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ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS – JUNE 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

... and just like that it is JUNE! Another school year is almost complete and summer is almost upon us. We hope that many of you helped us celebrate another year of learning and growing at the traditional Fun Fair which was held on June 13th.

Thank you to our students and staff for all your hard work and commitment, grit and determination this year, and also to families who have faithfully supported their children through the ups and downs throughout. Everyone experiences moments of conflict or faces challenges in a year that may seem, at the time, to be insurmountable. Given time, sustained effort and the right mind-set, we should see these obstacles as opportunities for learning and growth. Students and adults alike make mistakes along the way and we have worked together to get past them. Our goal is learning and the development of the strong character that enables us to take responsibility for our mistakes and make better decisions in the future. As a staff we are all very proud of our students and our school. We wish you all a safe and relaxing summer full of fun with friends and family.

Thank you as well to the many volunteers who have supported our students by coming into the school to help by attending Council meetings, supervising on field trips, running our breakfast club, attending performances, supporting in classrooms etc. Our school would not be the great place that it is without you.

Our traditional Volunteer Appreciation Tea is scheduled for Tuesday June 19th @ 1 pm. We intend to send home personal invitations in the next few days but if you volunteer in our school and we happen to miss you somehow please RSVP by calling the office and join us next Tuesday.

STAFFING CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Each year there are changes to the staff in every school across Simcoe County. This message is meant to keep you informed of some of those changes and to formally thank several valued members of our staff as we wish them well in their next adventure. Mrs. McQuay, Mrs. Bartholomew, Mrs. Ryan, Ms. Mackenzie, Ms. Hoggard, Ms. Macdonald, Mrs. Cisowski, and Mr. Onorati are all currently at Algonquin Ridge covering various leaves that will not continue in the Fall. We sincerely appreciate all of their dedicated work this year. Each staff member went above and beyond to embrace this school community, and to contribute to the learning and well-being of children, in their own unique ways. It is the varied strengths and interests of the entire staff that complement each other and allow us to provide such a wide range of opportunities in our school. We regret having to say goodbye, but are confident that these educators will continue to have a positive impact on students in their next positions. We would also like to wish all the best to staff who will be on leave next Fall. Mrs. Parmenter, Mrs. Shave and Mrs. McQuay will have their hands full experiencing parenthood for the first time. Mrs. Whelan and Mme. Leonard will also be on leaves of absence next year. Finally, big congratulations to Mrs. Gilbert for all of her years of service to the children of Simcoe County and our community as she retires at the end of June.

Despite changes to staffing a great deal of work has already gone into making class placements for the Fall. Each year homeroom teachers, resource teachers and administration work very hard to achieve a balance in each of our classrooms that will allow all students to be successful. To set each child up for success we make it a priority to consider their peer group, learning style and strengths and needs. We also need to consider operational constraints such as class size, resource support, timetabling etc. We are confident that our decisions represent the best achievable groupings that will allow all students to be successful. Student class placements will be announced in September on the first day of school when students are directed to congregate at the posted sign for their grade group. We always face the possibility of having to re-organize the school near the end of September due to changes in enrolment. For this reason, the class placements are tentative until the Ministry of Education compliance date has passed.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! We are registering for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address (excluding a driver's licence) and immunization records. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information

REGISTER NOW FOR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Register now for child care at our school next school year. Your child's space in the program for September 2018 will be considered a priority if completed registration forms have been submitted to the child care operator by **June 30, 2018**. Please contact S.E.E.D.S. @ 705-726-3770 to register your child(ren).

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the Marozzo family who donated topsoil for our front garden, as well as a gift certificate to Garden Gallery. It will be used to make our school gardens look beautiful!

CALENDAR

June 15 – Ultimate Frisbee Tournament @ Allandale
June 18 – Ice Cream Party for Student Volunteers 1-1:50pm
June 19 – Chef a l'ecole – Grade 7's French Cultural Presentation
June 19 – Intermediate Girl's County Baseball
June 19 – Volunteer Tea @ 1:00 – 2:30 pm
June 20 – Intermediate Boy's County Baseball
June 21-22 – Jump Rope for Heart
June 26 – Grade 8 Graduation ceremony begins @ 6:30
June 27 – Character Ed Assembly (Responsibility) @ 2pm
June 28 – **Last day of school**
June 29 – **PA Day**
July 6, 2018 – Office closes for the summer
August 27, 2018 – Office re-opens
September 4, 2018 – first day of school – SK – Grade 8
September 6, 2018 – first day of school for Junior Kindergarten

SCHOOL DAY BELL TIMES

8:55 AM – Staff supervision on the school yard begins
10:50 AM – 1st nutrition break for JK-Gr.3, recess for Gr. 4-8
11:10 AM – Recess for JK-Gr.3, nutrition break for Gr. 4-8
11:30 AM – Classes resume
1:10 PM – 2nd nutrition break for JK-Gr.3, recess for Gr. 4-8
1:30 PM – 2nd recess for JK-Gr.3, nutrition break for Gr. 4-8
1:50 PM – Classes resume
3:30 PM – End of school day

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

The event dates will be Thursday, June 21st and Friday, June 22nd.

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

This year our yearbooks will be delivered during the first week of September. This will allow us to use pictures from May and June this year, including those from track and field and some of our graduating class ceremony.

YEARBOOK SPONSORSHIP

Yearbook production is well under way. In order to keep the costs as low as possible we are offering the opportunity to add your sponsorship. Option 1 is to consider sponsoring a page for \$20. Families or businesses can sponsor a page. A small amount of text will be shown at the bottom of the yearbook page. Text will read something similar to the following:

This page has been generously sponsored by the ABC Family.

This page has been generously sponsored by the ABC Group. Check us out at www.ABCGroup.com for all of your ABC needs or call us at 705-712-3456.

Option 2 is to present a business card advertisement for a cost of \$75. These will be available to purchase on School Cash online.

Thank you for your consideration. Contact the office or Alison Currie (yearbook editor) for questions or samples at

PAY FOR FIELD TRIPS, LUNCH DAYS, ETC. WITH SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Please see the School Cash Online form which was sent home with your child and follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

GILBERT CENTRE PROGRAMS FOR LGBTQ2S YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The Gilbert Centre is a community-based, not-for-profit, charitable organization that provides programs and services to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender individuals and families in Simcoe-Muskoka. Visit the Centre's website at www.gilbertcentre.ca for more information about these programs:

- **LGBTQ2S Youth Connection drop-in groups**
LGBTQ2S Youth Connection is a drop-in and social space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, 2spirit, trans, asexual etc. and questioning youth. Groups are a place for youth to connect with each other and to community. Groups take place in Barrie, Midland and Orillia.
- **Parenting LGBTQ Youth sessions**
These free sessions, 'Parenting LGBTQ Youth,' are offered in April, May and June in Alliston, Barrie, Collingwood and Orillia. Dinner is provided. To reserve your spot, contact Jake at jakef@gilbertcentre.ca or 705-722-6778 ext. 107.

MABEL'S LABELS

School Council has recently added Mabel's Labels to 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 out Algonquin Ridge. It couldn't 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 is able to support our school, whether or not their children attend ARES 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.



PEANUT AND NUT AWARE SCHOOL



Our school strives to be a Nut-Safe School. At Algonquin Ridge we have a number of 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 will 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, the equipment may then become 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, a reminder notice will be sent home with them and an alternative snack will be provided. Teachers will also assist students by reinforcing the policy through class discussions.

KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND WITH THE SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB):

- you can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://alr.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- for Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' on the SCDSB's website: www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb). through SCDSB's Sharing Simcoe blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), we share stories of our amazing staff, students and school communities.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: _simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

IDENTIFYING SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

All field trip information will be sent home on school and/or Simcoe County District School Board letterhead. This is the best way for parents/guardians to identify supervised and approved trips. There may have been times when community or external groups have organized trips that have been mistaken for school-sponsored field trips. Parents would be notified of individual circumstances if the school is aware that an external trip is being planned. When in doubt about any trip ask questions of the organizers, including “Who is sponsoring or in charge of this trip?”, “Who will be supervising?” and “What are their qualifications?” You can also contact the school if you have any questions about a trip you see advertised that you think may not be school-sanctioned.

OHIP+ PROVIDES FREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN

On Jan. 1, 2018, the province began providing free prescription drug coverage for children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. Under OHIP+, Ontario children and youth have access to over 4,400 medications and other drug products. Enrolment in OHIP+ will be automatic, based on age. There are no upfront costs, no co-payment and no annual deductible. Those who are eligible for OHIP+ will only need their health card number and a valid prescription from their doctor or nurse practitioner when they visit their pharmacist.

For more information, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-ohip-plus.

SCHOOL'S IN FOR SUMMER AT THE SCDSB

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school! Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program. Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at www.thelearningcentres.com. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register. Register now so that your summer school choices align with course selection for next year!

DO YOU KNOW A YOUTH, AGED 15-29, WHO IS LOOKING FOR A JOB OR TO GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE?

The Career Centre can help. Services include paid employment training, support with job searches and more, at no cost. Meet with an Employment Consultant today, or visit the Career Centre website at www.barricareercentre.com for more information, including hours of operation. The Career Centre is operated by the Simcoe County District School Board. This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

NEW PATH OFFERING CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH WALK-IN CLINICS

New Path now offers Child and Youth Mental Health Walk-In Clinics in five office locations throughout Simcoe County: Alliston, Barrie, Bradford, Collingwood and Orillia. The Walk-In Clinic provides a single session to children, youth and families who require support for emotional, relationship or behavioural challenges. The Walk-In Clinic can be accessed by children, youth and families as often as they require support. Children, youth and families can self-refer by attending one of the walk-in clinic locations across the county. Dates and times of the clinics are posted on the New Path website (www.newpath.ca). For more information, contact New Path's Central Intake Department at 705-725-7656 or from the 905 area code in Simcoe County by calling 1-866-566-7656.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found has a new and organized look! It is situated in the first room as you enter the grade one hallway. The clear bins are clearly marked and sweaters and coats are hanging on the racks. Please do not go into the brown bins as they are for a different purpose. The items currently in the lost and found will be donated shortly so please come and have a look! Thank you in advance for your help in keeping this room and its' items neat and tidy!

STAY SAFE IN THE SUN

It only takes one bad sunburn in childhood to increase the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. As the weather gets warmer, follow these sun safety tips to keep you and your family safe:

- use a broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and SPF 15 lip balm
- apply sunscreen 20-30 minutes before going outside (even on cloudy days) and always follow the label instructions
- apply sunscreen to any exposed areas of skin – nose, ears, back of neck, tops of feet, etc.
- reapply sunscreen every 2-3 hours and after sweating or swimming
- wear loose, long sleeved shirts and pants, a large-brimmed hat and sunglasses
- if possible, avoid being in the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- when you're outside, look for shade

For more sun safety tips, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse. *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

SUMMER CAMP CAN BE A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

According to a recent study from the University of Waterloo, the positive development that children and youth experience at summer camp results in sustained behavioural changes at home, school and in the community. Friendships blossom, self-confidence emerges and independence grows – helping children and teens build resilience to help them face new challenges throughout their lives. Here are four life skills fostered at summer camp:

- **Increased independence and self-confidence** – Camp is the perfect place for kids to practice making decisions for themselves without parents and teachers guiding their every move.
- **Making new friends and being part of a positive group** – Free from the social expectations pressuring them at school, camp encourages kids to relax and make friends easily.
- **Increased environmental awareness** – When children are connected to their environment, they are healthier and happier. Summer camp provides kids with the opportunity to “unplug” from technology and enrich their perception of the world, while enjoying the great outdoors.
- **Improved attitudes towards physical activity** – Children spend so much time indoors these days and mostly sitting down. A recent Statistics Canada study found that only seven per cent of youth aged six to 19 got the recommended hour a day of exercise they need. Summer camp is a great way for kids to get outside and move.

The benefits of camp are plenty – from life lessons beyond the classroom to appreciating nature and building confidence and leadership skills.

Learn more about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka camps at YMCASummerCamp.Ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

SUMMER CHILD CARE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) supports your child care needs by offering full-day child care programs in select schools across Simcoe County. Twenty schools offer child care programs for children from Junior Kindergarten age to 12 years old. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. More information can be found on our website at www.scdsb.on.ca – click on ‘Schools’ then ‘Before & After School Care.’

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The Ministry of Education has approved the elementary and secondary school year calendars for the Simcoe County District School Board's 2018-19 school year.

2018-19 Highlights:

- First day of school: Tuesday, September 4, 2018
- First day of school for Junior Kindergarten students: Thursday, September 6, 2018
- Winter Break: December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019
- March Break: March 11 to 15, 2019
- Last day for elementary students: Thursday, June 27, 2019
- Last day for secondary students: Wednesday, June 26, 2019

You can view the 2018-19 calendars on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca) by clicking on ‘Schools’ and then ‘School Year Calendars.’

UPDATED CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS REQUIRED FOR VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, and in accordance with the Education Act, the SCDSB requires a complete and up-to-date Criminal Record Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CRC-VSS) for all volunteers across the system. If you are a current, approved volunteer and your CRC-VSS is more than five years old, you will be receiving a notification this month indicating that you are required to submit a new CRC-VSS. If you wish to continue as a SCDSB volunteer, please complete the following steps:

1. Contact the school principal to obtain a CRC-VSS request letter.
2. Bring your CRC-VSS request letter to your local police detachment.
3. Submit your original and complete CRC-VSS to the school office for review by Oct. 31, 2018.

If you are a current SCDSB employee volunteering in the system, you are required to submit an updated CRC-VSS to the school where you will be volunteering. If you have completed a CRC-VSS within the past six months of the start of the school year for another organization, you may submit that original CRC-VSS for review. If you have questions, please contact the school.

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enrol your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first or second language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) offers Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Urdu. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) offers Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese. The classes take place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 15 (classes are dependent on student enrollment). There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting www.thelearningcentres.com and clicking on ‘Elementary Student.’

EYE SEE...EYE LEARN PROGRAM OFFERS FREE GLASSES FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca. The program is available for current JK students until June 30, 2018.

CANADA EDUCATION SAVINGS PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP FUND YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

The Government of Canada encourages Canadians to use Registered Education Savings Plans (RESP) to save for a child's post-secondary education, which includes full- or part-time studies at a trade school, CEGEP, college, or university or in an apprenticeship program. Employment and Social Development Canada administers two education savings incentives linked to RESPs:

- **Canada Education Savings Grant** - a basic grant of 20% on the first \$2,500 in annual personal contributions to a RESP (this grant is available to all eligible Canadians regardless of their family income), as well as the additional amount of Canada Education Savings Grant.
- **Canada Learning Bond** - available for eligible Canadian children from low-income families born in 2004 or later and provides an initial payment of \$500 plus \$100 for each year of eligibility, up to age 15, for a maximum of \$2,000. Personal contributions are not required.

For more information, visit: www.canada.ca/education-savings.

KEEP YOUR KIDS HEALTHY, ACTIVE AND ENGAGED THIS SUMMER

Summer is the time for kids to get outside and grow. But for some kids, exposure to activities that stimulate the body and mind ends with the school year. Studies show 90 per cent of children ages five to 11 years old in Canada do not meet their minimal physical activity requirements. We know that having an active lifestyle in the early years is essential to healthy child development and has a positive impact on mental health. Here are a few tips on how to keep your child's mind and body active this summer:

- Learn a new skill! Over the summer months, there is a wide variety of programs to keep children and youth active. Whether outdoors or in a facility like the YMCA, swimming is a summer time favourite. Consider signing your child up for swimming lessons, giving them the confidence they need to be safe in and around the water.
- Unplug and enjoy the outdoors! Did you know that the average Canadian child spends almost eight hours a day in front of a screen? Research tells us that when children are connected to their environment, they are healthier and happier. Look for opportunities for your child to get connected with nature.

With some creativity and advanced planning, parents can keep their children's minds and bodies active this summer! To learn more about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

PLEASE NO DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Kindly adhere to the posted request on our property to keep dogs away from the school grounds. We appreciate your assistance and support.



REASONS TO STOP IDLING

A simple turn of your key can keep the air cleaner and save money and fuel. Every time you turn off your car engine in place of idling, you'll:

Make the air healthier by cutting down on hazardous pollution in your town or community. Idling tailpipes spew out the same pollutants as moving cars. These pollutants have been linked to serious human illnesses including asthma, heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer.

Help the environment. For every 10 minutes your engine is off, you'll prevent one pound of carbon dioxide from being released (carbon dioxide is the primary contributor to global warming). An [EDF report](#) shows that in New York City alone, idling cars and trucks produce 130,000 tons of carbon dioxide each year. To offset this amount of global warming pollution, we would need to plant.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Thank you to all our school volunteers who have faithfully committed their time to our students and staff by helping in a variety of different ways at our school. We will be holding a volunteer appreciation time for all our volunteers on Tuesday, June 19th at 1:00 pm. This will be a time to enjoy some student presentations, volunteer appreciation and refreshments. Please contact the school office to RSVP if you can come to the event.