

ALGONKIAN ELEMENTARY

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

Principal: *Mr. Brian Blubaugh*

Assistant Principal: *Ms. Karen Shields*

Bookkeeper: *Mrs. Eileen Veselick*

Attendance Secretary: *Mrs. Gail Farrar*

Volume 3

November 2014



EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

November

- 4** Chuck-E-Cheese Night
- 11** PTA meeting
- 11** Assembly Veteran's Day 1:15
- 12** Picture Make-up day
- 12** Donuts with Dad
- 14** Bingo
- 17-21** AEW
- 24** Toys for Tots begins
- 24** Spirit Day diversity shoes
- 25** Spirit Day Jersey day-PBIS Football game

December

- 1** Jamestown visits 2nd Grade
- 11** Music and Arts Night 6:00
- 12** Mad Science Assembly
- 12** Toys for Tots ends

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,

This week began the second quarter of the year. The students and teachers are working hard to ensure all students are making progress. Report cards go home on Wednesday, November 12th. Most of the report cards should be a review from your conference with the teacher. If you have not had a conference with your child's teacher, please contact them immediately.

We have new bike racks that Loudoun County installed this week. It is great to see all the students riding their bikes to school. There should be more room now for students to place their bike.

Now that we are in the holiday season, please remember not to send in sweets or left over candy. I have two children of my own that have peanut allergies. Please be mindful of what you bring in for parties and talk with your child's teacher about what is appropriate.

Students have been challenged to earn 1,000 tickets for good behavior in the month of November. If they reach this goal, they earn a PBIS assembly on November 25. The assembly will be a student vs teacher, Turkey Bowl. The staff will play the 5th grade students in a different type of football game. Please encourage your child to do their best every day and keep working towards our goal of 1,000 tickets.

Our annual Veteran's Day assembly is November 11th at 1:15. We are excited to have some Veterans that will be attending our assembly. The students have been working hard for their performance.

I encourage you to visit Algonkian for American Education Week from November 17-21. Each grade level has something planned for the week. We will also be offering breakfast each day as well, if you would like to come have breakfast with your child we will be serving breakfast from 7:30-7:50. I will send a connect ed message out with the menu.

Sincerely,
Brian Blubaugh
Principal

Algongkian Counseling

*Professional School Counselors
Help Students Reach Their Potential!*



Advocacy Leadership Collaboration Systemic Change

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

Are you curious about what RAMP is all about?!

Come to our next PTA meeting on November 11th

Ms. Ryan will be sharing details of our school's RAMP application and available for questions about the process!

You can also 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 again on 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!

Want more information? ☺ Check out the following for to go to the ASCA (American School Counseling Association) website for more details on the ASCA national model:

<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 1st - 5th 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>



Follow Algonkian on Twitter @ ALG_lcps





Diversity SHOES



2014-2015 Counseling/Art/Library Collaborative Project!

In ART - 5th grade students have researched and are creating clay shoes representing 28 countries

In Library – 5th grade students researched one of 28 countries

In Guidance- The entire student body created their own paper shoe depicting their uniqueness, focusing on their personal strengths and areas of leadership potential! Students discussed the importance of diversity and appreciation of uniqueness. Students discussed why it is important to get along with others even if they are different than you and how important diversity is in making our world complete. We read the book “Those Shoes” by Maribeth Boelts, and discussed economic diversity.

All shoes will be included in the Art Installation that will be in the front foyer.

Please take time to visit during American Education Week!



Algonkian Elementary



Bobcats PuRRR!

(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

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

*Have you heard your children talk
about our new Spirit Stick?!*



Each month the PBIS team chooses the grade level that shows the MOST
Algonkian School Spirit on our school wide spirit day!
Currently 3rd grade has our spirit stick!



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

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

You Are Invited!



Nov. 24th - Dec. 12th

**All Algonkian students, families, & staff
are invited to participate in this years
winter community outreach!**



**Collection Boxes for NEW UNWRAPPED
TOYS will be located in the front lobby from
November 24th - December 12th**

The objectives of Toys for Tots are to help needy children throughout the United States; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable natural resources - our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future.



To find out more about Toys 4 Tots go to www.toysfortots.org

Sponsored by the Student Mentors &
Algonkian Equity Committee



2014-2015 CHESS CLUB

Upcoming Chess Club Meetings

November 11th
December 2nd

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

Music
Miss Alicia Smith



Exciting things are happening here at Algonkian:

School-Wide Veterans Day Assembly

Second and Fourth Grade will be leading the assembly –Tuesday November 11th 1:15

1st Grade Performance

“The First Thanksgiving”
Thursday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m.

5th Grade Musical

“Compose Yourself”

Thursday, December 11 at 1:15 & 6:30

5th Grade

Fifth graders are working hard on preparing their songs for the musical, “Compose Yourself”. Please encourage your child to work on memorizing lyrics and speaking lines at home. Speaking lines **MUST** be memorized by November 17. Also, I will be sending information about All County Chorus auditions home this month. I will have auditions at either the end of this month or the beginning of December.

4th Grade

Fourth grade students are ready to honor our Veterans on Tuesday at our annual assembly. Remember to wear red, white, and/or blue on November 11!! After the assembly, fourth grade students will be working on some Thanksgiving activities.

3rd Grade

Last month third graders worked hard to create an accompaniment to go along with a spooky Orff arrangement of the song “Halloween Night”. I was very impressed with what each class came up with! This month we will be working on creating a form for our speech piece, “Mama Caught a Flea”. We will also work on some Thanksgiving activities

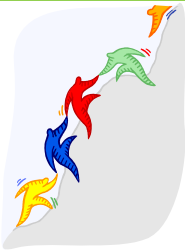
2nd Grade

Second grade students are ready to honor our Veterans on Tuesday at our annual assembly. Remember to wear red, white, and/or blue on November 11!! After the assembly, second grade students will be working on some Thanksgiving activities.

1st Grade

First graders are just about ready for our musical, “The First Thanksgiving”. The musical will take place on Thursday, November 20 at 1:00. After the musical we will be working on some fun Thanksgiving activities!

Thank you to all of the families who sent in batteries. I think we are set for now, but I will send out another request if we run out before the end of the year. This is such a huge help, and it enables us to use the music allotment for instruments and other music resources!!



Susan R. Smith
Parent Liaison
Email: susan.r.smith@lcps.org

I would like to send out a big **BOBCAT THANK YOU** to all of our families who generously gave food donations to help **Interfaith Relief during their "Make A Difference"** campaign. We filled up five large boxes in the foyer! Thanks again for your donations.

I recently came across a resource for a Free Tutoring Program for grades K-6. Students are paired with high school tutors for a year-long mentoring program. They have various locations throughout the County. This free service is not affiliated with Loudoun County Public Schools Tutor List, but I wanted to share this information as an additional resource. Please visit www.giveyouth.org/tutoring-program for more information.

I also came across another resource for those that would like to donate teen clothing or are in need of free teen clothing. This resource is in Purcellville at the **Tree of Life Ministries**. For more information visit their website at www.tolministries.org. I have placed flyers in the foyer of the school.

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

Algonkian will be participating in the **2014 Toys for Tots Campaign** as our winter community outreach project. We will be collecting unwrapped new toys from November 24th through December 12th. Donation boxes will be located in the foyer of the school. This project is sponsored by our Student Mentors and the Algonkian Equity Committee. A flyer with more information will be coming home in the backpacks the week of November 17th.

Some of the resources I provide are faith based organizations. Loudoun County Public Schools does not support any one resource over another. Participation in that resource is strictly voluntary. My goal is to provide as many resources as possible for all of our Bobcat families.

Recently I had a fellow Parent Liaison forward to me an extensive list of Loudoun County volunteer opportunities. I have placed copies in the foyer of the school. There are over 50 different organizations with opportunities for ages.

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.

From the Assistant Principal's Desk
Ms. Shields



Our Bobcat Buddies Program is off and running! Thank you to all the parents who are bringing their students in on Wednesday mornings to participate in a truly inclusive program. Up to this point we have been able to work on communication, sharing and following directions as a small group led by our 5th Grade Bobcat Buddy Mentors. Thank you for your participation and support in this program.

If you have any questions regarding the Bobcat Buddy Program please contact Karen Shields via email at karen.shields@lcps.org

Time for a Coffee Break

Our November Morning Parent Coffee has been CANCELED.

We will be scheduling our next meeting in January to discuss transition with the representatives from the Middle and High School Levels. Please look for the date in next month's newsletter.



November Elementary School Lunch Menu

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

Algonkian Elementary PE Newsletter

Dear Algonkian Parents,

Greetings from the PE department. We are having a lot of fun here at Algonkian Elementary and everyone is working so hard and diligently. We as physical education teachers are so proud at the effort we see day to day in our classes. The younger students are grasping the skills they are being taught and the older students are setting good examples and striving to better their scores in the Fitness gram tests. Great job all of you!

Grades 1-3:

- Completed kicking unit. Striking objects with feet, dribbling, trapping, and ball control.
 - Short Jump Rope Manipulation Unit
 - Completed hula hoop skills and manipulation.
- Additional Games for Recess Unit on our new playground schematic.

Grades 4 and 5:

- Completed kicking unit. Striking objects with feet, dribbling, trapping, manipulation, and ball control.
 - Completed Fitness Gram Testing.
- Completed additional Games for Recess Unit on our new playground schematic.

Currently and in the near future:

Grades 1-3:

- Throwing and catching/Bean bag manipulation unit and activities.
 - Working on Cup Stacking Manipulation and Dexterity.
- Introduction to scooters. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength).
 - Introduce and complete Long Jump Rope Unit.

Grades 4-5:

- Currently progressing through scooter introduction. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength)
- Ball skills (manipulation of ball) rolling, dribbling, passing, catching.
 - Preparation for the Algonkian Basketball league.

Enjoy the month!

Joe Terango and Kristen Barker

Physical Education Teachers





Lines from the Library

Ms. Devinney

A big Birthday Books thank you goes out to all the families who participated in our Birthday Books program this year! We raised over \$1200.00 for the library and have added 84 Birthday Books to our Library. If you missed the Birthday Books this year it will be back next fall.

Mrs. Devinney will attend the Dublin Web Summit the first week in November, this is the largest tech entrepreneur's conference in Europe and a nice chance to sneak in a visit to my daughter who attends Trinity College in Dublin. I will return with wonderful ideas to use in the library and our classrooms.

Chat n' Chew has taken off, with 128 students participating this year - WOW! We've had our first meetings and the students seem to enjoy the books, I know from their enthusiasm that they **LOVE** eating lunch in the library and discussing the books with our parent volunteers! The next meeting will take place the week of Nov. 17th.

SEARCH NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

The Value of Gifted Education Programs

In a recent Washington Post article about gifted education, many questions were raised concerning the identification and implementation of gifted services in the "Delmarva" metro area. A reply from the executive director of the National Association for Gifted Children, Nancy Green, answers these questions and gives a good overview of the structure and value of gifted education.

(<http://tinyurl.com/ml3ukxq>)

With regard to identification, LCPS follows the NAGC policy as stated by Ms. Green:

"Gifted-education professionals look for ways to include as many students as possible in programs. They evaluate ability at several points during a student's academic career rather than attaching a label once, without reevaluation."

As Ms. Green states in her response, no single factor should determine the need for gifted services. The LCPS gifted education department adheres to the NAGC best practices statement that: "...identification of gifted and talented students should not be based on a single assessment. Rather, multiple pieces of evidence should be collected that measure different constructs and characteristics aligned to the gifted program's definition, goals, and objectives (Callahan, Tomlinson, & Pizzat, 1993), ideally including a variety of format types (e.g., paper-and-pencil; performance assessment)."

During late September and early October, the LCPS gifted education department held a number of information sessions for parents regarding the structure of gifted education programs in Loudoun County and the process of identification. Similar programs will be held in the late winter/early spring months. If you missed the fall information sessions, please see the LCPS gifted education website for the presentation and handouts that were made available: <http://www.lcps.org/Page/127741>
If you have any concerns or just need more information, please contact the Algonkian SEARCH teacher, Patty Peterson.

Algonkian's Creativity Center

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 October:

First Grade: Nocturnal Shadow Art

The artists in first grade read "Yeti Turn On the Light" by Greg Long and "Whoo's There?" by Heather Zschock. The student learned about artists that use lights and shadows to make art. The student artists learned about nocturnal animals and their habitats. The artists then created a shadow art by drawing a nocturnal animal in its habitat.

Second Grade: Gothic Mansion

The artists in second grade read "Skycolor" by Peter H. Reynolds and "At the Old Haunted House" by Helen Kettelman. The student artists learned about the nature and colors of skies and then used warm or cool colors to paint a watercolor sky painting. They then learned about the history of Architecture and Gothic Mansions. They learned about the style and elements that made Gothic Mansions unique and used these elements to create an original Gothic Mansion silhouette drawing. Lastly, they learn about collage and oil pastels and collaged together their Gothic Mansion and watercolor sky painting and used oil pastels to draw window details on their Gothic Mansions.

Third Grade: Frank Lloyd Wright Stained Glass

The artists in third grade read "Shapes the Roll" by Karen Nagel. The artists then learned about the legendary architect and artist Frank Lloyd Wright. They learned about how he used shapes and nature to inspire his architecture, and stained glass window designs. The students then learned about geometric shapes and used them to create a geometric shape stained glass window sketch. The artists then learned about the history and beauty of stained glass windows. The artist used primary or secondary colors to create a geometric shape stained glass window design. These stained glass windows will be on display in the windows in the front foyer of Algonkian Elementary until Thanksgiving.

Fourth Grade: Fall Animal Cyanotype

The artists in fourth grade read "Leaf Man" Lois Ehlert. The student artists learned about fall animals and leaves. They used a variety of leaves to recreate a drawing of a fall animal. They then learned about photography and cyanotype process of photography. They created a film version of their fall animal leaf drawing on a transparency and created a print of their drawing using the cyanotype photography process.

Fifth Grade: Diversity Shoes

5th grade student artists read "What We Wear: Dressing Up Around the World" by Maya Ajmera. For this project Art, School Counseling, and Library collaborated to help the fifth grade artists create culturally diverse art exhibition. The student artists chose a country randomly from a hat and then did research to learn about that countries culture, history, and art. They learned how a clothing and shoes can be a representation of a person cultural history and personalitiy. The artists then used that research in art to design a Diversity Shoe demonstrating that countries unique culture. Later, the artists learned about the process of using clay to build a 3D sculptural shoe and created one of their own. Lastly, they painted and added the cultural design to their shoe.

These Diversity Shoes will be on display in the foyer of Algonkian Elementary for American Education Week (November 16-22, 2014) alongside the schoolwide Diversity Shoe Installation done with Ms. Ryan in Counseling.

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!

Algonkian PTA updates

Our next PTA meeting is Tuesday November 11th at 7pm. I hope to see you there.

Thanks to all the volunteers and staff members for making the Monster Mash a huge success. A special thanks to Ms. Chandler for all her hard work.

Bingo Night is November 14th. It is a tailgate Bingo. Students are encouraged to wear a Jersey to school and to Bingo.

We encourage everyone to join the PTA!