

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 8

April 2015



EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

April

- 10th Bingo Night
- 14th PTA meeting
- 21st Muffins with Mom
- 24th SOL Jeopardy Day
- 28th Sweet Frog Night

May

- 1st Bobcat Talent Show
- 4th Staff Appreciation Week
- 5th PTA Meeting
- 12th Chick Fil A 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 hope all of you had an enjoyable and restful spring break. It is hard to believe that we are in the 4th quarter and in the final stretch run of the year.

SOL testing begins the week of May 11th. Students and teachers continue to work hard for each exam. Parents can use the VDOE website as a resource to view past tests and practice tests for this year. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml> Ms. Burkett also outlines many available resources below in her section of the newsletter.

Students continue to display positive behavior throughout the day in all areas. In March students earned 1,000 tickets and were awarded with a PBIS minute to win it assembly. Please support our character traits of respect, responsibility, and relationships at home. This month in the cafeteria students will be rewarded for positive behavior with a Bingo game during lunch on May 1st. May 1st will also be a spirit day, as it will be Algonkian's number day. We want students to wear something with a number on it. Shirts, hats, shoes, or sweats. If they do not own anything with a number on it, they can always tape a number onto a shirt.

Parents should participate and encourage their child to read every night. Book choice is important for students to find just right books that match their ability and interest level. Read with your child and have simple conversations about the books they are reading. Find out what they like about the book or the best part of the book they are reading. Spring schedules get busy, but we must provide quiet time for our children to read.

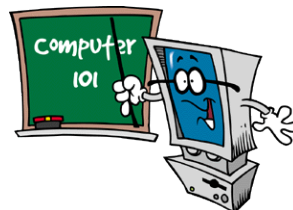
Sincerely,
Brian Blubaugh
Principal

Technology Update- Pauline Burkett TRT



It is never too early to start preparing for the upcoming SOL tests. We have many programs and web links that students can practice and review at home. We have:

Algonkian's Grade level web links –
<http://www.lcps.org/Page/74962>



Rockingham County –
<http://blogs.rockingham.k12.va.us/jfhms/sol-resources/>

...which has a nice collection for students to browse as well.

5th grade SOL - <http://blogs.rockingham.k12.va.us/rbes/sol-parent-resources/5th-grade-sol-resources/>

4th grade SOL - <http://blogs.rockingham.k12.va.us/rbes/sol-parent-resources/4th-grade-sol-resources/>

But the best place to look is Virginia's Department of Education site:
VDOE – <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/>

Here you can find practice tests and videos explaining the Technology Enhanced Items (TEIs) and many more useful resources.

Study hard and good luck!

5TH GRADERS – I REALLY WANT THOSE PICTURES!!

CALLING all 5th grade photos!!!! Please send in ONE image of your fifth grader **from an earlier grade level**. If you have a few group photos from previous years from special Algonkian events, I would appreciate them as well. Please send images via email to me at:
pauline.burkett@lcps.org.

Bonus idea – We have had so many snow days – if you took pictures of things you did during those SNOW days –please share them with me. I have another idea for the 5th grade side show.



Follow Algonkian on Twitter @ ALG_lcp:





Are you ready?

SOL testing begins May 12th

All of our SOL testing will begin the morning of May 12th. Please be sure to have your child in school on these days (unless they are truly ill!). If your child is tardy on the day of a test he/she will not be allowed to enter the classroom until all testing is completed and will take a make-up exam on another day. We will only be having one morning session for each test. We are lucky to have an extra computer lab that allows all of our students to test at the same time.

The teachers and students have worked hard to prepare for the tests. Please help us prepare your child on the day they will be testing by ensuring they have:

- A good night's sleep
- A good breakfast
- A positive attitude

3RD GRADE - STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOLS)

3rd Grade Reading – May 12th and May 13th

3rd Grade Math – May 27th and May 28th

Both tests have two portions. The students will be completing one portion each day.

4th Grade –Standards of Learning (SOLs)

4th Grade Reading – May 14th

4th Grade Math – May 18th and May 19th

Math has two sections. One will be completed each day.

4th Grade Virginia History – June 2nd

5th Grade – Standards of Learning (SOL)

5th Grade Reading – May 15th

5th Grade Math – May 20th and 21st

Math has two sections. One will be completed each day.

5th Grade Science – June 3rd

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

Karen Shields
Assistant Principal

Algonkian Elementary SOL Test Schedule May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 3rd Grade Reading I	13 3rd Grade Reading II	14 4th Grade Reading	15 5th Grade Reading	16
17	18 4th Grade Math I	19 4th Grade Math II	20 5th Grade Math I	21 5th Grade Math II	22 Make-Ups	23
24	25 NO SCHOOL	26 Make-Ups	27 3rd Grade Math I	28 3rd Grade Math II	29 Make-Ups	30
31						

Algonkian Elementary SOL Test Schedule June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 4th Grade VA History	3 5th Grade Science	4 Make-Ups	5 Make-Ups	6

Algonkian Counseling

Professional School Counselors Help Students Reach Their Potential!



Algonkian School Counseling Advisory Council

***** Meeting May 27th 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!



Counseling Lessons - Career Exploration

ASCA Standards: AA1.1,2,3,5 AA3.2, 3, 4,5 AB1.1,2,6,7 AB2.1,6 AC1.4,1.5 C:A1.3, C:B1.2, C:C1.3, C:C2.1

The career domain at the elementary level emphasizes self-discovery and awareness of the world of work. Students are encouraged to consider their own likes, strengths and attitudes and the extent to which those will influence career choices. An exposure to the vast array of career opportunities is also essential when considering one's future choices.

Students learned about the interests, abilities and tools needed to succeed in several career fields. Children were encouraged to begin thinking about what careers interest them.

Home extension: Visit the VA VIEW career site with your child! There are many additional activities you and your child can experience together!

<http://www.vaview.vt.edu/k5/>



Algonkian Elementary



Bobcats PuRRRR!

(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

Algonkian's PBIS framework is based on The 3 R's

Respect

Responsibility

Relationships

Want to encourage your child in a positive way to use good manners at home? Try creating a comic that shows their favorite superhero showing good manners!

Go to: http://marvel.com/games/play/34/create_your_own_comic



April cafeteria reward – BINGO on Friday May 1st!

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

Visit our April sign up genius page to volunteer!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0F4CAAAA23A46-cafeteria1/



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



2014-2015 CHESS CLUB

Chess Club Meetings

April 14th

May 5th - **LAST club of the year!**

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

Susan R. Smith
Parent Liaison

I hope that everyone had a nice relaxing Spring Break. I have just a few reminders this month. Please stop by the table in the school foyer where we have all the latest and greatest opportunities for summer camps and Spring sports. Also, be sure to look through the vertical rack that has PTA, Parent Liaison and School information.

MSAAC (The Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee) of Loudoun County Public Schools is holding their **3rd Annual Academic Fair** on April 18th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tuscarora High school in Leesburg. Keynote speaker is Christine Mallinson, Ph.D. and she will speak on “We Do Language: Valuing Student Voices”. The Fair and presentation is for all grade levels and there will be breakout sessions appropriate for different age groups.

Volunteer and Donation Opportunities

I came across a list of volunteer opportunities here in Loudoun County. I have made several copies and they are on the table in foyer.

The Loudoun Petpantry accepts donations of dog and cat food. It’s their mission to help keep pets in loving homes by providing pet food supplies for families in need. For more information go to www.loudoun.gov/petpantry.

Having trouble locating resources here in Loudoun County that can support your needs? Please contact me either by calling the office or emailing me at susan.r.smith@lcps.org.

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.



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 March:

First Grade: Kinetic Calder

The artists in first grade read "Sandy's Circus" by Tanya Lee Stone and learned about the artist Alexander Calder. The also learned about primary and secondary colors. Students then used primary or secondary colors to create a kinetic sculpture inspired by Calder's mobiles.

Second Grade: Chinese Fan

The artists in second grade read "Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas" by Natasha Yim and Grace Zong. The students learned about the Chinese culture and history. In conjunction with the artists learned about symbolism and its part of visual culture. Students then used the animal symbols from the Chinese Zodiac to create a unique design for their Chinese paper fans.

Third Grade: Tree Ring Book

The artists in third grade read "I Can Name 50 Trees Today" by Bonnie Worth and learned about the life and anatomy of trees. They learned about symbols and sketched out symbols that represent major events in their lives so far. Students then created a tree ring book and used their sketches to illustrate the pages of their own personal tree ring book.

Fourth Grade: Da Vinci Flying Machine

The artists in fourth grade learned read "Leonardo and the Flying Boy" by Laurence Anholt and learned about the master artist Leonardo da Vinci. They learned about his many inventions and used his ideas as inspiration for their own flying machine designs. Students then created a 3D model of the sketch out of paper and foil.

Fifth Grade: Prismatic Tree Ring Weaving

5th grade student artists read "I Can Name 50 Trees Today" by Bonnie Worth and learned about Mark Dion and the life of trees. They learned about color symbolism and created a plan for a radial weaving where the rings are color coordinated to information about their lives. Students then created a tree bark loom and completed a radial weaving according to their color coordinated plan.

ART NEWS

I wanted to THANK the Algonkian Elementary community for its support of Youth Art and Music Month. It was a great success and I loved hearing the students share their Art and Music experiences.

Also, Miss Smith and I have collaborated with the artists in third grade to present you with an Earth Day Musical and Recycled Art Show on Thursday April 23, 2015 at 6:30pm.

Please Come and Join us for a night of Art and Music that is sure to inspire!

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

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the March
Music in Our Schools Month activities!!**

5th Grade

Students have been working on new recorder material including the notes E and D. 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. Towards the end of the month we will be starting to learn songs for the DARE graduation and 5th Grade Promotion ceremonies.

4th Grade

Fourth graders have been working hard on their recorder karate songs. We will continue the recorder unit through the end of the month. 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 been diligently working on the songs and movements for their upcoming musical, “Update Earth”. The musical will take place on April 23, 2015. Please encourage your child to practice at home to ensure their successful performance during the show. Song lyrics can be found on the Algonkian music website.

2nd Grade

Second graders have been working hard reviewing and refining drumming techniques learned last year in music. The students are working on learning a new ensemble with several instrument parts. From here, we will be working on movement activities to help us explore the form of a few classical pieces.

1st Grade

First graders learned how to play high tones and low tones on the tubanos. We are starting to learn a simple 3-layer ensemble to put together with a story performance. At the end of our drumming unit, we will be experiencing and talking about the form and instrumentation of some classical music.



Lines from the Library April 2015
Ms. Devinney

When I returned to school after Spring break today I found a lovely thank you note from Henry Cole in my mail box, he said “Thank you for the perfect day – the kids were fantastic – teachers too! Well planned, organized ... Stress-less!”

Thank you to the students for being their usual wonderful polite selves! And an extra loud thank you to Mrs. Reardon and the PTA for organizing this event.

Book Fair is coming up quickly – I need volunteers to help during the school day Monday through Friday April 20th to 24th.

I will also need help during Muffins with Mom on April 21st at 7:00 AM and during our Family Night from 3:00 to 6:15 PM on Thursday April 23rd.

Be looking for an email from Mrs. Dyson for more details.

April Elementary School Lunch Menu

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

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.

SEARCH NEWSLETTER, APRIL

CREATIVITY IN SEARCH

Although we as a society value the products of creative people, we often don't know how to recognize it or encourage that creativity in children. In the LCPS SEARCH program, teachers use Thinking Keys to guide students in using different kinds of thinking for different SEARCH lessons. Those keys, Perceiving, Connecting, Reasoning, Evaluating, and Creating, align with Bloom's Revised Taxonomy: Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating, and Creating. Because we all recognize that different tasks require different levels and types of thinking, we want to give students the opportunity to explore many avenues for successful problem solving in the classroom.

In SEARCH, we emphasize that creativity is a series of steps that can be practiced and, with perseverance, can be increased. Many lessons ask students not only to create, but then to go back and find ways to enhance and elaborate on their work. As they continue to work on projects, their confidence in their ability to "be creative" increases.

"Traditionally, creativity has been viewed as an easy process, something that people with certain traits were able to do while others without those traits could not. As our views of creativity have become more informed, we have come to appreciate the role of hard work and revision in the process." Joyce VanTassel-Baska, Ed.D., College of William and Mary, 2004

Paul Torrance, the "Father of Creativity" identified four elements to creativity which he believed could be used to identify both creative thinkers and creative products: Fluency (the number of ideas generated), Flexibility (variety of ideas), Originality (uniqueness of ideas), and Elaboration (details of ideas). Both in school and at home, children can be encouraged to look at tasks from different perspectives, to continue to work on improving an idea, and to add details and elaboration.

For further reading:

http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping_the_gifted/2011/07/creative_thinking.html?qs=gifted+is+not

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 Elementary PE Newsletter



Dear Algonkian Parents,

Spring is finally here and with the coming of a new season we look forward to another month of PE at Algonkian. Again, with spring arriving Fitness Gram Physical Fitness Test's will be coming up soon. Good luck to the 4th and 5th graders on setting and achieving their fitness goals.

Grades 1-3:

- Long jump rope activities
- Completed throwing with opposition
- Started Spring Games unit

Grades 4 and 5:

- Started Spring Games unit
- Completed fleeing and dodging games unit
- Finished striking mobile targets
- Completed Beach Volleyball unit.

Currently and in the near future:

Grades 1-3:

- Throwing and catching with implements (scoops)
- Throwing with opposition at mobile targets
- Complete Spring games unit (dodging and fleeing)

Grades 4-5:

- Preparing for Fitness Gram Physical Fitness tests
- Fitness Gram Physical Fitness Testing
- Tandem Jump Rope
- Field Day Prep

Have a great month,

Joe Terango and Kristen Barker