



Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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Cory McKeown

Principal

Karen Moffitt

Vice-Principal

ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS- OCTOBER 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"Steady as she goes!" has become our October mantra both last year and again. Overall, our school's return to in-person learning has gone fairly smoothly despite being busy and complicated by the need to reorganize our classroom distribution. I am happy to share that students, families and staff have been overwhelmingly supportive and understanding of the conditions that made some changes necessary. This month we will be focused on re-establishing and solidifying the routines that allow students and staff to remain safe, learning, and mindful of their own well-being. While it may be tempting to lower our collective guards at school and home, we are committed to remaining resilient in our efforts to do our part to move our community out of the pandemic and back to the normalcy we all miss so much. Your work at home to support us and your children by reminding them of their responsibilities and your expectations is sincerely appreciated.

This month you will see more of our gradual return to tradition. The Intermediate Flag Football team has been practicing and playing, your School Council is working on plans to re-launch a lunch program offering, a hybrid-book fair (virtual and in-person) is being planned and a community Bingo Night may not be far away! Together these all point towards better times ahead. You can also expect the return of "Spirit Days" and an Orange and Black Day (like last year) on the 29th (we will send further details about potential Halloween plans once they are determined).

At the end of this newsletter, you will find some important information from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, included for your convenience. Please note that the daily student screening procedure/questions have changed from last year. We thank you for your diligence in helping to keep our school safe for all by making sure your children are coming to school healthy and following the guidance of the SMDHU when they are feeling unwell.

Ian Strath & Cory McKeown
Principals

Character attribute for the month of October

Cooperation - we work together towards shared goals and purposes.

More information about Character Education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

CALENDAR

October 15, 2021 – gifted nominations due to the school (see item in this newsletter)

October 22, 2021 - PA Day — no school

October 25, 2021 – virtual School Council meeting @ 6:30 pm

October 31, 2021 – Halloween

November 4, 2021 - Progress reports home

November 11, 2021 – Remembrance Day

November 12, - PA Day – no school

November 18, 2021 – Immunization Clinic – Grade 7/8 – Hep B, HPV and Meningitis

HAVE YOU MET SORA?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: meet.soraapp.com.

TERRY FOX RUN – SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

On Wednesday, September 29 the sun was shining, the music was going, and RAPIDS were running and walking as we held our 22nd Annual Terry Fox School Run here at Algonquin Ridge. We are very proud of our students' participation in this event and also the opportunity it gives our entire community to demonstrate their support and generosity. That was on display in a HUGE way this year and we would like to thank everyone who donated cash online and/or order t-shirts. Our total to date is \$6 462.30 making this our second highest total ever for the Terry Fox School Run!!

We received this message from the Terry Fox Foundation.

"If ever there was a time in which we needed to be reminded of the power of hope, this is it. Under tremendously challenging conditions, you and your school community chose hope over despair, joy over gloom, possibilities over problems. The students and staff of Algonquin Ridge were shining lights in a troubled year.

Hope is a quiet thing, but undeniably mighty. In 1980, Terry was a lonely runner on a marathon fueled by hope; 40 years later, that hope burns brighter than ever. Your school inspires us with your commitment to making our world a better place.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program modifications. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in gifted classroom placements. Parents/guardians of a student who is in or above Grade 3 this school year, who wish to nominate their child for gifted screening, are asked to contact Heather Cavers before October 15, 2021. Students may be nominated by either a teacher or parent/guardian. If you require further information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

Thanks

Heather Cavers

Special Education Resource Teacher

Algonquin Ridge

705 –737-4080

INTRODUCING THE 2021/22 ARES SCHOOL COUNCIL

Following a successful and well attended School Council Election and 1st Meeting on Sept. 27th I am pleased to introduce your 2021/22 School Council:

Giovanna Bowes & Astrid-Vig-Bergsma – Co-Chairs

Lisa Duhamel - Treasurer

Alison Currie - Secretary

Priscilla Nykoliation - Parent Member

Jen Dale – Parent Member

Meredith Lee– Parent Member

Quintina Wiens– Parent Member

David Heidman – Teacher Representative

Ann Compton – Non-Teaching Staff Representative

Student Representative—Alternating

Pam Krafchik—Community Representative

Ian Strath (until Karen Moffitt's return) & Cory McKeown – Principal Representative

Thank you to this year's Council for supporting our school and to all those who attended. 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 Oct. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Any interested parents are welcome to attend and will be added to the distribution list to receive the virtual meeting link if requested through the school office. All previous attendees need not make communicate a request each month as they will be sent the link.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S MATH DEVELOPMENT

Are you looking for ways to support your child in developing their love of math? In class, your child has been learning about how their mindset, experiences and identity have shaped them as a math learner. You can make a difference and support your child's learning by helping them see connections between their everyday experiences and the mathematics concepts they are learning about at school.

Ways to help your child develop their personal connection with mathematics:

- notice and name the math in your day-to-day lives at home
- talk about the ways math is used in your culture
- tell stories about your positive math experiences
- share ways that math has helped you solve problems at work or home
- identify the beauty of math in nature and at home (in patterns, symmetry, geometric shapes, etc.)



We're planning a Math@Home learning series for parents and want to know what you would like to learn more about! Complete the survey at <https://bit.ly/scdsbmathathome>, and include your email for a chance to win one of three Math@Home prize packs!

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>.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM THE SCSTC

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.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK AND SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 18 to 22, 2021. Please visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for information on school bus safety and links to school bus safety resources. Oct. 20, 2021 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely.

HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN OCTOBER

Thanksgiving Day – October 11, 2021

Vijaya Dashmi/Dassehra – Hinduism – October 14, 2021

Durga Ashtami – Hinduism – October 15, 2021

Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru – Sikhism – October 20, 2021

Karva Chauth – Hinduism – October 23, 2021

Lord Mahavir Nirvana – Jainism – October 25, 2021

New Year/Enlightenment Day of Gautamswami – Jainism – October 26, 2021

Samhain begins – Wicca – October 31, 2021

KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND WITH THE SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at our school and at the SCDSB. Here are some ways to do that:

- 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 is easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click 'Subscribe'; a message 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.
- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb)). Follow Algonquin Ridge on Twitter @RidgeAlgonquin

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium'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.

- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

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.

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 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.

