

ALGONKIAN ELEMENTARY

20196 Carter Court ▪ Sterling, Virginia 20165 ▪ Telephone 571.434.3240 ▪

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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 6

February 2015



EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

February

- 3rd PTA Meeting
- 16th No School
- 16th Chuck E Cheese Night
- 24th Parent information night 5th graders-Riverbend
- 26th Invention Expo Night

March

- 3rd PTA meeting
- 6th International night
- 6th 3rd grade STEM labs
- 10th Spring Picture Day
- 13th 1st grade STEM lab
- 17th National Tornado Drill
- 18th Assembly Author Henry Cole
- 20th 4th grade STEM lab
- 24th Reading under the Stars

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 we are over half way through the year. The students and staff continue to work hard to ensure a successful year.

Recently we have had many calls late in the day for student transportation changes. We realize that sometimes this is unavoidable and changes need to be made by parents at the last minute. Please do your best to give the office and staff members plenty of time to inform the student of the change. There is a lot going on in the office at the end of the day and sometimes we have multiple last minute changes as the bell rings which makes it difficult to inform the teacher and student of the change.

The staff and I would like to thank the PTA for funding chromebooks for our teachers. This will be very helpful to the teachers to perform the many tasks that are required by them.

On February 26th we will have our first invention expo. The inventions will be on display in the gymnasium during the day and night. We will also have various STEM activities set up around the school for families and students to enjoy. Please take time to visit the invention expo so you can see some creative inventions to some authentic problems. One invention will let parents know when their child has brushed their teeth!

Lastly, 5th grade Riverbend parent information night is February 24th. It is important that parents attend this meeting to learn more about Riverbend and 6th grade.

Sincerely,
Brian Blubaugh
Principal



CLASSIFIED



Extreme Journey Summer Camp 2015

Your Mission: This summer, become a spy in the "Journey Intelligence Agency" to reveal the mysteries of history! You will assume the identities of those who lived here before us, face the same problems they faced, and then decide: **What Would I Have DONE?**

This two-week day camp offers a unique chance to:

- Canoe the Potomac River
- Cycle Gettysburg National Military Park
- Hike Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Explore Thomas Jefferson's Monticello Estate
- Bike Down the C&O Canal Towpath
- Discover Local History with Specialized Tours and Role-Playing Activities at The Marshall House, Morven Park, and Oatlands House & Gardens
- March Across Antietam National Battlefield
- Tube Antietam Creek
- Develop Teambuilding Skills on the Zipline and Challenge Course at Camp Highroad
- Use iPad Minis and iMovie Software to Create a Film about the Meaning of Leadership

All under the guidance of expert interpreters who will lead hands-on cultural, recreational, and creative activities.

Now in its 9th year, this program is offered by **The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership**, a non-profit organization dedicated to civically engaging students of every age in our shared heritage, in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools.

To find out more details about the camp, to **register online**, to view a video about this program, or to see examples of the work of previous secret agents, visit us at:

<http://www.hallowedground.org/Education/Extreme-Journey-Camps>.



Adventure Open To: Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students

Session 1: July 6 through July 17
(Monday-Friday)
Smart's Mill Middle School
850 North King Street Leesburg, VA 20176

Session 2: July 13 through July 24
(Monday-Friday)
Harper Park Middle School
701 Potomac Station Drive Leesburg, VA 20176

Session 3: July 20 through July 31
(Monday-Friday)
Smart's Mill Middle School
850 North King Street Leesburg, VA 20176

Cost: \$750 (through March 15),
\$800 (beginning March 16)
(Limited Scholarships Available)

This price partially covers charges for bus transportation, park admission, guided tours, bike and canoe rentals, snacks, and use of cutting-edge filmmaking equipment. The remaining costs are underwritten by The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

For additional information regarding camp registration contact: Blaine@ithg.org or call (540) 882-4929



LCPS Gifted Information Sessions

Join us to learn about gifted education services available through Loudoun County Public Schools and the eligibility process for these programs.

*The same information will be presented at each of the meetings, so it is not necessary to attend more than one.

*This information was also shared during our Fall 2014 sessions. It is not necessary to attend if you attended a presentation in the fall.

*The presentation slideshow may be viewed on the LCPS Gifted webpage.

CREIGHTON'S CORNER ES
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

MORNING SESSION
MOOREFIELD STATION ES CAFETERIA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
8:30-9:30 AM
(DOORS OPEN AT 8:15 AM --PLEASE BRING PHOTO ID & CHECK IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE)

HARMONY MS AUDITORIUM
MONDAY, FEBURARY 23RD
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

COUNTRYSIDE ES MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

If due to a disability, you require assistance to meaningfully participate in this program, please contact the principal of the school five working days prior to the event.

Susan R. Smith
Parent Liaison

This weather has been crazy and now it seems like the cold is here to stay for a while. If your child needs a winter coat but your budget says “no”, please contact me. I have access to new winter coats of all sizes, including adults. All communication with me is strictly confidential.

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center – The Center is a no-cost, one-stop resource for job skills assessments, counseling, interview and resume preparation and job search assistance. For more information visit their website at Loudoun.gov/wrc or call their office at 703-777-0150. The Center is located on Heritage Way in Leesburg.

Mobile Hope Needs Donations – Mobile Hope serves over 500 at risk children 21 years and younger each year. They are in need of donations, especially after the Holidays. Their current needs: winter gear (hats, gloves, scarves, coats, blankets), infant diapers, new socks and underwear and non-perishable foods. Donations are accepted at the Mobile Hope Center M-F 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For questions, volunteer opportunities and to make a donation, please call 703-771-1400.

Free Tax Services for Eligible Families – Families earning less than \$54,000 are eligible for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. VITA is available from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursday and 10 to noon on Saturday at the Loudoun Workforce Center in Leesburg. No appointment necessary. To learn more about qualifying and what to bring with you please contact Loudoun County Family Services at 703-777-0353.

Algonkian Equity Committee will be holding an Open Committee meeting on February 26th. If you would like to attend or have questions or comments please contact either Ms. Ryan, School Counselor, 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'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 January:

First Grade: Snowflake Snowman

The artists in first grade read "Snow" by Uri Shulevitz and learned about how snow can be used to create art. Student artists painted an analogous watercolor salt resist sky painting and collaged it together with 3 paper snowflakes that they cut to create a snowflake snowman. Students artists then dressed the snowflake snowman up in a scarf, hat, and other accessories.

Second Grade: Masterpiece Museum

The artists in second grade read "The Museum" by Susan Verde and learned about the creation and history of museums. Student artists created 3 masterpieces: 3D Form drawing, Jackson Pollock Action Painting, and a original drawing. Student artists also created a tiled floor and museum pose photograph that they collaged together with the masterpieces to make their own art museum.

Coming Soon: These masterpieces will be exhibited in the front foyer in February.

Third Grade: Greek Vase

The artists in third grade learn about art in Ancient Greece. Student artists studied Greek pottery and how they were used to tell stories. Student artists then sketched out a personal story, created a Greek vase out of clay, painted their pottery in colors of Ancient Greece and applied their personal story to their vase.

Fourth Grade: Value Scale Iceberg

The artists in fourth grade learned about the history and science of icebergs. Student artists drew an original iceberg and painted it using a monochromatic value scale. The students created their own monochromatic value scale by mixing paints to make tints, hue, and shades.

Fifth Grade: Art Critique

5th grade student artists studied the formal process of art criticism and its four stages. Student artists learned that a true critique is a process of understanding an artwork then judging it on its aesthetic properites. The four stages used for an art critique are: definition, analysis, interpretation, and judegment. This process was then used to critique famous works of art from different art movements.

ART NEWS

BOTTLE CAPS AND LIDS!!!! The Art Room is need of a LOT of bottle caps in a variety of sizes and colors. These bottle caps and lids will be used for several recycled materials art projects. Just drop your collection off at the art room!!!

Next Month is Youth Arts Month- Ms. Michael and Ms. Smith have created a special Art and Music Activity Calendar for this month. So, get ready to enjoy a month of family fun with Art and Music!

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

Students have been reviewing the notes on the treble clef in preparation for playing the recorder. First we will review the notes B, A, and G that the students learned in 4th grade and then we will progress from there. 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.

4th Grade

Fourth grade students have been working hard on learning to play the recorder. Packets for “Recorder Karate” will soon be going home with the students. Please ask your child all about this exciting program! Also, just another reminder that if your child does not bring his or her recorder to class three or more times it will result in a lowered grade.

3rd Grade

Students have learned several songs from their upcoming musical, “Update Earth”. The musical will take place on April 23, 2015. Permission slips/t-shirt orders must be turned in ASAP. Along with the musical, I will be asking a few parents to help me organize a few small recycling projects to help the students understand the importance of protecting our environment. In the near future, please look for information regarding these projects.

2nd Grade

We have extended our unit using Orff instruments a little further than anticipated due to snow days. Second graders will continue working on mallet technique along with melodic direction for the next week or two. From there we still plan on starting our World Music Drumming unit.

1st Grade

The first graders are continuing to work with Orff instruments, as we have extended the unit due to snow days. Students will continue practicing basic mallet technique and exploring high and low notes. At the culmination of these activities, I will be introducing the students to World Music Drumming.

February Elementary School Lunch Menu

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



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

Snow days can be wonderful. Playing outside and enjoying the winter weather. When it is time to come in and warm up many kids want to go on the computer and maybe play games. Don't forget that Algonkian's grade level web links <http://www.lcps.org/Page/74962> has some great age appropriate and safe sites that are educational too. There are also links to our subscription programs like *REFLEX*, *I-Ready* and for our K & 1 grade friends – *Reading Eggs*. If you are looking for educational videos students can access Safari Montage from home using the Library Media resources link. Please be an advocate for your kids and watch what they are accessing on the internet. We teach computer safety and digital literacy and digital citizenship here at Algonkian, but you can be an active part of this as well. Common Sense Media has a great resource for parents who want answers or ideas on how to talk to your kids about on-line safety.

<https://www.common sense media.org/parent-concerns>

From cyber bullying and photo sharing to digital footprints and online safety, the Connecting Families program helps parents and kids address important topics and have meaningful conversations about making great choices in their digital lives. So go have fun, but remember to be safe both inside and outside!

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.

ALL DIGITAL CITIZENS

PROTECT • PRIVATE INFORMATION

for themselves
and others.

RESPECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS

in online communities.

STAY SAFE • ONLINE

by listening to
their gut feelings.

STAND UP TO • CYBERBULLYING

when they
see it happening.

BALANCE THE TIME

they spend using
media and doing
other activities.

For information and resources about digital citizenship,
visit www.commonsense.org/educators.

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commonsense[®]
media

Lines from the Library

Chrissie Devinney
Librarian



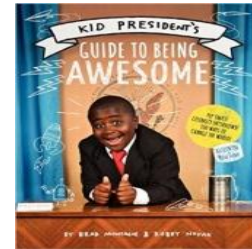
Lines from the Library February 2015

KID PRESIDENT will be speaking at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in Washington DC this Saturday! Feb. 7 at 2pm.

He will be speaking about his new book and will autograph books for those who purchase one. A limited number of books will be available for sale on Saturday, or you can preorder the book when you make your ticket reservation. The event is FREE but you must preregister for a ticket!

I will be there – hope to see you!

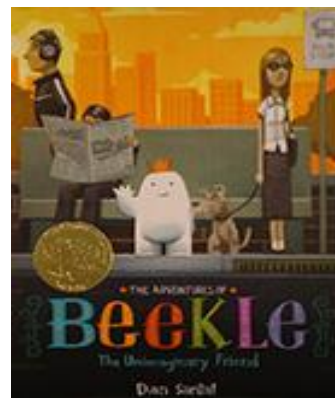
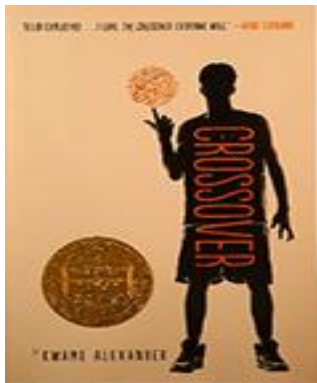
For more information and to RSVP visit <http://dclibrary.org/kidpresident>



The American Library Association announced the Newbery and Caldecott winners this week, along with a host of other great awards.

The Newbery Award is given for the best children's literature, and this year the winner is ***The Crossover***, written by Kwame Alexander and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

The Caldecott medal is given for the best illustrations in a children's book. This year's winner is ***The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend***, illustrated and written by Dan Santat and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.



Follow Algonkian on Twitter @ ALG_lcps

twitter



Bobcats 2015 Yearbooks on sale now!



Purchase your Algonkian Yearbook Online!

Online only! Early Bird Sale

Price: \$14.00

Early bird deadline: April 6

It's Easy, fast and safe! Go to: ybpay.lifetouch.com

Enter school code: 1744015

Follow prompts and pay with your credit card

Online ordering Questions? YBPay Customer Care 800-453-9764

Please note: Flyers will be sent home in April for students who wish to pay with check or cash. (Price will be \$15.00). Order online now and save!

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

Algonkian Counseling



Professional School Counselors Help Students Reach Their Potential!

National School Counseling Week February 2nd – 6th!

Thank you as always for being such a wonderful family here at Algonkian, and for such wonderful support of myself, our counseling program, students, staff, school, and community! I feel truly blessed to have been a part of this wonderful community for the past 18 years and am looking forward to continuing for many years to come. Ms. Ryan ☺



Algonkian School Counseling Advisory Council

Next meeting is on March 26th at 3:00 p.m. in Ms. Ryan's classroom

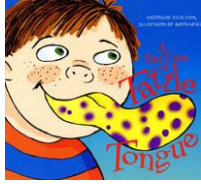
The advisory council is composed of school and community members and is tasked with making recommendations regarding student and community needs and advising the school counseling staff as it strives to meet these needs.

Please email Ms. Ryan at Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org if you are interested in joining this committee!



In 2nd - 5th grade classroom lessons we are studying Memory & Mnemonics!

Has your child starting talking to you about Memory and Mnemonics?! Students are being introduced to and practicing mnemonics & visual memory study skills. Ask your child what they have learned about mnemonics, short term memory, long term memory, neurons, and even neural connections.



Kindergarten & 1st grade classroom lessons

We read "A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue", and students learned and practiced knowing the difference between tattling and telling/reporting. Students learned the tattle rules, and when you need to tell an adult about a problem.

The Tattle Rules:

Rule 1— Be a Danger Ranger (If a person or animal is in danger, you must warn someone.)

Rule 2— Be a Problem Solver (Try to solve it small problems yourself first.)

Rule 3— Now or Later? (Can your problem be solved at a later time?)

Rule 4— M.Y.O.B. (Mind Your Own Beeswax)

Be sure to ask your child how not to get tattle tongue!

Community Outreach



SOUPER BOWL XIV A FABULOUS SUCCESS!

Thanks to all students, families, and staff that participated in this Character building event!! Well done everyone!!

Congratulations to:

Ms. Mills 5th Grade Class
(class winner from 3rd - 5th Grades)

Ms. Jones 1st Grade Class
(class winner from K - 2nd Grades)

Honorable mention to:

Ms. Zisk's & Ms. Scott's classes
Ms. Kaushik/Gettler's & Ms. Linehan's classes



(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**



February cafeteria reward – FINE DINING! By student request!

Parents, would you like to be a part of our cafeteria PBIS rewards?!

Visit our new sign up genius page to volunteer!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4caaaa23a46-february>

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

March 3rd
April 14th

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

Attention! Parents of Rising 6th Grade Students

Important RBMS Dates are coming up quick!!!!



Course Selection Forms will come home February 13th and are due no later than February 20th to your child's teacher.



****New - This year no choice of regular or honors level courses is necessary. All academic classes at RBMS will now incorporate honors level material. Your child's math selection will be made this spring based on testing information available at that time.**

****Note – The course selection form is only used to make your child's music elective choice. Please complete your child's music selection and return to your child teacher no later than February 20th!**
*Attendance at an Instrument Test Drive is required for Band and Strings classes. If your child wishes to choose either of these electives **and has not** attended an Instrument Test Drive Night, please contact the RBMS music department at (571)434-3220.*

Students will be visiting River Bend Middle School on February 24th. Field trip forms will come home by February 13th.

Parent Information night at RBMS is also on February 24th!

Would you like more information about transitioning your child to middle school? Visit our Algonkian's School Counseling page under Middle School at:
<http://lcps.org/Page/103895>

Algonkian Elementary PE Newsletter

Dear Algonkian Parents,

Greetings from the PE department once again. The year seems to be flying by and we are getting a lot of things going in our physical education classes. The Algonkian Basketball League has been a big success so far and all teams are improving with every game.

Here are some of the activities from this past month.

Grades 1-3:

- Finished bowling unit
- Started scooter unit (1 and 2,3)

Grades 4 and 5:

- Finished bowling unit
- Started ABL games
- Started volleyball unit



Currently and in the near future:

Grades 1-3:

- Complete long jump rope unit
- Begin parachute activities
- Start scoops unit (throwing and catching mobile objects with implements)

Grades 4-5:

- Complete long jump rope unit
- Finish ABL
- Finish Volleyball unit

Have great month!

Joe Terango and Kristen Barker
Physical Education Teachers