



Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

191 Golden Meadow Road

Barrie, Ontario, L4N 9R6

Phone (705) 737-4080

Fax (705)730-5820

<http://alr.scdsb.on.ca>

Cory McKeown

Principal

Karen Moffitt

Vice-Principal

ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS December 2021

Character attribute for the month of December

Empathy - we strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

More information about character education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

In November we had an awesome turnout for our first Virtual Bingo Night event (paired with the Domino's Raise the Dough Pizza Night Fundraiser). We were very pleased that so many families were able to participate and really appreciated all the work and effort made by Mrs. Rossignol (librarian) to ensure the event was a success. We are optimistic that our gradual return to some traditional school activities will continue in the New Year! Recently our students have been excited to gather donations to support Senior's Wish, browse the Book Fair, have their photos taken and enjoy some lunch program offerings with Subway and Pasta. We would also like to thank all the families who were able to support the Wreath and Garland Sale Fundraiser led by your ARES School Council.

We are also able to report an excellent 'virtual' turnout rate for the November Family/Educator conferences. Similar to last year, the online format allowed for greater flexibility with timing and reduced challenges with geography since they could be attended from anywhere. We trust your discussions with teachers were productive following the distribution of the Progress Reports. We remind families that the staff are available to discuss student learning, achievement and well-being as needed. The best way to contact your child's teacher(s) is with a note in an agenda, phone call, email or other teacher specific method that has been created, requesting an opportunity to discuss any concerns.

HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD DRIVE

As in previous Decembers at Algonquin Ridge, we are actively trying to support many families in need from our own community, so that everyone can enjoy a wonderful holiday season. There are several families close to home who find themselves struggling. To support them we will once again be collecting gift and grocery cards for these families so that they may experience a more joyous season. We regret that we will not be able to accept donations of gifts/toys or food. We have already received some donations from families who anticipated this message, and a portion of those have been sent on to the Senior's Wish organization with the other donations you sent into classrooms last month. We sincerely appreciate your support thus far and will gladly accept donations of any amount. I would also like to acknowledge that many of the Algonquin Ridge staff also support our gift card drive with their own donations.

You can make your donation by having your child pass it on to their homeroom teacher or, more anonymously, by ringing the front bell to leave with the office staff. All donations will be appreciated but President's Choice, Walmart, Dollarstore, Giant Tiger or other grocery store, will be especially versatile and convenient. Given the economic pressures felt by small businesses during the pandemic you may also want to consider supporting smaller local businesses as all donations will be very much appreciated. Please make your contributions directly to the school no later than Tuesday, December 14. If you have questions, please contact the school office. The ARES community has a long history of generosity and giving, and we will appreciate any level of support you are able to provide. Have a wonderful, safe holiday season!

Cory McKeown

Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you to this year's Council for supporting our school and to all those who attended the November meeting. We are excited to be moving towards a return to many of our school traditions. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 31, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Any interested parents are welcome to attend and will receive the virtual meeting link, if requested through the school office via email to acompton@scdsb.on.ca. All previous attendees need not make a request each month as they will be sent the link automatically.

CALENDAR

December 1 @ 9:00 am until December 17 @ 4:00 pm – Application for Grade 1 French Immersion available online.
December 6 – 9:00 am to December 10 @ 4:00 pm – Change of Learning Mode (see article below for further information)
December 8 – Grade 8 Virtual Family Night – 6:30 – 8:00 pm
December 15 – Picture retake day
December 17 – Spirit Day – Merry and Bright
December 20-31 – Christmas Break – school closed
January 3, 2022 – School reopens
January 27 – Spirit Day – Pajama Extravaganza Day
January 28 – PA Day
January 31 – Virtual School Council @ 6:30pm
February 7 – Grade 8 graduation pictures
February 14 – Valentine’s Day
February 18 – Report Cards home
February 21 – Family Day
February 25 – Spirit Day – White Out/Black Out Day

HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN DECEMBER

December 6 – Chanukah ends – Judaism
December 8 – Bodhi Day/Awakening day – Buddhism
December 13 – Birthday of Imam Aga Khan – Islam
December 14 – Maun Agiyaras - Jainism
December 18 – Sangnamitta Day - Buddhism
December 21 – Yule/Winter Solstice – Wicca
December 25 – Christmas Day – Christianity
December 26 – Zarathosht-no-diso (FC) – Zoroastrianism
December 26 – Boxing Day – Canadian holiday
January 1 – Temple Day (Solar New Year)
January 1 – New Year’s Day – Christianity
January 5 – Birth of Guru Gobind Singh – Sikhism
January 6 – Epiphany (J) – Christianity

DAYS OF AWARENESS

January 27 - Family Literacy Day
January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 28 – Bell Let’s Talk Day

HERITAGE RECOGNITION DAYS

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (December 6)

Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. December 6 also represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on violence against women in our society. For more information, visit <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/remembrance-commemoration-en.html>.

January is Tamil Heritage Month - Tamils began migrating to Ontario as early as the 1940s. The province of Ontario recognizes the valuable contributions that Tamil Canadians have made to Ontario’s social, economic, political and cultural fabric. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14t04>



GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions on large group public gatherings, Family Information Nights will be held virtually by the Grade 1 FI sites.

The SCDSB board-wide electronic application dates for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will be **Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021**, beginning at **9 a.m.** and ending at **4 p.m.** on **Friday, Dec. 17, 2021**. Consistent with last year's process, the online FI application process will be a randomized lottery system.

CHANGE OF LEARNING MODE REQUESTS

As previously communicated to SCDSB families in May 2021, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary school families are being provided an additional opportunity to request a change in learning mode (In-Person or Learn@Home) for their child(ren), where available space exists for Term 2 (February 22 to June 30, 2022).

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education directed school boards to develop plans for the 2021-2022 school year that included both In-Person and Learn@Home options, as well as flexible and responsive options should the need arise for schools to pivot based on local public health conditions. Operating successful instructional programs for both In-Person and Learn@Home programs requires considerable coordination and planning, taking into account multiple factors such as existing enrolment, school composition, continuity of cohorts and collective agreements.

While it is expected that the vast majority of elementary students will remain in their existing learning mode for the remainder of the school year, the SCDSB recognizes that individual situations may have changed; therefore, SCDSB families will be provided with the opportunity to request a change to their child(ren)'s mode of learning effective February 2022, where available space exists.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from Learn@Home to In-Person learning are asked to contact their child(ren)'s home school directly prior to December 10, 2021, to discuss whether space is available to accommodate their request.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from In-Person to Learn@Home are asked to complete an online request form. The online form will be emailed to families on Monday December 6 and be available from Monday December 6 at 9 a.m. and close Friday December 10 at 4 p.m. It will also be available on the SCDSB's public website (www.scdsb.on.ca).

The deadline to request a change of learning mode is December 10, 2021.

It is important to note, requests for a change of learning mode will only be accommodated where available space exists.

UPDATES TO THE SCHOOL SCREENING TOOL FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR - INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Recently, the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) was updated to reflect the return to school requirements for students who are returning from international travel. Individuals who are unvaccinated and returning from international travel, may not attend school or childcare for 14 days upon their return. For further clarity, while unvaccinated children and those under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled with a fully vaccinated companion, they may not attend school or childcare for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g., travelling for cross-border custody arrangements, travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or childcare.

Considerations prior to travelling this winter

Is your family is thinking of travelling this winter? Here are some things to consider before you make the arrangements:

1. Learn about travel advisories related to COVID-19 where you are headed, before leaving - <https://bit.ly/3Czlk5l>
2. Be sure you understand how the Quarantine Act applies to travelers arriving back in Canada - <https://bit.ly/3HAIOfT>

Students who have travelled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days if they do not qualify for a federal quarantine travel exemption. Your child's ability to return to school after travel outside of Canada will depend on whether or not they are fully vaccinated. If they are fully vaccinated, they may be exempt from federal quarantine. If they are not fully vaccinated, they are not to attend school/childcare for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion. A reminder that all students must complete the [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#) before going to school each day. This includes questions related to travel and guidance for those who have travelled. More information can be found on the Government of Canada website: <https://bit.ly/3ctaLqa>. *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR AND CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT ACTION RELATED TO RACISM, BIAS OR HATE

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the [SCDSB Code of Conduct](#) with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.

FUNDRAISING WITH BRADFORD GREENHOUSES GARDEN GALLERY

When shopping at Garden Gallery please advise the cashier, prior to inputting the sale that you support Algonquin Ridge and five percent of the value of sales will be issued as a gift card for the purchase of Bradford Greenhouses products for school improvements or special events. A fast and easy way to support the school and to keep our gardens looking great!

FLIPGIVE FUNDRAISER

Hello ARES Families, we invite you to join our easy and free school fundraiser - FlipGive! You're doing it already... online shopping for groceries, gas, clothing, meals, coffee, gift cards, gifts, sporting goods, books, home decor, renovations, etc. ARES will earn fundraising money when you shop via FlipGive's website with hundreds of popular brands available. You can also shop in-store and earn by using a linked payment card or with gift cards to be redeemed in-store. How does it work? Brands on FlipGive's site pay FlipGive a commission and then they in-turn share that commission with ARES! Every dollar earned is credited directly to our school's fundraising efforts. It's that simple! SHOP, EARN and DONATE! It's quick and free! Sign up and start shopping today! flipgive.com Enter Team Code: SLQPHH If you have any questions, reach out to School Council at councilchairalr@scdsb.on.ca Thank you for your participation and supporting the school!

MABEL'S LABELS

Mabel's Labels is one of our school's fundraising initiatives. This website features peel and stick clothing labels, bag tags and a variety of safety and household labeling systems. This will be an ongoing, open initiative for our school which means that any time you wish to get labels for your children or household, please consider using Mabel's Labels and help Algonquin Ridge. It could not be easier. Simply go to <http://mabelslabels.com> and click on "Support a Fundraiser". Then "Select your School/Organization", find "Algonquin Ridge (Barrie)" and follow the steps to fulfill your order. Anyone can support our school, whether their children attend ARES or not, so please pass this on to family and friends as well. The product comes directly to you and the school will receive 20% of the total sales! Thank you so much for your support.



SCHOOL PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES ARE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen



PEANUT AND NUT AWARE SCHOOL

Our school strives to be a Nut-Safe School. At Algonquin Ridge, we have several students who have a severe nut allergy. These students cannot be exposed to nuts in ANY form, as this may trigger an anaphylactic reaction that is life threatening and requires immediate medical intervention. Therefore, in the best interests of these students and for any other students who may develop peanut or nut allergies in the future we have banned all peanut/nuts and food containing nuts within the school. These include, but are not limited to:

- Peanut butter sandwiches, dips, or crackers
- Nutella
- Cookies or cakes with nuts
- Granola Bars with nuts
- Chocolate bars containing nuts e.g., Snickers.
- Dried Fruit and nut mixes



Direct contact with the food is not always required to trigger a reaction. For example, if someone in our school eats peanuts and then touches playground equipment it could be contaminated with enough peanut butter to trigger a severe reaction. We also ask that children who have peanut butter for breakfast on school days please wash their hands thoroughly and clean their teeth before coming to school.

As always, our paramount concern is for the safety and well-being for all children in our care. We feel this is the best way to attempt to ensure the safety of students that have severe nut allergies in our school. If your child forgets to comply with this, we will send a reminder home with them and provide an alternative snack. Teachers will also assist students by reinforcing the policy through class discussions.

MATH @HOME PARENT SERIES

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. The winners of the prizes will be notified in January. The SCDSB math department is offering three evening virtual sessions for caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. Participants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home and must pre-register for each of the sessions by visiting this link:

<https://bit.ly/SCDSBMathAtHomeRegistration>.

Having fun with math facts @Home

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child in becoming fluent with their math facts.

Making math connections @Home

Thursday, March 24, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives.

Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

Problem solving @Home

Wednesday, April 26, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house.

Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a math @Home pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form.

[IS IT TIME FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE A DENTAL CHECK-UP? LET US HELP!](#)

The Oral Health Team at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is now available to provide a variety of dental health services for children and youth aged 0–17 at our various clinic locations. We can provide dental screenings, answer questions and guide you through the dental options that are available for your child through Healthy Smiles Ontario. If you don't have a dentist, we can provide you with options of dental offices that can help.

This is your personal invitation to contact us to discuss your child's dental needs and to ensure their dental concerns are addressed. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520, ext. 5867.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

[SAFETY MEASURES IN SCHOOLS](#)

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with our local health authority, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), and we continue to take their direction on all matters related to COVID-19. Please visit the COVID-19 Return to School page on the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org for additional information. The following health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools.

Masking:

- Students from Kindergarten (JK and SK) through Grade 12 will be required to wear masks while indoors.
- Staff will be required to wear masks while indoors.

Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols:

- Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom for student and teacher use.
- Students will receive training on proper hand hygiene including instructions on hand washing and sanitizing.

Ventilation

- Standalone high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units will be placed in all schools without mechanical ventilation.
- HEPA filter units will be placed in all standalone Kindergarten classrooms.

Enhanced Cleaning:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting at least twice a day of frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilets, and faucet handles.
- Buses will be sanitized twice daily with frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

Physical Distancing:

- Directional arrows and signage will be utilized in schools to support physical distancing measures.
- Schools will have designated entry and exit doors and staggered entry and exit times.
- Acrylic shielding will remain installed in school offices.

[DAILY COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT](#)

All students and staff will be required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

[INSTRUCTIONS FOR WHEN CHILDREN BECOME SICK AT SCHOOL](#)

Parents/guardians will be asked to provide multiple contacts who will be available to pick up their child(ren) in the event that they become ill while at school. Children who become ill while at school will not be able to travel on a bus home for the protection of the other riders.



[INCLEMENT WEATHER AND BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION REMINDER](#)

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **CENTRAL** zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>. For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

[STUDENT DRESS CODE](#)

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.

[STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR AND CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT ACTION RELATED TO RACISM, BIAS OR HATE](#)

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the [SCDSB Code of Conduct](#) with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.





We Want to Hear from You!

**Barrie Police Service
2021 Community Safety Survey**

The Barrie Police Service (BPS) requests your help in distributing and sharing our 2021 Community Safety Survey to your family, friends, co-workers, and clients who live, work, and play in the City of Barrie.

This is an annual survey that provides our Service with invaluable feedback from the local community. It helps us measure and understand the impact of our initiatives on public perception of safety, BPS accountability, approachability, resources, and support towards the City of Barrie Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Please share this survey with your contacts, and through your social media channels as we seek to expand our reach and gather a diverse range of suggestions and experiences.

The survey can be shared through the following link and takes between five and ten minutes to complete.

[BarriePolice.ca/survey/](https://barriepolice.ca/survey/)

Please contact info@barriepolice.ca or 705-725-7025 for kits that contain printed copies of the survey, or if you or someone you know requires alternative accommodations in completing the survey. We thank you for your continued support and partnership with the Barrie PoliceService.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Greenwood
Chief of Police #8094
705-725-7025 x2201