



## Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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**Cory McKeown**

Principal

**Karen Moffitt**

Vice-Principal

### ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS - NOVEMBER 2021

#### Character attribute for the month of November

Courage - we do the right thing even when it's difficult.

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It appears as though the weather has finally begun to change and the cold, wet weather we avoided for much of the Fall seems to have arrived! This is why at this time of year we remind students and families of the importance of dressing for the weather. Outside time during Nutrition Break/Recess each day is very important for our students to be at their best, fueled, refreshed, reenergized and ready to make the most of the second half of their day. Keeping warm and dry during the 40 min outdoor portion of the break is even more important through the winter months. Having an extra pair of dry socks or mittens (not to mention back-up masks) in a backpack can go a long way to ensuring your child is comfortable and productive at school all day this season.

To help any and all families who find themselves in need of an extra layer for their children this winter the School Council chairs, and other members of our school community, have been busy collecting and washing donated winter clothing—thank you for your work and to all the family who have passed along their outgrown snow pants, coats, boots, hats etc.! These items are now in the school and ready to find their way onto the backs and feet of the children who could use them. We invite you to send a private message to your child's teacher, or phone the office or email [cmckeown@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:cmckeown@scdsb.on.ca) to let us know what items you could use, and we will try to get your little one(s) outfitted from the donations we have received.

I would also like to formally thank Mr. Strath for his dedicated work to get our school up and running over the first few months of this year. Coming to us as a very recently retired SCDSB principal, his experience, resilience, and compassion for children allowed him to quickly establish himself at Algonquin Ridge as a valuable member of our staff and advocate for students. We appreciated his fresh perspective on the day-to-day operation of our school, and I am confident that those families who had the pleasure of getting to know him felt heard and supported. Now that his time with us has come to an end we wish him all the best and thank him for his time and friendship as he returns to his retirement plans. The more exciting news to share is that ARES has now welcomed new Vice-Principal Kathleen Stevenson who comes to us from Tecumseth Beeton ES. Mrs. Stevenson has worked at several schools in our area over her career to this point, knows many families and administration and brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge related to special education. She has already been hard at work getting to know the staff, students and families of Algonquin Ridge and looks forward to meeting many more of you in the coming days and weeks.

Be sure to review the messages that follow for important information about the exciting events planned for November and beyond including hybrid Virtual/In-School Book Fair, Raise the Dough Domino's Pizza Night, Virtual Bingo Night, Spirit Days and Algonquin Ridge Barrie Colts Night (details to come closer to game day which is March 3<sup>rd</sup>).

*Cory McKeown*

*Principal*

#### CALENDAR

November 4 - Progress reports home

November 7 – Deadline for Holiday Wreath orders

November 11– Remembrance Day

November 12 - PA Day – no school

November 18 – Book Fair begins

November 18 – Immunization Clinic – Grade 7/8 – Hep B, HPV and Meningitis

November 23 – Raise the Dough night

November 23 – Virtual Bingo

November 25 – Spirit Day – Mad for Plaid (rescheduled due to picture day)

November 26 – Picture Day

November 29 – School Council @ 6:30

November 30 – Book Fair ends

November 30 – Holiday Wreath pickup

December 1 @ 9:00 am until December 17 @ 4:00 pm – Application for Grade 1 French Immersion available online.

Dec 20-31 – Christmas Break – school closed

## HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN NOVEMBER

All Saints Day – Christianity - November 1  
Samhain ends – Wicca - November 1  
Diwali – Hinduism/Jainism - November 4  
Bandi Chhor Divas –Sikhism - November 4  
Hindu New Year – Hinduism - November 5  
Birth of the Bab – Baha’i November 6  
Inuit Day – Indigenous World View – November 7  
Remembrance Day – Canadian Observance - November 11  
Louis Riel Day – Indigenous World View – November 16  
Dev Diwali – Jainism - November 18, 2021  
Birth Of Guru Nanak – Sikhism – November 19, 2021  
Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur – Sikhism – November 24  
First Day of Advent – Christianity – November 28  
Chanukah begins – Judaism – November 28

## 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.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you to this year’s Council for supporting our school and to all those who attended the October meeting. We are excited to be moving towards a return to many of our school traditions. Please watch for updates on Spirit Wear, Lunch Programs, and fundraisers. Our next meeting will be on Monday November 29, 2021, 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](mailto:acompton@scdsb.on.ca). All previous attendees need not make a request each month as they will be sent the link automatically.

## 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.

## NOVEMBER PA DAY

Please note that Friday, Nov. 12 is a PA Day for all elementary and secondary SCDSB students, both Learn@Home and in school. Please refer to the [2021-2022 School Year Calendar](#) on the SCDSB website for more information.

## TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK TAKES PLACE NOV. 1 TO 5

Treaties Recognition Week was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year - this year it is Nov. 1 to 5. This annual event honours the importance of treaties and helps students and residents of Ontario learn more about treaty rights and relationships. By learning more about our collective treaty rights and obligations, we can create greater understanding and nurture these relationships. Take some time Nov. 1 to 5 to learn about the treaty in your area. To learn more about the treaties and how we can honour them, visit [www.ontario.ca/page/treaties](http://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties)

## HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENTS FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what’s new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained, as well as information about teams and clubs. More information will be available soon.



We are  
**EXCITED TO  
ANNOUNCE...**



Algonquin Ridge is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our very first VIRTUAL BINGO NIGHT. Virtual Bingo will take place on the same night as Raise the Dough Night, **Tuesday November 23, 2021, at 6:00 pm.**

This will be our FIRST attempt to offer a Virtual Bingo Event, so we are working hard to figure out the logistics. We are optimistic that, with your cooperation and patience, we will be able to have your Virtual Bingo Cards accessible using your at home technology. We will continue to make plans for this event and prepare to troubleshoot any tech issues that may arise. Should we encounter any significant challenges on the night of the event we apologize in advance and will work very hard to correct them for a future Bingo event in the new year!

In order to participate in the event, families must have access to a device, (mobile, tablets, chromebooks). The school will not be providing devices for this event. The device must have access to Zoom (please make sure Zoom is downloaded and ready to go prior to the event)

Here is a how-to-video that walks you through how to access Zoom <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSaCKSXH7DM>

Further information and sign-up instructions will be sent out soon!

**YEY!! IT'S BACK...BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**



Our school will be hosting a HYBRID Book Fair. During the weeks of November 17-30, 2021, both an in-person Book Fair (for ARES students only) and an online Book Fair for families to shop together will be available. So, save the date and get ready to discover exciting new and bestselling titles from the comfort of your home. Bonus: Every purchase supports our school and helps to keep kids reading!

The link will go live on November 16th! <https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5151404>

**Kids Help Phone** 

The past 20 months have been hard on us all. They have been especially hard on our children. Kids Help Phone is a great resource for everyone. Whether it's self-guided tools, crisis support or a community resource database, Kids Help Phone can support you no matter where you are on your journey.

Click on the following link to get to know Kids Help Phone's services  
<https://youtu.be/c05F9qyKzt4> [Get to know Kids Help Phone's services](#)

Whether it's self-guided tools, crisis support or a community resource database, Kids Help Phone can support you no matter where you are on your journey. To access Kids Help Phone, click on the following link <https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

### 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.



### 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.

## [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](http://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.

## [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.

## [SCDSB CENSUS](#)

In early 2021 the SCDSB held its first student and workforce censuses. We had almost 27,000 students and over 3,700 staff participate! In October 2021 the initial data from the censuses was released, along with some next steps and areas of focus for the SCDSB. To learn more, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/census](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/census).

## [STUDENT VOICES ON MENTAL HEALTH](#)

Ontario secondary school students, School Mental Health Ontario and Wisdom2Action have launched #HearNowON for 2021. Your voice and perspective are important! Share your ideas on mental health awareness, learning and wellness promotion in Ontario schools. The #HearNowON 2021 online survey is live and closes Nov. 19, 2021.

Contribute your perspective here: [https://bit.ly/HearNowON2021\\_ONecoute2021](https://bit.ly/HearNowON2021_ONecoute2021).

Attend a virtual student consultation event and share your perspectives on student mental health with School Mental Health Ontario and Wisdom2Action. This opportunity will gain you volunteer hours and allow you to meet students across the province! Sign up for a virtual forum of your interest here: [www.wisdom2action.org/hearnowon/](http://www.wisdom2action.org/hearnowon/).

### [JOIN US! A LEARNING SERIES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS](#)

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to announce a new three-year partnership with Pine River Institute (PRI). The Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) will provide several multi-part learning series focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities. There are five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents and guardians during this school year.

Parenting for Positive Mental Health, Part One, Nov. 23, 2021

Parenting for Positive Mental Health, Part Two, Nov. 30, 2021

Understanding and Managing Screen Time, Jan. 25, 2022

Connection and Empathy in Response to Behaviour, March 29, 2022

Understanding Addiction and Addictive Behaviours, May 19, 2022

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the mental health and well-being page on the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at [www.pineriverinstitute.com](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).

### [MPOWER FOR EXTRA PRACTICE](#)

Are you looking for a way to provide extra math practice for your child at home in a fun and engaging format? [TVO mPower](#) is a free digital tool that includes 65+ online games to support the mastery of tough-to-learn math concepts.

#### **TVO mPower's goals are:**

1. To provide Ontario students with opportunities to practice important math skills and to foster positive attitudes towards math by making learning fun and engaging.
2. To show students that math is everywhere by connecting math games to the big ideas in science and social studies.
3. To support students in developing 21<sup>st</sup> century global competencies by integrating skills such as metacognition, problem solving, creativity and citizenship.

#### **TVO mPower is:**

- Ontario curriculum-based - aligns with the Ontario mathematics, science and technology and social studies curricula while also supporting the development of global competencies
- Learner-centred - tracks student progress and responds to learners' needs
- Assessment-driven - includes teacher dashboard and educator resources
- Tested and trusted - developed in partnership with Ontario educators and students
- Always free for Ontario students and educators, and now for Ontario families
- Safe and advertising-free
- Available for desktop and laptop computers and iPad tablets

Visit [tvompower.com](http://tvompower.com) for more information.

## HERITAGE RECOGNITION DAYS

### **Albanian Heritage Month**

November is a significant month for the Albanian community. People of Albanian origin celebrate the Albanian Declaration of Independence and Liberation Day, the day that Albania was liberated from Nazi Germany forces, this month. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16a29>.

### **Hindu Heritage Month**

Hindu Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Hindu Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16h35>.

### **Treaties Recognition Week**

Treaties Recognition Week was introduced in 2016 by the province to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It is recognized during the first week of November every year. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties#section-4>.

### **Veteran's Week (November 5 - 11)**

The people of Ontario must never forget the extraordinary courage and profound sacrifice made by the men and women who bravely and unselfishly gave their lives for Canada in wars and in peace support operations. As a gesture of respect for those who bravely and unselfishly gave their lives for Canada in wars and in peace support operations, the week preceding Remembrance Day each year is recognized as Veteran's Week. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16r21>.

### **Remembrance Day (November 11)**

Remembrance Day commemorates the armistice signed to end the First World War at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918, being the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of that year. Every year on November 11, Canadians pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. For more information, visit <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/a-day-of-remembrance>.

### **Holodomor Memorial Day (fourth Saturday in November)**

The Holodomor is the name given to the genocide by famine that occurred in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933. The day provides an opportunity to reflect on and to educate the public about the enduring lessons of the Holodomor and other crimes against humanity. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/09h07>.

### **National Child Day (November 20)**

Celebrating National Child Day is about celebrating children as active participants in their own lives and in communities, as active citizens who can and should meaningfully contribute to decision-making. For more information, visit <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/index-eng.php>.

### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence (November 25-December 10)**

The 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence begin on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25) and end on International Human Rights Day (December 10). For more information, visit <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/index-en.html>.

### 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](http://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](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code). If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.