Letter from the Principal

Welcome to December! Although winter is not officially scheduled to make its debut until the 21st, it certainly feels like it has arrived much earlier. Hopefully, the colder temperatures will help to keep flu and cold germs at bay. Please be sure students are dressed appropriately for the cold winter days when school is in session. Students often go out for recess, PE or other classroom activities, and need to be prepared to “battle the elements”. Students are encouraged to wear or bring a jacket every day as well as wear warm clothes, such as pants/tights and long sleeves. If you need assistance obtaining a jacket for your child, please contact our parent liaison, Susan Smith – email: susan.r.smith@lcps.org.

Thank you for visiting with us during American Education Week. Our hallways were filled with parents, grandparents, and other visitors throughout the week; and we received several commendations from our guests. Again, thank you for being a part of such a special week!

At this time of year, it is hard to not think about the possibility of school closings and delays and we are really hoping to get some SNOW this year! Please look over the Inclement Weather information posted on the LCPS website (and on page 2 in this newsletter). There is a Quick Link from our Algonkian website. The latest information about school closings and delays can always be found at: www.lcps.org. Please make sure your child knows how to get home in the event of an early closing!

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a winter break filled with family fun! Remember – one of the best gifts you can give your child is the gift of reading. Make some time to read with your child this break!

Best Wishes,
Jennifer

** Please note that children should not be dropped off to school any earlier than 7:30 a.m. as there is no adult supervision provided prior to that time. Thank you for your cooperation!! **
Inclement Weather Information

When the Loudoun County Public Schools experiences inclement weather conditions, the safety of our students and staff is the most important consideration.

In the event that weather or other reasons require either closing or delaying the opening of school before buses start on their routes, announcements will be made over the radio and TV stations listed below by 6:00 a.m. These stations are notified by direct calls and should be the primary stations that are monitored.

When conditions require school closings or early dismissal of students, announcements will be given to the following radio and TV stations:

**RADIO**
- WMAL 630 AM
- WTOP 1500 AM and 103.5 FM
- WINC 92.5 FM
- WMRE 1550 AM

**TV**
- WRC TV 4
- FOX TV 5
- WJLA TV 7
- WUSA TV 9

If severe weather strikes while students are in school, a decision to close school for the remainder of the day may be made. Activating the transportation system due to inclement weather takes time. See two hour early closing information: [http://www.lcps.org/page/14#TwoHourEarly](http://www.lcps.org/page/14#TwoHourEarly). In the event of a delayed opening, please stay tuned to the radio/TV stations in case some change in the weather causes schools to be closed for the day.

All after-school activities requiring school bus transportation are canceled. Other school activities not requiring transportation service are at the discretion of the school principal. Please check the district website: [http://www.lcps.org/page/14](http://www.lcps.org/page/14), or your school’s web site: [http://www.lcps.org/algonkian](http://www.lcps.org/algonkian), for specific information.

What can parents do to help their students and schools prepare?

1. Contact your childcare facility, if necessary, to find out what their procedures are for inclement weather.
2. Review the information you have listed as emergency contacts and make sure that the numbers are updated.
3. Make plans ahead of time and communicate them with your children so they understand what to expect during an early school dismissal due to inclement weather.
4. Understand that school closings are for the safety of children throughout the district. While the condition of your neighborhood streets may be fine, other areas of the district may be experiencing harsher weather.

School Improvement Plan

School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been developed for Algonkian Elementary by staff, parents, and the community. Annually, we review and revise our plan based on the data we receive. Our School Improvement Plan is available on our school website: [http://www.lcps.org/Page/40302](http://www.lcps.org/Page/40302) and in our school office.

We continue to have a School Improvement Plan Steering Committee. If you are interested in participating on this committee or participating in the development of monitoring the School Improvement Plan, please contact Principal Jennifer Steeprow at 571-434-3240.

Our school information is just a click away!
Visit our school website at:
[http://www.lcps.org/algonkian](http://www.lcps.org/algonkian)
Parent Liaison  
Ms. Susan R. Smith  

Email: susan.r.smith@lcps.org

The Arc of Loudoun and United Way are sponsoring the 2012 Holiday Snowflake Celebration in Leesburg on December 8th from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. at The Paxton Manor. Please contact 703-777-1939, ext. 200 for more information or email: Tgoddard@paxtoncampus.org.

The Loudoun County Nurturing Parent Program has a new class starting January 17th, “Parenting Strategies for the Pre-Adolescent/Adolescent” (ages 10-13). Children are encouraged to attend with their parents. Classes are in Leesburg and are free, but pre-registration is required. For more information, please call 703-771-3973, ext. 27 or email: nurturingprogram@lcsj.org.

If you are in search of employment Loudoun Workforce Center is hosting a meet the employer for 4 different businesses during the first couple of weeks of December. Please visit their website at: www.loudoun.gov/wrc if you are interested.

If you are in need of assistance during the Holiday Season and have not applied at Holiday Coalition or Salvation Army, you can apply directly to Toys for Tots. Application deadline is December 13th. To apply please visit: http://loudoun.va.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/local-toy-request-single-form.aspx.

A FEW REMINDERS…

Please have your student check the Lost and Found before the winter break. Items left over the break will be donated in early January.

Please check your student’s school lunch Café account to make sure you have adequate funds and not a negative balance. If you have concerns or questions about your account, please contact Charlene O’Brien, Café Manager: charlene.obrien@lcps.org.

ALGONKIAN EQUITY COMMITTEE

The Equity Committee is here to serve our Bobcat family by ensuring that our instruction and interaction with students, staff and families is equitable. We monitor activities, programs and projects to make sure they are relevant, diverse and support and represent all of our students and staff here at Algonkian Elementary School.

The Committee welcomes parental/guardian participation and if you have an interest in attending the open meetings or have questions, concerns or comments, please contact either Theresa Ryan, Counselor (theresa.ryan@lcps.org) or Susan Smith, Parent Liaison (susan.r.smith@lcps.org) at 571-434-3240.

AUTHORS’ NIGHT Is Back!!

Algonkian will be hosting one Authors’ Night per month for each grade level. This means more students can participate. The criterion is still the same. Each teacher will invite 10 students to read stories that have been written in the classroom and have gone through the writing process. Students will be given an invitation the Friday before and an RSVP needs to be given to the classroom teacher by the following Monday. A practice session will be held either the day before or the day of the scheduled Authors’ Night.

On the night of the scheduled event, students are to arrive no earlier than 6:15 p.m. It will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Family and friends go to the Activity Room (gym) and participating students go to the stage. Semi-formal attire is required. Students may not wear jeans, sweats or shorts.

We will begin our first Authors’ Night for this school year with our fifth graders on Thursday, December 20. The dates for all other grades will be announced in the monthly school newsletters.

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Mayobre at: tmayobre@lcps.org.

Technology Corner  
Mrs. Pauline Burkett & Mrs. Trish Grace  

I can hardly believe the holidays are already here! This gift giving season many friends may receive gifts of electronic devices with internet access built in. That makes it a great time of year to re-visit and discuss internet safety with your child. Many sites are only one or two clicks away from inappropriate sites. Go ahead and look over your child’s shoulder to see what they have access to, and to see that they are visiting safe websites.

I teach the Algonkian students not to be afraid to tell their parents if something bad shows up on their screen. It isn’t their fault, but it is important to tell an adult. Adults can then take appropriate measures to report and block those links from being accessed.

Friendly websites are available on Algonkian’s grade-level website links: http://www.lcps.org/Page/74962

Students with REFLEX and Reading Eggs accounts can use them over the holidays. Brain Pop and Brain Pop Jr. are also available, but only during school hours. It’s great to explore with technology – just remember to take a break and enjoy the outdoors, too!

Happy Holidays!!
Our Algonkian Family Goes For the GOLD!

*New this year* **Algonkian Guidance Advisory Committee** – The advisory council will be composed of school and community members and is tasked with making recommendations regarding student and community needs and advising the school counseling staff as it strives to meet these needs. The advisory council will meet twice this year on November 26th and June 3rd at 3:00pm in Ms. Ryan’s office. Please email Ms. Ryan at Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org if you are interested in joining this committee!  **Our next scheduled meeting is on June 3, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in Ms. Ryan’s classroom (Room 30).**

**SCHOOL COUNSELORS (FORMALLY GUIDANCE COUNSELORS) OFFICIAL TITLE CHANGE!**

Over the past few years the position responsibilities of the School Counselor have changed and expanded greatly. The role of this position is no longer to provide “guidance” as the primary or exclusive function. In fact, the stated expectation for the role of school counselors from the American Association of School Counselors is to “do more than school counseling.” The services provided include direct services to students, staff and families. Counselors provide education, support and resources to promote academic achievement and personal social/emotional success. As the position has changed, school divisions, professional associations, and state agencies including Loudoun County Public Schools have moved to change the title Guidance Counselor to School Counselor.

**SCHOOL COUNSELING (GUIDANCE) MASTER SCHEDULE FOR 2012/2013 SCHOOL YEAR:** [http://www.lcps.org/Page/75634](http://www.lcps.org/Page/75634)

**NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK IS COMING UP FEBRUARY 4-8, 2013!**

So what does an elementary school counselor do exactly? Answers: [http://www.lcps.org/page/40404](http://www.lcps.org/page/40404)

**ASCA (AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELING ASSOCIATION) DEFINITION OF ELEMENTARY COUNSELING:**

[http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?contentid=230](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?contentid=230)

**TOYS FOR TOTS Community Outreach**

Our Toys for Tots collection is going strong! Giving to Toys for Tots is a great conversation starter to encourage empathy for others in your child! Last day to contribute is Friday, December 7. Check out the flyer: [http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/Domain/5426/toys%204%20tots%20flyer%2012-13%20.pdf](http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/Domain/5426/toys%204%20tots%20flyer%2012-13%20.pdf)

**GUIDANCE LESSONS**

Children, like adults, are struggling with life change, anxiety, and stress! Stress is a normal part of living, and a certain amount of stress is necessary for growth and learning. Stress is positive when it energizes us to accept challenges or work harder!

**Here are some ways for adults & children to manage stress:**

- When overwhelmed take a deep breath and prioritize!
- Do one thing at a time!
- Take a break and relax, or get some exercise!
- Drink water and have a healthy snack!
- Ask for help! (We ALL need help sometimes!)
- TALK TALK TALK!!!
- If possible, say “NO” to stressful tasks.
- Remember that life is change! And change is stressful!
- TAKE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!!!
- We can’t help ANYONE if we aren’t taking care of ourselves!

**GUIDANCE GROUPS**

Our current round of guidance groups is currently running and our next round will begin the first week of January! Groups will be 6-8 weeks in length. As always, please let Ms. Ryan know if there are any special considerations or concerns that need attention individually or if your child may need to be added to a currently running group!
**Reading**

*Ms. Kristi Peace*

Winter is arriving quickly and it is a great time to stay home and get creative with your families! December 27 is *Make Cut Out Snowflake Day*. Celebrate by making paper snowflakes and looking for some of these great books at your local library.

**The Snowy Day**
Author by: Ezra Jack Keats

**Snowflake Bentley**
Author by: Jacqueline B. Martin

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**CHESS CLUB**

4th Chess Club Meeting  
Tuesday, January 29  
(NO meeting in December)  
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the school cafeteria

Visit our Chess Club webpage: [http://www.lcps.org/page/40419](http://www.lcps.org/page/40419) for more information!

Here is a direct link to our online Chess Club Permission Slip: [http://www.lcps.org/page/40421](http://www.lcps.org/page/40421)

*Please remember that students need a NEW permission slip for EVERY club meeting!*

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:**

**MS. RYAN**  
571-434-3240  
theresa.ryan@lcps.org

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**Lines from the Library**

*Ms. Chrissie Devinney & Ms. Becky Wetzel*

Our school Book Fair kicked-off successfully at the Holiday Bazaar and continued on from December 3 thru 7. I’ve enjoyed meeting many of you at the Book Fair. It has been a wonderful week!

Algonkian has been hosting our first ever Online Book Fair from November 24th and ends on December 11th – you can shop online at: [http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/algonkianelementaryschool](http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/algonkianelementaryschool).

All online orders will ship free to Algonkian Elementary. Keep in mind that these items may not arrive in time for holiday gift giving. Items ordered will be delivered to your student when the items arrive at school. Share the link with family members who live far away who may wish to purchase a book for your student or for our school.

**Please note:** As you are aware, it is important for students to read a variety of materials if they are to become successful readers. Surrounding children with books they enjoy reading helps them develop reading fluency and a love for reading. In order to help you purchase books at a reasonable cost for your child’s personal library, our school participates in the Scholastic Book Fair.

The *Scholastic Book Fair* offers a selection of books at a reasonable cost. Participation in the Fair is optional; the school does not sponsor this or any other book fair and the book selections have not always been previewed. We are merely giving you the opportunity to purchase books at a reasonable cost.

The books selected by the book fairs are written by established authors of children’s literature. From time to time, however, students have purchased books that have contained language that parents found objectionable. Therefore, it is important you aid your child in the selection of his/her books. As you assist your child in the selection, please pay careful attention to the description of the books and the designated age or grade level given in the description.

If you have any questions about the books, please contact me: chrissie.devinney@lcps.org. I may already be familiar with the book and might be able to help you. As always, thank you for supporting the school library.
Math
Ms. Larissa Peluso-Fleming

Arithemetricks and Arithemetickles: NCTM Process Standards

What are the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Process Standards and how do they impact my child? This is a question I have heard from many parents and teachers as we dive further into the 21st century learning environment. It is an excellent question and one that does need to be addressed.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is the public voice of mathematics education, supporting teachers to ensure equitable mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students through vision, leadership, professional development, and research. NCTM is the global leader and foremost authority in mathematics education. They envision a world in which everyone is enthused about mathematics, sees the value and beauty of mathematics, and is empowered by the opportunities mathematics affords.

When considering nationwide standards and focal points of mathematics education, NCTM released the five-point “process standards,” which encompass mathematical understanding, knowledge, and skills that students should acquire from Pre-K through grade 12. These process standards are: problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, connections, and representation. Within the problem solving standard are the following tenets: building new mathematical knowledge through problem solving, solving problems that arise in mathematics and in other contexts, applying and adapting a variety of appropriate strategies to solve problems, and monitoring and reflecting on the process of mathematical problem solving. The reasoning and proof strand focuses on recognizing reasoning and proof as fundamental aspects of mathematics, making and investigating mathematical conjectures, developing and evaluating mathematical arguments and proofs, and selecting and using various types of reasoning and methods of proof. Under the penumbra of communication falls organizing and consolidating mathematical thinking through communication, communicating mathematical thinking coherently and clearly to peers, teachers, and others, analyzing and evaluating the mathematical thinking and strategies of others, and using the language of mathematics to express mathematical ideas precisely. The focuses of the connections standard are recognizing and using connections among mathematical ideas, understanding how mathematical ideas interconnect and build on one another to produce a coherent whole, and recognizing and applying mathematics in contexts outside of mathematics. Finally, encompassed in the representation standard is creating and using representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas, selecting, applying, and translating among mathematical representations to solve problems, and using representations to model and interpret physical, social, and mathematical phenomena.

Many parents, teachers, and students were dismayed by the sudden drop across the board in SOL math scores last year. These drastic changes in score can be explained, at least in part, by a change to the tests themselves. Our state-wise assessments have become much more rigorous and much less dependent upon single-step, procedural, algorithm-based problems. Students are now asked to interact with technology to express their thinking via TEI, or technology enhanced items. Additionally, many of the questions posed on the SOL tests are multi-step, open-ended, and cognitively demanding.

The great news is that our students are equal to the task and that their teachers are well-equipped to teach them in new and innovative ways that are more aligned to the NCTM process standards than they may have been in the past. We are seeing a tremendous amount of forward movement here at Algonkian and we should all be very impressed with the way in which teachers have embraced these new expectations, and found progressive ways to deliver their lessons.

Responsive Instruction (RI)
Ms. Ann Negley

Responsive Instruction – Year Four

The first session of BLT began on November 19, 2012. Some of the highlights of this session include a music based reading fluency group, and a technology based reading fluency group. Each of these groups is building reading skills with a creative twist.

The music group is using popular music to promote reading fluency. Recent research has shown that the use of music in repeated readings can help a student gain a year or more of reading progress. The students involved in the group are having a blast reading and singing.

[continue to page 7]
Responsive Instruction (RI)  [continued from page 6]

The technology group is using the computer as a tool to listen to good models of reading fluency. In addition, they are also able to use the computer to record their own reading, and respond to their reading strengths and weaknesses. The awareness created by the recorded readings help students to increase their overall reading fluency.

These are just a few examples of the ways that BLT is changing to meet the instructional needs of the Algonkian student body. Because of BLT’s ever evolving program, we are in great need of parent volunteers. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the school office or e-mail Ann Negley at: anegley@lcps.org.

FLES
Ms. Christine Ellis

¡Bienvenidos a FLES! ~ Wow, it’s December already! By now, I am sure you have heard about a project that your child will be completing for FLES. Your child will have the completed workbook with a “Draft” page containing all the information necessary to complete a poster or an electronic presentation (power point presentation) about this subject. Work may be completed at home. Beginning the week of December 3, each student will present their poster or slide show to me, orally, in class, and should be able to tell me the following information in Spanish:

4TH GRADE — LA ESCUELA

1. Lugares y personas en la escuela: (Places and People in the School)
   ¿Qué hay en la escuela? (cafetería, gimnasio, piscina, patio de recreo…)
   What is in your school? (cafeteria, gymnasium, pool, recess area…)
   En mi escuela hay __________, __________, __________, __________.
   (In my school there is…..)
   ¿Dónde está _______? (la enfermera, el maestro, la directora…)
   Where is the _________? (nurse, teacher, principal)
   __________ está en _____________.
   __________ is in _____________.

2. Los materiales: (School Supplies)
   ¿Qué materiales hay en __________(lugar)?
   What materials are in __________(place)?
   En __________ hay __________.
   In __________ there are __________.
   ¿Dónde está _______? (material)
   Where is _________(school supply)?
   __________ está en _____________.
   __________ is in _____________.

3. Las clases: (Classes taught in School)
   ¿Qué clases tienes? (por lo menos cuatro)
   What classes do you have? (at least 4)
   Yo tengo __________, __________, __________, __________.
   I have __________, __________, __________, __________.

4TH GRADE — LA ESCUELA (continue)

¿Cuál es tu clase favorita?
What is your favorite class?
Mi clase favorita es _____________.
My favorite class is _____________.

5TH GRADE — DEPORTES Y PASATIEMPOS

1. Deportes/sports: ¿Cuál es tu deporte favorito? Mi deporte favorito es __________.
   Which is your favorite sport? My favorite sport is ___________.

2. Pasatiempos/hobbies: ¿ Cuál es tu pasatiempo favorito? Mi pasatiempo favorito es __________?
   Which is your favorite hobby? My favorite hobby is ___________.

   (Monday)
   ¿A qué hora juegas al baloncesto? Yo juego al baloncesto a las 5 en punto de la tarde.
   When do you play basketball? I play basketball on Monday.
   At what time do you play basketball? I play basketball at 5 o’clock in the afternoon.

All presentations will be completed in class by the end of the week of December 10, and your student will turn in his/her poster. Some may be kept for display in the school.

Please refer to my website: http://www.lcps.org/domain/5467 for any questions you might have. All the curriculum materials are posted there, as well as some examples of sample projects.

¡Gracias!
Art

Mr. Watts Conrad

Fifth graders just started their logos. We are creating a symbol or image that must contain our name. The entire project will be made from cut paper. We are using tools other than scissors to help us make it.

Fourth grade finished our still life collage and will start an abstract project. It involves positive and negative space and will be colored very neatly. Following that we will do some entomology with a bug unit. This will involve drawing, coloring, printing, cutting, ceramics, and painting, among other techniques.

Third grade started our amphoras from ancient Greece. We are first creating very fancy paper versions, and then we will build our own clay symmetrical amphoras. This will be our first chance to glaze our sculpture work.

Our second grade classes finished up a super neat marker project of an environment and learned a little about Egyptian portrait sculpture. We are making our own Egyptian themed sculptures from clay and painting them. We will then do some abstract painting in a style called Color Field (which is fun and looks quite messy).

First grade has done their first three-dimensional project and started our last animal themed project. This will be a very neatly colored drawing. This will take several weeks. After that, we will try a rubbing project invented in China.

Physical Education

Mr. Joe Terango & Mr. Dan Craig

Greetings again from the PE department! Skills are being fine-tuned and students are taking off with some of the new ideas and games that have been introduced to them. The ABL (Algonkian Basketball League) is rapidly approaching and we are pleased with the progress that has been shown in our basketball skills unit. The teams will soon be formed and the games will be underway after winter break. Sign up forms should be returned by Friday, December 7th for fourth and fifth graders. Thanks for a great month!

Grades 1, 2, 3:
- Completed scooter introduction. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength)
- Completed Ball skills (manipulation of ball) rolling, dribbling, passing, catching.

Grades 4, 5:
- Completed scooter introduction. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength)
- Continued preparation for ABL

Currently and in the near future:

Grades 1, 2, 3:
- Currently progressing through ball skills (shooting, passing, movement coordination incorporating ball skills)

Music

Ms. Alicia Smith

We’re all going for the gold in Music!!

What happened at Algonkian:

Holiday Bazaar Music Extravaganza
Saturday, December 1
2nd Grade 9:00 a.m. (Music Room)
3rd Grade 9:30 a.m. (Music Room)
Kindergarten & 1st Grade 10:00 a.m. (Gym)
4th Grade 10:30 a.m. (Music Room)
5th Grade 11:00 a.m. (Music Room)

All the students sang so wonderfully! So much FUN was had by all!!

5th Grade ~ Students will begin music this month for the 5th Grade Musical. They will take a close look at the rhythm of each song and learn about syncopation. If there is time, we will also look at “The Nutcracker” ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

4th Grade ~ Students will be experiencing syncopation and taking a look at different time signatures this month. They will also learn about dynamics and different accents that notes can have. To learn all of this we will be learning about “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky and isolating a few specific songs. If time, we will also do a winter activity with the song “Sleigh Ride” by Leroy Anderson.

3rd Grade ~ Students will be reviewing the rhythms that we have been learning about during the month of November. From there we will move on to talking about dynamics and an ostinato. I will be introducing them to Tchaikovsky and “The Nutcracker” ballet. We will be transitioning into the four orchestra families from here.

2nd Grade ~ Students will be learning about tempos and rhythms in the beginning of the month. From there we will talk about and experience playing broken borduns. I will be introducing them to Tchaikovsky and “The Nutcracker” ballet. From here, we will begin to look at the four non-pitched percussion groups and the different sounds that each instrument produces.

1st Grade ~ Students will be looking at the melodic rhythm of a song and deciding if rhythm patterns are similar or different. We will then experience accompanied and unaccompanied music and learn to play a simple bordun along with a song. Students will then experience the difference between smooth and jerky musical phrases. If time, I will briefly introduce the students to “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky.

Currently and in the near future (continued)

- Introduce long jump rope skills
- Bowling Skills

Grades 4, 5:
- Basic and fundamental rules of basketball
- Further preparation for the ABL
- Bowling Skills

Happy Holidays!
SEARCH (grades K-3)

Ms. Patty Peterson

THE GIFT OF GOOD BOOKS

"A book is a gift you can open again and again." ~ Garrison Keillor

As we enter a very busy time of the year when activities seem to multiply daily for both parents and children, we sometimes feel overwhelmed by all we have to do. It's fun, we want to do it, we love the time with family and friends, but wouldn't it be nice to take a break?

What could be better for you or your child than to settle into a comfy chair with a good book and to escape into an interesting story? Whether it's for a holiday present or just a for a fun winter treat, consider finding some wonderful children's books for your child (and maybe one for yourself!).

Sometimes, however, the vast variety of children's books is overwhelming, so for a few hints on what books are great "reads," what better source to recommend appropriate books for every age level than the American Library Association (ALA)! Speaking of libraries, if you don't have a library card for your child, why not do that now? Going to the library is a great way to spend a happy hour on a cold winter afternoon or evening!

Here are some very helpful links to help you select books for your child, either for purchase or to check out of your school or local public library:

**ALA: Building a Home Library**
http://www.ala.org/alsc/compubs/booklists/homelib/alacbcbuildinghomelbry

**ALA: Notable Children’s Books**
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb

**ALA: Great Reads**
http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/compubs/booklists/greatreads/greatreads_lo.pdf

Happy Holidays!!
School Food Service

Free and Reduced Price Meal applications are available ALL YEAR

Anytime there is a change in employment status or wages, a new application may be filled out and sent to Food Services for approval. Please note that a social security number is not required for approval. This process is a year-long process not just at the beginning of the year.

Please feel free to call the Food Services Office with any questions at 571-252-1010 or visit website: http://www.lcps.org/Page/73936.

Parents Make the Difference

December 2012
Parents Make the Difference newsletters are posted on the LCPS website:
http://www.lcps.org/page/1597

Parent Resource Center

December 2012 Events & Winter 2012 Schedule
http://www.lcps.org/Page/76179

December 2012 Breakfast & Lunch School Menu
http://www.lcps.org/Page/68454

Clinic Corner

Ms. Midge Pomeroy

Clinic Hours
7:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
midge.pomeroy@lcps.org

As flu season begins, parents and teachers/staff, please remind students to wash their hands as often as possible to help minimize the risk of passing on any germs.

Parents – if your child has had a fever, please keep them home fever free for 24 hours; then, they can come back to school. Also, if your child has borrowed any clothes from the clinic other than underwear, please return them to the clinic (washed and dried).

Lastly, if any parents have any girl/boy pants they would like to donate, the clinic would greatly appreciate them.

Thank you all so much!!
Have a wonderful and safe Holiday! 😊

Loudoun County Guide to Services...

COMMUNITY SERVICES
- Family Services (daycare referrals) 703-777-0353
- Childcare/Preschool 703-777-0353
- Elementary Age Programs 703-737-8042
- Youth After School (Middle School) 703-737-8042
- Youth Shelter 703-771-5300

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
- Financial Assistance 703-777-0353
- Emergency Housing 703-777-0353
- Transitional Housing Shelter 703-777-0353
- Loudoun Cares 703-669-4636
- Loudoun Interfaith Relief 703-777-5911
- LINK 703-437-1776
- Career Support Services 703-777-0353

HEALTHCARE SERVICES 703-777-0234
- Loudoun Community Free Clinic 703-779-5416
- Dental Care 703-771-5831
- Nutrition Services 703-777-0239
- Mental Health Centers
  Eastern Loudoun 571-258-3026
  Leesburg 703-771-5100
- FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security) 703-777-0353 or toll free 866-873-2647
Hello all!

Just wanted to write and share details about a special philanthropic outreach we have been participating in with our Algonkian PTA!

As some of you may know, social PTA events are meant to be just that – social fun activities that don’t make money but are fun times for our community! Our Monster Mash this year was so well attended that we made money! As a result, the PTA had a GREAT Winter Bazaar surprise for our Algonkian community – each student was given a free $5 fun card to be used on games and activities at the event. It was a way to say “Thank You!” for your continued support!!

AND… :) We voted at our last PTA meeting to use $500 of the additional monies to support families who are still struggling with the disaster of Hurricane Sandy. The $500 went directly to the Red Cross for Hurricane Sandy Disaster relief.

In addition to the $500 donation to the Red Cross, the collection items for the Hurricane Sandy Relief were delivered to NY & NJ! Thank you for donating!

Our Toys for Tots collection has been going well, and this will provide toys for children within the Loudoun County community, AND don’t forget our “Souper” Bowl coming up after the winter break that goes to LINK, our neighborhood food pantry!

We are so impressed with the care and concern for others from what our students, staff, and families show to near and far neighbors!

Thank you for leading by example and showing our students the importance of caring!

Sincerely,
Theresa Ryan, School Counselor
Julie Ankers, PTA Philanthropy Chairperson

Community News

Please consider donating your gently used toys to the Used Toy Yard Sale. It will be held at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church on Saturday, December 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Toy donations will be received at the church during office hours and all day on Friday, December 14. All proceeds from the sale will go to help a 6-year old Sterling girl who has been diagnosed with Leukemia.

For more information, contact the Rev. Anne MacNabb at 703-850-8482 or email at ascmacnabb@aol.com, or call St. Matthew's at 703-430-2121.

St. Matthew's church is located at 201 E. Frederick Drive, Sterling, VA 20164. It’s the small white church just off Sterling Blvd behind Briar Patch Park.

This is a great way for parents to donate toys their kids don't want or play with anymore. Most charities will not accept toys as donations because of recall/liability issues. This is where they can donate and it goes for a good cause!
Potomac Falls High School Press Release

Potomac Falls HS
46400 Algonkian Parkway
Potomac Falls, VA 20165
Phone: (571) 201-5325
Fax: (703) 444-6588

Contact: Lauren Sturman or Devin MacGoy
Email: pfhscampaign4hope@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
4 P.M. EDT, November 24, 2012

POTOMAC FALLS HIGH SCHOOL DECA HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

POTOMAC FALLS, VA NOVEMBER 24, 2012: Need some inspiration to spice up your same old holiday décor? Well you’re in luck! The Potomac Falls High School DECA chapter (an Association of Marketing Students) presents the Holiday Open House. You will definitely be in the holiday spirit after touring this beautiful home, in which every room is adorned in garland, various themed trees, villages, and unique one of kind handmade decorations. There are over 75 themed trees in the house! Live music will be performed by local musicians. All tours are free, but donations will be accepted to bring some cheer to the ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) Association. Personalized ornaments will also be available. It will be held at 234 Markwood Drive, Sterling, VA 20165 (off Triple Seven) on Sunday December 9th from 1pm to 6pm, Saturday December 15th from 12pm to 9pm, and Sunday December 16th from 12pm to 6pm. Questions should be directed to pfhscampaign4hope@gmail.com. Come enjoy the excitement!

[PFHS DECA Holiday Open House flyer on page 13]
Holiday Open House
Presented by Potomac Falls High School DECA

Where: 234 Markwood Dr., Sterling, VA 20165

Dates/Times:
Dec. 9  1-6pm
Dec. 15 12-9pm
Dec. 16  1-6pm

A Christmas Spectacular with OVER 75 THEMED TREES, all in one house. Free tours, but donations accepted for the Lou Gehrig’s (ALS) Association. For information visit

http://www.pfhscampaign4hope.blogspot.com