Letter from the Principal

I want to start by saying THANK YOU to everyone who is participating in our 3rd annual Walk-a-Thon this week! This event is an enormous success and so much fun! Please extend our appreciation to all of your friends and family members who contributed by sponsoring our students. Special thanks to Karen Anderson, Kemp Reardon, and Christi Hendershot for their time, effort, and organization to make this event happen. We couldn’t have done it without you!

On Thursday, October 3, we participated in Jumpstart’s Read for the Record which raises awareness about the importance of early childhood education programs, early literacy, and community involvement for all children. By gathering to read the same book on the same day, we can all be part of setting a new world record! This year, on the morning WALG news show, we read Otis by Loren Long so we could be counted toward the world record. Check out more information: www.wegivebooks.org/readfortherecord.

In 2009, the Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution 321, designating October as Disability History and Awareness Month. In October, our School Board will sign a proclamation to promote positive attitudes in schools creating a culture of mutual respect, understanding, and equal opportunities for all. During this month of October, we will be highlighting disability awareness in different ways. Special thanks to our Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) representative, Sarah Kimberly, for organizing this month’s activities.

The Potomac Falls High School Marching Band will once again lead our Book Character Parade around the parking lot on Thursday, October 31 at 1:15 p.m.! Students will be permitted to “dress up” like a favorite book character. Children are asked to bring their costume to school. They will be provided with the opportunity prior to the parade to change into their costume. Children are asked to bring in the book that portrays the character they are dressing up as. Toy weapons, make up, and masks are prohibited. We invite everyone to come and cheer us on as the band leads us in our march around the Algonkian Elementary parking lot. It is always a wonderful community event! A special thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the buses to allow the PFHS Marching Band to participate!

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Letter from the Principal  [continued from page 1]

As a reminder from prior years, “Moveable Mondays” will be used in all elementary schools again this year. The purpose of a “moveable Monday” is to offset the disproportionate number of Mondays missed during the school year. As a Monday is missed, the Monday schedule is run on a subsequent day of the week. The advantage of this alternative is that the normal schedule is resumed the following week which should decrease confusion among students, parents, and teachers. Our first “Moveable Monday” takes place this month – since October 14 is a holiday and when the students come back to school on Tuesday, October 15, we will be following a ‘MONDAY SCHEDULE’ for specials, such as: Music, Art, Library, FUTURA, SEARCH, Guidance, etc. In our monthly school newsletters, we will note when the ‘Monday Schedule’ will take place under the Events Calendar.

Ask your child about our “Golden Tickets”! We have been tying in our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) themes of Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships to show that: “We PuRRR!” -- bringing positive behavioral changes to our classrooms and playground. Here’s a special writing about our ‘golden tickets’ from our Kindergarteners:

**If You Give A Bobcat A Golden Ticket**

By: Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Luhman’s Kindergarten Class

If you give a Bobcat a golden ticket, he will want to win a prize.
Winning a prize will remind him of the movies. He will ask you to go to the movies.
When he is at the movies, he will want popcorn.
When you get him the popcorn, it will remind him of candy. So, you get him candy.
Candy will remind him of treats, and treats will remind him of golden tickets. 
Chances are, if you give him a golden ticket, he will want to go back to kindergarten to earn another one!

Have a great month!!

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!! **

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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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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](mailto:theresa.ryan@lcps.org)) or Susan Smith, Parent Liaison ([susan.r.smith@lcps.org](mailto:susan.r.smith@lcps.org)) at 571-434-3240.
1st graders may be participating in a very special program held right here at Algonkian! It’s called Student To Student. This experience is a unique opportunity for your 1st grade child to work with Potomac Falls High School and River Bend Middle School student volunteers to improve his or her reading skills.

This program will begin on Tuesday, October 22. It is held each Tuesday morning from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Algonkian library. Getting your child to school by 7:30 a.m. will enable him or her to take full advantage of the program. They should enter by the main doors and go directly to the library. At the conclusion of the program, the students will be dismissed directly to their classrooms. Mrs. Dionne will supervise all students. We do not meet on delayed openings, snow days or school holidays.

This has been a very popular program at our school and I hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for your child to practice reading skills and form a bond of friendship with a student volunteer.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!**

Are you a student at River Bend Middle School or Potomac Falls High School? Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer and demonstrate your community spirit?

Student to Student is calling all students interested in reading with Algonkian Elementary students. We meet throughout the year, on Tuesday mornings, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m., at Algonkian Elementary School. We do not meet on holidays, school vacations or snow days. A volunteer organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:30 a.m. in the Algonkian library. Please provide your own transportation for the orientation meeting. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Dionne, at catherine.dionne@lcps.org.

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**Algonkian Counseling**

*Ms. Theresa Ryan*

**Counselors Help Students Reach Their Potential! What’s Your SUPER Power?!!**

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 twice this year on October 28th and March 24th 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!

Our 1st GUIDANCE LESSON of the year always includes a needs assessment survey. The following graph shows what students feel they want to learn and are the most important guidance lesson topics. The top three needs students are requesting to cover are stress, bullying, and keeping friends! Be looking for lessons on these topics throughout the school year.

[continue to page 4]
Algonkian Counseling [continued from page 3]

Currently in Guidance -- 1st thru 5th grade students just started a new guidance unit on goal setting that is connected to what students are doing in Art! Students are discussing what short term GOALS they want to achieve in school, at home, and by trying something new this year! Discuss goal setting with your child, and ask them what goals they chose for themselves, and how they are planning on making their “mark” this year! You may want to sit down as a family and come up with family goals for this year! How will you as a family “Make Your Mark”?!  

Next up connecting with music! We are connecting the music lesson “The One” to our county wide bullying prevention curriculum Stop, Walk, Talk. One’s message of inclusion, empowerment, and tolerance is a simple but powerful tool that inspires student as leaders! 

In Guidance kindergarten students are focusing on active listening skills! Showing consideration for the feelings and needs of others is an important social skill. In order for children to learn to do this, they must first learn to listen—to both hear and see what people’s needs are. Listening is a skill that must be learned, practiced, and nurtured. Learning to listen is essential for both language development and reading.

GUIDANCE GROUPS ~ Our 1st round guidance groups will begin in October! Groups will be 6-8 weeks in length. Some groups will begin later in the school year. 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!

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) at Algonkian ~ What’s your SUPER power? We PuRRR! We are a community with SUPER POWERS! Throughout our school building, students are receiving positive praise and ‘golden tickets!’ Students seem to love our new $ system in the cafeteria, and are excited for their first goal rewards! Visit our Algonkian PBIS webpages at: http://lcps.org/domain/13641 for more information on PBIS.

STUDENT MENTORS ~ Our Student Mentors have been doing a wonderful job! Mentors started the year helping students feel welcome starting the first day of this school year, and are already hard at work each morning throughout the building! Thank you to the following students for their continued hard work as they serve our Algonkian Family as Student Mentors:

Claire  Owen  Janika  Molly
Elisa  Estelle  Rohan  Liban
Max  Lilly Beth  Gabi  Liam
Thomas  Grace  Alexa  Mert
Rachel  Ethan  Bonnie  Mary

CHESS CLUB

2nd Chess Club Meeting
Tuesday, October 29
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the school cafeteria

We are off to a wonderful start! We had over 50 students participate in our first chess club of the 2013-2014 year!

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?
PLEASE CONTACT MS. RYAN at: 571-434-3240 or email: theresa.ryan@lcps.org
Math
Ms. Emily Dubnowski
Mathematics Resource Teacher

This Isn’t the Math I Remember! ~ How come the math my child brings home doesn’t look like the math I remember?

If you don’t recognize the math in your child’s homework, think about how the world has changed since you were in school. The math looks different because the world is different.

Advances in science, technology, information processing and communication, combined with the changing workplace, make it necessary for all students to learn more math.

The basics are changing. Arithmetic skills, although important, are no longer enough. Business and industry demand workers who can:

- solve real world problems
- explain their thinking to others
- identify and analyze trends from data, and
- use modern technology.

To give your child a head start, when you are reviewing your child’s homework, ask your child, “Why?” and “How do you know?” This will give them practice in explaining their thinking.

Please contact me if you have any questions!
Emily Dubnowski: emily.dubnowski@lcps.org

Reading
Ms. Kristi Peace

Please read this great information about using Nursery Rhymes to help strengthen your child’s reading skills at home!

Nursery Rhymes: Not Just for Babies!
By: Reading Rockets

Nursery rhymes are important for young children because they help develop an ear for our language. Both rhyme and rhythm help kids hear the sounds and syllables in words, which helps kids learn to read! Here are some activities and recommended poetry books to aid your child’s developing poetry, rhyming, and rhythm skills.

There’s a reason we learn nursery rhymes as young children. They help us develop an ear for our language. Rhyme and rhythm highlight the sounds and syllables in words. And understanding sounds and syllables helps kids learn to read!

Activities for Younger Children

- Create word families. Use refrigerator magnets to spell a word ending (–ap). Have your child put other letters in front of the word ending to create rhyming words (tap, cap, map, lap).
- Fill in the blank. Read children's poems aloud and leave off the final word, having your child fill in the missing rhyming word:  
  “Run, run, as fast as you can,  
  You can’t catch me, I’m the gingerbread ____.”
- Make TV time a time for learning. Choose programs with a focus on reading. Check out PBS’ Between the Lions, for children ages 4-7, or Reading Rainbow, for ages 4-8.

Activities for Older Children

- Write a swap poem. You write one line of a poem, and have your child write the next line, matching the rhythm, and rhyming the last word. (Hint: Use words that are easy to rhyme!)
- Create a rhyming dictionary. Have a page for –op words, and –end words, and –ing words, and –oat words, and then move on to more complex letter patterns like –ouble (trouble, double).
- If kids don’t like reading, try poetry! Poems are short, provide important practice with reading fluency, and give reluctant readers a sense of accomplishment.

Some Good Poetry Books for Kids

- Sing to the Sun, by Ashley Bryan
- In the Eyes of a Cat: Japanese Poetry, by Demi
- This Big Sky, by Pat Mora
- A Child’s Garden of Verses, by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Any books by Dr. Seuss!

Lines from the Library
Mrs. Chrissie Devinney & Mrs. Becky Wetzel

Book Fair will kick-off at the Monster Mash on Friday, October 25th and continue on October 28th to November 1st. The book fair will be open from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. during the Monster Mash on October 25th evening and from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day the following week.

Algonkian will once again offer an Online Book Fair! Starting October 18th to November 7th, you can shop online at: http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/alonkianelementaryschool.

All online orders will ship free to Algonkian. Keep in mind that items ordered online will have sales tax. Items ordered will be delivered to your student when the items arrive at school. [continue to page 6]
Lines from the Library  [continued from page 5]

Share the link with family members who live far away who may wish to purchase a book for your student or 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.

Responsive Instruction (RI)

Ms. Ann Negley

September has been a busy month for RI. For the first time, Universal Screening was completed in the area of math. Students in grades second through fifth completed eight minute assessments of their current math knowledge. This information will be used to show growth of math skills during the 2013-2014 school year. In addition, Universal Screening has been completed in the area of oral reading fluency. The amount of words each student can correctly read in one minute was collected. All of these assessments will be repeated again in the winter and spring.

Students in second grade through fourth grade have begun intervention groups during BLT. The intervention groups in third, fourth, and fifth, are based on individualized guided reading groups. These groups focus on students learning new skills from the appropriately leveled text. Focus skills taught during the lesson include word work, vocabulary, and reading strategies. All groups have four or less students. All teachers have been attending special training sessions, which are designed to maximize the students learning during guided reading groups.

Students in first grade will begin working in intervention groups beginning second quarter. These groups will focus on the development of sight words and decoding skills. In addition, the first student progress reports will be sent home at the end of first quarter.

Art

Ms. Caryn Michael

Hello! My name is Caryn Michael and I am the new long term art substitute for Algonkian Elementary. I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with such wonderful student artists! This is my second year working for Loudoun County Public Schools. I graduated from Shepherd University in West Virginia with a degree in Art Education and with an artistic concentration in Sculpture. Teaching art is my lifelong passion and I hope that over the time I am here I can help all the students here continue their exploring the wonderful world of art.

Currently in Art class, students are [continue to page 7]

Music

Ms. Alicia Smith

We’re all SUPER heroes in Music!!

Exciting things are happening at Algonkian:

School-Wide Veteran’s Day Assembly
2nd Grade and 4th Grade will perform one song each Monday, November 11

1st Grade Performance
“The First Thanksgiving”
Tuesday, November 19 at 9:00 a.m.

5th Grade ~ Students in fifth grade have been rocking in music class and advancing their musical expertise by reviewing rhythms and time signatures, as well as taking a look back at some familiar dynamics. [continue to page 7]
Art [continued from page 6]

reading the story “The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds.

The Dot tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkably creative way. In Reynolds’ book, the teacher dares a very resistant Vashti to “make her mark.” Vashti’s breakthrough begins with a simple dot on a piece of paper. Encouraged by her teacher, she sets off on a journey of self-discovery, letting her creativity bloom and, ultimately, inspiring others.

All grade levels will explore the story’s powerful themes of bravery, creativity, and self-expression by creating their own dot in the style of a famous artist! In October students work will be displayed as a grade level in the front hallway of our school building! Pictures of student creations will also be online on our art webpage at: http://lcps.org/Page/117561.

I look forward to a wonderfully creative time here at Algonkian.

Physical Education

Mr. Joe Terango & Mr. Dan Craig

Congratulations on making it through the beginning of the school year. Sometimes the changing from summer vacation to getting up early for school every day can be difficult. The students at Algonkian are making a smooth transition in our PE classes. Here are some highlights from the beginning weeks of school as well as what to look forward to in the near future.

Grades 1, 2, 3:
- Learned spatial awareness: How to move without running into other students, objects, or crossing boundaries
- Learned personal and general space
- Learned basic short jump rope manipulation
- Playground Safety

Grades 4, 5:
- Reviewed spatial awareness, general, and personal space
- Reviewed throwing and catching: throwing with accuracy
- Practice for Fitness Gram tests
- Playground Safety
- Recess Games (four square)

[continue to page 8]

Music [continued from page 6]

During the month of October they will start learning the songs for the 5th grade musical that will take place in December. Please keep an eye out for information regarding the musical. Students will also prepare for Veterans Day by listening to and singing patriotic songs.

4th Grade ~ Fourth grade students have been rolling right through the first month of school by reviewing previously learned rhythms and dynamics. We briefly reviewed time signatures, and will be going over this concept again soon. This month we will begin our Veterans Day song that will be performed in the Veterans Day assembly on Monday, November 11. With our extra time, we will take a look at a few forms including, ABA and Rondo.

3rd Grade ~ Third grade students have had a “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious” start to their year! So far we have been talking about previously learned dynamics: forte and piano, and adding new ones: mezzo-forte and mezzo-piano. They also learned what a time signature is and what the different numbers represent. In addition we have been reviewing rhythms that include quarter notes, eighth notes, quarter rests, and half notes. During this month, we will start playing instruments including playing borduns on the barred instruments. Finally, we will be ending our month with call and response form and patriotic songs to prepare for Veterans Day.

2nd Grade ~ Second grade students have been moving right along by exploring several voices including singing, speaking, whispering, and calling. They also have been reviewing loud and soft dynamics and even learned the musical terms for them! In addition, the students have been exploring different sounds made by the classroom instruments. Second graders will be finishing the month of September and starting October by reviewing different rhythms and learning about repeat signs. We will also begin our patriotic song that will be performed in the Veterans Day assembly on Monday, November 11. With any extra time, we will try to take a look at simple borduns on the barred instruments.

1st Grade ~ First graders have been fabulous in music so far this year! They have been exploring different voices including their singing, speaking, whispering, and calling voices. We also discussed loud and soft voices/sounds. Students have been off to a great start learning their songs for “The First Thanksgiving” that will take place on Tuesday, November 19. Please keep an eye out for information regarding this. We will continue to work on these songs as well as patriotic songs in preparation for Veterans Day. The students are very excited and have been working very hard on using their very best singing voice.
Physical Education  [continued from page 7]

**IN THE NEAR FUTURE:**

**Grades 1-3:**
- Kicking: control and accuracy
- Hoop Skills – Manipulation and control
- Throwing and catching objects: Throwing with opposition and catching with two hands

**Grades 4-5:**
- Review Kicking: Control, accuracy, and striking with kicking
- Basketball Skills – Dribbling, passing, and shooting
- Complete Virginia Wellness Fitness Gram Pre-Testing

Have a great month!

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**FLES**

**Señora Christine Ellis**

¡Hola, padres! FLES is in full swing here at Algonkian. All 4th and 5th graders receive their instruction in Spanish on Thursday mornings, for a half-hour each week. The 4th grade classes are refreshing their Spanish skills with a basic review of the calendar, weather, seasons, and numbers. The 5th grade classes are learning how to answer questions about themselves, their families, pets, and preferences with the All About Me unit. Both grades will have an in-class oral project toward the end of the month.

If your younger children in grades 1-3 have signed up for the *Hola Español Club*:


We begin our fun, bright and early, on Thursday, October 3, at 7:00 a.m. We will start right away with basic greetings and feelings. Plenty of interactive games are planned for each club session, as well as lessons about food, holidays, and culture. I am looking forward to meeting Algonkian’s younger bobcats, for this great opportunity to learn Spanish.

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**Technology**

**Mrs. Pauline Burkett & Mrs. Trish Grace**

The Algonkian Elementary Technology Task Force Team (TTF) has had a fabulous first month and is doing a great job running the WALG morning TV show. Keep up the good work! As always, Mrs. Grace has been hard at work sprucing up the computer lab and WALG studio and making it a fun and colorful place to work.

The **CLARITY Parent Portal** officially opened on October 2nd. Use the CLARITY tab on the Algonkian homepage to download an access request form or get more information on the support page: [http://www.lcps.org/domain/12180](http://www.lcps.org/domain/12180).

This is the link to the parent portal after you have a username and password: [http://www.lcps.org/clarity](http://www.lcps.org/clarity).

Here is the link to request a form:


Following your students’ academic work is important, but following your child’s on-line activities is just as important. Knowing where your child visits and what they do on-line is one of the most important parts of being an active and informed parent. Look at what technology devices your children have access to. Learn which have internet access. For example a gaming console on its own does not have internet access, but if you subscribe to a “LIVE” version, your child is now capable of communicating with other people. The same goes for music playing devices that may have Wi-Fi capability. Many devices automatically pick up an available network; you can change the setting of the device to reflect your level of comfort with your child’s tech involvement. Happy and safe surfing!
learning ability without requiring a student to read, write or speak. Instead, students rely on reasoning and problem solving skills to complete the test items.

Many people assume that intelligence is differentiated in two categories: verbal and nonverbal. The distinction actually refers to the content of the items on an intelligence test, not to the type of thinking or intelligence required. Verbal and nonverbal tests are two different ways of measuring intellectual ability.

Currently in Loudoun County Public Schools, the main purpose for administering the NNAT2 is to identify students for gifted services in the area of general intellectual ability. The NNAT2 results may also be used to screen general ability for students whose school performance may be hindered by limited English proficiency.

2. Why the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT2)?
The NNAT2 was chosen because it was nonverbal. LCPS was looking for a way to identify gifted students who may not perform well on ability tests with a large number of verbal items, including students with limited English skills or learning difficulties.

3. What types of questions are on the NNAT2?
There are four categories of questions on the NNAT2:

- Pattern completion: Requires the student to complete a pattern by determining both general orientation and design details of the missing portion.
- Reasoning by Analogy: Requires the students to recognize a logical relationship between several geometric shapes.
- Serial Reasoning: Requires the student to recognize sequence of shapes and changes in a sequence.
- Spatial Visualization: The student must recognize how two or more designs would look when combined.

The geometric shapes and designs used for each test item are culture-free. A sample test item from the NNAT2 is shown in the figure below (actual test items use blue, white and yellow because these colors are most easily perceived by those with color-impaired vision).

4. Who will take the NNAT2?
Currently, all third grade students in Loudoun County Public Schools take the NNAT2 in the fall of the school year. The NNAT2 is available to students in grades K-12 for intellectual ability testing.

5. How long is the test?
The test has 48 items which must be completed in 30 minutes.

6. How do I interpret the scoring report?
Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99, and describe a student's test performance relative to other students of the same age in the national normative reference group. A student performing in the 95th percentile, for example, scored higher than 95% of the students at his/her age. Ranks between the 25th and 75th percentile fall within the average range of normative expectations.

7. If there is a significant discrepancy between a student’s performance on the NNAT2 and his/her achievement in the classroom, should I be concerned?
Students may score well on the NNAT2 who do not demonstrate high levels of achievement in the classroom. The NNAT2 demonstrates that these students have the ability to succeed in school, though they may not have acquired the skills required to achieve at that high level. Alternately, there are students who are very strong in the academic domain who may score poorly on the NNAT2.

The NNAT2 helps us identify students who may not demonstrate their ability on more traditional tests of knowledge because of limited English proficiency, language or learning difficulties, or other factors that may hinder achievement. It should be kept in mind that the NNAT2 scores give only one piece of information about a student. As with any assessment, some tests will identify the strengths of students more than other tests.

8. How does the NNAT2 help my child qualify for Gifted Education services?
The NNAT2 is one of the tests used by Loudoun County Public Schools to identify students in the area of general intellectual ability.
Parent Liaison  
Ms. Susan R. Smith  
Email: susan.r.smith@lcps.org

October is one of my favorite months of the year! Don’t forget to get outside and enjoy our local parks, playgrounds, and the trails at Algonkian Regional Park.

On behalf of the Algonkian Elementary staff and students, I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Healthways of Sterling. I was contacted in August by Healthways and ask if we could use a donation of school supplies. They did a Sterling donation drive for two weeks and I now have a generous amount of supplies for our students.

COATS – Do you have a need? Or simply don’t need them! The weather is changing and our children are always growing. If you find that you have extra gently used fall or winter coats, please consider donating to the school or your local thrift store. If you choose to donate to Algonkian, please remove all labels if they have a child’s name on them and drop them off in the front office. I also have two large brown boxes in my office by the school cafeteria; so if you are in the building, you can also deposit them there. If you have a need for coats, please send me a note or email listing sizes and if for girls or boys. All communication is strictly confidential.

October is also the time of year when all the local resources publish their information for food distribution and their Holiday Programs. I will list several below and their websites, and will also have copies of their flyers in the rotating standing file in the foyer:

- **LINK** – LINK offers food distribution for families in need on the second Tuesday of each month from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the rear parking lot of Christ the Redeemer Church on Rt. 7 in Sterling. They also have volunteer opportunities, please email: president@linkagainsthunger.org.

- **LINK HOLIDAY PROGRAM** – If you wish to register for the LINK Holiday Program, you must register in person. Bring a photo ID, verification of children (such as report cards), and attend one of the two registration dates:
  - Friday, October 4 – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - Saturday, October 5 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at either location
    - Location # 1 is Christ the Redeemer Church, Rt. 7, Sterling and
    - Location # 2 is Trinity Presbyterian Church on Dranesville Road, Herndon.

  Any questions, please email: LINKHolidayProgram@gmail.com.

- **LEESBURG CONVOY OF HOPE** – Join them on Saturday, October 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 102 Heritage Way in Leesburg. Everyone is welcome and everything is free. There will be live entertainment, a job fair, local resources, haircuts, and health services.

- **THE HOLIDAY COALITION (HELP FOR OTHERS, INC.)** – The application for the Holiday Coalition Program can be found at the following website: www.givingothers.org. Application deadline is November 15th.

- **LOUDOUN WORKFORCE CENTER – BIG JOB FAIR** at the Sterling Park Safety Center – Patton Hall, 46700 Middlefield Drive (Cascades Fire Station) on Thursday, October 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Over 25 companies. Questions, contact: 703-777-0150 or email: wrc@loudoun.gov. Flyers for the Job Fair and WRC’s Fall schedule of classes in the foyer at the school.
Hello from the Algonkian Elementary School Health Office!

Please check your child’s backpack for information on the **Loudoun County Health Check Survey** – The Loudoun Health Department wants to know your thoughts on health issues in our county. Please follow this link: [www.LoudounHealthCheck.com](http://www.LoudounHealthCheck.com) to complete the survey and possibly win a $25 gas card.

The health office hours are 7:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Please feel free to visit between these hours.

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications will be dispensed by the Nurse, Sharon Rukes: [LCPS Authorization for Medication Parent Information](http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/Doma...)

- All medication must be brought to the clinic by a parent, where a, permission to give medication form, will be signed by the parent. If the permission form is not signed, medication **cannot** be administered at school. Please **DO NOT** send any medication, (cough drops, inhalers, etc.) to school with your child!

- If your child needs a prescription medication at school, an **Authorization for Medication Form** -- [http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/D...](http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/D...) must be filled out by the prescribing doctor. If you need one of these forms for a trip to the doctor, call 571-434-3240 and one will be sent home with your child. All prescription medication, including Tylenol, need to be accompanied by the above form. If your doctor would like, they can fax the completed form to 703-444-1917.

- Clothing donations are always welcome! If you have children's clothing that you would like to donate, just let me know by emailing: Sharon.Rukes@lcps.org.

- If your student comes home in new clothes, please wash these clothes and return them to the clinic ASAP. If I have provided your child with new underwear or socks, it is theirs to keep. Underwear and socks are not recycled, so don't bother to return these items.

It is very important that I be able to reach you when your child is sick! If you have changed jobs, or have a new home or cell phone number, please call the school at 571-434-3240 and update this information. When your child is sick, **they need you**, please help me to locate you quickly when an emergency arises.

**As we begin a new school year, here are a few items to remember:**

→ If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or over, please keep them home from school. Loudoun County health policy states that students should refrain from attending school until their fever has been gone for **24 full hours**. Let them relax, rest and return to school ready to concentrate and be amazing!

→ It can sometimes be chilly in your child's classroom, so please dress them comfortably and ready for success.

→ **Sneakers = Safety!** Sneakers allow your child to run, jump, and play safely during their time at school. If they are worried about keeping their flip flops on their feet, they can't fully enjoy their PE or recess time.
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

October 2013
Parents Make the Difference newsletters are posted on the LCPS website:
http://www.lcps.org/page/1597

Parent Resource Center

October 2013 Events & Fall Schedule
http://www.lcps.org/Page/76179

October 2013 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
Loudoun County Public Schools
Parent Resource Center

Fall 2013 Event Schedule

*Unless otherwise indicated, events are held at the
LCPS Administrative Building
21000 Education Court, Ashburn, 20148

Events will be cancelled when schools are closed or after school activities cancelled.

Call 571-252-2185 or go to: www.lcps.org/prc to register. Titles are linked to event flyers.

Brunch Bunch at Paxton Campus
An opportunity for us to get together, discover resources and answer questions.
We will have the coffee ready, bring your own treats. No registration necessary.
10-11:30 am on the following dates: Wed. Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11
*Note Location: Ally Advocacy Center Bldg. at 601 Catoctin Circle NE, Leesburg, 20176

Bright Life Initiative Presentation
Featuring a panel of students from Belmont Ridge MS, Stone Bridge and Tuscarora HS
Learn about this club/service organization of students with & without disabilities.
Wed, October 9, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Autism Series: Adolescent Issues
Topics Include Hygiene, Socialization, Fears, Behavior, Health & More
Thursday, October 24, 9-11 am (morning)

Promoting Positive Mealtimes
Causes and Strategies for Eating Challenges
Tuesday, November 7, 9-11 am (morning)

Social Media and Your Child on the Autism Spectrum or with a Developmental Disability
Tips and Tools for a Safer Online Experience for Your Child
Presented by Andrew McGahan, LCSW and Clinical Director at JSSA
Thursday, November 7, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Autism Series: The Message of Behavior
Identifying and Analyzing the Communication Function of Behavior is Critical
Thursday, December 12, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

If due to a disability, you need assistance or an interpreter, call 571-252-2185 7 days before an event.
November 5, 2013 School Bond Referendum - FACT SHEET

People ask, “What will happen if the school referendums are not approved?”

If the bond referendum is not approved, the Board of Supervisors must find other means of funding the construction of these projects.

What Bond Referenda Have Funded

The following schools and renovation projects have been approved for bond funding on general election ballots (schools are listed in the year they were opened):

1997
- Potomac Falls High School
- Loewes Island Elementary
- Gymnasium for Catoctin Elementary and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades for older schools
- Computer technology and equipment

1998
- Evergreen Mill Elementary
- Gymnasium, HVAC improvements and classrooms for Guilford Elementary
- Gymnasium, HVAC improvements and classrooms for Sully Elementary
- Temporary classrooms for Loudoun County High School and Rolling Ridge Elementary

1999
- Harper Park Middle School
- A six-classroom addition to Lucketts Elementary
- Replacement of the HVAC systems at Leesburg Elementary, Meadowland Elementary, J. Lupton Simpson Middle School and Seneca Ridge Middle School

2000
- Stone Bridge High School
- Little River Elementary
- Mill Run Elementary
- Classroom additions and paving of the parking lots at Blue Ridge, J. Lupton Simpson, Seneca Ridge and Sterling middle schools

2001
- Eagle Ridge Middle School
- Seldens Landing Elementary
- Classroom renovations and additions for Lovettsville Elementary
- Additions and renovations to Park View High School
- Classroom additions to Round Hill Elementary
- Nine portable classrooms

2002
- Heritage High School
- Harmony Intermediate School
- River Bend Middle School
- Forest Grove Elementary
- Hutchison Farm Elementary
- Additions and Renovations to Broad Run High School

2003
- Dominion High School
- Belmont Ridge Middle School
- Countryside Elementary
- Mountain View Elementary
- Frances Hazel Reid Elementary

2004
- Belmont Station Elementary
- Mercer Middle School
- Smart’s Mill Middle School
- Renovations to Blue Ridge, Seneca Ridge, J. Lupton Simpson and Sterling middle schools
- Renovation and expansion of Loudoun County High School
- Purchase of land for two future elementary schools and two future middle schools

2005
- Briar Woods High School
- Freedom High School
- Newton-Lee Elementary

2006
- Renovation (Phase II) to Blue Ridge, Seneca Ridge, Simpson and Sterling middle schools
- Land Purchase – 2 Middle Schools & 1 High School

2007
- Arcola Elementary
- Rosa Lee Carter Elementary
- Stone Hill Middle School
- Sycocin Creek Elementary

2008
- Creighton’s Corner Elementary
- Liberty Elementary School
- Steuart W. Weller Elementary

2009
- Kenneth W. Culbert Elementary

2010
- Buffalo Trail Elementary
- Tuscarora High School
- Woodgrove High School

2011
- J. Michael Lunsford Middle School

2012
- Frederick Douglass Elementary
- John Champe High School

2013
- Discovery Elementary
- Moorefield Station Elementary
Voting and Voter Registration

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5th. Information on voting and polling places is available from the Loudoun County Voter Registration and Electoral Board at 750 Miller Drive, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175. The Voter Registration and Electoral Board phone number is 703-777-0548.

The deadline to register to vote in-person is 5 p.m. Monday, October 14th.

Voter applications may be obtained at:
- Loudoun County Voter Registration Office
- Loudoun County Community Centers
- Loudoun County Public Libraries
- Offices of the Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue
- Offices of the Loudoun County Treasurer
- DMV Offices

Applications may be submitted in person or by mail. The General Registrar's office also supplies absentee ballots to eligible voters upon request. A voter registration form is available on the Virginia State Board of Elections Web site as is the application for an absentee ballot.

Loudoun's School Bond Referendum
FACTS
NOVEMBER 5, 2013