



Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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Principal

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ALGONQUIN RIDGE MARCH NEWS

MESSAGE FROM MR. MCKEOWN AND MR. VAN ARRAGON

We are hopeful that the arrival of spring will mean more walkers and bikers, resulting in less traffic and congestion during drop-off and pick-up times at school. We would like to share some reminders about our Kiss 'N Ride routine. You will find some helpful suggestions below that will help to ensure that all children are less at risk from the high volume of private vehicles we see every day. We recognize that driving your child (ren) to school is sometimes unavoidable, but a regular routine of walking to school is always the best option.

The following 2 lists are "Do's" and "Don'ts" without the rationale for each or this message would be pages long. Please accept 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 and from our busy school.

Do's

- drive slowly in school lot and in surrounding 40 km zones
- obey the directions of staff
- **pull all the way forward when dropping off students**
- unload children from the curb side
- **consider dropping off a few hundred metres 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
- recognize that accessing the school lot during entry and dismissal is a privilege and not a right
- be patient if you are choosing to drive into the school parking lot
- **have students walk to school whenever possible**
- park in designated spots only
- have your child fully ready to go when you get in your car



Do Not's

- do not block school buses
- do not pull through pylons (even when there is a space) 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
- do not double park
- **do not leave your vehicle**
- do not use your cell phone while driving
- do not park in fire route or create your own parking spot

The Kiss 'N Ride is meant 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 challenge. 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 this year 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.

A MESSAGE FROM S.E.E.D.S. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The S.E.E.D.S program had been engaged in many inquiries this winter. We have been making regular visits to the forest. The children have been using the outdoor environment to build shelters and compare weights. We have also been experimenting and creating volcanos. Some of the skills that we have learned through our inquiries include prediction, measurement, problem-solving and co-operation. SEEDS offers full day care for March Break and summer. Full day programming is highly interactive, focused on the children's interest and includes weekly field trips! After school spaces are still available! If you are interested please contact Sheena Bardai at 705-726-3770.



MABEL'S LABELS

School Council has recently added Mabel's Labels to our school's fundraising initiatives. This website features peel and stick clothing labels, bag tags and a variety of safety and household labeling systems. This will be an ongoing, open initiative for our school which means that any time you wish to get labels for your children or household, please consider using Mabel's Labels and help out Algonquin Ridge. It couldn't be easier. Simply go to <http://mabelslabels.com> and click on "Support a Fundraiser". Then "Select your School/ Organization", find "Algonquin Ridge (Barrie)" and follow the steps to fulfill your order. Anyone is able to support our school, whether or not their children attend ARES so please pass this on to family and friends as well. The product comes directly to you and the school will receive 20% of the total sales! Thank you so much for your support. **Please see the last page of this newsletter for Mabel's Huge Label Sale!**



ALGONQUIN RIDGE YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

Soon it will be that time of year again when you can order the 2016-2017 ARES yearbook. We are inviting all students in grade 4-8 to create their own original design to submit for a yearbook cover contest. Each design should include the following:

- 8.5 X 11 white paper design
- Include the name of the school
- Include the year 2016-2017
- Bright colour and detail
- Include your name on the back of your design



The winning entry will receive a free yearbook. The 4 runners-up will have their design printed on the back cover of the yearbook. All entries are due by April 21, 2017. Stay tuned for the yearbook order form coming soon!!!

ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY AT ARES

Electronic devices include but are not limited to cellular phones, iPods, iPads and game systems.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged devices. The safest place for these devices is at home.

If they are brought to school they are to be OFF and AWAY during school hours including nutrition breaks. Devices are to be turned off at 9:10 am and may be turned on at 3:30 pm. If your child needs to contact you they may ask their teacher for permission to use the phone. If you need to contact your child please call the office at 705-737-4080.

Devices maybe used by your child to support curriculum expectations with permission from and, under the supervision of, their teacher. Parents/students must read and sign Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement for any device being used at school.

If these rules are not followed, the device will be removed from the student and given to the office to hold until the end of the day. If the device is removed from the student a second time, it will be held at the office until a parent or legal guardian picks it up.

If the device is removed from the student again, it will be held at the office until a parent or legal guardian picks it up and it will result in a detention, community service and/or suspension.

SCDSB MEDIA FEST: WHAT DOES BEING A GREAT CANADIAN LOOK LIKE?

Students are invited to submit an entry for the 2017 SCDSB Media Fest. This media festival is open to all Simcoe County District School Board students and can include images, audio and video. For more information, visit www.scdsbmediafest.com. The submission deadline is April 3, 2017.

REMINDER: SCHOOL PLAYGROUND SAFETY IN THE SPRING

The sun is warming things up, days are getting longer and many students are itching to get back on the school playground equipment. While it's hard to say 'no' to those eager faces, it's important to make sure the equipment is safe and ready to be played on.

Over the winter, school play structures have to be closed. The closure is for many reasons. The main reason is that snow and ice change the surface of the ground surrounding the play structure, packing the sand/gravel/mulch into a hard, packed surface, which can be a significant fall hazard. Inspections are done on equipment daily by the school principal or designate during the school year starting on April 1 and ending on October 31. These inspections are to ensure that there are no obvious hazards, broken equipment, vandalism, graffiti, litter, dangerous items or play items left behind. There is also an annual inspection by a professional company employing Canadian Certified Playground Inspectors (CCPI).

Each spring, a designated contractor travels to all schools who have playground equipment, to till the surface ensuring that the sand is no longer compacted before opening the equipment for student use. In some cases, the wear and tear, rain or winter may have washed some sand away and it will need to be replaced.

Playgrounds can be fun learning opportunities for students, so let's all make them safe spaces – we look forward to spring and getting students back on our school playground structures soon!

EVENTS AT EASTVIEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN APRIL OPEN TO ALL PARENTS

On April 10 at 7 p.m., Eastview Secondary School will host a screening of the film *Screenagers*, a study of growing up in the digital age. Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston created *Screenagers* to probe into the vulnerable corners of family life to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. This presentation will help parents learn how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world.

On April 12 at 7 p.m., the school welcomes financial literacy expert Robin Taub, the author of the best-seller, *A Parent's Guide to Raising Money-Smart Kids*. Her presentation will cover why it's important to teach kids about money, as well as the challenge of being a good financial role model. She will explain how to address money-related topics with young kids, pre-teens, teenagers and emerging adults.

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend the above events. For more information, please contact Eastview Secondary School at 705-728-1321. The school is located at 421 Grove St. E. in Barrie.

IS YOUR CHILD TURNING FOUR THIS YEAR? IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.



STUDENT INFORMATION NOTICE FOR PARENTS OF GRADE 8 STUDENTS

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. Select student information will be shared at different times as appropriate. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under sections 170, 171, 190 Part X and Part XIII of the Education Act. All information used for the transition process is limited, secure and protected at all times. Please contact Paula Murphy, Superintendent of Education for this area, if you would like more information about the transition process at Algonquin Ridge Elementary School.

MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH – TIPS FOR PACKING A HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH

A school lunch should give children the energy and nutrients they need to be ready to learn, be more alert and perform better at school. When planning lunches keep these tips in mind:

- include one serving from at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide
- rather than buying pre-made lunch kits, make your own healthy "lunch kit" with divided containers and small 'bite-sized cheese cubes, left over chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices
- get your kids to eat more veggies! Send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip
- fill whole wheat or multi grain wrap/pits/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with mustard
- water is the healthiest choice to quench thirst

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

GET OUTSIDE TO PLAY ON MARCH BREAK

Active play does more than help kids to achieve the 60 minutes of physical activity they need every day, it supports their development in many ways – especially when the play is outdoors, self-directed and fun. This allows kids to test boundaries and problem-solve, develop social skills and resolve conflict, and learn to control their emotions and behaviour. Active play outdoors in the fresh air and nature also helps to improve mood and lower stress. Support your child to play outside with friends in the neighbourhood and at your local park as much as possible.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

FEEL LIKE YOUR TEEN IS ALWAYS ON?

Ever consider how all those minutes your teen spends sitting using electronic devices, watching TV or even playing video games add up every day? By replacing some of their screen time with physical activity, you will be helping them to become healthier, reduce stress and be more likely to feel happier and more confident. Here are some ideas to suggest to your teen:

- organize a pick-up game of baseball, ball hockey or basketball
- check out a local nature trail with friends
- Try something new like disc golf!

Set a goal to limit screen time to less than two hours each day.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



Support our Fundraiser & Shop Mabel's Huge Label Sale!

40% OFF A DIFFERENT BEST-SELLING PRODUCT EACH WEEK



We're ringing in spring all month long with great deals!
There's a new item on sale for 40% off each and every week!

Sale dates: March 1 – March 31!

mabel's labels
FUNDRAISING

Support our fundraiser and shop for this great new product!
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