Principal Update

DEAR ALGONKIAN PARENTS,

We have a busy month in November as we celebrate American Education Week. Each grade level will have an activity during the week that parents are invited to participate.

Please join us this Friday for our Veteran’s Day Assembly. This is a community event for all families to attend. The assembly will start at 9:00 AM.

On Wednesday, November 16 we will have fall portrait make up pictures. This is for students who were not here doing picture day or students who need their picture retaken.

We have two night events coming up that are for the entire Algonkian community. On Thursday, November 17 will be our annual Reading Under the Stars. You can wear your pajamas and bring a pillow to listen to staff members and others form the community read some of their favorite stories.

On Friday, November 18 we will have our 3rd annual International Night. Please join us to celebrate the different cultures of Algonkian Elementary. There will be performances and food tasting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Impact Aid cards went home last week. All cards need to be returned. Loudoun County receives money for those families working on Federal Property. Please return the card regardless of your workplace.

This month students are participating in the 1,000 ticket challenge. If the students earn 1,000 golden bobcat tickets before November 21, they will earn a PBIS assembly. The assembly will be our annual Turkey bowl. This is a unique football game between students and staff. The Turkey Bowl will take place on November 22 at 1:15 PM.

Have a great month and Happy Thanksgiving!

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)
Professional School Counselors
Help Students Reach Their Potential!

A Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP)

Join our School Counseling Advisory Council to find out more about our School Counseling Program and what it means to have an ASCA Model School Counseling Program! Our School Counseling 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.

Our Algonkian Advisory Council met on Nov 3, 2016 and reapproved our school counseling mission and vision statements! Please visit our school counseling webpage where you can look at our vision and mission statements, peruse counseling curriculum and scheduling information, as well as resources for parents and for students!

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

Teachers VS Student Football Game
If students earn 1000 tickets in November we will have a special Students vs Teachers Football Game on November 22nd!

November café Incentive is... Football Toss

Check out PBIS on our webpage: http://lcps.org/domain/13641
2016-2017 CHESS CLUB
3rd Chess Club Meeting
December 6th
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

Counselor Detective Game
For Parents & Students!

The 1st week of each month The Lorax will hide in a different page within our School Counseling Webpages.

The first 5 students that find it & share with Ms. Ryan will get a treasure from Ms. Ryan’s Treasure Box!

Who will find The Lorax this month?!
Algonkian recycles ink! Yes, we will still take your old printer ink cartridges to recycle! If they are small just put them in a bag and place them in Mrs. Burkett’s or Mrs. Jackson’s mailbox. If they are of the larger variety – please bring them to the Computer Lab and place them near Mrs. Burkett’s desk. We want to help support our GREEN TEAM and recycle too!

We are closer to our Common Sense Media School-wide Digital Citizenship Certification. We continue to talk about being a good digital citizen by thinking about our digital footprint. When we go on-line we leave “tracks” behind, always think before we post anything on-line.

THINK is it-
T – True?
H – Helpful?
I – Inspiring or Informative?
N – Necessary?
K- Kind?

It may be years down the road but a negative presence on-line could catch up to you.

Please take time to read the Family Tip sheet and Grade-level digital citizenship activities.
Staying Safe Online

* DID YOU KNOW ...
Just because it’s online doesn’t mean it’s true! Sometimes people make mistakes, are joking, or are not honest when they write something online.

1. Family Activity
Create a website traffic-light poster. On a large sheet of paper, draw an outline of a traffic light with red, yellow, and green lights. Have a family member help you write tips next to each light to explain how you can spot a red, yellow, or green website. Think together of three “green” websites that are safe for kids to visit.

2. Tech It Up!
Together, go online and visit the green websites you identified! Consider bookmarking the pages so you can easily find them later.

3. Common Sense Says ...
Stick to green websites!
A green website is GOOD. A green website is good for kids your age to visit. It is fun, with things for you to do and see. Has appropriate words. Doesn’t let you talk to people you don’t know.

A yellow website means CAUTION, and you should check with an adult. A yellow website: Is one you’re not sure is right for you. Asks for information such as who you are, where you live, and so on. Is a place where you are allowed to communicate freely with others.

A red website means STOP. Try to avoid red websites. A red website is: A site that is not right for you. A place you might have gone to by accident. Filled with things that are for older kids or adults.

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?
How is staying safe in your neighborhood similar to staying safe online?
DID YOU KNOW...
People online who post hurtful comments intended only to upset other people are called “trolls.” Trolls are definitely NOT practicing good digital citizenship!

Unjumble to find the hidden words

1. rsletnispioiby
2. piarasilgm
3. citaoitn
4. cmniumtoy
5. dgiigtl ciztien
6. ehitcs

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Is there a responsibility you have to others both online and offline?

Family Activity
Make your very own Rings of Responsibility. Draw three circles [note: add diagram] on a piece of paper or on a paper plate. Label the innermost circle “Self,” the middle circle “Friends and Family,” and the outer circle “Larger Community.” With a family member, collect photographs or magazine images that represent the types of responsibilities you have within each ring. You can paste or tape the printed images onto your collage.

Tech It Up!
Use a digital camera to go on a photo journey and take pictures of the items for your collage! When you’re finished, you can either print them out and make your collage on paper or you can use Pixlr Express on a smartphone or tablet.

Common Sense Says ...
As a digital citizen, you’re a member of a worldwide community linked by the Internet. Being a good digital citizen means taking care of your responsibilities to yourself, to your friends and family, and to the larger community! Visiting only sites that are safe and appropriate is a responsibility you have to yourself. Never sharing a friend’s private information or your family’s address is an example of a responsibility you have to friends and family. Never calling people names online is a responsibility you have to the larger community.
Common Sense on Privacy and Digital Footprints

What’s the Issue?
Our kids live in a culture of sharing that has forever changed the concept of privacy. In a world where everyone is connected and anything created online can be copied, pasted, and sent to thousands of people in a heartbeat, privacy starts to mean something different than simply guarding personal or private information. In this context, you might think about kids’ privacy in three categories: privacy and security, privacy and reputation, and privacy and advertising.

- **Privacy and security**: This is the private information (e.g., Social Security number, first and last name) that could put kids at risk for identity theft if it got into the wrong hands.

- **Privacy and reputation**: The information that could be personally embarrassing or hurtful to them or others if posted publicly.

- **Privacy and advertising**: The information about their habits and behavior online that companies collect in order to target them with ads and other content.

Why Does It Matter?
For good or bad, everything our kids do online creates digital footprints that migrate and persist. Kids share work with others and, as they get older, receive comments and feedback. This culture of sharing is beneficial in many ways. But if kids aren’t careful, their reputations can be harmed, or their information used in ways they never intended. For example, your child may think he or she just sent something to a friend, but that friend can send it to a friend’s friend, who can send it to their friends’ friends, and so on. Or they may innocently fill out an online form without understanding that this may make them vulnerable to identity theft. Their online behavior will likely be tracked without them knowing by the industry, which has little incentive to be responsible.

**common sense says**

- **Make sure kids get your permission before filling out forms.** Let kids know that you are the gatekeeper. They should ask your permission before filling out online forms, and they should always keep their Social Security number, birth date, address, and full name private.

- **Help kids think long term.** Everything online leaves a digital footprint. Help them think before they post so that they will be proud of their internet presence down the road.

- **Remind kids that the Golden Rule applies online.** Remind kids that they will be treated online as they treat others. Whatever negative things they say can and probably will come back to haunt them, in more ways than they can imagine.

- **Help kids see through advertising.** The next time an ad pops up online, or you see that you are being targeted by ads specific to your interests, point it out to your kids. Let them know that some companies advertise to you based on what kinds of things you look at online.
Dear Algonkian Parents,

Greetings from the PE department. We are having a lot of fun here at Algonkian Elementary and everyone is working so hard and diligently. We as physical education teachers are so proud at the effort we see day to day in our classes. The younger students are grasping the skills they are being taught and the older students are setting good examples and striving to better their scores in the Fitness gram tests. Great job all of you!

Grades 1-3:
- Completed throwing and catching/Bean bag manipulation unit and activities.
- Short Jump Rope Manipulation Unit
- Completed hula hoop skills and manipulation.

Grades 4 and 5:
- Completed throwing, catching, and striking mobile objects.
- Completed Fitness Gram Testing.
- Completed additional Games for Recess Unit.

Currently and in the near future:
Grades 1-3:
- Kicking unit. Striking objects with feet, dribbling, trapping, and ball control.
- Working on Cup Stacking Manipulation and Dexterity.
- Introduction to scooters. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength).
- Introduce and complete Long Jump Rope Unit.

Grades 4-5:
- Scooter introduction. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength)
- Ball skills (manipulation of ball) rolling, dribbling, passing, shooting, and catching.
- Preparation for the Algonkian Basketball league.

Enjoy the month!
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 November:

- Kindergarten are creating: Gobbly Wobbly Turkey and Wayne Theibaud Bumball Machine
- First Grade are creating: Nocturnal Shadow Puppets and Starry Night Pumpkin Patch
- Second Grade are creating: Patches of Honor and Wright Window
- Third Grade are creating: Origami Turkey Floats and Andy Warhol Soup Can
- Fourth Grade are creating: Metals of Honor Carvings and Art History Snowmen
- Fifth Grade are creating: Looking Behind Portrait and 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
- Baby Wipes
- Buttons
- Soda Can Tabs
- Bubble wrap
- Tape—masking, transparent, and double sided
- Bobby Pins
- Paper plates
- Clean Terry Towels
- Dish Soap
I would like to start this newsletter with a HUGE BOBCAT THANK YOU for your generosity and support for our winter clothing/coat drive. The clothing distribution was October 29th at the High School. What wasn’t distributed was then picked up by LINK to help support their clothing distribution later this month.

If you continue to have youth sized coats to donate, please consider sending them into the school.
We always have a need within our Bobcat family as well as our cluster of schools. Again, thanks for your support and generosity.

If you are looking for opportunities to volunteer this Holiday Season contact the Salvation Army. They have a need in many areas and have opportunities for individuals as well as groups. You can sign up to volunteer by visiting, www.signupgenius.com, click “Find a sign up”, go to “Search by Email”, enter: SALoudounCorpsVolunteers@gmail.com or you can email Matthew Broglio at SALoudoun-CorpsVolunteers@gmail.com.

Marine Corps Toys for Tots – Algonkian will be participating in the Toys for Tots gift drive after Thanksgiving break. Information will be posted on the Website later this month as well as a flyer coming home in the backpack.

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.

In my monthly newsletters I offer resources from both County and faith based organizations. LCPS and Algonkian do not support one resource over another. My goal is to provide as much information and as many resources as I can. Participation is strictly voluntary. If you ever have any concerns or questions about the information I offer, please contact me through the office or email me at Susan.R.Smith@lcps.org.

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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. 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]
Think About It: Critical Thinking

Critical thinking, often referred to as logical thinking, analytical thinking, higher order thinking, or critical reasoning, refers to the ability to “analyze a situation, synthesize information, or evaluate an argument”. In essence, critical thinking is knowing how to think.

As early as kindergarten, teachers utilize numerous activities and strategies to help students learn how to think critically. Listed below are a few techniques used in the classroom that you can try at home.

Ask open-ended questions. When you ask questions that don’t have one correct response, it encourages children to answer creatively without the fear of being wrong. When reading with your children, ask them questions such as: What do you think will happen next? Why do you think the character acted that way? Does this story/event remind you of something else? In addition, parents can promote critical thinking in all areas by asking “Why?” and encouraging children to provide a reasonable argument for their answer.

Categorize and classify. Classifying requires children to identify, understand, and apply rules. These skills are important components of critical thinking and are very much connected to the areas of mathematics and science. You can categorize and sort practically everything in your home. Ask your children to identify the similarities and differences between the groups created and the rule(s) they used to sort the objects.

Work in groups. Working in groups allows children to experience how their peers think and discover there is often more than one way to solve a problem. Encourage your children to be respectful when agreeing or disagreeing with others and to provide explanations for their opinions.

Make decisions. It is important to allow your children to work through the decision-making process. Assist your children with thinking about the pros and cons of a decision. Don’t always shield them from making a wrong choice. Instead, discuss the choice that was made and help your children to evaluate their decision.

Find patterns. Understanding patterns and making connections promote critical thinking by helping your children to identify relationships between pieces of information. Patterns can be found everywhere – in nature, at home, even at your favorite restaurant. Help your children make connections by asking them to relate real-life events to those they experience in books and movies.

Critical thinking skills enable children to make the connection between what is learned in the classroom and how it applies to the real world. Critical thinking is the foundation for independent thinking, problem solving, and intelligent decision-making. Developing these skills is vital to the success of children as they grow into adults.

An excerpt from:
LCPS Café Updates

School meals consist of the main entrée items and sides that make up the school menu. This is what the federal government reimburses the district for and therefore is subject to federal nutrition guidelines. Other items you’ll see for sale like snacks and beverages besides milk are called a la carte items. All snacks that are served also must meet or exceed prescriptive regulations concerning nutrition content. Meals and snacks served fund the school nutrition program that is self-funded, meaning they receive no School Board funds to operate. To keep parents informed about what is being sold in elementary schools, parents are encouraged to visit www.lcpshealthycafe.org. Click on menu and ingredient lists for current nutrition information. Parents have the ability to limit the snacks their children might purchase.

In mid-October there were food allergy reactions by a few students across the county (not at Algonkian) after eating the supreme taco salad, the supreme taco (Secondary) or the Supreme Taco Roll (Elementary). Research indicates that up to 5% of those with peanut allergies may also be allergic to legumes. The Supreme items are vegetarian, made with pea protein.

All the other ingredients in these recipes were investigated with the manufacturers, and we believe them to be free of peanut or tree nut contamination at this time. If you have any questions, please contact School Nutrition Services at 571-252-1010.
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.

Veterans Day Assembly: showcasing kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 4th grade on November 11, 2016 at 9:00am

1st Grade Performance: The First Thanksgiving
November 17th at 9 AM

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 are continuing to prepare for the musicals. 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. The musical will take place on Thursday, December 15, 2016. T-shirts will be sent home in the near future. Also, this month I will be auditioning students for the 5th Grade All County Chorus festival.

4th Grade
Fourth grade students are ready to honor our Veterans at the assembly on November 11. Remember to wear red, white, and/or blue on November 11!! For the rest of this month we will be reviewing reading notes on the treble clef in preparation for playing recorder. Please look out for information about purchasing recorders that will be sent home fairly soon.

3rd Grade
Third grade students are just beginning to learn about reading note on the treble clef. Next year they will be playing recorders, so they need to learn to read the music in preparation. We will be focusing on note reading for most of the month, but will also be doing a few Thanksgiving related activities.

2nd Grade
Second grade students are ready to honor our Veterans at the assembly on November 11. Remember to wear red, white, and/or blue on November 11!! After the assembly, second grade students will be working on some Thanksgiving activities.

1st Grade
First graders are just about ready for our musical, “The First Thanksgiving”. The musical will take place on Thursday, November 17 at 9:00. After the musical we will be working on some fun Thanksgiving activities!
Message from the Health Clinic
Ms. Franzen

School-Sponsored After-School Activities and Sports
If your child has diabetes, an epinephrine auto-injector, an inhaler, or other emergency medication at school, please notify the teacher/sponsor that your child has the health concern.

Also notify the health clinic specialist/nurse 2 weeks prior to the event. The clinic is closed after dismissal and the HCS/RN is not in the building. Arrangements need to be made to have medication available and to train staff.

It is strongly suggested that middle and high school students carry their own inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector for quick access to medication. For students to carry an inhaler, the physician must complete and sign the “Asthma Action Plan” giving his/her permission for the student to carry the inhaler, and the parent and student must sign page 3, the “Parent/Student Agreement for Permission to Carry an Inhaler”.

For students with an epinephrine auto-injector, the physician will need to sign the bottom of the “Allergy Action Plan” and the parent and student will need to sign page 2 under “Agreement for Permission to Self-Administer and/or Carry Epinephrine.”

For students with diabetes to carry any of their medical supplies, the diabetes form, Part 4: “Permission to Self-Carry and Self-Administer Diabetes Care,” will need to be signed by the physician, parent, and student.
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.