Principal Update

DEAR ALGONKIAN PARENTS,

September was an exciting month. I want to thank the PTA and all the volunteers for a successful Bobcat Walk-a-thon. We have a busy October as well with many upcoming exciting events.

We have famous children’s author and poet Kalli Dakos coming to Algonkian on October 21. That night is also our annual Monster Mash. Please sign up to volunteer for the monster mash. This month for Poetry Masters, students were given a Kalli Dakos poem to practice reading. This is an optional program but many students have already told me they memorized the poem.

Most parents have signed up for a conference. If you have not signed up for conference with your child’s teacher, please do so as soon as possible. It is important to have a connection between the school and the parents. The first quarter ends on Friday, November 4th.

I want to remind everyone that the tardy bell rings at 7:50. Please have your child arrive to school before 7:50. It is important they are on time as we begin instruction right away in the morning.

The annual Book Character Parade will be on Friday, October 28th. The parade will begin at 1:15. The Potomac Falls band will be here to lead our parade. Students should not wear masks that cover their face or paint their face. Toy weapons are not allowed at the parade so they should not be part of the costume.

Bus driver appreciation week is October 17 –21. Algonkian will celebrate our bus drivers on October 19th. Students are writing thank you notes to them and we are providing coffee and donuts for them in the morning.

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 October 27th @ Countryside Elementary School (Behavior and Academic Strategies)
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)
Join our School Counseling Advisory Committee 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.

The advisory council will meet on Nov 3, 2016 @ 2:50pm in Ms. Ryan’s classroom (room 30)

Please email Ms. Ryan at Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org if you are interested in joining this committee! Interested in finding out more about RAMP? Click on the following link: http://www.ascanationalmodel.org/Ascanationalmodel/media/ANM-templates/ANMExecSumm.pdf

School Counseling Lessons — Each year 2nd—5th grade students participate in a needs assessment survey to provide for student input in our counseling program. Students are encouraged to provide input on needed counseling lesson topics for this school year, and share their perceptions of our school culture.

Students LOVED the Power Of One Examples we did last year in counseling, so I will continue sharing stories of people (especially children) who are making a positive difference in the world!

Student Voice & Choice 2016-2017

Student Voice & Choice 2016-2017

Life ripple affect helping other people
Effect means think
Change the world doing great big
Remember world and when one person makes lives kind stuff caring nice

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?!
2016-2017 CHESS CLUB

2nd Chess Club Meeting

November 1st

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.

---

**Algonkian Elementary**

**(Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)**

Algonkian’s PBIS framework is based on The 4 R’s Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, and Ready

---

**October café Incentive is…**

**BINGO**

---

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

---

*When students feel safe, respected, and connected to learning, fun happens naturally!*
Thank you to the PTA! Our wonderful PTA purchased 30 Google Chromebooks for student use this year. We are so excited to bring more technology into the hands of our students. The Chromebooks were checked out the very first day they were available and have been used ever since!

In keeping with our continued Digital Citizenship School Certification, we will continue all year long with monthly information for students and parents:

Following your students’ academic work is important, but following your child's on-line activities is just as important. Knowing where your child visits and what they do on-line is one of the most important parts of being an active and informed parent. Look at what technology devices your children have access to. Learn which have internet access.

For example, a gaming console on its own does not have internet access, but if you subscribe to a “LIVE” version, your child is now capable of communicating with other people. The same goes for music playing devices that may have Wi-Fi capability. Many devices automatically pick up an available network; you can change the setting of the device to reflect your level of comfort with your child's tech involvement. Happy and safe surfing!

Look here for more information on teaching your child how to be a good Digital Citizen. [https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/parents](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/parents)
My Online Community

**DID YOU KNOW...**
More than two billion people from around the world use the Internet! (The number two billion has NINE zeroes after the two)

---

**Family Activity**

Create a map of a family member’s online community. Interview a family member and create a list of people with whom he or she might connect and websites or online places where he or she might go when using the Internet. Then, create a map that shows all the key people and places. Does your family member’s online community include any people he or she doesn’t get to see in person very often?

**Tech It Up!**

Use ToonTastic on a smartphone or tablet to create a story about your family member’s online community. Make sure the story explains who your family member talks to online and where he or she likes to go!

**Common Sense Says...**

You might have people who are part of your community offline (at school, on sports teams, or at home) whom you don’t connect with online. That’s OK! But make sure not to connect with any people online whom you don’t know from real life.

---

**What do you think?**

When you go online, do you really go somewhere?

---

**Word Search**

- eetpeeel
- oedrneo
- enoeib
- eyttomam
- eeeaooy
- eruccss
- editaaa

- secure
- symbol
- protect
- tone
- edit

---

DO YOU REMEMBER...

What it means to be part of an online community?
**Talking Safely Online 🌐 **

**DID YOU KNOW …**

Many websites that allow you to chat with other people have a ‘block’ feature, which allows you to stop receiving messages from a particular person. You can even block certain phone numbers from texting you. Don’t be afraid to ask a parent for help figuring out how to block a person who makes you feel unsafe.

**Unjumble to find the hidden words**

1. uaoitrfnocmobe____________________
2. ehpazitme____________________
3. spetteroye____________________
4. messgae____________________
5. clbryulbyneg____________________
6. mitnoor____________________

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What kind of information should you not share with online-only friends?

**Family Activity**

Come up with a clever way to remember examples of private information in the future. Pick the tune of a song, such as “Happy Birthday,” “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” or even the theme song from your favorite TV show. Write a song to that tune that helps you remember private information: your full name, street address, school name, school address, email address, phone number, computer password, mother’s maiden name, or parent’s place of work.

**Tech It Up!**

Use an audio recorder on a family member’s phone (with their permission) or the GarageBand app to record your song!

**Common Sense Says …**

If things get creepy or uncomfortable when you’re chatting online, take action.

~ Log out of the website or messaging service.
~ Tell a parent or trusted adult.
~ Ignore the person or block that person from chatting with you.

**DO YOU REMEMBER …**

What the differences are between Internet Friends and in-person friends?
Common Sense on Digital Life

What’s the Issue?
We may think of our kids’ online, mobile, and technological activities as “digital life,” but to them it’s just life. In their world, being able to connect and communicate 24/7 from just about any location is normal — and expected! Between kindergarten and fifth grade, kids go through rapid growth in learning. From playing games on their mom or dad’s cell phone, to learning how to point and click a mouse, to navigating online by themselves, kids this age are participating in a connected culture.

Why Does It Matter?
The stakes are high because our kids’ technological abilities can be greater than their maturity and judgment. Having unrestricted access to information and people can result in gaining a wealth of information and experiences but also access to inappropriate content. Just as kids learn to eat properly, swim safely, or drive a car carefully, they need to know how to live in the digital world responsibly and respectfully. Their success depends on their abilities to use digital media to create, collaborate, and communicate well with others. Those who master these skills in using digital tools will benefit from the digital world’s awesome power.

common sense says

Use bookmarks and safe search. Teach your child to bookmark his or her favorite sites. This way, your child is less likely to go somewhere online you don’t want. Use safe search options on web browsers, such as Epic or DuckDuckGo, to make sure your child can search safely.

Consider using filtering and blocking software. Some parents find these tools to be useful to help protect younger children from accessing inappropriate content.

Have older siblings help. Have your older children help teach your younger children how to be responsible and safe online. Let the older ones know that you want them to help you protect their little brothers or sisters online.

Share wisdom. Kids often don’t understand how their actions affect others. We do. We teach kids to choose their words carefully, play nicely with others, and respect their teachers. Now we have to extend those lessons to a vast, invisible world. As a parent, you can translate your values into the digital world and help kids understand the implications of their actions.

Seek balance. If our kids are going to thrive with digital media, we must balance the negative with the positive, privacy with protection. As our children grow, they need more independence and privacy. But parents have to be sure their kids know how to be safe and responsible before letting them loose.

Keep an open mind. We don’t see the world the way our kids do. We don’t help our kids when we judge their lives through the lens of a non-digital world. It’s important for us to understand that our kids will spend much of their lives in a connected world, where everyone creates and communicates. We need to help them to enjoy it and learn from it.
Dear Algonkian Parents,

Congratulations on making it through the beginning of the school year. Sometimes the changing from summer vacation to getting up early for school everyday can be difficult. The students at Algonkian are making a smooth transition in our PE classes. Here are some highlights from the beginning weeks of school as well as what to look forward to in the near future.

Grades 1-3:
- Learned spatial awareness: How to move without running into other students, objects, or crossing boundaries.
- Learned personal and general space.
- Playground Safety.
- Throwing and catching objects: Throwing with opposition and catching with two hands

Grades 4 and 5:
- Reviewed spatial awareness, general, and personal space.
- Reviewed throwing and catching: throwing with accuracy.
- Take Fitness Gram tests.
- Playground Safety
- Recess Games (four square)

In the near future:

Grades 1-3:
- Kicking: control and accuracy
- Hoop Skills- Manipulation and control
- Learned basic short jump rope manipulation

Grades 4-5:
- Review Kicking: Control, accuracy, and striking with kicking.
- Basketball Skills- Dribbling, passing, and shooting
- Complete Virginia Wellness Fitness Gram Pre-Testing.

Have a great month!

Nick Peters

and

Joe Terango

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 October:

- Kindergarten are creating: Hatching Dinosaur Prints and Guatemalan Tarantula
- First Grade are creating: Treasure Maps and Nocturnal Shadow Puppet
- Second Grade are creating: Dia de los Muertos Toy Art and Veteran’s Day Patches
- Third Grade are creating: Yayoi Kusama Pumpkins and Paul Klee Cities
- Fourth Grade are creating: Metals of Honor Carvings and Da Vinci Flying Machine
- Fifth Grade are creating: Dali Surrealism Zoo 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
- Small children’s toys
- Buttons
- Soda Can Tabs
- Bubble wrap
- Tape
- Masking, transparent, and double sided
- Bobby Pins
- Paper plates
- Clean Terry Towels
- Dish Soap
Susan Smith  
Parent Liaison

We finally have cooler weather and that means it is time to bring out the warmer clothes, coats, hats and gloves. If you find that your student has outgrown last years’ items, please donate them during the month of October to our **Potomac Falls Cluster Winter Clothing Drive!**

Visit our webpage for more details. All donations will be at the **Free No Sale Clothing Sale** at the high school on **October 29th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** Please make sure that the clothing is clean and free of any name tags before donating. The donation box is located in the foyer of the school. Thanks in advance for your continued support and generosity.

The **Lions Club of Sterling** is kicking off their eyeglass donation drive this month. There will be a donation box in the foyer now through May 2017. When donating eyeglasses please take them out of the case and place in a plastic bag. Eliminating the case saves on space and leaves room for more donations! We will also accept used hearing aids and cell phones. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

**Algonkian’s Equity Committee** has designated December and April as Open Meeting months. Our Equity team is committed to serving our Bobcat families by ensuring that our instruction, programs and interaction with all students, staff and families is equitable. If you would like to attend the Open Meetings or if you have questions or comments please email either Ms. Theresa Ryan, School Counselor or myself.

Just a reminder to please check the display stand in the foyer of the school for the latest information from the PTA, our school and my office. If you have any concerns or questions I am available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays by calling the office or I can be reached by email at Susan.R.Smith@lcps.org.

---

**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.
Cold temperatures may not have arrived yet, but it’s around the corner! Donate your out-grown warm clothes, coats, and shoes/boots taking up valuable space in your home. Bring clean, gently used items in all sizes to your school for our Cluster Clothing Drive.

The Parent Liaisons at each school are collecting clothes for distribution to the families within our community during the month of October. Each school will collect clothes, and will come together at the high school for a cluster-wide free no-sale clothing sale on Saturday October 29th starting at 9:00am until 12:00pm! Help our students and their families, and help your closets.

All clothes can be dropped off into one of the boxes in the front entrances of each school during the month of October.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Parent Liaisons of the Potomac Falls High School Cluster.
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
Learning to Lose

No one likes to lose, but even fewer people like a sore loser! While we all want our children to experience success, it is equally important to prepare them to handle defeat… and game play provides a safe and natural arena in which to practice this important life skill!

In a friendly game of Candy Land or Zingo!, for example, it can be tempting to simply let your child win every time. This can actually do more harm than good. Children need to learn to celebrate the success of others and to cope with losing. While not suggesting that you play ruthlessly and crush your young opponent each time, gently competitive games provide a great opportunity to prepare your child for inevitable ups and downs in all arenas of life!

So how do we help kids deal with defeat? In a recent article, “Turn A Sore Loser Into a Good Sport” Joy Berry, a child-development specialist and author of more than 250 children’s books, shares some dos and don’ts for turning losses into learning experiences:

Do let your child feel disappointed. “Some parents are consumed with trying to avoid their child having any kind of disappointment, to the point of everyone on a team getting trophies or certificates so nobody feels bad,” Berry says. “It’s very noble, but disappointment prepares children for bigger challenges later in life. You don’t want to raise a child who tears down the tents and goes home every time they’re disappointed.”

Don’t set your child up to fail. “Life is going to deal you enough blows,” Berry says. “We don’t need to set up failures for kids so they learn a lesson.” Choose age-appropriate activities for your child that he or she has a fair shot at winning. “Games that don’t take certain skills, but are left to chance, are a good way to level the playing field.”

Do have a post-game chat. “It’s important to say, ‘There is no way anyone wins all the time, and there are going to be some times when you lose. When you do, it’s important that you’re gracious. When you win, it’s important that you’re a gracious winner too.’”

Don’t model sore loser-dom. “When your child beats you at a game, you can demonstrate how to be a good sport. ‘Congratulations for winning! Let’s play again!’ Tell them they did a great job and show them how to be a gracious loser.” Shake hands with, give a thumbs up to, or high-five the winner.

Do focus on the positive. “After a loss, say, ‘Great game. I really like the way you did this and this.’ Try to get them to focus on the things that did go right and emphasize the importance of doing that in every phase of life.”

As cooler weather returns, use games not only as fun and engaging activities, but also as learning opportunities and teaching tools. Games help develop cognitive skills such as pattern recognition, word building, and strategizing, but also critical social skills, like taking turns, respecting others, and learning to win and lose graciously!
Lines from the Library

Book Fair will be open Monday October 17th to Friday October 21st from 7:30 to 3:00 each day. Students are encouraged to shop during their library class time.

Family Night will be Friday Oct. 21st during Monster Mash from 5:30 to 8:30.

Algonkian will once again offer an Online Book Fair! From October 8th until October 28th you can shop online at

http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/alonkianelementaryschool1

All online orders will ship free to Algonkian. Keep in mind that items ordered online will have sales tax. Items ordered will be delivered to your student when the items arrive at school. Share the link with family members who live far away who may wish to purchase a book for your student or our school.

Dear Parent:

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.

Sincerely,

Chrissie Devinney, Librarian
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
Fifth graders have started working on material for their musical, “Gettin’ Outta Town”. This two-act musical will take place on Thursday, December 15, 2016. Mrs. Booker’s & Mrs. Mills’ classes will perform the folktale “Look Behind as Well as Before”, and Mrs. Biegel’s & Mrs. Wippich’s classes will perform “Bremen Town Musicians”. Information was recently sent home. T-shirt/musical fee and permission slip are due Wednesday, October 19th. Please make sure to turn these in soon!

4th Grade
Fourth grade students recently worked on improvising a melody in C pentatonic of the Orff instruments. This month we will begin to prepare for the Veterans Day assembly on November 11. We will be discussing dynamics, as well as rhythm, vocal technique, and performance practice as we work on our songs for the assembly.

3rd Grade
Third grade students reviewed melodic forms, singing sol-la-mi melodies, body percussion, and techniques used when playing Orff instruments in several of our activities so far this year. They also learned a very exciting play party game called “Alabama Gal”. This month we will continue reviewing techniques used with playing Orff instruments and begin to review rhythms and note values. Toward the end of the month we will review the school-wide Veterans Day song that we will sing during the assembly on November 11.

2nd Grade
Second grade students worked hard on reviewing quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests in rhythm patterns. We also reviewed body percussion, singing sol-mi melodies, and melodic direction. This month we will begin to prepare for the Veterans Day assembly on November 10. We will be discussing dynamics (loud and soft), as well as basic vocal technique as we work on our songs for the assembly.

1st Grade
First graders have been fabulous in music so far this year! We have been working on various movement activities exploring self-space and general space as well as locomotor and non-locomotor. We have also been working on different voices and singing sol-mi melodies. Students have been off to a great start learning their songs for “The First Thanksgiving” that will take place on Thursday, November 17. Packets containing the lyrics were sent home- please review the words with your child to ensure confidence
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.
# Fall 2016 Workshop Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time &amp; Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>9-11 am LCPS Administration Building, Rm. 102</td>
<td>Autism Workshop Series: Message of Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>9-11 am LCPS Administration Building, Rm. 102</td>
<td>Autism Workshop Series: Positive Mealtime Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>6:30-8 pm Harper Park Middle School, Auditorium</td>
<td>Kindergarten Connection: Moving from ECSE to Kindergarten with an IEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Middle School Connection: Moving From Elementary to Middle School with an IEP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>