

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 5

January 2015



EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

January

- 6th PTA meeting
- 13th Chick-fil-a Night
- 13th Riverbend instrument test drive night for 5th graders
- 19th No School
- 26th Teacher Workday
- 30th Movie Night

February

- 3rd PTA Meeting
- 16th No School
- 16th Chuck E Cheese Night
- 24th Parent information night
- 26th Invention Expo 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 wish our entire community a Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays and had a chance to relax and enjoy your family.

The second quarter ends on January 23rd. Reports cards will be sent home on February 4th. Mid-Year assessments in math and reading will take place at the end of January to assess the progress made this year by each of our students.

Students continue to do a fantastic job with getting to school on time. Please make sure you keep up the good routines to ensure students are here on time. There is always the chance of inclement weather in January, so please see our website for procedures when there is a delay.

When dropping off students by car in the mornings you do not need to wait until the crosswalk to let them out. Once you make it around the turn and see the cones, you can let your child out. This helps prevent backups and keeps the line of cars moving.

I would like to introduce Ms. Kaarin Chavez as our new second grade teacher. We are happy to have Ms. Chavez be a part of our Algonkian family and she is excited to be here.

Math facts are an important foundational skill for most topics in math. The school purchased Reflex math and students use it at school to improve their math fact skills. Reflex math is a web based program, so students can access it from home. I suggest students work on it at home once or twice a week. I am going to challenge the students in January to do a certain amount of facts and will give them an incentive to reach their goal. Currently student have answered 1.2 million facts, my goal is to raise that to 1.5 million by the end of January.

Sincerely,
Brian Blubaugh
Principal

Susan R. Smith
Parent Liaison

Happy New Year to all our Bobcat families! I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable Winter Break. Now that we are back in school I must pick up where I left off.....LOST & FOUND! I will be bagging up the Lost & Found a few days after the newsletter is published and will deliver to our local thrift store. I will check tags for names and will attempt to get them back to the owner. All lunch boxes, water bottles, etc. will be thrown out.

I came across an article in the local paper a few weeks ago about a new County program to prevent homelessness. The Homeless Prevention Program is a state-funded assistance program through the Department of Housing and Community Development. The program is run by the Loudoun County Department of Family Services. The program is designed to assist with deposits, rent and utilities to help prevent a person(s) from becoming homeless. There are guidelines to qualify for this Program and residents who want to be screened for assistance should call the Department of Family Services emergency support unit at 703-771-5851. For more information on the Program contact Olethia McBride at 703-771-5987 or olethia.mcbride@loudoun.gov.

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.



Follow Algonkian on Twitter @ ALG_lcps



Algonkian's Creativity Center

Hello and Welcome Back from Ms. Michael!

What a wonderful first half of the year! Student artists have been busy creating their own amazing original masterpieces. Check out your child's artistic accomplishments this fall semester!

Artistic Accomplishments August - December 2014

All Grades: Where's Mr. Blubaugh Installation

First Grade: Cave Animal, Nocturnal Animal Shadow Puppet, Starry Night Pumpkin Patch, Snowflake Photography, and Snowflake Snowman.

Second Grade: Chihuly Macchia, Gothic Mansion, Polar Bear Collage, and Masterpiece Museum.

Third Grade: Food Landscape, Frank Lloyd Wright Stained Glass, Origami Turkey, and Greek Vase.

Fourth Grade: Surrealism Door, Fall Animal Cyanotype, Yayoi Kusama Pumpkin, and Art History Iceberg.

Fifth Grade: 2 Point Perspective Tree House, Diversity Shoe Research and Design, Composer Bust, and completed a formal Art Critique.

Art Exhibits and Masterpieces

Did you know we have already had 4 art exhibits this school year?!

Stay tuned and be on the lookout for more amazing art exhibited throughout the rest of the school year in our school building, and around the county! **Certain art pieces have been kept in the art room for future art shows.

Girl Scout Troop 1485

After Girl Scout Troop #1485 learned the importance of water completing the Wonders of Wonder badge, the troop developed a project for how to save water and advocate for it in their communities.

They chose Algonkian Elementary to put up water awareness signs up around every sink and water fountain in the school. Hoping that when a child or adult think twice for letting the water run and saving it for our future. There are so many way to save water and we thought that this would be a great start to such awareness.

{ Bottled Water vs. Tap Water }

Did You Know?



Music News

Miss Alicia Smith

Alicia.smith@lcps.org



Exciting things are happening here at Algonkian:

3rd grade Musical

“Update Earth”

April 23, 2015 – 1:15pm & 6:30pm

5th Grade

I know it seems like a while ago now, but the fifth graders did a phenomenal job with their musical, “Compose Yourself”, in December. This month we are reviewing the treble clef in preparation for our recorder unit. Please make sure that your child has a recorder. We will be starting the unit at the end of the month. I will inform students of when they need to start bringing their recorder to school.

4th Grade

Fourth grade students are moving into their recorder unit. Please make sure your child has his or her recorder for each music class. Students are unable to fully participate if they do not have a recorder. Failure to bring their recorder to class three or more times will result in a lowered grade. I look forward to beginning this musical endeavor with your child!

3rd Grade

Although it seems far away at this point in the year, third graders are starting to learn the songs for their Earth Day themed musical, “Update Earth”. The musical will take place on April 23, 2015. Since we once again have the threat of some snow this winter, we are beginning to learn the material now. Please be on the lookout for information regarding the musical.

2nd Grade

Second graders are working on playing a bordun and creating a sound story this month. From here, we will transition into beginning a World Music Drumming unit. We will review concepts and techniques learned last year, and will continue to build from there!

1st Grade

First graders are learning about quarter notes and eighth notes this month. They will also learn about call and response form and playing a bordun accompaniment with a song. Towards the end of the month the students will be introduced to World Music Drumming. I will be teaching basic techniques in order to prepare them for putting together a multi-layer instrument ensemble.

January Elementary School Lunch Menu

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



Notes from the Computer Lab
Pauline Burkett
Pauline.Burkett@lcps.org

I am so excited to report that in December, every classroom grades one through five, participated in the “**Hour of Code**” during their computer lab time to celebrate Computer Science Education Week. 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 only one small source for learning the basics of computer programming.

This year one of my personal goals is for Algonkian Elementary to be listed as a **Common Sense Digital Citizenship: Certified School**. This entails that I, Pauline Burkett, as the Technology Resource Teacher will provide professional development and coaching to Algonkian teacher's grades 4 & 5 to promote and implement the common sense media curriculum. I will also promote and share with the community the Digital Literacy & Citizenship Classroom Curriculum. <https://www.common sense media.org/educators/curriculum> and display reminders in our classrooms to help young kids remember to protect private information respect themselves and others, stay safe online, stand up to cyber bullying, and balance the time they spend using media.

Algonkian students continue to have access to some great technology sites this year. If we have a few snow days and stay home, here are a couple of things students can do to keep up their learned skills.

Disclaimer
Student Grade Level Resources
Click on a number to see grade level web links



Welcome to Algonkian's Grade Level Web Links!

This is a collection of web sites for students in elementary school. Each of the links below will take you to a grade level page of web links. I hope they will give you new ideas and exciting ways of using the internet in your classroom and at home.



REFLEX is accessible from Grade Level Weblinks for grades 1- 5. Get those extra REFLEX times in! Remember, you can get to the REFLEX link on any of the grade level web links and use the same username and password that you use in school (lunch number/lunch number). REFLEX - <http://www.reflexmath.com>

I-Ready is the tool students have access to that provides diagnostic data for teachers and leveled instruction for each individual student in Math and Reading, as well as offering teachers the opportunity to assign extra lessons for enrichment in a specific subject or learning strand. <https://cainc.i-ready.com/>

If you come across a broken link on any these pages, please let me know so that I may remove the link or find the correct pathway. Thank you and safe surfing!

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

Chrissie Devinney
Librarian



I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break with their families. I enjoyed my time with my family. But now with the possibility of snowy days I am ready to curl up by the woodstove with some good books. I am eagerly awaiting some of these new releases from the Buzz Feed's list of 25 Ridiculously Wonderful Books to Read with Kids in 2015. I will be adding as many as possible to the Algonkian Library.

1. [*Goodnight Already!*](#) by Jory John, illustrated by Benji Davies
2. [*Please, Mr. Panda*](#) by Steve Antony
3. [*Zombie in Love 2 + 1*](#) by Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by Scott Campbell
4. [*Oliver and Patch*](#) by Claire Freedman, illustrated by Kate Hindley
5. [*The Big Blue Thing on the Hill*](#) by Yuval Zommer
6. [*First Snow*](#) by Peter McCarty
7. [*Last Stop on Market Street*](#) by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson
8. [*Around the Clock*](#) by Roz Chast
9. [*Snoozefest*](#) by Samantha Berger, illustrated by Kristyna Litten
10. [*Sick Simon*](#) by Dan Krall
11. [*A Fine Dessert: Four Centuries, Four Families, One Delicious Treat*](#) by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Sophie Blackall
12. [*The New Small Person*](#) by Lauren Child
13. [*Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt*](#) by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal
14. [*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to School*](#) by Benjamin Chaud and Davide Cali
15. [*Little Big Boubo*](#) by Beatrice Alemagna
16. [*Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower*](#) by Greg Pizzoli
17. [*Where Does Kitty Go in the Rain?*](#) by Harriet Ziefert, illustrated by Brigitte Barrager
18. [*Once Upon a Cloud*](#) by Claire Keane
19. [*The Nosyhood*](#) by Tim Lahan
20. [*Meet the Dullards*](#) by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
21. [*I Don't Like Koala*](#) by Sean Ferrell, illustrated by Charles Santoso
22. [*Pool*](#) by Lee Jihyeon
23. [*This Is Sadie*](#) by Sara O'Leary, illustrated by Julie Morstad
24. [*Where Are My Books?*](#) by Debbie Ridpath Ohi
25. [*Polar Bear's Underwear*](#) by Tupera Tupera

From the Assistant Principal's Desk
Ms. Karen Shields
Karen.shields@lcps.org



Save the Dates!

It's that time of year again! As the students prepare in their classrooms, we also need your help at home. Many of our standardized tests begin in the next few months and we wanted to give you dates in advance to add to your calendars☺ Please be sure your students are in school on testing days and ensure they get plenty of rest the night before the tests.

2nd Grade – CogAT

Our second grade students will be participating in the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) assessment. The CogAT measures general and specific cognitive skills that allow a student to learn new tasks or solve problems. This year, students will be completing the CogAT assessment online. Students will have practice with online questions and tools prior to the testing days. The students will complete a practice test from February 3rd-February 5th. On February 9th – February 11th, students will complete the CogAT assessment.

Special Education Parent Coffee

All special education parents are invited to join us on **Jan. 20th @ 6:30pm** in the library for our parent coffee. This month we have invited representatives from River Bend Middle School and Potomac Falls High School to provide information and answer questions regarding transition from each level.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 571-434-3240



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



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 6th Grade Parent Nights

Thursday, February 19 – Parent Information Night for Rising 6th Graders 6:00-7:00 p.m. (CES, PES)

Tuesday, February 24 - Parent Information Night for Rising 6th Graders 6:00-7:00 p.m. (HES, SES, AES)

Wednesday, February 25 - Parent Information Night for Rising 6th Graders 6:00-7:00 p.m. (Makeup)

Rising 6th Grade School Visits

Thursday, February 19 - 9:30-11:30 Rising 6th Grade Visit

- Countryside Elementary
- Potowmack Elementary

Tuesday, February 24 – 9:30-11:30 Rising 6th 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 French, Assistant Principal

Veronica Williams, Rising 6th 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 PuRRR!

(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

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

Why is it so important to focus on teaching positive social behaviors?

Answer: Focusing on being proactive and positive works best!

In the past, school-wide discipline has focused mainly on reacting to specific student misbehavior. Research has shown that modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior are important steps of a student's educational experience. Proactively teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more effective approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

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

Feb 3rd
March 3rd
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
571-434-3242

Community Outreach



THANK YOU ALGONKIAN FAMILY!!



Our Toys 4 Tots Community Outreach was an amazing success!

Thank you to all families that participating in providing so many new toys to children in need here in Loudoun County!

It's TIME... FOR.... Our... Souperbowl XIV Food Drive!!!!

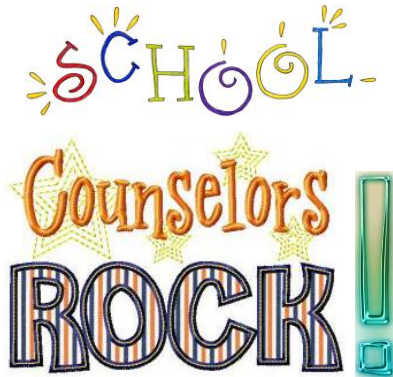
January 19th – January 30th

Are You Ready For Some Football??



Sponsored by our Algonkian Mentors! Get ready for our annual food drive to replenish needed food supplies at Link, our local food bank. Click [HERE](#) to view our Souperbowl XIV Flyer

Algonkian Counseling
Professional School Counselors
Help Students Reach Their Potential!



National School Counseling Week is February 2nd - 6th!

So what does an elementary school counselor do exactly?

<http://www.lcps.org/page/40404>

School Counseling Master Schedule for 2014/2015 School Year

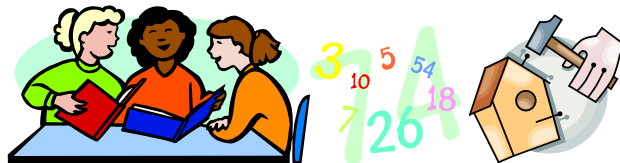
<http://www.lcps.org/Page/75634>

Ms. Ryan is HOPING to celebrate this year with recognition as an ASCA Model Program (RAMP)! She will be shouting it from the rooftops! ☺

Interested in learning more about RAMP? Visit the following link:

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

Learning Styles - Parent Homework! ☺



Your child will bring home their learning styles packet this month!

Parent Homework - Please read the information in the packet on ways to help your child learn and practice study skills using their preferred learning styles! Make sure to also check out our Learning Styles webpage for more parent information!

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

Algonkian Elementary PE Newsletter

Dear Algonkian Parents,

Happy New Year from the PE department! We sent 2014 out with a blast and left our students here at Algonkian and are excited about what is on deck in 2014.



Grades 1-3:

- Started bowling unit (Grip, stepping with opposition, and striking a stationary object)
- Incorporated Ball units (Shooting, Passing, and Dribbling)

Grades 4 and 5:

- Completed basketball prep unit for Algonkian Basketball League
- Organized teams for the ABL
- Covered basic and fundamental rules of basketball
- Started bowling unit

Currently and in the near future:

Grades 1-3:

- Continue bowling from 1 to 3 pins followed by 10 pin bowling.

Grades 4-5:

- Continue bowling from 3 pins to 10 pins and how to keep score.

FYI... Field Day Date has been set for Tuesday June, 9th 2015.

Happy New Year!

Joe Terango and Kristen Barker

Physical Education Teachers

