From the Principal

Happy New Year!!! I hope that you all enjoyed your extended Winter Break and had some time to spend with friends and family. We are ringing in the New Year with lots of excitement at Algonkian!!

It is hard to believe that in a few short weeks, we will begin the second semester of school. Our school staff remains committed to delivering the best educational opportunities that we can for our students. Your continued support of our school is always appreciated! Please take a few minutes before January 24 to complete a short survey about our school. Your feedback is used to help us celebrate successes and make improvements throughout our building. Your thoughts are important and deserve to be heard! Please complete the Parent Survey at: https://www.research.net/s/ALGParent5SJS8KW.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns you would like to discuss.

Winter weather is upon us! Please make sure you have a plan for your child in the event of an early closing. We understand that many parents cannot be at school in time to pick up when we have an early closing, so take some time to come up with an alternate plan and inform your child and your child’s teacher of the plan. Though early closings are exciting, students become very worried and upset if they do not know how to get home (or how to get into the house once they get home). The office phone lines need to remain open in case of emergency, so being prepared is the best option! Along the same lines, parents, please let us know when your phone number or contact information changes. It is of utmost importance that we have the current information if we have to reach you due to an emergency situation concerning your child.

Stay Warm!
Jennifer

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 2014

14 Student to Student at 7:30 a.m.
14 Spelling Bee at 9:00 a.m.
14 Chess Club at 2:45 p.m.
15 Reading Under the Stars (see page 7)
20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – school closed
21-31 “Souper Bowl” (see page 12)
21 Student to Student at 7:30 a.m.
21 PTA’s Chick-fil-A Night
23 MONDAY SCHEDULE
24 End of 2nd Quarter Grading Period
27 Moveable Student Holiday
(teacher Work Day) – no school for students
28 Student to Student at 7:30 a.m.
29 Authors’ Night – 3rd grade at 6:30 p.m.
31 PTA’s Movie Night

February

3-7 National School Counseling Week
3-5 2nd Grade – CogAT Practice Tests
4 Student to Student at 7:30 a.m.
4 PTA Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
5 Report Cards send home
10-12 2nd Grade – CogAT Tests (see page 3)
13-14 2nd Grade – CogAT Make-Up Tests

Assistance Notice

If, due to a disability, you need assistance to enable you to participate meaningfully in any of our school programs, please contact Ms. Karen Shields, Assistant Principal at 571-434-3240 at least five working days prior to the activity.
**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/algkanian](http://www.lcps.org/algkanian), 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.

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**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.

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**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!! **
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 continue the third Authors’ Night for this school year with our third graders on Wednesday, January 29. 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.

Our second grade students will be participating in the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) assessment. The CogAT measures general and specific cognitive skills that allow a student to learn new tasks or solve problems. The students will complete practice tests on February 3-5. February 10-12 will be the CogAT Tests; and if make-up is needed that will take place on February 13-14. Questions about the tests, please contact Karen Shields, Assistant Principal at 571-434-3240 or email: karen.shields@lcps.org.

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 an open meeting 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. The Open Meeting is scheduled for: Thursday, January 16 at 2:50 p.m. at Algonkian Elementary.

2nd Grade – CogAT Testings

We thank you for all you do throughout our school year and truly appreciate the gifts we received before the Holiday break!

Jennifer, Karen, Gail, and Eileen

How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it! ~ George Elliston

AUTHORS’ NIGHT Returns!!

ALGONKIAN EQUITY COMMITTEE

CHESS CLUB

4th Chess Club Meeting on Tuesday, January 14
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in the school cafeteria

Visit our Chess Club webpage: 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

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

We always need parent volunteers to help with our monthly after-school Chess Club meetings.

Basic chess skills are helpful, but not necessary!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Ms. Ryan at: 571-434-3240 or email: theresa.ryan@lcps.org
NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK – February 3-7, 2014
So what does an elementary school counselor do exactly?
http://www.lcps.org/page/40404

Guidance Master Schedule for 2013/2014 School Year
http://www.lcps.org/Page/75634

We are halfway through our School Diversity Crayon Project!
American School Counseling Association (ASCA) National Standard: Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others. Focus: PS-A2.4 Recognize, accept and appreciate ethnic and cultural diversity.

All classes are discussing the importance of diversity and appreciation of uniqueness. Students were introduced to the poem “The Crayon Box that Talked” by Shane DeRolf. Objective: Students will be able to define diversity, and show appreciation of uniqueness. Students will practice cooperative behavior in a group situation. Crayons, like us, are all unique.
We all may be different in some way, but like the crayons in the story we need others to make our world complete. Students then discussed why it is important to get along with others even if they are different than you. Students created their own unique crayon to go in Ms. Ryan’s crayon box display outside her guidance classroom. Be looking for pictures on the guidance webpage by the end of January!

Home Connection:
This is quick, and very effective! As many families are celebrating diverse holidays during the winter months, take this time to discuss with your child the importance of your family’s holiday celebration and encourage understanding of other family’s cultural, family, and religious holidays during this holiday season. Children love to hear personal stories from parents! You may want to share a time you learned something new about a friend’s culture or family celebration, and what you do to show respect for diversity

GUIDANCE GROUPS
New groups will begin soon! 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!

Algonkian Guidance Advisory Council -- 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 once more this year on March 24 at 3:00 p.m. in Ms. Ryan’s office. Please email Ms. Ryan at: Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org if you are interested in joining this committee!

TOYS FOR TOTS Community Outreach
THANK YOU ALGONKIAN FAMILY!!
Our Toys for Tots Community Outreach was an amazing success! Thank you to all families that participated in providing so many new toys to children in need here in Loudoun County!
[continue to page 5]
Algonkian Counseling [continued from page 4]

OUR ALGONKIAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR THIS WINTER SEASON...

SOUPER BOWL XIII ~ January 20 thru January 31
Are You Ready for Some Football??

Sponsored by our Algonkian Mentors! Get ready for our annual food drive to replenish needed food supplies at Link, our local food bank. Detailed information and rules on page 12.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) at Algonkian

What’s your SUPER power? We PuRRR!

“Why is it so important to focus on teaching positive social behaviors?
They already know what they are supposed to do. Why can’t I just expect good behavior?”

Answer: Focusing on being proactive and positive works best!

In the past, school-wide discipline has focused mainly on reacting to specific student misbehavior. Research has shown that modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior are important steps of a student’s educational experience. Proactively teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more effective approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

Don’t forget that the key to PBIS is POSITIVES!
More attention when children are doing what you want them to do!
Less attention when children are not!

Visit our Algonkian PBIS webpages at: http://lcps.org/domain/13641 for more information on PBIS!

Responsive Instruction (RI)
Ms. Ann Negley

At the beginning of a new year, it is often the practice to review what has occurred in the past year. In honor of that spirit, we would like to look back at what RI looked like when the program began during the 2009-2010 school year. The program in 2009 began in grades 1-2, with 92 students participating in a BLT intervention group. Now in 2013, we have BLT groups in place in grades 1-5, and a total of 80 students participating in BLT intervention groups. A successful RI program includes 20% of the targeted students in an intervention group. Algonkian currently has 19.5% of the targeted students participating in an intervention group. Although this decrease in the number of students participating in RI makes the program less visible in the school day, it does highlight that the correct students are being identified for intervention services, and our current screening processes are successful.

Winter Universal Screening will take place during the first few weeks of January. During this time, we will be once again measuring students’ reading progress through the use of an oral reading fluency assessment. This is just one piece in the RI screening process.

Reading
Ms. Kristi Peace

January 18th is Thesaurus Day! This day was created to pay tribute to Peter Roget, the author of Roget’s Thesaurus. Peter Roget was born on January 18th in 1779. The thesaurus is a wonderful resource for students to utilize when doing any type of writing. It includes lists of synonyms, or words with similar meaning, for loads of words. The thesaurus can be used to help students spice up their writing and improve their vocabulary.

Help your child become more familiar with the Thesaurus on snow days. Try this electrifying activity! (Yes, I just used the Thesaurus to come up with a more forceful word for “exciting”!

Have your child improve upon a writing sample. Give them a letter that you have typed up beforehand (a great idea would be a letter that a character in a story you have read recently might have written). When you create the letter, use incredibly weak words -- words that are overused or are not "forceful" in their meaning -- so your students will have no choice but to improve the writing. Tell your students to read the letter, explaining that it is weak and needs to be stronger, which can be accomplished by using better words. Have them use the thesaurus to find words to replace the weak words in the letter and rewrite the letter with their improved words.

**Source: Thesaurus Activities for Elementary School | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/list_5799341_thesaurus-activities-elementary-school.html#ixzz1gjAgHLHH
Math
Ms. Emily Dubnowski
Mathematics Resource Teacher

Tips for Keepin’ up on Math Skills

- **Play strategy games with friends and family.** A great way to spend quality time. Games such as Contig: [Contig](http://www.nctm.org/uploadedFiles/Lessons_and_Resources/Teaching_Tips/Contig%281%29.pdf?n=6383), and other free board games: [Board Games](http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=23220). Play as teams while learning, so you can talk about strategy and then, move playing individually.

- **Talk to your children’s teachers.** Ask questions that show you are concerned about their development and maintenance of mathematics skills and fluency. For example, ask, “What do you see as my child’s strengths and weaknesses in math? What could we do while at home to develop or improve his/her weakest areas?”

- **Read books that contain mathematics content with your children.** There are books at every grade level that can engage students in thinking about math! Check out Exploring Mathematics through Literature: Articles and Lessons for Prekindergarten through Grade 8: [Books](http://www.nctm.org/catalog/product.aspx?id=12581).

- **Create a number book with your child.** Use this template: [Number Book Template](http://www.nctm.org/uploadedFiles/Lessons_and_Resources/Teaching_Tips/my%20counting%20book%20indd.pdf) with your preschooler or kindergartner and have them decorate each page with pictures, stickers or stamps (or even glue beads or macaroni) that show the number on the page. For more advanced students, ask them to write expressions that equal the target number. For example, for the number 6, they could write 3X2, 10-4 and 2+2+1+1.

- **Do projects with your child.** Bake cookies or work on a home improvement project. Real-world applications of mathematical ideas, especially measurement, are everywhere! If you are stringing up lights, work with them to estimate how many sets you will need and calculate the total number of lights used. If you are baking cookies, have them figure out what is needed to make a double batch.

- **Exercise your body; mathercise your mind!** Take in a sporting event, even if it’s only on TV. Keep track of yards gained and lost from running versus passing plays of their favorite football team or the shooting percentage of their favorite basketball player. Work with them to make comparisons between two of their favorite players and display it graphically.

- **Cut out snowflakes as decorations.** Invite your child to describe the shapes they see in their snowflakes and encourage them to tell you what they know about symmetry. Consider delivering holiday cheer by delivering them to a nearby nursing home! Play with the fractal tool on illuminations: [Fractal Tool](http://illuminations.nctm.org/Activity.aspx?id=3513).

- **Have a problem of the day.** Work through one new problem before or after dinner each night. [Figure This!](http://figurethis.org/index.html) has an awesome assortment of interesting problems with hints and solutions, so you don’t have to be a math wizard to facilitate!

- **As a family, track your calorie intake or your finances.** Are you consuming more food during the holiday season than you would otherwise? Are you spending money on gifts? Becoming aware is important in establishing control. You may also consider how much time each day you spend on each activity such as watching television, eating, sleeping. [Make a graph](http://illuminations.nctm.org/Activity.aspx?id=4091). Then, brainstorm how you can manage to fit in alternative activities to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Math is applied everywhere in our everyday lives. Help your child make real life connections with the math they learn in school. Making math relevant takes your child deeper into the understanding of mathematics.

As always, please come to me with any questions. Happy New Year to all the Bobcat families!
Lines from the Library

Mrs. Chrissie Devinney & Mrs. Becky Wetzel

Bring the whole family and join us on Wednesday, January 15th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the PTA's CAMPING: READING UNDER THE STARS! (More information will go home closer to the date). Just come to school in your pajamas and enjoy stories read by our wonderful teachers. In addition to the classroom read-aloud sessions, we will also be opening up the library so the students can choose to read to their parents during one of the sessions. Students who read in the library will help to free Al the Bobcat from Mrs. Devinney’s office!

January is the perfect time of year to curl up with a good book, and this year my Mom surprised me just before Christmas by announcing that Jan Thomas lives in Socorro, NM. Yes, that would be the same tiny town my parents live in, population just over 8,000.

So for Christmas, Mom brought Algonkian’s library some of Jan’s wonderful books – autographed no less! If you are not familiar with Jan Thomas, ask your students about Rhyming Dust Bunnies, or Pumpkin Trouble, two of our favorites read-aloud books. You can find more about Jan and her books on her website: http://www.janthomasbooks.com/Home.html.

What are the chances you know a famous author? I know at least one of our families can answer this positively! And, we love the Bob Shea books – check out his website, too: http://bobshea.com.

Physical Education

Mr. Joe Terango & Mr. Dan Craig

Happy New Year from the PE department! We sent 2013 out with a blast and look for more great things from our students here at Algonkian and are excited about what is on deck in 2014!

Grades 1, 2, 3:
- Started bowling unit (grip, stepping with opposition, and striking a stationary object)
- Incorporated Ball units (shooting, passing, and dribbling)

Grades 4, 5:
- Completed basketball prep unit for Algonkian Basketball League (ABL)
- Organized teams for the ABL
- Covered basic and fundamental rules of basketball
- Started bowling unit

CURRENTLY AND IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

Grades 1, 2, 3:
- Continue bowling from 1 to 3 pins followed by 10 pin bowling

Grades 4, 5:
- Continue bowling from 3 pins to 10 pins

Art

Ms. Caryn Michael

This Month in the Creative World of Art ~ Hello Again from Ms. Michael! The students in art are making fantastic masterpieces inspired by many amazing cultures, artists, movements, and stories. Here is a synopsis of what each grade has created in art at the end of December:

First Grade: Crystal Snowflake Photography ~ 1st grade student artists read “Snowflake a Pop-Up Book” by Jennifer Preston Chushcoff and learned about Snowflake Photography starting with Wilson “Snowflake” Bentley in 1885 to scientist living today like Kenneth Libbrecht. Student artists learned about the uniqueness of each snowflake and created their own original snowflake out of pipe cleaners. This lesson connects STEM learning & Science SOL’s as students then discussed and experienced how crystals can be grown on the pipe cleaners to make them appear as if they are covered in ice crystals. Students learned about photography and cameras, and used this knowledge to take a picture of their very own crystalized snowflakes. These Crystal Snowflake photos will be on display in January on the bulletin board by the cafeteria.

Second & Third Grade: Polar Bear Collage ~ 2nd and 3rd grade student artists read the “Red Knit Cap Girl to the Rescue” by Naoko Stoop. [continue to page 8]
Music

Ms. Alicia Smith

We’re all Super Heroes in Music!!

What’s happening at Algonkian:

3rd Grade Musical: “Mighty Minds!”
Wednesday, March 12
1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

5th Grade students did an amazing job with their musical last month. We will now begin to prepare for playing recorders by reviewing rhythms and notes on the treble clef. Please start looking for your child’s recorder from last year. If your student does not have a recorder or cannot find the one that he/she used last year, please go to a music store to purchase one. I will not be placing an order for them this year. If you need assistance, please let us know. Information regarding this will be coming home soon.

4th Grade students will be reviewing rhythms and learning about notes on the treble clef in preparation for starting the recorder. Your student will need a recorder. I will not be placing an order for them this year - if you do not have one you will need to purchase one from a music store. If you need assistance, please let us know. Watch out for information coming regarding this.

3rd Grade students are starting to learn the songs for their musical, “Mighty Minds!” The show will take place on March 12 at 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Please keep your eyes open for important information about the show that I will be sending home shortly.

2nd Grade students will be talking about the four families of the orchestra and the instruments that belong to them. This year, we will be focusing on the brass and the string families. We will then be talking about “Peter and the Wolf” and the instruments heard in the music. Of course, we will also be singing some snowy songs!

1st Grade students will be reviewing quarter notes, quarter rests, and eighth notes in rhythmic patterns. From there I will be introducing the students to the four instrument families of the orchestra. They will have an overview of the instruments found in each family. We will then listen to “Tubby the Tuba” and talk about what we hear in that story. Of course, first graders will also be singing some snowy songs!

Art [continued from page 7]

A little girl rescues a polar bear cub and takes it back home to the North Pole. The student artists learned about collage and how the author used it to create the illustrations for her book. We discussed polar bears and their natural habitat, and then students started their own collage by writing a letter to the polar bear in the story. This letter will be collaged into the students artwork later in the shape of a polar bear. We then will read “Northern Lights from A-Z” and learn about the Aurora Borealis, and use soft pastels to create their own unique drawing of the northern lights for the background. Students will incorporate their polar bear letter collage into their soft pastel drawing of the aurora borealis.

Fourth & Fifth Grade: Value Scale Icebergs ~ 4th and 5th grade student artists have been learning all about icebergs. How icebergs are created, located, and how they have inspired many artists around the world. Students then learned about value scales, hues, tints, and shades. Students then created their own original iceberg value scale painting using cool colors from the color wheel as the hue to paint the fractured surface. Look forward to these masterpieces coming home in January with an additional surprise.

Technology

Mrs. Pauline Burkett & Mrs. Trish Grace

Technology in Education

Mrs. Jones’ class recently participated in an “Hour of Code” during their computer lab time to celebrate Computer Science Education Week. These students were introduced to the most basic concepts of “coding” using a website: http://learn.code.org/hoc/1. First graders were successful in an engaging activity that taught them how to move the “angry bird” to catch the “green pig”. [continue to page 9]
Technology [continued from page 8]

These concepts are the basis of problem solving skills that are so desperately needed as we engage students today to be 21st century learners and thinkers.

“Computer science develops students’ computational and critical thinking skills and shows them how to create, not simply use, new technologies. This fundamental knowledge is needed to prepare students for the 21st century, regardless of their ultimate field of study or occupation.” – Code.org

Please encourage your students to continue to explore the fields of computer science and coding. There are many more links and levels for students at this link, http://code.org/learn. This website is not the only source for learning the basics of computer programming. Students can look into Scratch - http://scratch.mit.edu/, or Happy Nerds - http://happynerds.net/ has many links, as well as many more programs available to purchase with connections to robots like Lego Mindstorms or technology yet to hit the market -- https://www.play-i.com/. The ability to code or understand the concepts behind coding opens the doors to so many other academic subjects because it teaches students to think and be problem solvers, which we all need in every subject and aspect of our lives.

¡Hola, padres! FLES students in 4th and 5th grades are finishing up their in-class oral assessments. The in-class oral assessment involved filling in a script and delivering the script, using the student’s best Spanish pronunciations. In the coming weeks, both classes will have another grammar lesson with the Symtalk program, and will complete a 1st semester post-test. This post-test will cover all the material learned in the first semester.

If your younger children in grades 1-3 participate in the Hola Español Club, thanks so much for bringing your child bright and early at 7:00 a.m. We have learned about shapes and colors this past month, as well as a little bit about the culture and history of New Mexico during our 2-part celebration of Navidad. After the winter break, we will start with numbers and math en español.

New Year's Resolution ~ As we look ahead to the new year, many of us make resolutions, but we all know how that turns out! What we often lack is the motivation to carry through with a hard task. The AIMS Foundation newsletter recently explored the work of Carol Dweck, a noted psychologist at Stanford University, on motivation.

“Psychologist Carol Dweck identifies two lenses for how people view themselves and others -- fixed mindset and growth mindset: http://qedfoundation.org/fixed-vs-growth-mindsets/. In a fixed mindset, people believe they are born with fixed intelligence. They tend to avoid challenges because failure threatens their perception of how smart they are. Those with a growth mindset believe that intelligence is furthered through effort. Failure is an opportunity to learn and is even necessary for success.”

The article reviews Dweck’s fifth graders who were being given standardized tests: http://blog.aimsedu.org/2013/09/02/looking-at-growth-mindsets-in-teaching/.

Students praised for their effort rather than their intelligence consistently selected harder tasks for themselves, pushed themselves harder, and were more confident in their ability to conquer a hard task. Students praised for their intelligence were hesitant to pick harder tasks for fear they would fail and thus no longer be considered intelligent. Children (and adults) with a growth mindset are more likely to persevere in problem solving and, as a side benefit, to be happier while trying.

What better resolution could there be than to help our children pursue a growth mindset, a way of thinking which will bolster motivation and promote successful development!
Parent Liaison

Ms. Susan R. Smith

The Holidays are a time of gift giving and receiving and I always like to remind everyone that if you find you have received one too many pairs of gloves, too many ties, etc.; please consider donating your gently used and new items to your local thrift store and favorite charity.

Speaking of donating, I cut an article out of the paper that is a source to donate your old eyeglasses. The organization is called: New Eyes for the Needy – [www.new-eyes.org](http://www.new-eyes.org). It accepts donations of eyeglasses, reading glasses and sunglasses, which are sent to other countries in need. Send your donations to: New Eyes for the Needy, 549 Millburn Avenue, P.O. Box 332, Short Hills, NJ 07078. Lions Club also accepts eyeglass donations – [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and if you want to donate locally, drop old eyeglasses off at Lenscrafter’s at the Dulles Town Center mall. Please visit the above two websites for more information.

A FEW REMINDERS…

The Algonkian Equity Committee will have an Open Meeting on January 16, 2014 at 2:50 p.m. here at the school. We welcome all parents/guardians. If you would like to attend, please contact either Theresa Ryan or myself at 571-434-3240. If you are unable to attend and would like to submit questions, comments or suggestions, please either send in a note or email me at: susan.r.smith@lcps.org.

Lost & Found items will be donated to the local thrift store the week of January 13th. On January 2nd, I have bagged what was left before the winter break. I will not donate any newly lost items.

The Equity Committee would like to give a HUGEnote to Ms. Becky Wetzel, Library Assistant, for organizing the Plants for People fundraiser. Ms. Wetzel grows various plants in the Library and they are available to staff and parents. Donations are voluntary and Ms. Wetzel has collected over $50.00 for our Student’s in Need fund here at Algonkian. Thanks again Ms. Wetzel for all your hard work!
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>Game 1</th>
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<td>JAN 15</td>
<td>FLAMING PANDAS</td>
<td>vs POLAR BEARS</td>
<td>vs BULLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 21</td>
<td>DIA BLAZERS</td>
<td>vs LIGHTNING BOLTZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 22</td>
<td>vs HEAT</td>
<td>vs SOUR PATCH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 28</td>
<td>DOLPHINS</td>
<td>vs FLAMING PANDAS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 29</td>
<td>EXPLOSION</td>
<td>vs POLAR BEARS</td>
<td>vs THUNDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 4</td>
<td>DIAMOND BLAZERS</td>
<td>vs SOUR PATCH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 5</td>
<td>FLAMING PANDAS</td>
<td>vs POLAR BEARS</td>
<td>vs HEAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 11</td>
<td>LIGHTNING BOLTZ</td>
<td>vs DIAMOND BLAZERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 12</td>
<td>FLAMING PANDAS</td>
<td>vs DOLPHINS</td>
<td>vs THUNDER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
START-January 20th

Souper Bowl XIII

END-January 31st

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL???

Two Points for:
PEANUT BUTTER, SPAGHETTI SAUCE, JELLY, TOMATO & CHICKEN SOUP,
PAPER TOWELS & TOILET PAPER (Package of 4)!!

Three Points For EX LARE/FAMILY SIZE Of Above Items

20 ITEM MAXIMUM PER PERSON IN ONE DAY.

One Class from 3rd—5th, & One from K-2nd

will win a special Indoor Recess Kit!

WHICH CLASSES WILL DONATE THE MOST FOOD?

Football Scoreboard is located by the front office.
Boxes will be in front of each classroom.

Please make sure ALL food is put in the boxes!!

Remember to play clean, and have fun!

Questions?! Call Ms. Ryan (571) 434-3240
Parents Make the Difference
January 2014
Parents Make the Difference newsletters are posted on the LCPS website: http://www.lcps.org/page/1597

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
January 2014
Parents Make the Difference newsletters are posted on the LCPS website: http://www.lcps.org/page/1597

January 2014 Breakfast & Lunch School Menu
http://www.lcps.org/Page/68454

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

Algonkian School Cafeteria News

Parents/Guardians of Algonkian students!
The school cafeteria is offering snacks to purchase in the morning for students to eat during "snack time" in class!

If you would like your child to purchase a snack, please let them know when they arrive to school in the morning to go straight to the cafeteria before heading to class.

They are still allowed to purchase a cookie at lunch but the snacks listed below are not available during lunch times (ONLY can be purchased in the mornings during breakfast).

SNACKS: We are offering fruit (apple slices, whole apple or banana) at $0.75 each and Quaker Snack kids mix (tiny twist pretzels, bite-size nacho cheese doritos, white cheddar cheese flavored popcorn, and cheetos brand flavored snack) at $0.60 per snack mix.

** Please note the snack mix does contain wheat and milk ingredients. **