



## Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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**Cory McKeown**

Principal

**Karen Moffitt**

Vice-Principal

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### ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS- SEPTEMBER 2021

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

#### **WELCOME BACK!**

For those of you who may choose to compare this message to the September 2020 Principal's Message you quickly see that we are recycling much of that content...because we are now finding ourselves in a very similar place—excited to be back at school for in-person learning, cautiously optimistic that the circumstances will improve and not quite ready yet to abandon many of the safety policies and procedures that have kept our school safe throughout this pandemic. Like you, the entire school staff are longing for a return to the many traditions that made our school so special, but we are also realizing that it was never the clubs, sports, assemblies, or field trips etc. that made our school special. It was always the people! And now, more than ever since our time together became limited to our screens, we are realizing just how great it is to be together again. With the continued co-operation and support of families, we have had a successful first week and expect that things will only get easier as we slide back into our 'new normal' routines.

We also want to extend a very special welcome to our newest "Rapids", who began Junior Kindergarten on Thursday, and challenge our 'big kids' to remember the example they are setting for younger students. Much of our learning comes from observing and adopting the behaviours of those around us, so always do your best as you take responsibility for protecting the good health of your peers, families, and selves.

With that in mind, and with the first days of school behind us, we ask that you read and adhere to the following list of reminders that will help us maintain a safe and effective school. Please:

-leave our schoolyard promptly once your child is safely inside the gates. We cannot allow visitors to congregate at all on the school property and social distancing is required at all times. You can expect to see a City of Barrie Bylaw Officer from dropping in before and after school to observe our school and adjacent streets.

-have students arrive as close to the 9:09 a.m. 'warning' bell as possible as they are required to go directly to their class pylon/flag to line up once they are on the yard. The implementation of classroom zones on our yard keeps cohorts together and limits exposure to other groups. There should be no playing on the yard before school and students are also asked to head home directly after dismissal.

-avoid the need to sign your children out of school mid-day. For times when it cannot be avoided you should communicate with the homeroom teacher in advance so that the student can be in the office, ready to be picked up at the pre-determined time.

-avoid making deliveries to the office of all but essential items (we understand that water bottles, lunches and backpacks are occasionally forgotten at home) but regular delivery of lunches etc. cannot be accepted.

Please take a moment to review the routines for our parking lot/KISS-N-RIDE found later in this newsletter and also review the message shared with families on Friday Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> as it introduces Mr. Strath, visiting principal supporting Algonquin Ridge during Ms. Moffitt's leave.

***Ian Strath & Cory McKeown***  
***Principals***

## KISS-N-RIDE/PARKING LOT

Thank you once again to the students and families that are choosing to ride or walk (even part of the way) to school. Your help with reducing traffic by using the road in front of the school to drop off older students (most of this is now a 'no parking zone' whereas it used to be a 'no- stopping' zone) or parking a few blocks away from the school is appreciated. We recognize that driving your child (ren) to school is sometimes unavoidable and that **the families of our youngest students are most in need of the limited space we have on the school property**. When you park on an adjacent street, please be sure to check that you are in a designated parking zone as the city will regularly visit our area and issue tickets.

For those who are entering our school parking lot in their personal vehicle we offer these important reminders:

### DO'S

- drive slowly in school lot and in surrounding 40 km zones
- **obey staff directions** - recognize that accessing the school lot during entry and dismissal is a privilege and not a right
- pull all the way forward when dropping off students in the Kiss-N-Ride!**
- unload children from the curbside and **do not leave your car**
- consider dropping off a few blocks from school or on an alternate street and allow students to walk from there**
- remember that pedestrians have the right of way
- recognize that parents of our youngest students have a greater need to access the school parking and Kiss-N-Ride**
- be hyper-aware of student pedestrians at all times
- be patient if you are choosing to drive into the school parking lot (the busy period is over in less than 10 min)
- have students walk/wheel to school whenever possible**
- park in designated spots only
- have your child fully ready to go when you get in your car
- park in a designated space if you plan to leave your vehicle**
- pedestrians at the front need to cross to the school by the flag post and not cut across the entry/exit lanes

### DO NOT'S

- do not block school vehicles (buses and vans)
- do not pull through pylons, that close the bus lane directly in front of the school, until after the school day has begun in the a.m. or until buses have departed in the p.m.
- do not unload students where they will need to cross the parking lot and live lanes unattended
- do not double park/park in non-spaces
- do not leave your vehicle unattended unless in a designated parking space**
- do not use your cell phone while driving
- do not block or park in posted fire routes
- do not interfere with the staff's efforts to monitor students and traffic to ensure safety
- do not distract staff who are monitoring student entry and dismissal

The Kiss-N-Ride is for only a very brief 'stop and drop'. If you need to leave your vehicle to assist your child or walk them, please park in a designated space. If there are no spots available, then drive away from the school until you can find a legal parking space. The staff here often face the same parking challenges that you do. Blocking lanes, double parking or parking in fire routes is not an option. Be aware that City of Barrie Bylaw officers have written tickets on our property and will continue to do so. Students, administration, the staff, School Council and your neighbours thank you for your continued efforts to ensure students can come and go from school safely. Please recognize that student safety is our top priority, even when it may mean a momentary inconvenience for parents and caregivers. Remember that children do not always obey the 'rules of the road' or 'look before they leap' and, therefore, all adults are responsible for being extra diligent when driving to, from or around our busy school.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL 2021/22 Update

Please consider getting involved with the ARES School Council this year. The committee is made up of dedicated parents, staff and community members who work together to keep our school great. This advisory committee shares their ideas and input with the school staff, organizes and leads fund raising efforts, and contributes to the decisions made around how we use funds to enhance student life.

We are currently planning for a virtual **first School Council Meeting on Monday Sept. 27th at 6:30pm**. A Zoom link will be shared via email with all interested parents prior to the start time. We will also hold our school council election at this meeting. Elected/voting members are expected to attend about 6-7 meetings per year which usually run about 2 hours in a 'normal' year. Non-elected parents are always welcome to attend meetings to learn about their school and often volunteer to assist with fund-raising efforts etc. We will post a meeting date reminder on our roadside sign, in our school Newsletter and on the school webpage. Anyone wishing to have the meeting link shared with them is invited to share their name and preferred email with the office **by Friday Sept. 24**.

**To be eligible to hold an elected position (chair or co-chair, treasurer, secretary, community representative, member at large) you will need to call the office and we will email a nomination form to you via School Cash online. We can also send one home with your child upon request.**

## CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

**Caring - we show kindness towards each other.**

More information about Character Education can be found here: [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

## 2020-21 ARES YEARBOOK

Thank you to all who have purchased the 2020-21 edition of the Algonquin Ridge Yearbook. It has been ordered and is planned for delivery in late September/early October. We appreciate your patience in acquiring this memorable keepsake. When it arrives it will be delivered to your in-school student and notice will be sent to the school community for pick-up opportunities for graduates. Thank you.

## BELL TIMES

8:55 Yard Supervision Begins

9:10 Student Entry (warning bell @ 9:08)

9:10 Instructional Block, Periods 1, 2, 3 (150 min)

11:40 Nutrition Break (grades K-3 - 40 min in/40 min out) (grades 4-8 - 40 min out/40 min in)

1:00 Instructional Block, Periods 4, 5, 6 (150 min)

3:30 Dismissal

## TERRY FOX RUN – SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Algonquin Ridge is pleased to take part in this year's Terry Fox School Event. We are proud of this amazing tradition at our school, and we are thrilled to announce that, to date, we have held **21** school runs at Algonquin Ridge, raising a total of **\$62, 229.23** for cancer research. Let's keep it going!

This year's school run will take place on **Wednesday, September 29**. In keeping with current cohort restrictions, each class will have an independent opportunity to run the school track throughout the day.

Donations can only be made online. No cash donations can be accepted. To donate, please visit:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/AlgonquinRidgeESBarrie>

Watch for an opportunity to order Terry Fox t-shirts online through school cash. T-shirt sales become a part of our school's fundraising total. No late orders will be accepted so that students will have their shirts to wear on our school run day.

Please help us to continue the legacy of one of Canada's greatest heroes by donating and supporting our school's fundraising efforts.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Individual Education Plans (IEP) are being developed for the 2021-2022 school year. Consultation forms have been sent home for families to have their input in the development of the plan.

If you have a child that is in a Remote Learning class, the consultation form will be sent through secure email generated by our board's special education program, IEP Online. The email will come from [notification@pcgcanada.ca](mailto:notification@pcgcanada.ca) with the subject line "SECUREEMAIL: SCDSB Special Education Information Included – Please Review". If you use an email provider other than Microsoft Outlook (e.g., gmail, Hotmail, sympatico, iCloud, etc.), opening the email will require a one-time passcode. The one-time passcode will be sent to your email once you've selected "Read the message" and "Sign in with a One-time passcode". You will also receive an email from a member of the Special Education Team on how to access the secure documents.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to a member of the Special Education Resource Team.

Heather Cavers  
Special Education Resource Teacher  
Algonquin Ridge  
705 –737-4080

## 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/>

## NO VISITOR ACCESS

As we transition into the return to school routine this fall, following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, visitors are not permitted within SCDSB schools at this time. Parents/guardians may ring the doorbell at elementary schools to receive assistance. Parents/guardians will be asked to call the school's main office at secondary schools to receive assistance. School main office phone numbers will be posted on the doors of school buildings.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (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.simcoecounty-schoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecounty-schoolbus.ca). Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at [simcoecounty-schoolbus.ca](http://simcoecounty-schoolbus.ca) for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

## PROCEDURES HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below.
- reminding them that emergencies are rare; and,
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations.

Parents/guardians should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off temporarily.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident, or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents/guardians do not go to the school.

Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)), through local police and local media.

- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code). If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.

### **SCHOOL BUS 'BUS TAG' PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS GET TO AND FROM SCHOOL SAFELY**

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent/guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number, to be attached to the student's backpack, and a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the bus tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and click on the 'Safety' tab.

## HERITAGE DAYS FOR SEPTEMBER

### **Franco-Ontarian day September 25.**

The Francophone community of Ontario is the largest French-speaking community in Canada outside Quebec. We celebrate the French language and heritage on September 25, the anniversary of the first unveiling of the Franco-Ontarian flag (in 1975). For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/10f04>.

### **Powley Day – Indigenous World View – September 19.**

### **Orange Shirt Day – September 30.**

## HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

### **Yom Kippur – Judaism – September 16**

### **Kshamavani/Dasiakshan Parva ends – Jainism – September 19**

### **Festival of Higan-e – Buddhism – September 21**

### **Arba'een – Islam – September 28**

### **Simchat Torah – Judaism – September 29**

## 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](http://flipgive.com) Enter Team Code: SLQPHH If you have any questions, reach out to School Council at [councilchairlr@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:councilchairlr@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.

## CALENDAR

Sept. 29 – Terry Fox Run

Oct 11 – Thanksgiving – School closed

Oct 22 – PA Day – no school