

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 9

May 2015



EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

May

- 1st Bobcat Talent Show
- 4th Staff Appreciation Week
- 5th PTA Meeting
- 12th Chick Fil A night
- 20th 2nd grade Field trip

June

- 4th Visit from the Public Library
- 9th Field Day
- 15th 5th grade Promotion 6:30
- 16th Last day of school

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 we have less than 30 days of school left in the year. I want to thank the entire community for helping create an amazing first year for me. I truly feel that we are all pieces to the puzzle that makes Algonkian successful, one piece is not more important than the other, and when all pieces come together, we make a beautiful picture.

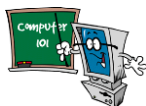
SOL testing starts next week. Please make sure your child gets their rest before the tests and eats a good breakfast the day of the test. This year for the first time students taking the SOL can retake a test if they fail. Students scoring a 375 to 399 will be eligible to retake an SOL test. Administration will contact the parents if the score falls in that range. We will discuss whether we recommend it or not. Then it is up to the parents to sign off on permission for their child to retake the test. There will be a connected message going out to all third through fifth grade families in the county at some point this week.

Thanks for your feedback on our parent surveys. We are always looking for ways to improve at Algonkian. The majority of families 90% or higher feel that Algonkian is a safe environment with caring staff members. Also 90% or higher of the families feel that their child is receiving a quality education at Algonkian. Our lowest percentages at 70%, were teachers sharing enough information about your child's progress and high expectations for academic achievement in the classroom. We will look to improve in these areas in the upcoming year.

I want to thank the PTA for a great year! Thanks for all your hard work and pride you take in making Algonkian a special place.

Sincerely,
Brian Blubaugh
Principal

Technology Update- Pauline Burkett TRT



May Tech News

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.

We had so many snow days this year. If you took pictures of things you did during those SNOW days, please share them with me. I would like to use them for the 5th grade side show as well.

It was only just over a year ago that we welcomed Mrs. Brown to the Algonkian computer lab as the technology assistant, but we wish her a fond farewell and good luck in her new job!

Here is another great way to help Algonkian....try using BING for searching. Algonkian is a registered BING school. <http://www.bing.com/explore/rewards> You can register yourself and send your rewards or donate your credits to Algonkian Elementary. For every 30,000 points Algonkian earns we could earn a Microsoft Surface tablet. (But - please remember to still monitor your student's use on the internet. Even filtered searching isn't always protected from everything!)



Follow Algonkian on Twitter @ ALG_lcps





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



Officially A RAMP School Counseling Program!



***** May 27th at 3:00 p.m. in the Library**
School Counseling Advisory Council Meeting & Celebration
We will be celebrating our RAMP achievement!
Everyone is invited to attend!! 😊

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!

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 Elementary

Bobcats PuRRR!

(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

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

Help banish summer boredom by using the home matrix for summer chores!

PBS Home Matrix

	Getting up in the morning	Getting to school	Clean-up time	Time to relax	Homework time	Mealtime	Getting ready for bed
H HELP OUT							
O OWN YOUR BEHAVIOR							
M MANNERS COUNT							
E	V	E	R	Y	D	A	Y

Kids LOVE to feel useful! 😊

Editable version available on our webpage: <http://lcps.org/Page/100601>

May cafeteria reward – Carnival on Friday May 29th!

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

Visit our May sign up genius page to volunteer!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0F4CAAAA23A46-cafeteria2/

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





2014-2015 CHESS CLUB

Last club was May 5th

See you next year! 😊

Please email, or call Ms. Ryan to help with this activity next year!

Ms. Ryan: theresa.ryan@lcps.org

571-434-3242

Susan R. Smith

Parent Liaison

Now that the weather has finally decided to stay warm we are over flowing in the **Lost & Found**. Please remind your students to check the Lost & Found. All items remaining at the end of the school year will be donated to the local thrift store. Lunch boxes and water bottles, unfortunately, will be thrown away.

We continue to get new flyers for **summer camps and sports leagues** so please stop by the table in the foyer to see the latest and greatest.

Our donation drive for the **Lions Club** is winding down at the end of May. May is their **“Recycle for Sight Month.”** If you have any unused glasses (with or without the lenses) please drop them off in the Lion’s donation box in the foyer on the small table. They do not need the glass cases; just put them in a plastic bag.

Are you looking for employment or considering redoing your resume to find a different job? Be sure to check out the **Loudoun Workforce Resource Center**. They have several free seminars on many different subjects relating to finding employment. Also during the month they have “Meet the Employer” sessions with companies looking to hire. Visit them on the web at www.loudoun.gov/wrc.

I would like to say a big “THANK YOU” to all of our families and students who have supported our various donation drives throughout the school year. Whether it was a food drive, toy drive, the Souper Bowl or eye glass donations, we appreciate your support and generosity.



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 April:

First Grade: Lunar Moths

The artists in first grade read "The Man in the Moon" by William Joyce. The artists learned about the moon and its cratered surface. They then learned about the ancient art of printmaking and created a moon surface print using recycled materials.

Student artists then learned about Lunar Moths and symmetry. They created a symmetrical wing design for their Lunar Moths and did an accordion fold to complete the wings. Lastly, they glued their Lunar Moth to their moon surface print to make it appear as if it was flying over the moon.

Second Grade: Alebrijes

The artists in second grade read "Dream Carver" by Diana Cohn. Artists learned about Mexico and its carved animal toy tradition. Student artists then learned about the clay process and sculpted their original animal alebrijes. Artists then learned about Manuel Jimenez the inventor of modern day alebrijes and painted their alebrije sculptures in bright colors.

Third Grade: Recycled Clouds

The artists in third grade read "Cloudbette" by Tom Lichtenheld and learn about environmental and recycled art. They learned about Louise Nevelson one of the first artists to use recycled materials to create art. Students then used recycled materials gathered from the Algonkian community to create recycled clouds. They used recycled cardboard from the cafeteria to create their unique clouds and used old soda caps, K-cups, pop tops, etc. to give their clouds depth and detail. Lastly, student artists used analogous colors and the dry brush painting technique to give their clouds color.

Fourth Grade: M.C. Escher Flipbook

The artists in fourth grade learned about the mathematical artist M.C. Escher. They learned about his infinity drawings and impossible structures. They learned about his use of tessellations and metamorphosis. Student artists then created a metamorphosis flipbook where they morphed an observational fruit drawing into a drawing of a favorite object. Lastly, they made a cover for their flipbook and bound it together.

Fifth Grade: Drawing with Light Photography

5th grade student artists learned about Light Art. They learned about the different ways light art has been created. Light Art started with cave people making shadow puppets and today we use motion and sound sensors depict interactive light shows. The artists then learned about drawing with light and worked as collaborative groups to come up with a design that they could draw with light. Next, student artists learned about photography and how to set up a camera to take a drawing with light photograph. Students then collaboratively worked together to create a drawing with light and document it through photography. Lastly, they completed a self-critique talking about their light drawing and the groups process.

ART NEWS

I wanted to THANK the Algonkian Elementary community for its recycling donations! Without your support third grades recycled clouds would not have made much thunder! Hehe!

Music News
Miss Alicia Smith
Alicia.smith@lcps.org

5th Grade

5th graders are going to finish out the school year with a STOMP! project. They will be working in groups to create their own multi-layer rhythmic compositions to perform using various found sounds. In addition, they will also be preparing songs for the DARE graduation and 5th Grade Promotion ceremonies.

4th Grade

Fourth graders will be working on instruments of the orchestra and various forms for the rest of the school year. We will be exploring different pieces of music and learning about the composers as well.

3rd Grade

Third graders did a fantastic job with their performance of "Update: Earth"!! The rest of the year will be spent learning the notes on the treble clef and exploring different forms of music. If time permits, we will also explore the different instruments of the orchestra.

2nd Grade

Second graders finished their World Music Drumming unit and will now be moving on to learning about the four instrument families. We will focus on the instruments heard in "Peter and the Wolf" by Sergei Prokofiev. We will also finish the year by learning basic forms of a few classical pieces of music.

1st Grade

First graders are wrapping up their World Music Drumming unit. I will now be introducing them to the four families of the orchestra. Then, we will be working on reading rhythm patterns. If time permits, we will quickly do a few listening examples reviewing fast and slow.

May 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 May Newsletter

Summer Ideas

Although many students are almost as busy during the summer as they are during the school year, there are days when it is too hot to play outside or you just need some indoor quiet time. The LCPS Gifted Education Website has a few suggestions for both online and off-line activities to help your child keep thinking all summer long.

One great source of inspiration for activities is the Summer Challenge page:

<http://cmsweb1.lcps.org/page/642> Here you can find links to many ideas which will help keep your child engaged on those days when they need a little something extra to do. Additionally, the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) has a great collection of summer activities: <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents/planning-summer>

Don't forget the old standbys of board games. Playing Monopoly or Clue or Risk (for older students) can be a calm, but challenging, way to spend an afternoon. Building with LEGOS or K'Nex can offer hours of fun. Round up an appliance carton or drape a table with a blanket to create a secret hideaway. Summer is the perfect time to conduct science experiments – especially if you can take the messy ones outside! Encourage the budding thespians to act out fables or fairy tales – writing their own scripts and designing costumes can keep your children entertained for long periods of time. You could even plan a special night at the theater for family and friends! Create your own “summer camp” for your children and their friends focusing on their interests. The possibilities are endless for a fun and productive summer.

Have a great time planning for summer!



Lines from the Library May 2015

All library books will be due May 29, 2015. All classes that have 100% return of books will have recess during library class the last week of school – please help your child find any missing library items before the May 29th.

The **book exchange** will take place on June 9th in conjunction with Field Day. We will begin collecting books the week of May 25th, save your gently used books to donate to the book exchange! If you have older students and have books that will interest the 4th and 5th graders please consider donating these books – remember these students are at the top of the hand-me down chain in elementary school but are ready for more challenging books.

Summer reading program is coming – we will have a librarian from Cascades library visit Algonkian to explain the public library's summer reading program. Be sure to sign your children up and take advantage of all the wonderful things LCPL has planned for this summer!

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

Algonkian Elementary PE Newsletter



Dear Algonkian Parents,

The end of the year is quickly approaching and the PE department is excited for all students who have made improvements throughout the year. Fitness Gram Testing is in high gear as we hope some of our old records fall and new ones are achieved. Field Day is just around the corner and we are very excited for you to see some of the new ideas we have planned. Field Day is on June 9th. Enjoy the spring!

Grades 1-3:

- Kicking Games
- Continued Spring Games unit
- Cooperative Games unit

Grades 4 and 5:

- Spring Games
- Fitness Gram Testing Completion

Currently and in the near future:

Grades 1-3:

- Field Day Preparation
- Spring Games

Grades 4-5:

- Field Day Preparation
- Capture the Flag
- Cooperative Games unit

Have a great month,

Joe Terango and Kristen Barker



FUTURA NEWS

The time is steadily approaching where we in FUTURA must say our goodbyes to fifth grade as they continue their journey of independent learning into middle school. It is also time to remind fourth grade that another year of exploration and inquiry-based learning will continue in the fall.

How fast this year has gone! We explored many interesting topics through our inquiry-based and task-based centers. Our enrichment packets allowed us to use our brains to make connections with skills we learned in the regular classroom. Our focus on architecture allowed us to create interesting structures, experiment, use team work, and learn that our future looks pretty amazing! Throughout the year we earned money instead of grades; a concept that really inspired productivity.

The following days have been changed:

Monday – May 18 – No Algonkian Fourth grade (switched to Friday, May 22)

Friday – May 22 – Algonkian Fourth Grade

Last day for FUTURA:

June 3 – Last day for Algonkian Fifth

June 8 – Last day for Algonkian Fourth



Thank You to all of the parent volunteers that made this year's lab experiences so successful!