

# 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**

**December 2014**



## EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

### December

- 11 5<sup>th</sup> grade Musical assembly 1:15 and 6:30
- 11 Music and Arts Night 6:00
- 12 Mad Science Assembly
- 12 Toys for Tots ends
- 18 Geography Bee 9:00 in the gym
- 19 Last day before Winter Break

### January

- 5 Back to School-Winter Break Ends
- 6 PTA Meeting
- 13 PTA Chick Fil A night
- 13 Riverbend Instrument test drive night
- 26 Souper Bowl Spirit Week
- 30 PTA Movie Night

### 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,

I want to thank all our parents and visitors from the community during American Education Week. Algonkian had over 600 visitors during American Education Week.

During the month of November, students were challenged to earn 1,000 tickets for displaying good behavior using our pillars of Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships. Students earned 1,000 tickets and earned a PBIS Football game assembly. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students went up against the teachers. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders were the winners of the first ever Algonkian Turkey Bowl.

This time of year we have breaks due to the holidays and potential snow days. Please keep your routine consistent with getting to school on time and setting aside time at home for your child to do their homework. There is so much inconsistency during this time of year, it is important that we keep our focus on our school work and in keeping our routine.

Patient First has donated \$1,000 dollars to Algonkian to purchase books for our classrooms and guided reading collection. I want to thank them for their donation and business partnership with Algonkian.

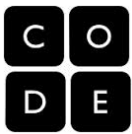
This year our STEAM committee has created an invention expo for students. Students will learn more about the invention expo during the next few weeks. Participation in the event is voluntary, but we hope to spark some interest in many of our students. Ms. Peterson our SEARCH teacher came up with the idea, and with help from the STEAM committee wrote a grant that was approved. The grant will enable us to provide STEM activities during the invention expo night.

The last day before winter break is December 19<sup>th</sup>. We do not come back to school until January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure your child reads over the break.

Sincerely,  
Brian Blubaugh  
Principal

Notes from the Computer Lab  
Pauline Burkett  
[Pauline.Burkett@lcps.org](mailto:Pauline.Burkett@lcps.org)

It's the most wonderful time of the year! It is time for class parties, and grade level activities, performances and such. Many of us are great shutterbugs and take many pictures to celebrate and commemorate these special days. (Many are the times I wish I had taken more pictures of my boys when they were in elementary school so that I had more to work with for scrapbooking.) In this day and age many of us are quick to post these images of our darlings on social media sites. Please keep in mind that other parents may be more protective of their children's presence in the digital media world. Please do not post pictures of the whole class or other students without express permission from parents to post pictures of other students. We at Algonkian respect parent permissions and adhere to the media release forms. We will not post pictures of students on our website without consent.



Coming up in Computer Lab next week, many classes have the opportunity to participate in an "Hour of Code" during their computer lab time to celebrate Computer Science Education Week, December 8- 14. These students will be introduced to the most basic concepts of "coding" using a website: <http://learn.code.org/hoc/1> . Last year, first graders were successful in an engaging activity that taught them how to move the "angry bird" to catch the "green pig". These concepts are the basis of problem solving skills that are so desperately needed as we engage students today to be 21st century learners and thinkers. "Computer science develops students' computational and critical thinking skills and shows them how to create, not simply use, new technologies. This fundamental knowledge is needed to prepare students for the 21st century, regardless of their ultimate field of study or occupation." ~ Code.org *Make Computer Science in K-12 Count!* 2014 Please encourage your students to continue to explore the fields of computer science and coding. There are many more links and levels for students at this link, <http://code.org/learn> . This website is not the only source for learning the basics of computer programming. Students can look into Scratch - <http://scratch.mit.edu/> , or Happy Nerds - <http://www.happyners.net/> has many links, as well as many more programs available to purchase with connections to robots like Lego Mindstorms or technology that recently hit the market -- <https://www.play-i.com/> . The ability to code or understand the concepts behind coding opens the doors to so many other academic subjects because it teaches students to think and be problem solvers, which we all need in every subject and aspect of our lives.

The link to the flyer for the Hour of Code can be found at the following URL:  
<http://hourofcode.com/resources/hoc-one-pager.pdf>



Follow Algonkian on Twitter @ ALG\_lcps



## **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 November:

### **First Grade: Starry Night Pumpkin Patch**

The artists in first grade read "The Starry Night" by Neil Waldman and learned about the life and art of Vincent van Gogh. The artist learned about the "The Starry Night" painting that van Gogh painted in France and used his style along with oil pastels to draw their own version starry night. They then learned about watercolor resist painting and used this technique to painting pumpkins. Lastly, they learned about collage art and collaged together paper strips for a fence, the watercolor resist pumpkins, and their oil pastel Starry Night drawings to create a Starry Night Pumpkin Patch collage.

### **Second Grade: Polar Bear Collage**

The artists in second grade read "Red Knit Cap Girl to the Rescue" by Naoko Stoop and learned about polar bears and the Arctic Circle. The artists also learned about the aurora borealis and drew a soft pastel drawing of the aurora borealis using analogous colors. They then learned about the art of collage and wrote a letter to the polar bear from the story and collaged into the shape of a polar bear and glued it to their aurora borealis sky.

### **Third Grade: Origami Turkey**

The artists in third grade read "Balloons Over Broadway" by Melissa Sweet and learned about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They also learned about the man that invented the floats and balloons for the parade. They then learned about the ancient art of Origami and folded a neutral color origami turkey body. They also learned about turkeys and their plumage. The student artists then created a symmetrical turkey plumage using patterns. Lastly, they learned about floats and added wheels to their origami turkey to make it a float for their very own Thanksgiving Day parade.

### **Fourth Grade: Yayoi Kusama Pumpkin**

The artists in fourth grade learned about the renowned Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and her love of dots and pumpkins. They painted a complimentary colored watercolor resist painting of a pumpkin with a dotted pattern inspired by Kusama's work. They then learned about collage art and created a patterned background using 2D shapes and then collaged their dotted pumpkin to it creating a Kusama patterned collage.

### **Fifth Grade: Composer Busts**

5<sup>th</sup> grade student artists have been learning a lot about art, history, and music for this masterpiece. For this project the students learned about the history and math of portrait drawing. They put their math skills to test drawing amazing observation self-portraits. They then learned about musical composers throughout history and their personal style. The students then chose one of these composer's styles and used that style to add a musical flair to their self-portraits. Lastly, they learned about Greek and Roman columns and chose a column style to draw as a pedestal for their composer busts.

These artworks will be on display for their musical on December 11, 2014. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Music News

Miss Alicia Smith

[Alicia.smith@lcps.org](mailto:Alicia.smith@lcps.org)



Exciting things are happening here at Algonkian:

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical**

**“Compose Yourself”**

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

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Fifth graders will be presenting, “Compose Yourself” on December 11. After we finish the musical we will wrap up this month with a few holiday-related activities. I will also be holding All County Chorus auditions when the musical is finished.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Fourth grade students have been learning to read the notes on the treble clef. We are learning this important skill in preparation for playing the recorder. Please look for information going home about recorders. We will be starting our recorder unit as soon as we return from break.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Third graders are reviewing “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky. Last year the students were introduced to the story and several of the songs. This year we will focus on more specific details of several of the movements.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Last year, second graders were quickly introduced to “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky. We will be reviewing the story and several key dances. This year we will focus on the four dances of the sweets.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

First graders did a fantastic job with “The First Thanksgiving” last month!! During December, I will be introducing them to “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky. We will focus on the Children’s March and the dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

## December Elementary School Lunch Menu

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

# 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](http://www.toysfortots.org)

Sponsored by the Student Mentors &  
Algonkian Equity Committee

## Algonkian Elementary PE Newsletter

Dear Algonkian Parents,

Greetings again from the PE department. Skills are being fine-tuned and students are taking off with some of the new ideas and games that have been introduced to them. The ABL (Algonkian Basketball League) is rapidly approaching and we are pleased with the progress that has been shown in our basketball skills unit. The teams will soon be formed and the games will be underway after winter break. Thanks for a great month!

### **Grades 1-3:**

- Completed scooter introduction. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength)
- Completed Ball skills (manipulation of ball) rolling, dribbling, passing, catching.

### **Grades 4 and 5:**

- Completed scooter introduction. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength)
- Continued preparation for Algonkian Basketball League.

### **Currently and in the near future:**

#### **Grades 1-3:**

- Currently progressing through ball skills (shooting, passing, movement coordination incorporating ball skills)
- Bean Bag throwing and catching skills unit.
- Bean Bag Carnival( throwing at targets)
- Bowling Skills

#### **Grades 4-5:**

- Basic and fundamental rules of basketball.
- Further preparation for the Algonkian Basketball league.
- Bowling Skills



Happy Holidays!

Joe Terango and Kristen Barker

Physical Education Teachers

## 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.





### Lines from the Library

As we enter into the busy holiday season please take some time to read with your children. Plan one less event and spend that time snuggled up with the kids and read. Time spent with your children will be the memories they cherish as they get older.

If you need a few minutes to yourself download one of these apps, most are free some have a charge, and let your kids play their way to learning. All were selected by the American Library Association of School Librarians as the best apps for teaching and learning 2014.

#### **DragonBox Algebra 5+** by WeWantToKnow AS

Players learn how to solve equations in a playful and colorful game environment where they are encouraged to experiment and be creative.

#### **Kodable Pro** by SurfScore

The fuzzFamily crashed their spaceship on Smeeborg and need your help to explore the planet's Technomazes.

#### **Monster Physics** by Freecloud Design, Inc.

Monster Physics™ is a unique building app that lets you play with physics. Build intricate, working contraptions.

Chrissie Devinney  
Librarian



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

From the Assistant Principal's Desk  
Ms. Karen Shields  
[Karen.shields@lcps.org](mailto:Karen.shields@lcps.org)

During the period from February 2<sup>nd</sup> through February 20<sup>th</sup>, **second grade students** in Loudoun County Public Schools will take the online Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Form 7, Level 8. The CogAT measures general and specific cognitive skills that allow a student to learn new tasks or solve problems in the absence of direct instruction. Students' reasoning abilities are measured by three different batteries, or groups of test items: the Verbal Battery, the Quantitative Battery, and the Non-Verbal Battery. Each battery is comprised of three subtests. Students will complete all nine subtests, three per day, on three consecutive school days. The daily test administration period is untimed, however each day's administration period should not exceed 90 minutes.

Because students cannot prepare for the CogAT, they will have the opportunity to become familiar with test items through practice activities. Students will become familiar with the online testing environment via practice questions administered before the first subtest.

Score reports will be sent home to parents/guardians no later than April 10th.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

## Toys 4 Tots Community Outreach



November 24<sup>th</sup> - December 12<sup>th</sup>

Giving to Toys 4 Tots is a great family conversation starter to encourage empathy for others!

Last Day to contribute Toys is Dec 12<sup>th</sup>

Click [HERE](#) for the Toys 4 Tots Flyer!

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

**School Counseling Groups:** Group information has gone home with all 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 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>



**Susan R. Smith**  
**Parent Liaison**



My first priority for this newsletter is the **Lost & Found**. We have an overabundance of light weight jackets, hoodies, and miscellaneous items in the Lost & Found. I encourage parents and students to please stop by the rack of clothes outside of the Café and collect their items **BEFORE** winter break. I will collect all of the Lost & Found items on the last day of school and will donate to the local charity thrift store. Items that are newly lost will be held for a couple of weeks, but the majority of these items have been lost for months.

Speaking of donating, this is the time of year that families receive many new toys, clothes, hats and gloves. If you have gently used items that no longer serve your needs please consider donating to a local charity. If you feel like donating a **NEW item/toy** please consider participating in our **Marine Corps Toys for Tots** toy donation drive. We have two large boxes in the foyer under the red and white banner. Flyers went home in the back packs last week and we have a link to the flyer on our website.

Algonkian continues to offer our **Resource Assistance Program** for those families that might find themselves in need of information on various county resources and faith based programs that offer clothing and food distribution. If you would like more information on the program and how we can help, please contact me directly at the school. You can call or email me at [Susan.R.Smith@lcps.org](mailto:Susan.R.Smith@lcps.org).

Algonkian's **Equity Committee** will hold an Open Meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:50 p.m. here at the school. If you would like to attend or would like to submit questions or concerns please contact either Theresa Ryan or me.

### **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 December and February 2015. Please watch for dates and times in the Parent Liaison portion of the school newsletter.

# Algonkian Counseling

*Professional School Counselors*

*Help Students Reach Their Potential!*

## Diversity

***Check out our Diversity Shoe Art/Counseling/Library Project!***

***Great job everyone!!***



Students have requested additional diversity shoes to color at home. Please feel free to click [HERE](#) to view printable templates you can use at home!



Next up in guidance lessons - Learning Styles

Check out our Learning styles webpage for more parent information!

Click [HERE](#) to go to our Learning Styles Page

## **Attention! Parents of Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

For your planning purposes, save the following dates from RBMS!



### **Instrument "Test Drive" Nights**

Tuesday, January 13 – Instrument "Test Drive" Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Algonkian Elementary)  
Tuesday, January 20 - Instrument "Test Drive" Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Potowmack Elementary)  
Tuesday, January 27 - Instrument "Test Drive" Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Countryside Elementary)  
Tuesday, February 3 - Instrument "Test Drive" Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Sterling/Horizon + LAST CALL)  
*The "Last Call" date is for anyone who was not able to make their school's date.*

### **Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Nights**

Thursday, February 19 – Parent Information Night for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders 6:00-7:00 p.m. (CES, PES)  
Tuesday, February 24 - Parent Information Night for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders 6:00-7:00 p.m. (HES, SES, AES)  
Wednesday, February 25 - Parent Information Night for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders 6:00-7:00 p.m. (Makeup)

### **Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade School Visits**

Thursday, February 19 - 9:30-11:30 Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit

- Countryside Elementary
- Potowmack Elementary

Tuesday, February 24 – 9:30-11:30 Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit

- Horizon Elementary (half split with Seneca)
- Sterling Elementary (small split w/ SMS)
- Algonkian Elementary

### **Deadline for ALL Schedule Changes**

Thursday, June 25

### **Early Back – RBM 101**

Monday, August 10 – Tuesday, August 11 – Early Back Program (TBD)

Dave Shaffer, Principal  
Eric Fritz, Assistant Principal  
Dave Frenck, Assistant Principal  
Veronica Williams, Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor



(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

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

PBIS – Home Connections!

# Bobcats PuRRRR!

Have you noticed that your child is excited about golden tickets?! Here are some suggestions on how to positively increase good behavior at home!

**#1 – Most Important! Be consistent!** If you say “no” and give a reason, then don’t give in and purchase the item if further begging ensues. This only tells the child that you have a breaking point and to keep trying. If you’ve said “no” and given a reason, then you should not say “no” again nor give another reason. When your child accepts your answer and your reason, make sure to praise them! It is also very important that both parents and all caregivers are consistent.

**#2 - Try this at home!** Give your child \$5 or whatever limit you want to set. Tell your child he or she may ask for something but he or she will have to be able to purchase it with the money that you have set aside for extras. If your child wants a certain cereal, then he or she will have to pay for it. Suddenly, your child will likely become very choosy about what he or she purchases.

**#3 – Want to do more?! Create a budget box.** *Great timing right before the holidays!* Give each child envelopes and label them for things they often like to ask for. Here are a few examples: Pizza, Movies, Videos, Fast Food, and Gas Money)

Each month put in a certain amount of money in each envelope. If children want to order pizza, they have to check the budget box and pay for it from the appropriate envelope. This encouraged children to consider every purchase and weigh the options.

You won’t have to say “no” when asked about purchases. All you have to say is “check your envelope.” Children will quickly realize that decisions regarding the whole month were more important than living for the moment. This also encourages children to think before they act, and great practice for when they became independent young adults. This also makes the concept of money and savings more concrete and understandable! If they want something, your children will learn to save from one month to next to make major purchases.

**#4 - Lots of Positive Praise!** Don’t forget that the key to PBIS is POSITIVES! More attention when children are doing what you want them to do! Less attention when children are not!

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

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

January 6<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:theresa.ryan@lcps.org)

571-434-3242