ALGONKIAN ELEMENTARY

20196 Carter Court • Sterling, Virginia 20165 • Telephone 571.434.3240 • Fax 703.444.1917 • Absentee Line 571.434.3241

website: http://www.lcps.org/algonkian

Principal: Mr. Brian Blubaugh Bookkeeper: Mrs. Eileen Veselick Assistant Principal: Ms. Karen Shields Attendance Secretary: Mrs. Gail Farrar

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2014



EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

October

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Interims sent home

6-10 Book Fair

PTA Meeting 7:00 PM 17 PTA Monster Mash

Columbus Day Holiday – School Closed Jamestown visits our 4th grade 13

15

16 Earthquake Drill 21 Chick-Fil-A Night 31 Book Character Parade

November

Chuck-E-Cheese Night

11 PTA meeting

11 Assembly

Picture Make-up day 12

12 Donuts with Dad

14 Bingo

Jamestown visits 2nd grade 17

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.

Letter from the Principal

Algonkian Families,

It is hard to believe that October is already here and we are half way through the first quarter. The year will only get faster from here on out.

I encourage students to spend some time at home using our computer software programs iReady and Reflex math. These programs are great at reinforcing math and reading skills. If you are having trouble logging on at home, please contact your child's teacher.

September was a beautiful month and the perfect time to take your dog for a walk. I want to remind everyone that dogs are not allowed on school property. We do have students allergic to dogs and some students scared of them, so please keep your dog at home if you come to pick up your child.

The parent portal for Clarity opened on October 1st. All parents requesting a password should have received the password in the mail. If you have any questions about accessing the parent portal of Clarity to view your child's grades please contact the school.

I know that I have already had my share of trick or treat candy in the last 2 weeks. I want to remind parents not to bring in candy to hand out to our students. LCPS expects healthy snacks for parties or alternative prizes like pencils. Please do not send in a bag of candy or extra trick-or treat candy to hand out at school.

The students and staff continue to work hard to ensure that all students are learning. I am amazed at how well the Algonkian staff and families work as a team. Thanks for all your hard work and support this year.

Sincerely, Brian Blubaugh Principal

Algonkian Counseling

Professional School Counselors Help Students Reach Their Potential!



Our Algonkian School Counseling program is applying for national recognition as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP)!



Join our School Counseling Advisory Committee to find out more!— This 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 will meet twice this year October 23rd and March 26th @ 2:50pm in Ms. Ryan's classroom (room 30) Please email Ms. Ryan at Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org if you are interested in joining this committee! Interested in finding out more about RAMP? Click on the following link:

http://www.ascanationalmodel.org/Ascanationalmodel/media/ANM-templates/ANMExecSumm.pdf

School Counseling Webpage http://www.lcps.org/page/40388

School Counseling Groups: Group information has gone home with all 1^{st} - 5^{th} grade students. The first round of groups will begin this month. If you need another copy of the group form, click on the following link: http://lcps.org/page/40405

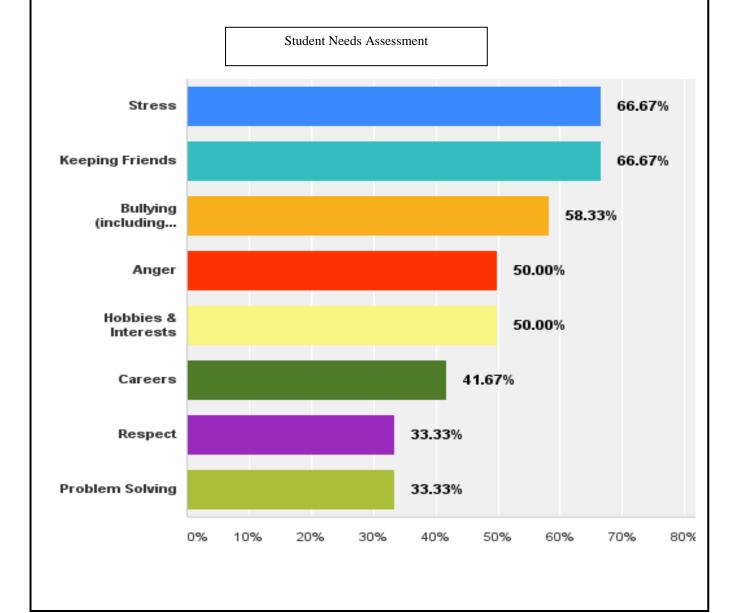


Our Student Mentors have been doing a wonderful job! Mentors started the year helping students feel welcome starting the first day of this school year, and are already hard at work each morning throughout the building! Thank you to the following students for their continued hard work as they serve our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

Kaitlin	Amin	Ellie	Marina	Misa
Mehar	Mikaela	Caroline	Muskan	Yas
Abby	Quinn	Fatima	Maggie	Andrew
Emerson	Christina	Maggie	Elisabeth	

Guidance Lessons -

Our 1^{st} 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. Be looking for lessons on these topics throughout the school year!





Follow Algonkian on Twitter @ ALG_lcps





(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

Algonkian's PBIS framework is based on The 3 R's Respect Responsibility Relationships

In our first guidance lesson students discussed our Algonkian Honor Code!

Students did a FABULOUS job discussing what an honor code really means, and connecting it to the 3RRR's! Here is a word cloud created from their responses:



Check out PBIS on our webpage: http://lcps.org/domain/13641

When students feel safe, respected, and connected to learning, fun happens naturally!

2014-2015 CHESS CLUB

Upcoming Chess Club Meetings October 7th November 11th

2:45-3:45 in the Cafeteria

We always need parent volunteers to help with our monthly after-school Chess Club meetings. Basic chess skills are helpful, but not necessary!

Visit our Chess Club webpage http://www.lcps.org/page/40419, for dates and more information!

Here is a direct link to our online Chess Club Permission Slip: Remember students need a NEW permission slip for every club date! http://www.lcps.org/page/40421

Please email, or call Ms. Ryan to help with this activity.

Ms. Ryan: theresa.ryan@lcps.org
571-434-3240



From the Assistant Principal's Office Ms. Karen Shields

Mrs. Shields Upcoming Events

Special Education Parent Coffee – Oct 17th Bobcat Buddies Program – 1st meeting Oct 15th

Tech news from our TRT Pauline Burkett



The **CLARITY Parent Portal** officially opened on October 1st. 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

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

Here is the link to request a form:

http://www.lcps.org/cms/lib4/VA01000195/Centricity/Domain/12180/Parent_Portal_Request_Form_14-15.pdf

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!



Visit us at http://www.lcps.org/algonkian

School Improvement Plan

School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been developed for Algonkian Elementary by staff and our leadership team. 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 Brian Blubaugh at 571-434-3240.

Parent Liaison Susan R. Smith

Email: susan.r.smith@lcps.org

Susan R. Smith Parent Liaison

October is the time of year when the **Lost & Found** starts collecting hoodies and light weight jackets. Please ask your students to check the rack often. It is located outside the Cafeteria.

The weather is starting to change and we starting pulling out jackets and eventually coats from our closets. If your children have outgrown last winter's coat consider donating them to the school or to your local thrift store. If you would like to donate to the school please make sure they are washed, in good shape and have identifying name tags removed. You can drop them in my work space across from the Cafeteria. If you are in need of coats, gloves and hats please email me or contact me through the office. All communication is strictly confidential.

I am a member of the **Equity Committee** and we would like to invite parents/guardians to participate at our open meetings this year. Our Open Meeting dates will be in November and February. Watch for exact dates and times in my newsletter. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Committee please contact either Theresa Ryan or me through email or call the school.

The **Lions Club of Sterling** is kicking off their eyeglass donation drive this month and Algonkian is going to participate by having a donation box in the foyer or office. We will accept donations through May of 2015. When donating eyeglasses please take them out of the case and donate in a plastic bag. Eliminating the case saves on space and makes room for more donations! We will also accept used hearing aids and cell phones. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

This is the time of year when all of our wonderful resources in Loudoun County publish information on their holiday food programs and weekly food distribution. Flyers for these programs are in the file in the foyer of the school. Listed below are the websites for the various programs. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact me and I can send home the information in the backpack.

Parent Liaison Continued..

Loudoun County Public Schools does not endorse or promote any one program over another. My goal is to provide as many resources as possible. Participation is any of the events or programs is voluntary.

Holiday Coalition – Deadline for applications on line is November 17th. www.givingothers.org/index.html

LINK Holiday Program Registration – You need to register in person at either location: Christ the Redeemer Church, Rt. 7, Sterling or Trinity Presbyterian, Dranesville, Rd., Herndon. October 3rd 4 to 6 p.m. and October 4th 2 to 4 p.m. Bring a photo ID, verification of children (such as report cards).

You may only register for one of the programs above, either Holiday Coalition or LINK Holiday Program.

Loudoun Interfaith Relief – Thanksgiving food distribution will be in November at the Leesburg location. For more information go to www.interfaithrelief.org or call 703-777-5911. Flyers are in the foyer of the school.

Last but not least......St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is holding their annual **Clothing and Toy Sale** on Saturday, October 4th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. All clothes only \$1.00. They are located at 201 East Frederick Drive in Sterling. Their earnings help fund their Backpack Coalition Program which serves our school.

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 next open meeting or have questions, concerns or comments, please contact either Theresa Ryan, Counselor or Susan Smith, Parent Liaison. Open meeting dates will be in November and February 2015. Please watch for dates and times in the Parent Liaison portion of the school newsletter.

October Elementary School Lunch Menu

http://www.lcps.org/Page/68454

Lines from the Library Ms. Devinney

Book Fair will be open Monday October 6th to Friday October 10th from 7:30 to 3:00 each day. Students are encouraged to shop during their library class time.

Family Night will be Thursday October 9th from 6 to 8 PM

Algonkian will once again offer an Online Book Fair! From now until October 17th you can shop online at

http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/algonkianelementaryschool1

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

Dear Parent:

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. I may already be familiar with the book and might be able to help you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chrissie Devinney, Librarian

Music

Ms. Alicia Smith



5th Grade

Last month fifth graders reviewed concepts such as Rondo form and sixteenth notes in several activities. We also explored the difference between duple and triple meter. At the end of last month, we started learning a few of the songs from this year's musical, "Compose Yourself". Please watch for information being sent home about this exciting musical that will take place in December.

4th Grade

Fourth grade students have been rolling right through the first month of school by reviewing Rondo form and learning about sixteenth notes. They also learned out to play a pentatonic melody on various Orff instruments. This month we will begin to prepare for the Veterans Day assembly on November 11, where the second and fourth graders will be spotlighted. We will be discussing dynamics, as well as rhythm and vocal technique as we work on our songs for the assembly.

3rd Grade

Third grade students reviewed rhythms, various notes and note values, and body percussion in several of our activities so far this year. This month we will review techniques used with playing Orff instruments, and use them in a few activities. We will also review call and response form, and I will be introducing Rondo form in a Columbus Day activity. Toward the end of the month we will review the school-wide Veterans Day song that we will sign during the assembly on November 11.

2nd Grade

Second grade students worked hard on reviewing quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests in rhythm patterns at the beginning of the year. We also reviewed body percussion and the different types of voices that we use. This month we will begin to prepare for the Veterans Day assembly on November 11, where the second and fourth graders will be spotlighted. We will be discussing dynamics (loud and soft), as well as basic vocal technique as we work on our songs for the assembly.

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 Thursday, November 20. 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.

Music Class needs: Thank you to the families who sent in batteries!! We could still use some more AA and AAA batteries to help get us through the performances throughout the year. If you are able to, could you please donate some batteries for our microphones? This will enable me to use more of my budget on music resources rather than sound system equipment © Thank you!!!

School-Wide Veterans Day Assembly

Second and Fourth Grade will be leading the assembly Tuesday, November 11 at 1:15

1st Grade Performance

"The First Thanksgiving"

Thursday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m.



Algonhian's 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 September:

First Grade: First Cave Drawing

The artists in first grade read "The First Cave Drawing" by Mordicai Gerstein and learned about the oldest art in the world. The also learned about what life was like during the Paleolithic Era. They then chose an animal from the Paleolithic Era and created a textured cave drawing of that animal and signed it by tracing their hand.

Second Grade: Chihuly Macchia

The artists in second grade learned about the ancient art of glass. They learned how glass is made and how artist use it to create amazing pieces of art. They also learned about the world renowned glass artists Dale Chihuly and his wonderful Macchia Bowls. The student artists used analogous colors to create their own coffee filter version of a Macchia Bowl. They then mounted their works of art and did a critique of each others works of art.

Third Grade: Food Landscape

The artists in third grade read "A World of Food" by Carl Warner and learned about the amazing world of Food Art. Students learned about foreground, middle ground, and background and created their own food landscape.

Fourth Grade: One Point Perspective Surrealism Hallway

The artists in fourth grade learned about one point perspective and designed their their own one point perspective hallway. Students also studied Surrealism and created a surrealistic background for one of their doors in their hallway.

Fifth Grade: Tree House Architecture

5th grade student artists read "Miss Twiggley's Tree" by Dorothea Warren Fox and learned about tree house architecture and about the tree house architect Pete Nelson. Student artists then learned about 2 Point Perspective and used this knowledge to design their very own Tree house using lots of detail and including a unique entrace design. The final piece of this art project was learning about blue prints. This knowledge inspired the students to use the tree house design to create their own blue print schematic!

PE News

Joe Terango and Kristen Barker Physical Education Teachers

Dear Algonkian Parents,



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.

A special thank you goes out to former Bobcat Jack Shangraw for enhancing the PE facilities by painting an additional track outside the gym for convenient use by all PE classes!!! THANKS JACK!!

Grades 1-3

- -Learned spatial awareness: How to move without running into other students, objects, or crossing boundaries.
- -Learned personal and general space.
- -Locomotor assessment: Galloping
- -Playground Safety

In the near future:

Grades 1-3:

- -Kicking: control and accuracy
- -Hula Hoop Skills- Manipulation and control
- -Throwing and catching objects: Throwing with opposition and catching with two hands.
- -Basic short jump rope strategies.
- -Locomotor assessment: Skipping

Grades 4 and 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 and two square)

In the near future:

Grades 4-5:

- -Review Kicking: Control, accuracy, and striking with kicking.
- -Basketball Skills- Dribbling, passing, and shooting
- -Complete Virginia Wellness Fitness Gram Pre-Testing..





Welcome to SEARCH!

Patty Peterson
Gifted Education Resource Teacher
patty.peterson@lcps.org

SEARCH October Newsletter

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test

All Loudoun County third grade students will take the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test in October, 2014. The test will be given to students in their regular classrooms during their usual SEARCH time. Please prepare your child by making sure that he/she is healthy, well-rested, and that he/she has eaten a good breakfast on the day of the test. No other preparation is needed!

In order to help you, as parents, better understand the NNAT2, here are some frequently asked questions.

1. What does the NNAT2 measure? The Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test 2 assesses school 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.

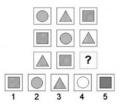
3. What types of questions are on the NNAT2?

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.

Algonkian PTA updates

Our next PTA meeting is Tuesday October 7th at 7pm. I hope to see you there.

Thanks to all the volunteers and staff members for making the walk-a-thon a huge success. Special thanks to Karen Anderson, Kemp Reardon, Christi Hendershot, and Kristen Ulrich.

Our book character parade will be Friday October 31st at 1:10. The Potomac Falls band will here to perform. I also wanted to remind parents to not send in Halloween candy. No candy should ever be passed out by students.

Monster Mash is on October 17th. This is another great event for everyone. We hope to see you there.

We have a lot of students who ride bikes to school, and we want to encourage this healthy activity. LCPS has approved new bike racks since are old ones are falling apart.

We encourage everyone to join the PTA!

Algonkian Health Clinic Reminders



Our school's health clinic specialist is **Peggy Franzen**. She works in the health office each day from 7:15 until 3:15. A health clinic specialist (HCS) works under the direction and supervision of a registered nurse (resource nurse). School staff can contact the school resource nurse at any time for advice or emergencies. HCSs are trained in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), use of an external automatic defibrillator (AED), and medication administration. The resource nurse visits the school regularly. Please check the website for the resource nurse for your school. Health office personnel (HCSs and nurses) are not allowed to make a medical diagnosis. If you have an urgent medical concern, please take your child to their personal physician or a medical facility.

Students may not bring medication to school. All Medication whether over the counter or prescription must be brought to the Health Office by a parent. All medication must be in original packaging and have Dr.'s orders (for prescriptions) or Parent Request filled out on form from LCPS Health Services Web site. Please help us to manage your child's health effectively at school.