



## **Algonquin Ridge Elementary School**

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**Cory McKeown**  
Principal

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Vice-Principal



### **ALGONQUIN RIDGE DECEMBER NEWS**



#### **MESSAGE FROM MR. MCKEOWN AND MR. VAN ARRAGON**

It seemed like December was so far away just a moment ago...and here we are, about to begin this busy holiday season! We hope you all took advantage of the opportunity in November to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss their progress so far this year. Now is an excellent time to work with your child(ren) to set a few achievable goals, following the Progress Report, and in preparation for the First Term Report Card which will be sent home by the middle of February.

Attendance is an area for improvement that is often overlooked and more consistent attendance can have an immediate positive impact on overall learning and achievement. Regular attendance connects directly to several of the Learning Skills detailed on reports and helps students build positive habits that they will need to be successful in our school, secondary and post-secondary school and the workplace. Data shows us that there is a clear connection between success in Math and consistent attendance. As lessons often build on knowledge and skills from previous days, sporadic attendance has a significant impact on learning in Math. We recognize that some absences, due to illness, cannot be avoided. Please focus on reducing the avoidable absences and lates and make learning at school a priority.

All the best from the Algonquin Ridge staff and administration as we begin this busy holiday season.

#### **DECEMBER CALENDAR**

- Dec 5 - Grade 4 Scientists in the School
- Dec 6 - County Volleyball and Basketball tournaments
- Dec 8 - QSP frozen cookie dough pick-up from 3:30-6:00 PM
- Dec 9 - Grade 3 Scientists in the School
- Dec 9 - ARES Spirit Day - Wacky Tacky Holi-Day
- Dec 12 - Junior Math Rally
- Dec 13 - Grade 2 field trip to Huronia Museum
- Dec 15 - Grade 8 field trip to Innisdale S.S. for musical presentation
- Dec 19 - Carolling assembly
- Dec 20 - Innisdale dance and musical presentation for all students
- Dec 21 - Christmas Cheer celebration
- Dec 22 - Character Education assembly - 11:40 AM
- Dec 26 - Jan 6 - Winter Break - school closed
- Jan 9 - School resumes

#### **PARKING LOT SAFETY**

We would like to thank the many drivers who drop off and pick up their kids from school daily for being so courteous and respectful of student safety. Generally, the traffic flows well and drivers seem to be paying close attention to the movement of pedestrians around the school. Occasionally, we and some parents who have brought the matter to our attention, see drivers on their phones or otherwise preoccupied. Please be focused and patient when driving in the school parking lot and while on Golden Meadow which sees high traffic volume around entry and dismissal times. Our almost 600 students can at times be impulsive and their safety is our top priority. When possible, walking to school or walking that last portion of your route to school will reduce congestion and improve overall safety. With poor driving conditions soon to arrive we hope you will take a moment to consider this friendly reminder.

### **QSP FUNDRAISER UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who supported us in our Fall QSP Fundraiser by purchasing cookie dough and magazine subscriptions/renewals. The cookie dough is expected to be delivered by QSP to the school on Thursday, December 8th.

We have arranged for volunteers to hand out the cookie dough between 3:30pm and 6:00pm in the lobby outside of the main office on that day. Due to the frozen nature of the cookie dough, and the fact that there is very limited freezer space available at the school, please make the necessary arrangements to pick up your cookie dough orders **between 3:30 and 6:00pm on December 8th**. Please note that larger orders will be too bulky for most children to carry home.

Thank you again for your continued support!

### **CANDYGRAMS! CANDYGRAMS! CANDYGRAMS!**

**Who:** The Algonquin Ridge student Me to We team

**What:** Is selling reindeer candy cane candy grams for \$1 each.

**Why:** To raise funds for health care in Haiti through the Free the Children organization.

**How:** Students can pre-order candy grams for \$1/each during 1<sup>st</sup> nutrition break, and complete a gift tag with the name of a friend for whom they are purchasing the candy gram.

**When:** Candy gram sales will take place every morning during 1<sup>st</sup> nutrition break from December 1-14. Candy grams delivery will take place on Wednesday, December 21.

**Where:** in the front hallway of the school.

**Get your candy grams for \$1 and support health care in Haiti.**

### **TUMBLEBOOKS**

Great news! Algonquin Ridge has purchased a subscription to an online collection of exciting books which you and your family can access from home. It includes a wide range of animated talking picture books, chapter books, videos, non-fiction titles, graphic novels, and math stories. Please check it out today.

Here is the link and login:

[www.tumblebooklibrary.com](http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com)

User Name: scdsb123

Password: reads

Direct link:

[http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/auto\\_login.aspx?u=scdsb123&p=reads](http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/auto_login.aspx?u=scdsb123&p=reads)

### **SUPPORT FOR FORT MCMURRAY, ALBERTA**

Last year, at the time of the forest fire crisis in Fort McMurray, Alberta, our staff decided that we would like to raise funds to support our Canadian friends and neighbours in Fort McMurray in their time of need. It was decided that the profits from the Track and Field day barbecue and the Family Fun Fair at the end of last school year would be donated to the Red Cross in support of Fort McMurray families.

We're glad to report that through your support of those two events, a cheque for \$3153 was recently sent to the Canadian Red Cross. Thank you for your generosity.

### **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR RESULTS**

Many thanks to our Algonquin Ridge community for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair in November and once again making it a huge success. Because of your support in purchasing books and resources, we earned a profit of approximately \$1,750 which in turn will be used to expand our collection of resources for our Learning Commons. Thank you again!



### **CHRISTMAS CHEER AT ALGONQUIN RIDGE**

It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to the holidays and peace and goodwill towards others. In the spirit of the season, Barrie's Christmas Cheer campaign continues its' mission to provide a happy Christmas for the families in our communities. Our school has been asked to join them in this campaign, so we would like to encourage our student body and their families to consider donating to this cause. Donations of non-perishable food items, and new, unwrapped toys would be greatly appreciated. The Student Ambassador team has approached the staff to hold an assembly to celebrate our contributions to Christmas Cheer. As the school reaches designated donation levels, various staff members will perform at the assembly to celebrate that accomplishment. Included below is a chart to share with your child/children of all the various "antics" that will be performed at this assembly. Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness. Together we can ensure more families are touched by the Christmas spirit.

<b><u>Food Item Goal</u></b>	<b><u>Toy Goal</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Commitment</u></b>
75	20	Dramatic reading and performance of 'Twas the Week Before Break (Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Mclver, Mrs. Van Krimpen, Ms. Donovan)
100	30	Dress Mr. Heidman as a tree and Mrs. Boyd and Ms. Bottrell wrapped as presents
125	40	Mr. Turner performs a Christmas carol
150	50	Kindergarten teachers/elves perform a song
175	60	Mrs. Cavers, Ms. Simms paint their faces
200	70	3 Man Band Performs (Mr. Cunning, Mr. Hamblin and Mr. Collett)
225	80	Soak the French Teacher – 5 Sponges to the Face
250	90	Secret Music Video from the gr. 6 teachers
275	100	Make up and Fashion Show starring Ms. Shave, Ms. Wren and Mrs. Urquhart featuring the arms and hands of Student Ambassadors
300	125	Pie in the Face – Mr. Sclater and Mr. Hamilton
325	150	Duct Tape Mrs. Martin to the gym wall
350	175	Flash Mob: Mrs. Horie, Mr. Turner and the Gr. 8 classes
375	200	Toilet Paper Bridal dresses with silly string accessories – Mrs. Mclver, Mrs. Yahn, Mrs. Gray and possibly Mrs. Whelan
400	225	Rudolph Toss – Student Ambassadors
450	250	Obstacle Course in Heels: Mrs. Mudde, Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Edgehill
500	275	Egg Nogged! With Ms. Teskey and Ms. McQuay
550	300	T-Rex Arm Wrestling: Santa ( Ms. Shave) vs. Mr. T-Rexy ( Mrs. Parmenter)
600	325	Human Hungry Hippos: Boys (Collett/Hamblin) vs. Girls (Mrs. Johnson/Mrs. Wilson)
700	350	Spaghetti Eating Contest: Mr. McKeown vs. Mr. Van Arragon

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE**

Our school council met on November 8. The main focus of this meeting was planning for the distribution and spending of all the funds that will be raised through the various fundraising initiatives being run by school council this year. The council is projecting to raise \$30,000 this year. Here are the highlights of the fundraising proposals and approvals.

The following items were approved to be funded either exclusively by school generated funds (fundraisers run by school council) or a combination of school generated funds and school basic budget funds.

- Crash pads with school logo on end walls in gym
- Permanently mounted projector and screen in the gym
- White boards for classrooms that don't have them yet
- 22 additional Chromebooks
- Guided reading tables for classrooms that don't have them yet
- \$1000 towards new athletics uniforms
- Science equipment for kindergarten
- \$1000 eBooks for Learning Commons
- Licence for current events articles for junior classrooms
- \$1000 Phys ed. equipment refresh
- \$200 towards Eco-team school greening project
- Gaga-ball court repairs
- \$1000 to yearbook

Some ideas discussed for future consideration were:

- Outdoor shelter with School name and logo
- Laminator
- Additional chess sets

We're very excited about all the great things that are planned for this year and thank our school council and volunteers who work hard to raise the funds that will be used to make these plans a reality!

## **FAMILY BINGO NIGHT**

Over 150 people had a really fun time at the ARES family bingo night last month with plenty of popcorn, and bingo winners and prizes. Thank you to our sponsors (also part of our school family); Steve McFarlane of Sutton Realty, Dr. Chris Schell of Optometrist Barrie, Dr. Mike Nykoliation of Essa Road Chiropractic Health, and Giovanna Bowes of CI Investments for their generous donations of great prizes. Thanks also to Mr. Steve McFarlane for his expertise as a professional bingo caller, the 6 students who did special musical performances during the evening, and to our school council members who organized and ran the event so smoothly. Be watching our monthly newsletter and website for information about our next Bingo event!

## **BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County, and with it comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and, as a result, possible bus and school event cancellations.

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). **OUR SCHOOL IS IN THE CENTRAL ZONE.** When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning. The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6 and 7 a.m. Parents should also note that 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 also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and you can follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTCSchoolBus.

## **REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR FRENCH IMMERSION, FIND OUT MORE AT INFORMATION SESSIONS IN JANUARY**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout the county beginning in Grade 1. This program gives students a bilingual education and the opportunity to become fluent in another language.

Information sessions will be held in January for parents of students in Senior Kindergarten. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under Programs, French as a Second Language.

The FI online application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, until 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017 at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under Programs, French as a Second Language. While every effort is made to accommodate all FI applications, available space and staffing will determine how many students can be registered in the program.

**Applications will be processed in the order they are received electronically.**

Please contact the school if you do not have Internet access at home or require assistance accessing the online application. Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

## **PROVIDE INPUT ON PROPOSED 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) invites public school communities to submit input regarding the proposed school year calendar for next school year (Sept. 2017 to June 2018). Input can be provided by visiting [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca), then clicking the link on the 'School Year Calendars' page under the 'Schools' menu. All stakeholders including staff, school council members, parents/guardians, students and members of the school community are invited to provide input. **The deadline to submit input is Jan. 13, 2017.**

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPENS IN JANUARY**



Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2013? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning on January 23, 2017, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birth date documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten) for more information.

## **ALL SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS ARE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER**

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

## **LEADING WOMEN/LEADING GIRLS BUILDING COMMUNITIES RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

MPP Ann Hoggarth invites nominations for outstanding women and girls for their community leadership contributions. To submit a nomination, please provide the completed nomination form, available from Ann Hoggarth's office (email [ahoggarth.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:ahoggarth.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)) and provide two letters of support from persons such as a community leader, mentor, employer, or another individual who has had experience volunteering with the nominee.

Support letters should address the following three areas:

- describe how the nominee's efforts improved the lives of women and/ or girls in her community
- explain how the nominee's achievements demonstrate her leadership
- specify the number of volunteer hours the nominee contributes annually

Nominations for Barrie residents can be forwarded to MPP Ann Hoggarth's Barrie office by Dec. 19.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT: HEALTHY CELEBRATIONS**

Celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating messages they learn in class. You can help us teach the importance of healthy eating by choosing healthy foods to send to school the next time your child's class is celebrating. Try these ideas:

- send a tray of watermelon slices, box of clementines or fruit kabobs
- make homemade mini muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apple
- send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes

For more ideas, tool and resources to support your healthy classroom celebrations, check out [www.brightbites.ca](http://www.brightbites.ca) – Reason to Celebrate.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH UNIT: IS BEDTIME STRESSING YOU OUT?**

Kids need 10 to 12 hours of sleep every night but sometimes getting them to bed can be frustrating. You can help create a regular sleep schedule for your child by setting a clear bedtime and sticking to the same time every night. Start getting ready an hour before bed: turn off the TV, computers and phones. Spend quality time talking or reading stories to help



them unwind. Agree on how many books you'll read before you start! Keep their room dark, cool and quiet - a nightlight is fine. Remember, making sure your child gets enough rest will help improve their mood, behaviour and ability to learn.

For more bedtime tips, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH UNIT: STAY HEALTHY THIS SCHOOL YEAR!**

Colds and Influenza spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like doorknobs, desks, keyboards, or wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs to others is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty, you can use alcohol-based hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY CHEER FOR OUR ALGONQUIN RIDGE COMMUNITY**

This is the time of year for giving and generosity, and many of us will have the blessing of abundance when we celebrate with our families this holiday season.

Unfortunately, this isn't true for everyone in our school community. To that end, as a school community we are making an effort to provide some Christmas/Holiday Cheer for some families within our own school community by distributing grocery gift cards and gifts for the children in the family. If you would like to contribute anonymously towards this initiative, you may do so by purchasing President's Choice gift cards (\$25 denominations please) and dropping them off at the office, or you can donate cash to the office which will go towards the purchase of gifts and gift cards.

Please make your contributions directly to the school office no later than Friday, December 16. If you have questions, please contact our vice-principal, Mr. Van Arragon. We sincerely appreciate your contributions and wish you and your families all the best this holiday season.

