Principal Update

DEAR ALGONKIAN PARENTS,

Kindergarten registration is on March 29th. Remember if you pre-registered online you do not need to come in on the 29th but can schedule a meeting with Ms. Farrar on any day after the 29th to finalize your registration.

I want to thank our STEAM team and all our volunteers for a successful invention expo night. We had nearly 60 inventions this year and over 300 people attended the expo and STEM night.

Algonkian was recently recognized for the Energy Star Award. This is the second consecutive year Algonkian has received the reward and only the second time in our history of receiving the award. The staff and custodians look for ways to save energy which then saves the county money.

Algonkian recently was recognized for common sense media digital citizenship. Students received lessons on using the internet and computers safely.

This month students are working hard on the four Rs in the cafeteria to earn March Madness at the end of the month. Classrooms that do well in the cafeteria will get a basketball shot to earn a homework pass.

Please join us on March 31 for our annual staff vs student basketball game. The game will begin around 1:15 in the afternoon.

Our fifth grade promotion ceremony will be Thursday, June 8 at 6:30 PM. After the ceremony we will meet in the cafeteria for desserts and pictures with our students.

Our Field day is on Thursday, June 1. Please contact Mr. Terango to volunteer to help out with field day. He needs plenty of volunteers to help out to make this day successful.

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 – 5/24
5th Grade Reading – 5/8
5th Grade Math – 5/22
5th Grade Science – 5/26 or 5/31

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

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.

Robert Collier

#Click4Kids
http://wtop.com/contests/2017-click-for-kids-voting/
Now through March 17th @ 5pm

Panther Alliance Parent Information Session

On March 16th please join me and fellow special education parents and educators to learn about community resources that are available over the summer.

Karen.shields@lcps.org or Jennifer.zecher@lcps.org by March 14th.

Algonkian Triple Crown Racing Series
Don’t forget to sign up and join me at our First Annual Rough and Tumble for Autism Awareness on April 1st. It is right here on our playground. Sign up today at oldominionracing.com. All proceeds come directly to Algonkian Elementary 😊

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
ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK

ALGONKIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  ORDER BY: APRIL 7, 2017

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS • DATES:
1. Yearbooks are sold by advance purchase only.
2. Cost of yearbook is $16.00 until 4/7/17.
3. All mail-in orders are due no later than 2/28/17. Online orders will still continue until 4/7/17.
4. Please keep a record of your ordering information. Candid Color is not responsible for accidental duplicate orders. If you do not remember placing an order then please contact Candid Color to verify your order.

MAIL-IN ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS
1. Fill out your order form. Print your information below.
2. Payments made by check or money order. Make checks and money orders payable to Candid Color.
3. Mail your payment and order form to Candid Color • Post Office Box 124 • Occoquan, VA 22125-0124.

ONLINE ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS
1. Visit www.candidcolor.net and select YEARBOOKS. Enter your access code: ALGYEK17
2. Click the yearbook sample. Fill out your student’s information. Add the yearbook to your order.
3. Click your shopping cart to verify your order. Proceed to the checkout and pay by credit card.

Mail-In Deadline: 2/28/17 • Online Deadline: 4/7/17

PLEASE CONTACT CANDID COLOR WITH ANY QUESTIONS:
customerservice@candidcolor.net • 703-590-0187 • M-F 9AM-4PM

PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW. PRINT NEATLY.

School  ALGONKIAN ELEMENTARY  2016-17
Student Name
Grade _____ Teacher __________________________
Parent Name ________________________________
Home or Cell Number _________________________
E-mail ________________________________

Mail-In orders must be mailed to:
Candid Color • Post Office Box 124 • Occoquan, VA 22125-0124

SELECT YOUR BOOK • INDICATE QUANTITY

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<th>Item</th>
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TOTAL $

SELECT YOUR PAYMENT METHOD
☐ CHECK  ☐ MONEY ORDER
Checks • Money Orders payable to Candid Color
Algonkian School Counseling

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

Algonkian School Counseling Advisory Council
March 9th at 3:00 p.m.
in Ms. Ryan’s classroom

The advisory council is composed of school and community members and is tasked with making recommendations regarding student and community needs and advising the school counseling staff as it strives to meet these needs.

Please email Ms. Ryan at Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org if you are interested in joining this committee!

SOUPER BOWL XV
A FABULOUS SUCCESS!

The Power of One School making a difference!
Thanks to all students, families, & staff that participated in this character building event!!

Well done everyone!

Congratulations to:
Ms. Moore’s 4th Grade Class
(class winner from 3rd - 5th Grades)
Ms. Linehan’s 2nd Grade Class
&
Ms. Kovacics 1st Grade Class
(Co-Winners from K - 2nd Grades)
2016-2017 CHESS CLUB
March 7th
In The Library!

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/30e0f4caaaa23a46-20162017/
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

March Café Incentive is…
March Madness
On March 31st
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!
March Tech News

We are so excited that the prospect of snow is coming. When it is time to come back indoors from all the shoveling and playing in the snow and you want a little computer time...don’t forget to use LCPS GO for access to all of the websites you use in school. (I-Ready and Reflex!) The website is [www.go.lcps.org](http://www.go.lcps.org) and use your school login and password. Coming up very soon students in 4th and 5th grades will be converting their password into high security passwords, and eventually so will 3rd and maybe 2nd graders. This goes along with the new LCPS policy and our Digital Citizenship lessons. Take a moment to go over one of the CSM student activities “Strong Passwords” for grades 3-5 or “Powerful Passwords” for grades K-2. Students will be able to reset their passwords using LCPS GO. (Please don’t re-set your password until you have had the password reset lesson in class!) 😊

[https://launchpad.classlink.com/loudoun](https://launchpad.classlink.com/loudoun)

Our school is officially certified as a Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship School for the second year in a row! Great job and thank you to all the students, teachers, and parents that participated in the CSM digital citizenship lessons.
Powerful Passwords

**DID YOU KNOW...**
The most popular password is "123456." Yikes -- that is NOT a secure password!

**Family Activity**
With a parent, practice creating passwords that are hard to guess and relatively easy to remember. Write down the name of a book, TV show, movie, or something else you like. Then abbreviate the phrase, replace some of the letters with numbers and symbols, and make some letters uppercase and some lowercase. For example, "Clifford the Big Red Dog" could become "Cl1ffB1Grd." What are some ways that you can remember your password?

**Tech It Up!**
Try a kid-friendly online-password generator! Go to www.dinopass.com with a parent and see if you can come up with a story to help you remember the password it generates.

**Common Sense Says...**
Don’t make your password something that others can easily guess! Remember not to use a dictionary word or your nickname (since this would be easy for others to guess). Make your password secure by checking that it includes letters, numbers, and symbols. (Hint: !, @, $, and % are examples of symbols.)
**Strong Passwords**

**DID YOU KNOW...**
One of the most commonly used passwords is "qwerty," and this is NOT a secure password! (Can you figure out why so many people might use this password? Hint: Try typing it out on a computer keyboard.)

Unjumble to find the hidden words

1. srteulcy  
2. etatopecxin  
3. bolboapircgy  
4. pawrossd ptriooectn  
5. rodnam  
6. seesrn nmae

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
How can we remind ourselves, other students, and our families to keep passwords secure?

**Family Activity**
With a family member, review the Common Sense dos and don’ts of creating a safe password. Then, pick your favorite cartoon character and draw a picture of him or her on a piece of paper. On the back of the paper, make a list of personal information (interests, fun facts) about the character and use it to make up a safe and secure password for your character. Check that you haven’t included any private information -- only use personal information. Next, try to come up with a story to remember the password.

**Tech It Up!**
DinoPass (http://www.dinopass.com/) is a password generator for kids that has two options: SIMPLE passwords and STRONG passwords. Try generating at least three of each and write them down. With a family member, see if you can spot a pattern to figure out the difference between the STRONG and the SIMPLE passwords. Together, come up with at least one pro and one con of using each type of password.

**Common Sense Says...**
Smart and safe passwords: 1). have at least eight characters; 2). use a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols; and 3). aren’t easy for other people to guess! Passwords should NOT have private information in them, such as your full name (first and last), date of birth, mother’s maiden name, street address, school name or address, credit card number, phone number, or social security number.
Dear Algonkian Parents,

Another month has passed and more good things to report from the PE department. We have recently finished the ABL season and have had much success. We started out slowly where students were getting used to the idea of organized basketball and progressed into a league that was very competitive and fun. Thanks to all those who participated and supported the league.

**Grades 1-3:**
- Completed parachute unit (1, 2 and 3)
- Completed throwing and catching with implements (1, 2, and 3)

**Grades 4 and 5:**
- Completed volleyball unit
- Throwing at mobile objects
- Finished ABL season

**Currently and in the near future:**
**Grades 1-3:**
- Spring games unit (chase and flee)
- Cooperative games unit

**Grades 4-5:**
- Teacher vs. 5th grade All-Star Game
- Spring games unit
- Fitness Test Preparation

Have a great month!
Joe Terango and Nick Peters
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 March:

**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

**WHAT'S NEW !!!!!**

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

- Kindergarten are creating: Seurat Portraits and Dutch Windmills
- First Grade are creating: Didgeridoo
- Second Grade are creating: Masterpiece Museum and Golden Gate Architecture
- Third Grade are creating: Westward Expansion Collages
- Fourth Grade are creating: Dino Fossils and Lobel Recycled Birds
- Fifth Grade are creating: Russian Kirigami Dolls

**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.

3rd Grade Musical “Go West”
April 6, 2017 @ 1:30 and 6:30

March is Music in Our Schools Month

What is Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM)?

Music in Our Schools Month or “MIOSM” is NAfME’s annual celebration during March which engages music educators, students, and communities from around the country in promoting the benefits of high quality music education programs in schools.

Music in Our Schools Month began as a single statewide Advocacy Day and celebration in New York in 1973 and grew over the decades to become a month-long celebration of school music in 1985.

To learn even more about this wonderful celebration, please visit the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) website http://www.nafme.org/programs/miosm/

Check out the calendar in Ms. Michael's Art section of the newsletter to see how Algonkian is celebrating Music in Our Schools Month and Youth Art Month. Also, visit the Algonkian Music webpage to find fun links to help you celebrate!
Battle of the Books for our 5th grade team will take place on March 28th at 4 PM at the Cascades Public Library. Come cheer on our students as they compete with teams from Countryside and Meadowland elementary schools. Our Battle of the Books team has read 4 books and has been busy preparing to battle the other teams to see who knows the most about these books.

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.

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
Every now and then I like to do a “Reminder” newsletter by looking back to the beginning of the year and remind everyone of various resources and programs here at Algonkian and within the County. So here goes!

**Algonkian Equity Committee** – The Committee will have an Open Meeting on April 9, 2017 at 2:50 p.m. If you have interest in attending or would like to submit questions or concerns please contact either Ms. Ryan, Counselor or me.

**Lions Club of Sterling** – We continue to collect eye glass donations at Algonkian through May of this year. There is a small box in the foyer for your donations. The Lion’s Club takes donations of eye glasses, empty eye glass frames, hearing aids and cell phones. Please take the glasses/frames out of their container and donate in a clear plastic bags. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

**LCPS Tutor List** - LCPS has an extensive approved tutor list. All fees for services are between the tutor and student. The list can be found at [www.LCPS.org/Page/1413](http://www.LCPS.org/Page/1413).

**Irene’s Prom Closet** – Prom is right around the corner. If you have items to donate; dresses, accessories, shoes, men’s slacks, dress shoes, shirts, etc., please contact [www.IrenesPromCloset.com](http://www.IrenesPromCloset.com) or [www.facebook.com/IrenesPromCloset](http://www.facebook.com/IrenesPromCloset). If you have a need and would like help with Prom accessories for your older student, please contact the same locations.

**Parent Resource Services** – PRS encourages positive working relationships between families, educators and the community. They promote understanding of the special education process as well as provide information relating to educational issues and community services. Visit them on the web at [http://lcps.org/ParentResourceServices](http://lcps.org/ParentResourceServices) for more information and a list of their upcoming workshops.

Last but not least is the **LOST & FOUND**. We have a large amount of Lost & Found items. Please encourage your student to stop by the Lost & Found and look through the items. The Lost & Found is kept in clear bins in the front office and during the last week of each month is in the Cafeteria. All items remaining in June will be donated to the local thrift store.

**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.
An NAGC (National Association of the Gifted Child) article states that parents must be their child’s first “teacher.” Parents must nurture an attitude of curiosity and exploration in children in order for children to be able to see the benefit in exploring new subjects, ideas, and activities. “In a study of parental influence in female U.S. Olympians, we learned how important it is for children to receive multiple opportunities to try a variety of activities. One of the most powerful roles the parents played for these elite athletes was that of ‘opportunity maker’.”

In order for children to realize their full potential as learners, they must be exposed to multiple opportunities. Parents do not need to be experts themselves in a particular field of study or proficient themselves at a particular activity, but they must be willing to allow children to experience a variety of activities at which the child may fail or may succeed. It is only through experiences that children will find their true interests.

How does this relate to keeping a child interested in school, feeling excited about learning, and having the motivation to pursue his/her interests? It is certainly true that there are certain areas in school that are not in themselves particularly interesting. If, however, you link a child’s interests to those subjects, and if you help the child understand that he/she is gaining the tools which will help him/her continue to learn about those interests, school subjects which previously seemed somewhat uninteresting can become stepping stones to mastering the child’s own goals. Help your child connect school to the achievement of his/her own goals. A child who is working toward the accomplishment of his/her own goals will welcome the challenge of school, whatever the subject may be!

A child’s interests and enthusiasms provide a natural springboard to learning. As a challenge this spring, help your child find a new area of interest. Check out programs offered at our local nature centers and parks. Visit a new museum or historic site. Try a new sport. Go on a hike. Visit a library – and check out their special programs. Go camping. Complete the “Junior Ranger” scavenger hunt at a national park. Visit the farmers’ market and try a new vegetable. Find a new recipe and make it together. Start exploring, and have fun!

Patty Peterson
SEARCH Teacher
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.