Principal Update

DEAR ALGONKIAN PARENTS,

We only have a few more days before winter break. The last day will be December 21 and students will return to school on Tuesday, January 3rd. The day we return will be a moveable Monday, which means we will use a Monday schedule.

Since November we have had an increase in student tardies. Please have a routine for getting to school on time. The tardy bell rings at 7:50 but students may enter the building as early as 7:30. When students are tardy, it starts them behind in the day and sometimes they never get back on track. Thanks for your help with this important issue.

On Friday, December 16 we have our PBIS café incentive (fine dining) and our dress up day. We encourage students to wear their best outfit for fine dining. I will be serving lunch to students that day in the cafeteria.

This Spring we will once again participate in the Read-A-Thon fundraiser. More information will come out at the end of February. We would like all students to participate in the reading part of the fundraiser, but the monetary part is totally optional as many families have already supported the school with a donation.

We want to make sure that our students read and practice their math facts over the winter break. All students have access to the app LCPS Go, which enables them to get on Reflex math and other educational sites. If students read for 15 minutes each day and practice their math facts twice a week, this will help keep students moving forward.

Have a great month and Happy Holidays!

Brian Blubaugh
Principal
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 December 13th @ Algonkian (Transition to Elementary, Middle, and High School)
Tuesday March 16th @ Countryside (Summer Resources)
Tuesday April 20th @ Algonkian (Sensory and Social Concerns)
You are welcome to use the list of 15 listed here or write your own 15 acts of kindness for December! Students are already joining the #kindness challenge by making posters and talking about the #kindnesschallenge in counseling lessons this month!

**Perfect timing to participate in our Toys 4 Tots Drive NOW through Dec 15th!**

Each week there will be also be a suggestion on the morning announcements! Please feel free to share your lists! Copy or send in your list of 15 to Ms. Ryan! Let’s show how kind we are and how much we care about all people here at Algonkian!
Check out PBIS on our webpage: http://lcps.org/domain/13641

December Café Incentive is...
Fine Dining on December 16th

2016-2017 CHESS CLUB

Upcoming Chess Club Meetings
December 6th & January 10
2:45-3:45 in the Library

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

If you are considering helping out during the monthly chess club, please sign up using this handy dandy sign up genius link!
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4caaaa23a46-20162017/

Please contact Ms. Ryan if you have any questions
Technology

Mrs. Pauline Burkett & Mrs. Erin Jackson

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! It is time for class parties, and grade level activities, performances and such. Many of us are great shutterbugs and take many pictures to celebrate and commemorate these special days. In this day and age many of us are quick to post these images of our darlings on social media sites. Please keep in mind that other parents may be more protective of their children’s presence in the digital media world. **Please do not post pictures of the whole class or other students without expressed permission from parents to post pictures of other students.** We at Algokian respect parent permissions and adhere to the media release forms. We will not post pictures of students on our website without consent on the media release form.

Computer Science Education Week! (December 5-11, 2016) Next week we will offer “Hour of Code” in the Computer Lab. Please check out the Grade level web links and look for Hour of Code links. [http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/Page/74962](http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/Page/74962) This year Code.org has added Disney’s Moana to their resources. Check it out! [https://code.org/learn](https://code.org/learn)

We are continuing our lessons on digital citizenship to become a Common Sense Media Digital Certified school. In the primary grades we have talked briefly about pop-up ads when you go to some websites. Usually websites are filtered, but often the ads are beyond our control. It has been pointed out that movie and toy companies often use kids sites to try to get us to buy their products. Please go over the “Things for Sale” K-2 activity sheet with your child. In the 3-5 grades we are re-visiting good digital citizenship responsibilities. 4th grade will be starting BYOT (Bring your own Technology) and it is a great time to take the Digital Citizenship pledge.
**Things For Sale**

**DID YOU KNOW...**
Sometimes websites can make money by having ads of someone else’s toys, movies, or games on them when you’re using the site.

**Match the words to their definitions**

- **password**: people who share a common neighborhood, background, or interests
- **community**: something that is made and sold to people
- **email**: a secret word or phrase that some websites require you to type in if you want to visit them
- **product**: electronic mail sent through the Internet

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
Why do companies create commercials, advertisements, and product sites?

**Family Activity**
With a parent or family member, look through a magazine or catalogue. Use a marker to circle all the things in the magazine that advertise something (remember that this includes anything that tries to get people to buy something). Then, pick one of the things you circled and explain the “tricks” that are being used to try to make people buy it!

**Tech It Up!**
With a parent or family member, check out the website for a movie you want to see or one you saw recently. The purpose of a movie website is to make the movie seem fun or interesting and to encourage people to buy tickets and see the movie. See how many ways you can find that the website tries to get people to want to see the movie. What kinds of “tricks” are used to make the movie seem fun?

**Common Sense Says...**
Remember that product websites use different “tricks” to encourage you to want to buy toys. These “tricks” include videos, games, contests, or a virtual world that features the product.
1. Family Activity

Part of being a good digital citizen is making sure to follow your family’s values and expectations when you use the Internet. With a parent or family member, fill out Common Sense Media’s Family Media Agreement (www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/parent-media-education/family-media-agreements). You can make revisions to the document as you see fit. If you and your parent agree on the terms outlined in the document, you can sign it to make it official.

2. Tech It Up!

Together, watch “Pause and Think Online” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgbZAWnOW0o). After you watch, discuss the following questions with a parent or family member: 1). What does it mean to “listen to your gut”? Can you think of a time when you listened to your gut? 2). Why is it important to feel with your heart when you’re online? 3). How do you balance your time on the Internet with other activities? 4). Can you think of a situation when you would need to stand up for something or someone?

3. Common Sense Says …

Be a good digital citizen by communicating responsibly with one another, protecting your own and others’ private information online, standing up to cyberbullying, respecting others’ ideas and opinions, and giving proper credit when you use others’ work.

Word Search

ac i e u e a r y
k p l e d g e t m
j e e d e e i a l
u e e d n p r i
n t d u u s a i a
k a a m n a a i m
s n m p p n r i o
n o i t a t i c o
m u k a a r i o
pledge  junk  mail  citation  community  spam

What is a pledge? What do you pledge to do as a digital citizen?
Dear Algonkian Parents,

Greetings again from the PE department. Skills are being fine-tuned and students are taking off with some of the new ideas and games that have been introduced to them. The ABL (Algonkian Basketball League) is rapidly approaching and we are pleased with the progress that has been shown in our basketball skills unit. The teams will soon be formed and the games will be underway after winter break, the first play dates for all teams will be January 10th and 11th. Thanks for a great month!

Grades 1-3:
- Hula hoop manipulation and games unit.
- Completed Ball skills (manipulation of ball) rolling, dribbling, passing, catching.
- Kicking skills unit.

Grades 4 and 5:
- Basketball skills and manipulation unit.
- Continued preparation for Algonkian Basketball League.

Currently and in the near future:
Grades 1-3:
- Currently progressing through ball skills (shooting, passing, movement coordination incorporating ball skills)
- Cup stacking
- Bowling Skills

Grades 4-5:
- Basic and fundamental rules of basketball.
- Further preparation for the Algonkian Basketball league.
- Bowling Skills

Happy Holidays!
Joe Terango and Nick Peters
Physical Education Teachers
Hello 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 is creating in December:

- Kindergarten are creating: Wayne Theibaud Bumball Machine and Antarctic Iceberg
- First Grade are creating: Snowflake Snowman and Kinetic Calder
- Second Grade are creating: Great Wave Zentangle
- Third Grade are creating: Andy Warhol Soup Can
- Fourth Grade are creating: Art History Snowmen
- Fifth Grade are creating: Sistine Architecture

Art Shows Information:
This year we will be having an art show that inspired by the theme of their musicals.
5th Grade Musical—Thursday, December 15, 2016 - @ 1:30 & 6:30
3rd Grade Musical—Thursday, April 6, 2017 @ 1:30 & 6:30

There will also be several art exhibit/ installations throughout the year here at Algonkian. Keep an eye out for them I will post their dates in the school newsletter.

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
- Bobby Pins
- Paper plates
- Clean Terry Towels
- Dish Soap
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.

5th Grade Musical
“Gettin’ Outta Town” featuring two folktales: “Look Behind as Well as Before” & “Bremen Town Musicians”
Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 @ 1:30pm & 6:30pm

5th Grade
Fifth graders will present their musical, “Gettin’ Outta Town” on December 15. Mrs. Booker’s and Mrs. Mills’ classes will present “Look Behind as Well as Before”, a folktale from the Congo, and Mrs. Biegel’s and Mrs. Wippich’s classes will present “Bremen Town Musicians”, a German folktale. Please make sure your child comes dressed in his/her musical t-shirt and jeans on the day of the musical – no shorts or skirts please! We did not have a chance to audition for 5th All County Chorus this month, so I will be auditioning students as soon as we return from winter break.

4th Grade
Fourth grade students have been learning to read the notes on the treble clef. We are learning this important skill in preparation for playing the recorder. Please look for information going home about recorders. We will be starting our recorder unit as soon as we return from break.

3rd Grade
Third grade students have been working hard on learning to read the notes on the treble clef. This month we will be reviewing “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky. Last year the students were introduced to the story and several of the songs. This year we will focus on more specific details of several of the movements in addition to some movement activities.

2nd Grade
Last year, second graders were briefly introduced to “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky. We will be reviewing the story and several key dances. This year we will focus on the four dances of the sweets with some listening activities and a movement activity if we have time!

1st Grade
First graders did a fantastic job with “The First Thanksgiving” last month!! During December, I will be introducing them to “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky. We will focus on the Children’s March and the dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Kindergarten
This month Kindergarten students will be working on mallet exploration with some start/stop activities and stories. We will continue covering the concepts of steady beat, vocal explorations, singing, echoing, and movement. We will also do a quick synopsis of “The Nutcracker” ballet by Tchaikovsky and listen to a few of the songs.

Music Class needs: We have several consumable materials that we regularly use in music each year that are not included in instructional budgets. Any donations of the following items are greatly appreciated: crayons, tissues, paper towels, white board cleaner. Students can drop these items either in my mailbox or in the music room. Thank you in advance!
Algonkian is supporting the **Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots** donation drive November 28th through December 15th. We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for ages infant through young adult. One age group that is hard to buy/donate for is the middle to high school age children. Gift cards for this age group would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate a gift card, please place in a sealed envelope and place in my mailbox in the main office. I will make sure that those gift cards are hand delivered at the end of the donation drive. Thank you for your continued support and donations.

It's that time of year again to remind students and parents to please check the **Lost & Found**. Some of the lost items are the cabinet outside of the cafeteria but due to the large amount of clothing, most items have been placed in bags and stored. As in previous years, I will donate any unclaimed articles of clothing to the local thrift store. First donation will be shortly after we return from Winter Break and the second at the end of the school year.

At my last Parent Liaison meeting Loudoun County Division of Housing and Community Development provided information to us on their housing Programs. They range from Affordable Dwelling Unit Rental Program to Down Payment assistance. If you would like more information on these Programs please email me or send in a note and I will send home the guidelines and brochures. All information can be found on line at [www.loudoun.gov/housing](http://www.loudoun.gov/housing).

**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 meetings will be in December and April of this school year.
**SEARCH**

For Parents of 3rd and 4th Grade Students

**District Referrals** - Students with qualifying test scores on the CogAT and/or NNAT will receive a district referral via US mail in mid-February. With parent permission (via a signed referral form returned to school SEARCH teacher), these students will be evaluated for gifted services.

**Parent Referrals** - Parents of students who did not receive a district referral letter, but who wish to have their children evaluated for gifted services, may submit a parent referral form to their child’s SEARCH teacher from **February 14 – March 3, 2017**.

Referral forms submitted after March 3, 2017 will be processed next school year.

For Parents of 5th Grade Students

Parents of 5th grade students who wish to have their children evaluated for gifted services in middle school, may submit a parent referral form to their child's SEARCH teacher from **February 14 – March 3, 2017**.

Referral forms submitted after March 3, 2017 will be processed next school year.

[Parent/Guardian Referral Form]

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**Lines from the Library December 2016**

As the winter holidays consume us in the insanity race – to do more, be more and spend more - I encourage you to take time and sit reading with your children! The time spent with our children is what they will remember.

Thank you to our Algonkian Family for all the support given to me the past 3 years I am happy to announce that I am now a National Board Certified Teacher. I could not have accomplished this without your help.
Message from the Health Clinic  
Ms. Franzen

The Health Office provides clothing to students when they have a need at school. This need is based on the nature of the accident, biological, torn etc. that occurred with the clothing that the student wore to school. When clothing goes home with your student we request that it be laundered and returned to the Health Office for use by other students in need. Please DO NOT return any underwear that comes home with your student, that is purchased new and NOT Re-Used regardless of laundering. The Health Office would love donations of pants, ideally elastic waist, for both gender and all sizes. Any clothing not used in the Health Office will be donated to the Parent Liaison office for dissemination.

Thank you
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.