Principal Update

DEAR ALGONKIAN PARENTS,

I hope everyone enjoyed Spring Break and had time to relax before the mad rush to the end of the year. We only have 39 days of school left and SOL will be starting in three weeks.

It is important that students get rest and a good night of sleep the day before an SOL test. Though the number of questions have been reduced on SOL tests, it still requires some stamina to finish the test.

We are hosting our spring book fair starting with our Family night this Friday from 6-8 PM. Please read Ms. Devinney’s section that explains the procedures of the book fair.

Staff appreciation week is coming up the week of May 1-5. Please look for information to come out soon on the events for our staff during the week.

Report cards will come home on April 26th. During the month of May teachers will do many assessments to determine the growth students have made in math and reading. If you have any concerns, please contact your child’s teacher.

We have next year’s beginning of the year calendar set. Back to School night will be on August 21 for kindergarten and August 22 for grades first through fifth. Open House for students will be August 23rd and the first day of school will be August 24th. Please keep these dates in mind when planning activities with your family.

The weather is warming up and many students are walking and riding their bikes to school. Please review safety procedures when walking or riding a bike to school. We love that our students walk and ride bikes and most of all we want them to do this safely. During this time of year many families will bring their dog to pick up their child. A reminder that dogs are not allowed on school grounds. If you have your dog please have a spot away from the pick up area that you can meet your child and make sure your dog is on a leash.

Brian Blubaugh
Principal
Save the Date for SOL Tests
May 2nd through June 2nd

3rd Grade Reading – 5/10
3rd Grade Math – 5/23
4th Grade Reading – 5/9
4th Grade Math – 5/18
4th Grade VA History – 5/25
5th Grade Reading – 5/8
5th Grade Math – 5/24
5th Grade Science – TBD

Please plan to have your students in attendance and on time during.

“That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.”

Abraham Lincoln

Algonkian Triple Crown Racing Series
Thank you to all who came out and participated in the Rough and Tumble. I had a blast and heard that everyone else did too! Thanks for your support.

The third race of the Triple Crown Series is the Redskin Draft Day Dash. This is a great opportunity to get out there and get moving. It is super fun for all you football fans...players signing autographs, cheerleaders taking photos with everyone, games on the field and more. The school with the MOST participants we can earn $10,000 for our school! Please sign up today at

www.redskins.com/community/draft-day-dash.html

SOL Expedited Retake Process

Expedited retakes are encouraged for students who score between 375 and 399 on a grade level SOL test in reading, math, science and history. This second opportunity to test provided students with a feeling of accomplishment and schools with a possible increase in our accreditation rates. In past years, Algonkian has had up to 50% of our students who participated in retakes pass the SOL and some went from a failing score to a pass advanced score.

The retake process also allows our teachers time to remediate students on specific skills they struggled with on the first SOL. Students are then more confident in their abilities and scores increase.
2016-2017 Save the Date

Panther Alliance Special Education Cluster Meetings

6:00pm-8pm

These are quarterly meetings that will feature a variety of educational topics. Please put the following dates and times on your calendar. Daycare will be provided by school staff and high school volunteers. Please look for additional information in your child’s folder as we get closer to the meeting dates. Parents will need to return a RSVP form for each meeting. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Karen Shields at Karen.Shields@lcps.org or 571-434-3250.

Tuesday April 20th @ Algonkian (Sensory and Social Concerns)
Dear Algonkian Families,

One of my goals at Algonkian this year is to inspire a healthy lifestyle with our students. I know that with each new year I come up with a new challenge for myself. This year I am challenging myself to complete one 5k walk/run each month. I actually started in November and have now completed three. Participating in races encourages me to continue to train and is also a fun activity to do with the whole family. I am encouraging our Algonkian Families to come and join me on this journey.

Sincerely,
Miss Shields

ALGONKIAN TRIPLE CROWN

The Algonkian Triple Crown Racing Series will be awarded to any student who completes all 3 racing events. Students earning the Algonkian Triple Crown will receive an awesome prize in May!

ALGONKIAN TRIPLE CROWN

Arctic Dash
Saturday, February 25th
www.OldDominionRacing.com

Make sure to assign Algonkian as your school to support!

AUTISM AWARENESS
Rough and Tumble 1K
April 1st - more info to come

Redskins Draft Day Race
Saturday April 29th
www.redskins.com/community/draft-day-dash.html

Use code SCHOOL2017 for a discount on registration fee

When registering join Algonkian A-Team
Algonkian School Counseling

Professional School Counselors
Help Students Reach Their Potential!
A Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP)

Algonkian School Counseling Advisory Council
We will be preparing to RE-RAMP
so the 2017-2018 school year is a great time to join us!

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 have questions or would like to join our committee!

Mindfulness

Counseling Lesson Connection!
Opportunity for parents to learn more about mindfulness!

May 18
Mindful Parenting:
Remaining Calm While Improving Family Dynamics
Donilee Alexander-Goldsmith, LCPS School Social Worker
& Michelle Bogdan, LCSW, MLB Therapy PLLC

Learn about Mindfulness and Mindful Parenting. Mindfulness is noticing your thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations in the present moment without judgement. Learn how to utilize Mindfulness in your role as a parent to support your children in improving focus, reducing anxiety, and being more present in each moment.
2016-2017 CHESS CLUB
May 2nd
LAST CHESS CLUB FOR THE YEAR!

Thank you to the parents who are signing up to help during chess club!
No chess knowledge required!

Volunteer Sign Up: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4c2aaaa23a44-20162017/
Chess Club Webpage: http://www.lcps.org/page/40419, for dates and more information!
Chess Club Permission Slip: http://www.lcps.org/page/40421
Remember students need a NEW permission slip for every club date!
Ms. Ryan: 571-434-3242, theresa.ryan@lcps.org

Algonkian Elementary
(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)
Algonkian’s PBIS framework is based on The 4 R’s
Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, and Ready

April Café Incentive is...
CORNHOLE
On April 28th
Parents, if you would like to come
and help please do!

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

When students feel safe, respected, and connected to
learning, fun happens naturally!
Calling all 5th graders and parents! The end of the school year is fast approaching and I want to start working on an end of year 5th grade slide show.

Please send in ONE image of your fifth grader from an earlier grade level. (Do not send in a baby picture or several photos for me to pick from – YOU CHOOSE ONE PLEASE!)

Please send images via e-mail to me at: pauline.burkett@lcps.org.

Please send all photos to me by May 19th, so that I have time to put them into the slide show.

If you have a few group photos from previous years from special Algonkian events, I would appreciate them as well. Please put multiple or group photos on a labeled CD/DVD and put them in my school mailbox. Please do not send me multiple pictures via-email. Thank you!

Thank you to all the students and parents that participated in our Bright Bytes surveys. We will share next month some of the resulting data.

In our continuing series of Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship activities, we have “key word” searching. Searching for information is so much easier and you get better results when you know how to search properly. Take time over Spring break to do “Using Keywords” (Grades K-2) or “The Key to Key Words” (Grades 3-5).
Using Keywords

**DID YOU KNOW...**
When people say, “It’s like looking for a needle in a haystack,” they mean that whatever they’re looking for is going to be very hard to find! Keywords are special tools to help you find what you’re looking for online.

Unjumble to find the hidden words
1. rght ________________
2. scerah ________________
3. sfae ________________
4. kroywdes ________________
5. sebjcut ________________
6. Ink ________________

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
Why is it important to choose the right keywords?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY**
Choose a favorite food. Draw a picture of that food on a sheet of paper and write the name of the food at the top. With a family member, think together of something you would like to know about that food. For example, what is the most popular ice cream flavor? Or, where does pizza come from? Together, write down your question and come up with keywords you could use to search for an answer online.

**TECH IT UP!**
Go online with a family member and perform your searches (you may want to use a kid-safe search engine, such as www.safesearchkids.com/google-for-kids.html). On your drawing, circle the keywords that helped you find the answer to your question. Then write the answer on your drawing!

**COMMON SENSE SAYS...**
Keywords are the words you use to search for information about a topic. To do a smart search, make sure you use keywords that are related to the topic! For example, if you want to find information about “pigs,” you might want to use the keyword “animal,” but you wouldn’t use the word “pizza!”
The Key to Keywords

DID YOU KNOW...
Google receives over FOUR MILLION searches every minute!

Unjumble to find the hidden words

1. krewoyds
2. rulest pgae
3. cyrubblely
4. pscrele
5. snnomyys
6. aanivrettle

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Is it better to use more than one keyword in a search? Why, or why not?

Family Activity

Can you figure out how to find the below information without using any of the words in the subject? See if you can think of keywords that are synonyms, alternative words, or related phrases. If you’re up for a challenge, challenge a family member to see who can come up with more keywords in 60 seconds for each of the following searches. Then, circle the two keywords you think would be MOST likely to help you find what you’re looking for:

"Inexpensive plane tickets"
"Most popular movies last year"
"Best dessert in my town"

Tech It Up!

Test out your searches by typing the two keywords you circled into Google or another search engine. See whose keywords turn up the information you’re searching for closest to the top of the results page!

Common Sense Says ...

Be a smart and savvy searcher online by searching with keywords that are the most important words related to a subject. If you can’t find what you’re looking for, try using more keywords and even using synonyms -- words that have a similar meaning -- to increase the power of your search.
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:
- Completed Parachute Activities
- Long Jump Rope Skills
- Completed scoop’s unit (throwing and catching with implements)
- Cup stacking
- Started Spring Games unit

Grades 4 and 5:
- Prepared for Fitness Gram Physical Fitness tests
- Started Spring Games unit
- Completed fleeing and dodging games unit

Currently and in the near future:

Grades 1-3:
- Continue spring games unit
- Tandem Jump Rope

Grades 4 and 5
- Fitness Gram Physical Fitness Testing
- Tandem Jump Rope
- Field Day Prep

Algonkian Field Day Date is: Thursday, June 1st 2017.

Have a great month,
Joe Terango and Nick Peters

“I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed. “

Michael Jordan
Hello Again from Ms. Michael!

**Donations:**
Hello parents, family, and friends!!! This year in Art we are doing a variety of Art History Projects where your artists will be creating masterpieces inspired by art and artist throughout history. For this we will need plethora of supplies. If you have any of the follow that you can donate it would be much appreciated.

- Old CD’s
- Small children’s toys - like from fast food restaurants
- Baby Wipes
- Buttons
- Soda Can Tabs
- Bubble wrap
- Tape - masking, transparent, and double sided
- Brown Paper Bags
- Bobby Pins
- Paper plates
- Clean Terry Towels
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towel Rolls

**WHATS NEW !!!!!!**

The students are making fantastic masterpieces inspired by many amazing cultures, artists, movements, and stories. Here is a synopsis of what each grade is creating in April:

- Kindergarten are creating: Chuck Close Portraits
- First Grade are creating: Didgeridoo and Squid Kites
- Second Grade are creating: Easter Island Portraits
- Third Grade are creating: Scream Portraits and Fantasy Maps
- Fourth Grade are creating: Lobel Recycled Birds
- Fifth Grade are creating: Surreal Zoo

**Art Shows Information:**
This year we will be having an art show that inspired by the theme of their musicals.

3rd Grade Musical - Thursday, April 6, 2017 @ 1:30 & 6:30

There will also be several art exhibits throughout the year here at Algonkian.
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.

Music

Miss Alicia Smith

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

5th Grade
Students have been working on their recorder technique in addition to reviewing all of the notes that they know. 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. We have also been working on a body percussion canon that includes a specific mallet technique that we will be transferring to the barred instruments. Towards the end of the month we will be starting to learn a song for 5th Grade Promotion ceremony.

4th Grade
Fourth graders have been working hard learning to play the recorder and are doing quite well. They have learned 3 notes so far and will be working on playing more 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
Third graders did a fantastic job yesterday performing their musical, “Go West!” After spring break, we will be completing performance evaluations. Once those are complete, we will be reviewing the notes on the treble clef, rhythms, and exploring different forms of music.

2nd Grade
Second graders have been reviewing the four families of the orchestra and the instruments that we find in each. This month we will be reviewing Peter and the Wolf and the melodies that represent each character. From there we will continue working on rhythm concepts and elemental forms.

1st Grade
First graders have been learning about the four families of the orchestra as well as their defining characteristic. We’ve also explored several of the instrument found in each. We will continue to visually identify several of the instruments and hear what they sound like with selections from Peter and the Wolf. Students have also been working on loud and soft dynamics and mixer dance with changing partners. From here we will be working on building block rhythms and a pentatonic melody with the story Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert.

Kindergarten
Kindergarten students are starting an “On the Farm” unit. Each week we will discover a new animal and do several activities using speech, movement, singing, and playing instruments.
Lines from the Library

Ms. Devinney

Book Fair is back! April 24th to April 28th we will host a Scholastic Book Fair in our Library. Come shop for wonderful reading materials for the whole family.

All students will preview the book fair on Friday April 21st.

The Book Fair will be open 7:30 AM for students who are shopping with a parent. STUDENTS MUST CHECK IN WITH THE CLASSROOM TEACHER BEFORE COMING TO BOOK FAIR. Unaccompanied students will be allowed to shop in the morning if their class has already had library this week. The Book Fair will close promptly at 3 PM each day.

Our Family Night will take place on Friday April 21st from 6 to 8 PM

Each class will have the opportunity to purchase books during their regularly scheduled library class time. Please feel free to join us at school when your child is scheduled to come to library.

ALL STUDENTS MUST REPORT TO THEIR CLASSROOM AND CHECK IN WITH THEIR TEACHER BEFORE COMING TO THE FAIR. ALL BACK PACKS MUST BE LEFT IN THE CLASSROOM

Students who miss their library day may shop between 7:30 and 8:00 on the days following their library day.

Dear Parents:

As you are aware, it is important for students to read a variety of materials if they are to become successful readers. Surrounding children with books they enjoy reading helps them develop reading fluency and a love for reading. In order to help you purchase books at a reasonable cost for your child’s personal library, our school participates in the Scholastic Book Fair.

The Scholastic Book Fair offers a selection of books at a reasonable cost. Participation in the Fair is optional; the school does not sponsor this or any other book fair and the book selections have not always been previewed. We are merely giving you the opportunity to purchase books at a reasonable cost.

The books selected by the book fairs are written by established authors of children’s literature. From time to time, however, students have purchased books that have contained language that parents found objectionable. Therefore, it is important you aid your child in the selection of his/her books. As you assist your child in the selection, please pay careful attention to the description of the books and the designated age or grade level given in the description.

If you have any questions about the books, please contact me. I may already be familiar with the book and might be able to help you.

Thank you, Chrissie Devinney, Librarian
Finally we have nice Spring weather, which leads to me remind everyone to please stop in and check the **Lost & Found**. We have a large amount of boys and girls winter jacket/coats and hoodies. All remaining items will be donated at the end of the school year.

Just a few resources to share this month so here goes. There is a **Health & Wellness Fair** on Saturday, April 29th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. There will be free health screenings and offerings from local businesses.

Loudoun County Supervisor Saines is holding the second annual **Spring Job Fair** at Parkview High School, 400 W. Laurel Avenue, Sterling. It will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you would like to attend please rsvp to: [http://jobfair.rsvpify.com](http://jobfair.rsvpify.com). This event is open to the public. Bring your resume and dress to impress by wearing business casual.

I hope that everyone has a nice relaxing Spring Break!

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**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. Our next open meeting will be in April.
We've hardly had a winter, and yet, here it is--spring! As children are released from being inside all winter, it's time to think about what they can do outside that will be not only be fun but will have some positive educational aspects. Children certainly need lots of time for unstructured play, but it can also be beneficial to consider a family gardening experience. Whether you have a patio, a balcony, a small backyard, or an acre (or more), children can be involved in growing plants and, in doing that, can reap many benefits.

Howard Gardener has defined many learning profiles over the years (linguistic, kinesthetic, etc.) but one of the last areas he identified was the Naturalistic Learning Style. This time of year offers a perfect opportunity to let your child develop and explore his/her naturalistic learning profile by introducing him/her to gardening.

Involve your child in planning a garden. Explain "freeze zones," and let your child explore and discover geographic information to find out the freeze zone in which your home is located. Buy a Ph testing kit at a garden center to help your child understand basic chemistry, and then take a trip to a garden center to buy plants that require the kind of soil you have discovered in your own yard. To research appropriate plants for a backyard garden or a planter box, take your child to the library to read about plants that are appropriate for your zone, soil type, and lighting. This is a good time to explain photosynthesis to your child so that he/she will understand the relationship of light and plant growth.

As you plant seeds or seedlings and watch them grow, encourage interdisciplinary activities by encouraging your child to keep a written and photographic journal. Use a ruler to show the growth of the plants. If a camera is not readily available, incorporate art by having your child sketch the garden or planter box once a week.

Maybe you and your child would like to conduct some experiments. Explore the effect of light on plants by covering some plants with a black plastic sheet for part of each day while leaving identical plants uncovered. Ask your child to hypothesize what will happen, keep accurate written and visual records, then discuss the final results and have your child explain what made the difference in the growth of the plants. Introduce the idea of a "control group" while you do this experiment, thus helping your child understand the scientific method.

Everyday activities provide many opportunities for parents and children to explore new topics and fields of study. With all the beautiful weather we are having, what a perfect opportunity to learn a little bit about botany, while enjoying a relaxing outdoor activity with your child!

Patty Peterson
SEARCH Teacher
Message from the Health Clinic

Ms. Franzen

Algonkian families,

The Health Office will notify you if your student’s medication is indicated in the Voluntary recall effort by the manufacturer. At times during the year, certain medications get recalled. The Health office will help in notifying you if there is a recall.

The Health Office provides clothing for students at school on an as needed basis. A student will require a change of clothing when there has been a body fluid issue. The Health Office is able to provide clean clothes because of generous contributions from our school community.

The clothing is to be returned to the Health Office, post laundering, for use by other students.

There are times when the Health Office runs out of clothing for student use; please if you have any boys pants, sized 7-10 consider donating those to the Health Office.

Thank you
WHAT COULD YOUR SCHOOL DO WITH $10,000?

4.29.17 | FEDEXFIELD | 10 AM

WE’RE UPPING THE STAKES AT THE 2017 DRAFT DAY DASH WITH PRIZES THAT ARE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER.

1ST PLACE: $10,000 GRANT
2ND PLACE: $7,500 GRANT
3RD PLACE: $5,000 GRANT

USE CODE SCHOOL2017 AT CHECKOUT FOR EXCLUSIVE REGISTRATION PRICING

MORE INFORMATION

REDSKINS.COM/5K
Monroe Technology Center
Design Contest
Create the Car of the Future!

Elementary Designers and Engineers!!
Demonstrate your STEM skills—submit a drawing, painting, or 3D model of your car of the future

Winners for all grade levels
KG – 5th grade!
Designs will be displayed at the Annual Leesburg Car Show on June 3, 2017 from 5 PM—10 PM at the Cooley Gallery in Downtown Leesburg

Design Sizing Guidelines
All designs submitted on paper should be 8 1/2 x 11 and 3D models no larger than one cubic foot

Submit your final product to the main office of your school or to Monroe Technology Center 715 Childrens Center Road Leesburg, VA 20175 by Monday, May 22, 2017. For more information, contact Michelle Trudel, School Counselor, michelle.trudel@lcps.org or 571-252-2080
The official Loudoun County Public Schools app gives you a personalized window into what is happening at the district and schools. Get the news and information that you care about and get involved.