Letter from the Principal

I am excited to announce that I will be starting a new chapter in my life for the 2014-2015 school year. After ten years of being an administrator in Loudoun County, I have decided to prioritize the role of being a mom to my two children, and have accepted a teaching position in Leesburg near my home. This new position will allow me the opportunity to be at home with my children in the afternoons and evenings (and summers!), a gift which I have not had during the past ten years. Thank you for allowing me to know and work with your children over the past four years, and for all the support you have continuously given to me and to our school!

For those who are moving on to middle school, or farther away to new and exciting places, we wish you all the best and hope that you will remember proudly your time here at Algonkian.

I would also like to extend my appreciation and well wishes to the staff who will be leaving us at the end of this school year: Mrs. Shay Pennix, Ms. Laurie Mode, Ms. Lisa Root, Mrs. Jacki Swarm, Mrs. Emily Dubnowski, Ms. Christine Ellis, Ms. Angela Bloch, and Mrs. Eileen Gillis. Also, Mrs. Katie Dionne who is happily retiring this month -- we thank you for your service and love for our students here. You will all be missed!

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us this year. Have a great summer!

Jennifer

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.

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 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.
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 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.

Reading

Ms. Kristi Peace

Use Summer Fun to Build Background Knowledge

You don't need to have a book in hand to help your child become a better reader. Interesting experiences give kids a broader framework for new information they might encounter in books. When kids have lots of experiences to draw on, they have a better chance of making a connection with what they read!

How can you help build background knowledge this summer?

Step 1: Take summer field trips
Go to the park, the zoo, the aquarium, a sports event, a historical landmark, or a children’s museum. Go on a hike or to a natural attraction in your area. When you’re indoors, watch a TV program about volcanoes or the rainforest or marsupials, or use the web to take a virtual field trip to a faraway place.

Step 2: Talk about it
Talk about the plants and animals you see, or the rules of a game, or the history of your town, or the new things you learned. Ask questions that get your child to talk, like “If you could be one of those animals we saw today, which one would you be?” or “Why do you think those boulders were shaped like that?”

Step 3: Follow up with a book
Find out what interests your child, and visit the library to get more information. Check out books about butterflies or basketball players or whatever caught your child's attention. Be sure to take your children to the library and sign up for this wonderful summer of fun!

For more ideas to help kids learn over the summer, visit: www.ReadingRockets.org/calendar/summer

Helpful information about learning brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorin Colorado, and LD OnLine

Lines from the Library

Ms. Chrissie Devinney & Ms. Becky Wetzel

Summer Reading is here! Cascades Public Library will host a kickoff event on Monday, June 16, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Martha the Talking Dog. Meet the famous book character “Martha the Talking Dog.” Bring your camera for a great photo opportunity! Remember to sign up for the 2014 Summer Reading Program: Fizz, Boom READ!

Mr. Morriberon, a children’s librarian from Cascades Public Library, will visit Algonkian on the morning of Thursday, June 12th to get the children excited about the Summer Reading Program offered at Loudoun County Public Libraries. Be sure to take your children to the library and sign up for this wonderful summer of fun!

Algonkian’s Book Exchange will take place on Tuesday, June 10th.
Have a fun filled summer and READ! READ! READ!
Math
Ms. Emily Dubnowski
Mathematics Resource Teacher

As I reflect back through the school year, I am amazed at the math progress at Algonkian. The teachers here are fostering a love math in our children. When I walk down the hallways every day, I hear, “Hi, Mrs. D. I love math!” Please continue supporting this enthusiasm throughout the summer break. I found this article with summer learning tips to sharpen math skills. To read the full article, go to: http://www.hvparent.com/articlepost.aspx?id=421&c=3&t=ARTICLE

Here are 10 tips:

1. **Set a budget for a picnic** and ask your child to “find the bargains” using the price per ounce figures on the supermarket shelves: “which one is really cheaper?”
2. **Play "War"** with a deck of cards, but with math twists. Each player throws down two (or three) cards and adds or multiplies them. The highest (or lowest) sum or product wins the hand. Ask your child to invent a new version with the math he or she knows.
3. **Dominoes.** It’s an old fashioned game that teaches number sense, strategy, and problem solving and strengthens those skills at any grade level.
4. **Cook.** Following recipes, cutting it in half for fewer servings, or tripling it for a large gathering teaches very practical skills. Even a batch of lemonade can reinforce these skills.
5. **Construction.** When doing home improvement projects large or small, even young children can assist with taking measurements and computing amounts of materials needed (and feel great pitching in as well).
6. **Garden.** Involve children in gardening. Have the children determine the area of the garden. Have them calculate the amount of space taken up by tomatoes versus cucumbers, etc. Have students weigh the vegetables after they are picked.
7. **Weather Watch.** Have children set up a simple rain gauge to measure the amount of rain over the course of a month or the whole summer. You could track the temperature and humidity and plot it on a chart.
8. **Ride your bike.** Get an odometer for their bicycles and use the distance traveled to calculate their average rate of speed. Children love to know how fast and how far they go.
9. **Transportation.** If you ride the subway, have your children use a stopwatch to calculate the average rate of speed a train travels between stations. You can even sometimes get an employee to tell them if they’re on target.
10. **Chart your time.** Have your children keep a chart indicating how much time they spend reading, watching television, doing chores, and playing. Children can determine what fraction of the day or week they spend on each activity. Students can also keep a chart indicating how they spend money each week.

Have a fun and safe summer with math included! I will miss being a Bobcat next year but you can still reach me with any math questions at: emily.dubnowski@lcps.org.

I love Algonkian Bobcats and Math!

Responsive Instruction (RI)
Ms. Ann Negley

As we near the end of the school year, it has become a very busy time for the Algonkian RI program. All students have completed Universal Screening in reading and math. Additionally, students have completed their final weekly progress monitoring assessments on June 5th. After completion of the final assessments, each student progress report will be created showing an entire school year worth of progress. These will be sent home prior to the end of the school year.

If you have any questions about your child's progress, you may contact your student's teacher, or myself -- Ann Negley, RI Facilitator: ann.negley@lcps.org.

Have a great summer!

Parent Liaison
Ms. Susan R. Smith

Lost & Found ~ All items remaining in the Lost & Found will be donated during the week of June 15th. Please take a moment and visit the Lost & Found area, outside of the school cafeteria, before the last day of school.

I would like to thank all those parents who have so generously donated items and their time during the school year. I have received a generous amount of school supplies and clothes to start off the next school year.

If your student would benefit from some extra help over the summer months, please consider the Loudoun County Tutor List. It can be found by visiting our school website or www.lcps.org, click on “Parent”, then Parent Resource Center and the Tutor list is on the left menu. All tutors have been approved by LCPS and have listed their tutoring preferences. Rates are determined between tutor and parent.

Once again, it has been a pleasure working here at Algonkian, helping and serving both the families and staff. I look forward to the next school year!
School Counseling

Ms. Theresa Ryan

Our Guidance Webpage will be, of course, up all summer, so please take some time to peruse the information and links to LOTS of Guidance, Parenting, & Chess information! Visit: http://www.lcps.org/page/40388 to go directly to our Guidance Program Webpages.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!

Looking for Summer Camps & Activities?! Our Parent Resource Center has created a great summer activities page to help you! Visit: http://www.lcps.org/Page/1433.

MENTORS!! Congratulations on a job well done! Thank you for serving Our School & Students!

Rising 6th Grade Middle School Info

On June 4th, our 5th graders went on a field Trip to RBMS! Students had a chance to walk around RBMS, asked questions, and had lunch at the middle school! This is always an exciting trip for all students, and especially helpful for any student who is nervous!

Please visit our Algonkian Middle School Transition webpage: http://lcps.org/Page/103895.

Thank you for turning in the course selection forms promptly! If you have any changes needed at this point, please contact Sherri Robinson at RBMS, directly at: 571-434-3220.

Algonkian School Counseling Advisory Council

The advisory council is 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 has completed the final meeting for the 2013-2014 school year; however, if you are interested in joining us next year, please email Ms. Ryan at: Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org.

CHESS CLUB

Great Job Everyone! See you in the fall!!

Questions? Please contact: Ms. Ryan – 571-434-3240 – theresa.ryan@lcps.org

Physical Education

Mr. Joe Terango & Mr. Dan Craig

Field Day is almost here and we hope that you are as excited about it as we are. Below is the information about Field Day date/time. There will be various water activities at Field Day. Please have students dress accordingly. Sneakers are required.

FIELD DAY ~ Tuesday, June 10th
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for Grades K(a.m.), 3rd, 4th, 5th / 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. for Grades K(p.m.), 1st, 2nd

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with all Algonkian students in Physical Education this school year!!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!
Music
Ms. Alicia Smith

We’re ALL SUPER Heroes in Music!!

Upcoming 5th Grade Performances ~
** Promotion Ceremony – Thursday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Have a happy, safe, musical summer!!
See you in the fall :)

5th Graders are finishing out the school year by preparing songs for the D.A.R.E Graduation and Promotion Ceremony. We will also try to fit in some other fun music activities if we have time. I have truly enjoyed getting to know this group of kids and wish them the best of luck in middle school!! Please encourage your child to stay musical since that is something that they can carry with them their entire life!!

4th Graders will be working on singing rounds and a few rhythm exercises with any remaining time. Just a reminder—please hold on to the recorders for next year in 5th grade! I recommend washing the recorder in the dishwasher (NOT on the heated cycle) to help wash out any bacteria that may be hiding in the instrument. Please do NOT boil the instrument. They are not made to withstand those temperatures. See you next year in fifth grade!!

3rd Graders finally put their last World Music Drumming project together. We had to take a quick break during SOL’s, but were able to wrap everything up and put the finishing touches on their last project! With the rest of this month we will also finish talking about form. We will finish the year with some goodbye/summer songs. See you next year in fourth grade!!

2nd Graders will finish learning about quarter notes, eighth notes, quarter rests, half notes, and whole notes. With the rest of our time this year we will be working on singing a two-part round. We will wrap up by singing some goodbye/summer songs. See you next year in third grade!!

1st Graders will finish our school year by talking about Australian and Hawaiian music. We will also revisit quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. With any extra time we will wrap up by singing some goodbye/summer songs. See you next year in second grade!!

FLES
Señora Christine Ellis

¡Hola, y adiós!

The students of 4th and 5th grades have finished all the lessons in their respective units, so I have had the opportunity to do a little extra SOL review with them, but teaching the concepts and vocabulary in Spanish.

The 5th graders did two such lessons with me. The first was La clasificación de animales and the second was Los circuitos. These were intense lessons, drawing upon prior knowledge and familiar vocabulary from science class. However, the questions on the quiz were all drawn from the reading SOL, testing such skills as: prefixes, context clues, analogies and relationships among words, reference materials, and dictionary skills. The quizzes were challenging, and many students did very well.

The 4th graders read the book Los cuatro Olvi y Dadizó, which featured vocabulary for food, which they had learned about. The accompanying comprehension quiz featured questions regarding prefixes, reference materials, and dictionary skills. Like their 5th grade counterparts, the 4th grade did very well with this learning activity.

Over the next two weeks, FLES will wrap up the year with some enjoyable lessons, and a review day to play bingo and review past vocabulary. I know the students look forward to this.

Thank you, Algonkian parents, for supporting the FLES curriculum over the years. It is with quite a bit of sadness that I bid my bobcat family adiós, as I start a new phase of my career. The 2014-2015 budget cuts have eliminated the FLES program, so now I will move on to teach high school Spanish at Loudoun County High School in Leesburg. It has been a pleasure teaching your children a second language. I hope they had fun learning, and want to continue this process when they reach 7th grade.

As always, yo quedo a sus órdenes...

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 for the month of May:

First Grade: Art History Eggs
1st grade student artists read “Henri Egg Artiste” by Marcus Pfister Herbert. The first grade student artists learned about the ancient tradition of egg decoration. In paleolithic times humans would use ostrich eggs as water canteens as they traveled in the desert. The decoration of eggs started as a way to differentiate between one egg water canteen and another. For this artwork the student artists learned about how to mold a 3D sculpture. The student artists then learned about four artists from history: Vincent van Gogh, Piet Mondrian, Mark Rothko, and Georgia O’Keefe. They learned about their artistic styles and used this knowledge to help them inspires the painting of their 3D sculpture. [continue to page 6]
Second Grade: Recycled Newspaper Hats

3rd grade student artists learned about the amazing recycling artist Moses. Moses is a man that lives in Hawaii and creates original hat designs using recycled brown paper bags and glue. For this project the student artist learned about recycled and upcycled art. They learned about the different styles and functions of hats. Then the artists created their very own hat using recycled newspaper and tape.

Third Grade: Portrait Pottery

3rd grade student artists learned about the art of portraiture. They learned how to draw their own self portrait using shapes and lines. They also learned about ancient art of pottery and how to create a pinch pot out of clay. The student artist then used their self-portrait drawing to help them carve a low-relief sculpture of their portrait into their pinch pot. Lastly, the artists painted their unique piece of portrait pottery.

Fourth Grade: Yarn Storming

4th grade student artists read “Extra Yarn” by Mac Barnett and learned about the ancient art form of weaving. They learned about weaving and how it has evolved over the centuries to into textile arts and most recently into fiber arts. They also learned about the delicate over-under process of weaving. They learned how to set up their warp on a loom; and how to use the over under process to weave their weft right and left to create a uniquely patterned piece of woven cloth. The then learned about a modern day form of fiber art know as Yarn Storming which is fiber street art. The student artists then as a grade level created a yarn storming installtion in the front hall of the school. It will be up till the last week of school. Please come visit and enjoy.

Fifth Grade: Wayne Theibaud Donuts

5th grade student artists learned about the incredible painter Wayne Theibaud. The student artists learned about how Theibaud was a part of the Pop Art movement and how he created his simple and yet incredibly vibrant paintings of cakes and sweets. The student artist created their own delicate donut sculptures out of clay and then painted them in an array of vibrant colors and designs.

Lastly, I want to say that it has been an honor to work here at Algonkian Elementary School this year. It has been a pleasure to work with such fantastic artists. Also, I want to thank the community for being so helpful and welcoming to me this year. Thank you for such a wonderful year.

Have an ARTASTIC SUMMER!
Technology Corner
Mrs. Pauline Burkett & Mrs. Susan Brown

Summer is here!!!! Scratch Camp still has open and available slots. If you are interested in learning about computer programming – please think about joining Mrs. Burkett for Summer Scratch Camp at Algonkian Elementary on August 4-8. E-Mail Mrs. Burkett for more details – pauline.burkett@lcps.org.

Algonkian’s grade level weblinks will be up and available all summer long: http://http://www.lcps.org/Page/74962, I-READY and REFLEX, and Reading Eggs should be available all summer, as well as Tumblebooks, Cool Math, and Brain-Pop and Brain-Pop Jr. will still be there. (Don’t forget Brain-Pop’s username is: lcpse and password: elem). Computer games are fun and online gaming is great to do with your friends when you can’t meet face to face to play, but check out these websites that will keep your mind healthy, too!

Ideas shared from: Clare Caddell from Hermon Elementary School, ME ~

ANIMALS
- Check out a web cam: http://www.ustream.tv/pets-animals and find chicks hatching, or wolves in a den, or penguins in Africa. But… would those African penguins be awake right now? Check this map: http://www.worldtimezone.com/.

FITNESS/HEALTH

GAMES
- Make a crossword: http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker/ or other puzzle that only your family members can solve.
- Play some word games: http://vocablog-plc.blogspot.com/2011/01/word-games-to-target-five-language.html to build language and literacy skills.
- Find games, videos, photos and fun from National Geographic: http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/.

OUTSIDE
- Find a place for a picnic or camping somewhere in Virginia: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/.
- Get Gardening! One place to start is No Dig Vegetable Garden: http://www.no-dig-vegetablegarden.com/gardening-for-kids.html.

PICTURES
- Find a picture online and see how many details you can observe. Does that picture tell a story?
- Find a picture online and create speech bubbles or captions that are funny or thought provoking.
- Print out a world, continent or country map: http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?ar_a=1 and then draw or find pictures of things from that area.
- Use family photos to create a slideshow – add text to tell the story – print it out to make a book!
- Take turns giving directions while using a drawing program – is what you see what you described?

READING
- Record your child’s reading with something like Vocaroo: http://vocaroo.com/. What do they think of the recording?
- Use your library’s computer to search for books by favorite authors and subjects – or titles that have been recommended. Look for audio books to borrow, too – then sit back and enjoy!
- Explore the meaning of a new word in an online dictionary like Word Central: http://wordcentral.com/.
- Keep up with current events with an online student magazine from Scholastic: http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/scholasticnews/index.html.

STORIES
- Help your youngster create a place to share their writing with Edublogs: http://edublogs.org/.
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](http://www.lcps.org/Page/73936).

Parents Make the Difference

June 2014
Parents Make the Difference newsletters are posted on the LCPS website:
[http://www.lcps.org/page/1597](http://www.lcps.org/page/1597)

Parent Resource Center

June 2014 Schedule & Summer Camp Info
[http://www.lcps.org/Page/76179](http://www.lcps.org/Page/76179)

June 2014 Breakfast & Lunch School Menu
[http://www.lcps.org/Page/68454](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 703-777-5831
- 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. **