January 11, 2017
Volume 5

Principal Update

DEAR ALGONKIAN PARENTS,

Happy New Year to all of our Algonkian Families. We look forward to a great 2017.

Students received their January poem of the month for our new Poetry Masters program. Students should practice reading the poem at home. If they want a challenge, they can also try to memorize the poem. At the end of each month parent volunteers come to classrooms to listen to students read or recite the poem.

We are reorganizing our lost and found to help with getting items returned to students. Next week lost and found will be located in the office. We will display lost and found items on the news show for students to recognize. At the end of each month we will display the items in the café during lunch for students to recognize and take home.

During the winter months we have more car riders as less students are walking or riding their bike to school due to the weather. Please drop your child off as soon as you get to the beginning set of cones. Do not wait until you reach me at the crosswalk. We need as many students getting out of cars at once to keep the line moving.

When there is a school delay due to the weather our cafeteria does not serve breakfast. During the last delay we had many students show up before there were staff members in the building. If there is a 2 hour delay, students should begin to arrive around 9:30.

It is an excused absence if a student attends the presidential inauguration. All we would need is a note from the parent that the student is attending it.

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 March 16th @ Countryside (Summer Resources)
Tuesday April 20th @ Algonkian (Sensory and Social Concerns)
During the month of February, second grade students in Loudoun County Public Schools will take the online Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Form 7, Level 8. The CogAT measures general and specific cognitive skills that allow a student to learn new tasks or solve problems in the absence of direct instruction.

Algonkian Elementary has tentatively scheduled our CogAT assessment for February 14, 15 and 16. Things may change depending on weather.

Students' verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning abilities are measured by three test batteries, each of which is comprised of three subtests. Students typically complete three subtests per day, for three consecutive school days, to complete all nine subtests. These tests are untimed; however, each day's testing period usually does not exceed 90 minutes. Students work through each subtest at his or her own pace, and the entire test is read aloud to students by means of pre-recorded audio.

Students cannot prepare or study for the CogAT. Instead, they will have the opportunity to become familiar with test items through teacher-directed practice activities. Additionally, practice questions, administered before the first subtest, will familiarize students with the online testing environment.

Score reports will be sent home to parents/guardians together with the 3rd Quarter report card.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Shields at 571-434-3240 or via email at karen.shields@lcps.org

Have a great day!
Karen

Karen Shields
Save the Dates!

-News from Ms. Shields

It’s that time of year again! As the students prepare in their classrooms, we also need your help at home. Many of our standardized tests begin in the next few months and we wanted to give you dates in advance to add to your calendars. Please be sure your students are in school on testing days and ensure they get plenty of rest the night before the tests.

2nd Grade – CogAT

Our second grade students will be participating in the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) assessment. The CogAT measures general and specific cognitive skills that allow a student to learn new tasks or solve problems. This will be the third year students will be completing the CogAT assessment online. The testing window is from February 1st through February 26th. We will be completing our testing on February 14th – February 16th. Students will have practice with online questions and tools during the first day of testing. Scores are shared with parents typically before the end of the school year. If you have any questions please feel free to email or call.

Special Education Panther Alliance

All special education parents are invited to join us on March 16th @ 6:00pm at Countryside Elementary in the cafeteria for our Panther Alliance. Last quarter we were lucky to have Mr. Fritz (RBMS AP) and Mr. Weeks (PFHS AP) in attendance to discuss middle school transition. Our March meeting will focus on what summer resources are available. Ms. Zecher is hoping to get representatives from the library, Loudoun County Parks and Rec, as well as representatives or information on adaptive camps available through other venues. Please join us!

If you have any questions or have ideas you would like us to present to the special needs community, please feel free to contact me at 571-434-3240

Karen Shields
Assistant Principal
Algonkian School Counseling

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

Join us in a #KINDNESSCHALLENGE - Gather up the kids and make it a family activity!
The Power Of One Person (with just one small act) To Change The World!
#KindnessChallenge #CharacterCounts

Students decorated the school with #kindnesschallenge posters and families participated in acts of kindness during the month of December! Let’s not stop there, let’s keep it going!
Join us as we continue creating a culture of kindness at Algonkian.

Our school will join hundreds of schools across the country for the 2017 Great Kindness Challenge during the week of January 23-27th. Your child is part of a powerful and positive bullying prevention initiative that will lead to more kindness, unity and respect.

To learn more about The Great Kindness Challenge, please visit:
www.greatkindnesschallenge.org

Let’s show how kind we are and how much we care about all people here at Algonkian!
The Great Kindness Challenge is one week dedicated to creating a culture of kindness on campuses nationwide.

Our school is proudly participating in this proactive, positive bullying prevention initiative.

All students will receive a GKC checklist with 50 kind deeds. Please encourage your child to complete the checklist and show the world that …

KINDNESS MATTERS!
ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL???

Two Points for:
PEANUT BUTTER, SPAGHETTI SAUCE, JELLY,
TOMATO & CHICKEN SOUP,
PAPER TOWELS & TOILET PAPER (Package of 4)!!

Three Points For EX LARGE/FAMILY SIZE Of Above Items

20 ITEM MAXIMUM PER PERSON IN ONE DAY.

One Class from 3rd—5th, & One from K-2nd

will win Recess Equipment!

WHICH CLASSES WILL DONATE THE MOST FOOD?

Football Scoreboard is located by the front office.
Boxes will be in front of each classroom.

Please make sure ALL food
is put in the boxes!!
January Café Incentive is…

JArts and Crafts/Coloring Day (K-2)
Origami Day (3-5) (26 points)
On January 26th

Check out PBIS on our webpage: [http://lcps.org/domain/13641](http://lcps.org/domain/13641)

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2016-2017 CHESS CLUB
Chess Club Meetings
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](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](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/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4caaaa23a46-20162017/)

Please contact Ms. Ryan if you have any questions

[theresa.ryan@lcps.org](mailto:theresa.ryan@lcps.org) 571-434-3242
Technology

Mrs. Pauline Burkett & Mrs. Erin Jackson

Ring in the New Year with practice sites centered on the curriculum your child is learning in school!

Look for Algonkian Grade level web links https://www.lcps.org/Page/74962 or check out the new and growing Algonkian Symbaloo page. https://www.symbaloo.com/mix/algonsymbaloo . When looking for places to find information for research projects use our library on-line resource page. https://www.lcps.org/Page/40370 . If at any time the links do not work or they bring up inappropriate websites, please let Mrs. Burkett know right away so that I can take appropriate actions with the links.

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

As colder weather approaches, be sure to check the county website, radio or TV for the latest information. Algonkian’s website has a link to Delay/Early Closing or Emergency Closing Procedures: https://www.lcps.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=14
At the bottom of the page is the Loudoun Alert which allows you to sign up for a direct email message giving you an update on school closings or emergencies due to weather. This should be a great help to everyone by providing any information as quickly as possible.
Click here to register with Loudoun Alert

Our continued series of Digital Citizenship activity pages with Common Sense Media include “Sites I Like” for grades K-2, where you can talk about age appropriate websites for your child. Is the content appropriate, and is the reading level just right for them? Grades 3-5 “Whose Is It, Anyway?” goes along with lessons on citing work and giving credit for images and information students collected. This goes hand in hand with the research projects students do in school and at home all year long.
**Sites I Like**

**DID YOU KNOW...**
The First video shared on YouTube was called "Me at the zoo." It was filmed at the San Diego Zoo.

**Family Activity**
Think of your favorite website or place you've visited online. Draw a picture that shows what you like about the website. When you're done, share your picture with a family member.

**DO YOU REMEMBER...**
How you can tell if a website is right for you?

**Crossword Puzzle**

Down:
1. to look for information on the Internet
2. the words you use to search for information about a topic

Across:
3. there forever
4. Free from danger or harm

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
What are some things that make a site good for you?

**Tech It Up!**
[Print a small/modified version of the Rate My Site Handout on the family activity sheet]. Work with a parent or other family member to visit and rate two websites you've never visited before. One website should be chosen by you; the other should be chosen by your family member. How do your ratings compare?

**Common Sense Says...**
Just as we all have different interests, we all have different websites we like to explore and visit! As you explore websites you like, remember: If you think a website might not be meant for kids, go find an adult to help you!
1. **Family Activity**

Put it in your own words! Practice paraphrasing -- expressing something in your own words -- with a family member. Paraphrasing is an important way to avoid plagiarism. Pick your favorite song or book. Listen (if it’s a song) or read (if it’s a book) together. Then, see if you can put the main ideas into your own words to tell your family member what the song or book is about. When you’re finished, ask your family member to score your paraphrasing by the number of items you completed correctly:

1. Did you use your own words?
2. Did you use quotation marks when using a direct quote?
3. Did you provide a citation that includes the author’s name and the title of the work?

2. **Tech It Up!**

Check out News-O-Matic Daily Reading for Kids, an interactive news app written for kids your age. With a family member, pick an article to read and practice your paraphrasing and citation skills by 1). Writing a summary of the article using your own words (and quotation marks for any direct quotations), and 2). Writing a citation for the article.

3. **Common Sense Says...**

If you’re using someone else’s exact words, make sure to use quotation marks AND provide a citation. If you’re using their ideas but you put them into your own words, you don’t need quotation marks, but you DO still need to provide a citation.
Dear Algonkian Parents,

Happy New Year from the PE department! We sent 2016 out with a blast and look for more great things from our students here at Algonkian and are excited about what is on deck in 2017.

**Grades 1-3:**
- Started bowling unit (Grip, stepping with opposition, and striking a stationary object)
- Incorporated Ball units (Shooting, Passing, and Dribbling)

**Grades 4 and 5:**
- Completed basketball prep unit for Algonkian Basketball League
- Organized teams for the ABL
- Covered basic and fundamental rules of basketball
- Started bowling unit

Currently and in the near future:

**Grades 1-3:**
- Continue bowling from 1 to 3 pins followed by 10 pin bowling.
- Scooter activities

**Grades 4-5:**
- Continue bowling from 3 pins to 10 pins and how to keep score.
- Striking mobile objects (volleyball introduction)

Happy New Year!

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:

**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
- Paper Towel Rolls

**WHATS NEW !!!!!!**
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 January:

- Kindergarten are creating: Antarctic Iceberg and Outer Space Race Prints
- First Grade are creating: Snowflake Snowmen and Dali Mustache Portraits
- Second Grade are creating: Great Wave Zentangles and Chihuly Macchia’s
- Third Grade are creating: Andy Warhol Soup Can and Paul Klee Cities
- Fourth Grade are creating: Art History Snowmen and Da Vinci Flying Machines
- Fifth Grade are creating: Sistine Architecture and Mondrian Felted Maps

**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. Keep an eye out for them I will post their dates in the school newsletter.
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.

3rd Grade Musical  April 6, 2017 @ 1:30 and 6:30

5th Grade
I know it seems like a while ago now, but the fifth graders did a phenomenal job with their musical, “Gettin’ Outta Town”, in December. This month we are focusing on reviewing the treble clef. We will also be working on some rhythmic concepts.

4th Grade
Fourth grade students will begin their recorder unit towards the end month. 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. I look forward to beginning this musical endeavor with your child!

3rd Grade
Although it seems far away at this point in the year, third graders are starting to learn the songs for their musical just in case we have a few snow days this year. Please be on the lookout for information regarding the musical. Prior to beginning this material, the students will be learning to play a simple Orff ensemble and working on some mirroring activities.

2nd Grade
Second graders are working on playing a bordun and creating a sound story this month. From here, we will transition into beginning a World Music Drumming unit. We will review concepts and techniques learned last year, and will continue to build from there!

1st Grade
First graders are learning about quarter notes and eighth notes this month. They will also learn about call and response form and playing a bordun accompaniment with a song. Towards the end of the month the students will be introduced to World Music Drumming. I will be teaching basic techniques in order to prepare them for putting together a multi-layer instrument ensemble.
Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a nice relaxing Winter Break. The weather will eventually get colder and it will feel more like Winter. With that in mind I would be happy to accept your gently used coats, hats and warm gloves. I have a good supply of winter coats for girls but am in need of boys coats sizes medium, large and extra-large. If you have items that you would like to donate, please make sure the hats are washed and name tags are removed from the coats. Please place in a shopping bag and drop in the front office with my name.

I want to give a big shout out to all those Bobcat families that donated to our Marine Corps Toys for Tots gift drive. We had tons of toys and I hope you got a chance to see the picture on the school’s website. Thank you again for your continued support and generosity.

At our recent Parent Liaison Monthly meeting we had a presentation from Maria Vallarino who is the founder of Irene’s Prom Closet. She runs a non-profit organization that gathers prom clothes for both girls and boys, including shoes and accessories. She distributes the clothing to all of LCPS High schools for Proms and Homecoming. Over the last two years she has served over 1,800 students. She absorbs the cost of drying cleaning the clothing herself, so she would also appreciate receiving gift cards to cover the cost of the cleaning. If you would like to donate or find out more about Irene’s Prom Closet, please go to www.IrenesPromCloset.com or www.Facebook.com/IrenesPromCloset.

Also at our meeting we had a presentation from the LCPS Parent Resource Services department. They have wonderful programs and seminars throughout the school year. Their first presentation for the new year is on January 19th and is “The Power of Play: A Relationship Based Approach to Improved Behavior” for the K through 5th grade children. Please visit their website for a list of the upcoming Programs. www.lcps.org, click on “Parents”, then Parent Resource Services.

I recently saw several advertisements in the local papers about upcoming Open Houses for Summer Camps. I know you must think I’m crazy talking about Summer Camps in January, but if I have learned one thing about living in Northern Virginia it’s that the “early bird gets the worm”, or the slot in their favorite summer program. It is never too early to start researching!

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.
From your SEARCH teacher, Patty Peterson

New Year’s Resolutions

As we look ahead to the new year, many of us make resolutions, but we all know how that turns out! What we often lack is the motivation to carry through with a hard task. The AIMS Foundation newsletter explored the work of Carol Dweck, a noted psychologist at Stanford University, on motivation.

“Psychologist Carol Dweck identifies two lenses for how people view themselves and others: fixed mindset and growth mindset. In a fixed mindset, people believe they are born with fixed intelligence. They tend to avoid challenges because failure threatens their perception of how smart they are. Those with a growth mindset believe that intelligence is furthered through effort. Failure is an opportunity to learn and is even necessary for success.”

The article reviews Dweck’s work with fifth graders who were being given standardized tests. Students praised for their effort, rather than their intelligence, consistently selected harder tasks for themselves, pushed themselves harder, and were more confident in their ability to conquer a hard task. Students praised for their intelligence were hesitant to pick harder tasks for fear they would fail and thus no longer be considered intelligent. Children (and adults) with a growth mindset are more likely to persevere in problem solving and, as a side benefit, to be happier while trying.

In a 2015 Education Week whitepaper, Carol Dweck stated, “We found that students’ mindsets—how they perceive their abilities—played a key role in their motivation and achievement, and we found that if we changed students’ mindsets, we could boost their achievement. More precisely, students who believed their intelligence could be developed (a growth mindset) outperformed those who believed their intelligence was fixed (a fixed mindset). Finally, we found that having children focus on the process that leads to learning (like hard work or trying new strategies) could foster a growth mindset and its benefits.”

What better resolution could there be than to help our children pursue a growth mindset, a way of thinking which will bolster motivation and promote successful development! Effort is a means to an end to the goal of learning and improving, but it is not the whole story. Students need to be willing to try new strategies and to seek input from others when they’re stuck. They need a repertoire of approaches—not just sheer effort—to learn and improve. For parents and teachers, changing our habits and cultivating a growth mindset in our students requires telling the truth about a student’s current achievement and then challenging the child to accept mistakes or corrections and to look at them not as failures, but as opportunities to learn and grow. Work together to develop lists of ideas for what to do next, for how to change disappointment into success.
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

Lcps Gifted Information Nights

If you are interested in gifted services in Loudoun County, please plan to attend one of our upcoming information nights. Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) will hold six Gifted Information Night presentations during January and February. These one-hour sessions will present an overview of the gifted education programs LCPS offers and the eligibility process for these programs. The same information will be presented at each of these meetings, so it is not necessary to attend more than one. The schedule for the meetings is as follows:

Belmont Station Elementary School, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 18th
Moorefield Station Elementary School, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 18th
Meadowland Elementary School, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, February 13th
Frederick Douglass Elementary School, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, February 13th
Forest Grove Elementary School, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, February 28th
Kenneth Culbert Elementary School, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 28th

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the evening programs and 8:15 a.m. for the morning program.
ELEMENTARY GIFTED INFORMATION SESSIONS

If you are considering referring your child for gifted services, join us to learn about elementary gifted education services available through Loudoun County Public Schools and the eligibility process for these services.

The same information will be presented at each of the meetings, so it is not necessary to attend more than one session. In case of cancellations due to inclement weather, check the gifted education webpage at http://lcps.org/Page/617.

LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GIFTED EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
(571) 252-1440

BELMONT STATION ES
LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
***

MOOREFIELD STATION ES
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
***

MEADOWLAND ES
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
***

FREDERICK DOUGLASS ES
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
***

FOREST GROVE ES
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
7:00-8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
***

MORNING SESSION
KENNETH W. CULBERT ES
CLASSROOM #23
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
8:30-9:30 AM
DOORS OPEN AT 8:15 AM

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.
Message from the Health Clinic
Ms. Franzen

Algonkian families,
As you are cleaning out over these winter months, please consider donating your BOYS pants to the school. The Health Office is in need of BOYS pants size 8-10.

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
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.