we are speaking to you with. We are in the process of redesigning the Update so get ready for a new look!

How we do things here

The first part of the Update, *News for all*, is intended for all in the school community. This is where you will find the lunch menu, pictures of our students doing the things they do, news from our school nurse, Jim McIntosh, a list of committee meeting dates and times, a calendar of upcoming events, samples from the art classes, things like this. The next section is happenings in the *High School*: YCC/Internships, CO, trips, project news. The Middle School section will include where we are going on Fridays, Student Council events, camping trips, Dream Makers, etc... We hope you read the whole thing and that this gives you a sense of what and who we are and that you find a place where you might be able to contribute to our school community. We are pretty link-happy at the Weekly Update, so whenever you see [blue](#), click on it and it will take you someplace with more information. Or a [cool video](#) on YouTube that we think is relevant.

Lunch

To The Parents and Guardians of ALCS Students,

My name is **Francesca West**. I **supervise the kitchen at the middle school this year and coordinate volunteers for both school lunches**. Having volunteers is vital to our lunch program's success and we are currently in desperate need of more volunteers. We need people to:

Pick up and deliver food, 11:15-11:45

Serve and cleanup: 11:40-12:40 or later if able

The lunch program *needs* at least **5 volunteers daily, Monday-Thursday**. Reach out to me if you can find a way to fit this into your schedule, or have a friend or relative who can volunteer in your place. If you can take a lunch break and just help serve at 11:45, we could really use the

extra hands. I look forward to hearing from you! Please reach out to me directly at fwest@aldocs.org or call/text (612)751-2117

Lunch Menu

		Wednesday 9/4 Burger on a Bun French Fries, Cole Slaw Lettuce, Tomato, & Onion, Fruit	Thursday 9/5 Veggie Enchiladas Steamed Rice Shredded Veggie Salad Fruit
Monday 9/9 Chicken Parmesan, Buttered Noodles Sliced Cucumbers Garden Salad Fruit	Tuesday 9/10 Pot Stickers Steamed Rice Stir Fried Veggies Green Salad, Fruit	Wednesday 9/11 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwiches Veggie Tray Mixed Salad Fruit	Thursday 9/12 Quiche, French Fries Whole Grain Bread Caesar Salad Fruit

There is no I in TEAM, but there is a U in Volunteer

Every family at Aldo is asked to donate 20 hours of service to help our school function. That's approximately two hours a month throughout the school year. Volunteering is not just for parents, any extended family member can earn hours by volunteering at the school. One way to earn volunteer time and help out in a big way is by **volunteering for Lunch Server** (yes, we really need help now!). It's a great way to connect with the students in their natural environment and it's fun. (See above for information on how to do that.) Another way to earn volunteer hours is to **join a committee**, see this update for committee meeting times and just show up. Throughout the year there are more opportunities to earn hours by helping out with school trips. Keep an out for your chance to help by reading the weekly update regularly. Did you know you can to log any hours you have earned volunteering by going to <https://www.aldocs.org> and clicking the volunteer link at the top of the page? From there you will find the [Volunteer Hours Form](#). It just takes a second. If you have any questions please ask Cathie or Andrea in the front offices.

Calendar

- **Monday 9/9-Thursday 9/12**.....9th and 12th graders go backpacking in the [Gila, the WORLD's first designated Wilderness](#)
- **Thursday 9/19- Friday 9/20**.....the WHOLE middle school goes to Camp Thunderbird
- **Friday 9/20**.....Parent/teacher conferences - High School (This is for parents who want to schedule a time to meet their child's teacher.)
- **Monday 9/23-Thursday 9/26**.....10th-11th graders go backpacking, too!

Committee Meetings

- **Wednesday 9/4**...4:30pm...[School Health Advisory Council](#).....@ High School
- **Thursday 9/12**.....5:30pm...[Governing Council](#)
- **Tuesday 9/17**4:30pm...[Risk Management](#).....@ High School

High School

The big deal

So something we are pretty proud of here at Aldo is that we go backpacking every year. It's kinda cool. It is a ton of work to put together and then we are out there and it is a-MAZ-ing, and totally worth all the effort. There are so many skills, insights, and knowledge gained from these trips that will be utilized throughout the school year in and out of the classroom. Please be sure your child has [what they need](#) for their trip. If they don't have what they need, the school has [gear to lend!](#) The **first trip, Monday 9/9-Thursday 9/12 is for 9th & 12th.** *The 10th & 11th graders leave Monday 9/23 and return Thursday 9/26.* Go to the [website](#), click on the Backpacking button (computer lingo), and you will find the Letter Home, Routes and Itineraries, and the Senior/Freshman Backpacking Teams.

Mr. Cantrell says that one must say something multiple times for it to be heard (He says this to middle schoolers, but I'm pretty sure it applies to grown-ups as well.)

9th & 12th grade students who need to check out backpacks can do so after school on **Thursday 9/5**. Leave your collateral with Cathie in the front office. This is so you can take packs home with you that day and *return with a full pack on Friday 9/6 at 8:30 am for your pre-trip meeting*. Jim, Orien, Maddy, or Avery will help you with checking out this gear on **Thursday 9/5** — *or earlier, if you ask nicely and are lucky*. Sign and return your [Student Pre-Trip form](#) & [Parent Pre-Trip form](#) to the front office. These are available from Cathie in the front office.

Community Orientation

This **all-day Friday** class is for **all new students to the high school**. So that would be all the 9th graders and anyone in the upper grades who is new to Aldo. Check out [Pete, Orien, and Kristin's letter](#) on the website for all you need to know about the CO class.

YCC/Internships

Every Friday, high school students who have completed Community Orientation participate in an [internship](#) (local business, organization, or school) or work on a [Youth Conservation Corps crew](#) (Murals, Garden, Archaeology, Trails, and Eco-Monitors). This day is as important as any academic day. Students gain skills that will help them now and in the future. Students are required to keep a journal and must turn it in on Monday morning for grading by Catalina Claussen, the YCC/Internship Coordinator.

Middle School

Fridays rock!

At [Aldo we think](#) that kids learn best when they are experiencing life, so every Friday the middle school goes out *en masse* to learn stuff. Last week we hiked

around and up Gomez Peak. This week, half the school will be collaborating with the high school's YCC Garden Crew on the median on 10th Street. The other half of the school will travel to the Mimbres to learn about permaculture and sustainability (oh, and these guys will get to go in the river!) Students need to always have their **BIG 5: wide-brimmed hat, two water bottles, healthy lunch and snacks, journal and pencil, appropriate clothes and shoes.** All this should be put in a comfortable backpack.

Camp T(hunder)bird

While the high school goes into the backcountry, the middle school stays in the front country. Crawl, walk, run. **6th, 7th, and 8th graders** will spend **Thursday, September 19-Friday, September 20 at Camp Thunderbird in the Upper Mimbres.** We have been doing this since the beginning of time (actually since 2014). 6th and 7th graders will sleep in the cabins, while the 8th graders will sleep in tents (honestly so much better with all the perfume, cologne, loud whispering, late night giggling, and farting-oh jeez, so much farting). A letter to parents went home today and you can find the [same thing](#) on the website, should it not get home (I know, crazy, that would *never* happen!)