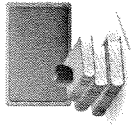




ALGONQUIN RIDGE E.S.



PRINCIPAL: S. Young VICE-PRINCIPAL: K. Jessop SCHOOL OFFICE 737- 4080
SAFE ARRIVAL: 739-9715 FAX: 730-5820 SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.alr.scdsb.on.ca

Be a Germ Stopper

If you've ever been sick with a cold or flu, blame a germ! You can't see germs but they can make you sick.

The single most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others is to wash our hands. Children learn by example. By washing your hands properly, you are also showing your children the proper way to wash their hands.

There are five easy ways to stop the spread of germs and viruses that can make you and others sick:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds (about the amount of time it takes to sing Row Row Row your Boat twice through).
2. Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your upper arm.
3. Clean and disinfect shared surfaces.
4. Stay at home if you're sick.
5. Get your annual flu shot.

If you have any questions, please call Your Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or click on simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Protect You and Your Family From the Flu

Influenza is a potentially serious illness, which is different from the common cold or the stomach flu. The virus spreads easily from person to person – especially children. People who get influenza usually feel quite unwell, and may have a fever, chills, cough, runny eyes, stuffy nose, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, extreme weakness and fatigue. Children can also have earaches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. The best way to prevent the flu and protect you and your family is by getting your annual flu shot. New this year, the Health Unit's community flu clinics will be by appointment. For more information about this year's flu shot and to book your appointment, visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org and click on "Book Your Flu Shot Online" hot button.

Winter Safety Tips

The first major winter storm has arrived and residents and visitors are reminded of the need to re-educate themselves about winter safety in their homes and on the roads. In conjunction with Springwater Township and Oro-Medonte Township, the County of Simcoe has developed winter safety information for area residents and visitors.

Some important safety precautions include:

- Remember to frequently and routinely check on vulnerable populations in winter weather. This includes friends, family and neighbours who are elderly or infirm or otherwise rely on assistance from others.
- Do not use barbeques or any type of power generators indoors.
- Remember to turn off tools and appliances that may have been running when power was lost.
- Be cautious with open flame devices – only use fully enclosed holders and never leave candles unattended.
- If using a portable generator for backup power, use OLC/CSA approved cords. Do not overload or use frayed cords.
- Use only clean, dry firewood in your fireplace or wood stove and have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually.
- If you approach a downed hydro wire, do not approach the wire or attempt to move it. Call your local utility provider and tell them where it is.



MORNING ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS

The first snow fall has occurred thus a few safety reminders. The playground equipment will be closed until spring. Our morning supervision of students in the schoolyard commences at 8:45 a.m. until student entry at 9:00 a.m. daily.

To ensure the safety of all students, parents are asked to ensure that students arrive between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., when supervision is provided on the yard. During this time the students are to remain on the tarmac before school starts. The field will be open during outdoor fitness breaks depending on weather conditions.

November 2011
Issue # 3

Things to Remember:

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 18
P.A. DAY**

Families are reminded of the school year calendar which indicates that there will be a Professional Activity Day on Friday November 18 so there will be no school for students on that day.

Please remember to complete the comment section of the fall progress reports

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

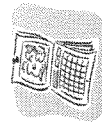
The last day of school for students is Friday, Dec. 23, 2011. Students return to school on Monday, Jan 9, 2012.

LOST AND FOUND

This is a reminder for families to check our lost and found soon to be displayed in the front foyer area. Items remaining after December 18 will be donated to charity.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

The next regular meeting of the Algonquin Ridge School Council will be held in the Library on Tuesday, **January 10 at 6:30 p.m.** All Algonquin Ridge parents are welcome to attend.



CHARACTER TRAIT COURAGE



Inclement Weather Procedures



Please review and save the following inclement weather procedures.

Every reasonable effort will be made to keep the school open each day for those students who are able to attend.

EARLY MORNING PROCEDURES

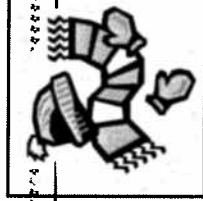
1. Local media (A-Channel news or local radio stations; B101, Rock 95, 107.5, 100.3 etc.) as well as the Simcoe County District School Board website (www.scdsb.on.ca) will carry news regarding any delays or cancellations of school buses or closures of schools. Please tune in to local media from 6:30 – 8:00 a.m. to avoid having to call the school.
 2. The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium and their contracted school bus companies together determine during pre-dawn hours if it is unsafe for buses to travel during inclement weather. As well, school superintendents and principals together determine whether school closures are necessary, depending on local weather conditions for each cluster of schools. Our school is in the "central zone"
 3. All parents/guardians are reminded that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school under conditions of severe weather, as well as at other times.
 4. If buses are cancelled due to severe weather conditions outside the immediate school area but weather conditions are not hazardous in the immediate vicinity of the school, the school will be open to students. In cases where buses have been cancelled, it is the parents' responsibility to decide whether or not students who normally ride a school bus should set out for school, or should be driven to school.
- Please be aware of your child's bus number and the company which provides the bus.**
- If parents drive their children who are normally bused to school on inclement weather days when buses have been cancelled, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that appropriate arrangements have been made to provide for their children's safe return home at the end of the regular school day, or during the school day if conditions worsen and it is necessary to close the school at any time before the end of the regular school day. If buses are cancelled in the morning they are cancelled for the entire day and will not run at a later time that day.



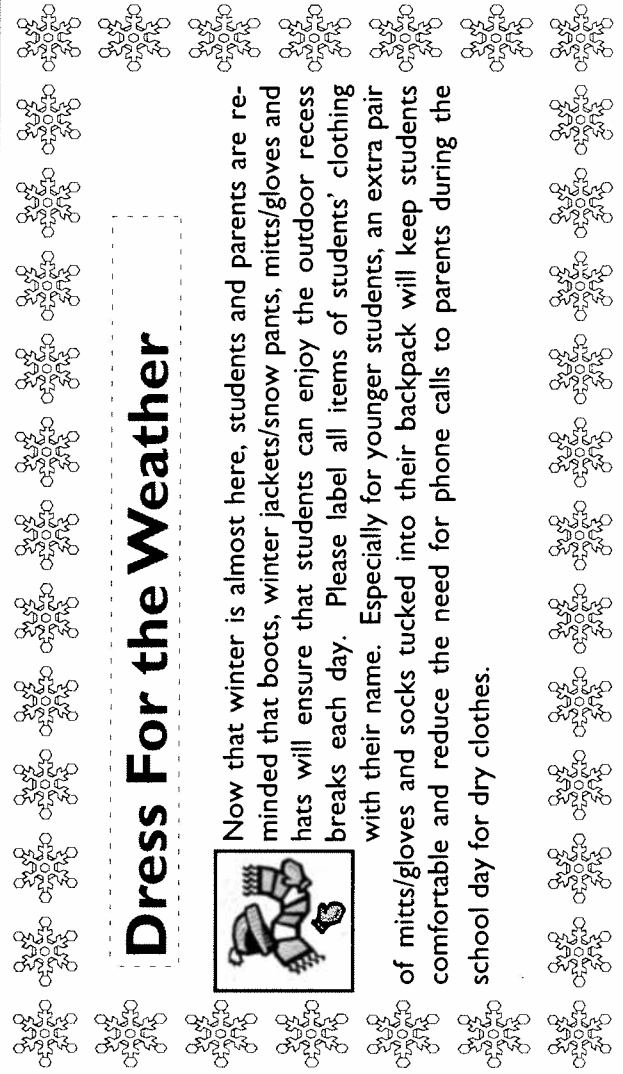
If adverse weather conditions prevail over a wide area, the school will be declared closed and all students and staff should remain at home. This will be announced in the media mentioned above.

Early School Closing Procedures

It may be necessary, in rare or unusual circumstances of an emergency nature, to close the school. Local media mentioned above will carry the announcement of the early calling of buses.



Please Note: It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to make alternate arrangements for children's supervision in the case of school closure or early school closing. Should you encounter difficulty in making such arrangements, please discuss this matter with your child's teacher as soon as possible so that a satisfactory understanding may be established. Please review your alternate arrangements frequently with your children and your emergency contact adults. Please update the office records with all emergency



Dress For the Weather



Now that winter is almost here, students and parents are reminded that boots, winter jackets/snow pants, mitts/gloves and hats will ensure that students can enjoy the outdoor recess breaks each day. Please label all items of students' clothing with their name. Especially for younger students, an extra pair of mitts/gloves and socks tucked into their backpack will keep students comfortable and reduce the need for phone calls to parents during the school day for dry clothes.

Please No Nuts!

We request your understanding and co-operation in our need to continue to make our school safe in order to assist students who have a potentially fatal allergy to nuts. Please send lunches and snacks with students that are nut free. Many places such as Tim Horton's while having no nuts in their products, still use nuts throughout their facility. Please keep this in mind when bringing in food items. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.



Visitors to Algonquin Ridge

For the safety of all of our students we are reminding all parents/guardians that our school policy insists that all visitors (non-students) are obliged to sign in at the school office when entering the school for any purpose. We ask that consideration be given to not disrupting students and teachers during their instructional time. Our teachers would be glad to speak to you over the phone or arrange a personal appointment time. Our teachers would be glad to speak to you over the phone or arrange a personal appointment outside of their teaching time. Messages for students should be kept to emergencies and left with Mrs. Westbrook or Mrs. Banks, our school secretaries.

Safe Arrival Messages

Due to new guidelines provided by the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit and the Simcoe County District School Board, we have changed the message on our safe arrival number. When calling to leave a message about a student absence please include your child's name, your child's teacher's name, the current date, the expected date of return **IN ADDITION TO** the symptoms of illness your student is experiencing and the date child has been diagnosed with the flu, please be sure to indicate this in the "message. Due to new Health regulations the school is required to report all cases of the flu to the Health Unit.



INDOOR SHOES REMINDER

Students and parents are reminded to help keep our school clean by ensuring that students have indoor shoes to wear inside the school and in the portables.



MARATHON OF HOPE

Algonquin Ridge's 12th annual "Marathon of Hope" held on Wednesday, September 28th, was another great success! The classes spent a few weeks discussing, writing about, reading about, and watching the videos about, "**TERRY FOX**". He is a Canadian hero and we are all very proud of him and his determination and courage. Terry is a great role model!!!! Our school assembly and our run revolved around the theme of "The Power of One", believing in yourself, and HOPE. Our HOPE is that "HOPE is growing faster than CANCER" and that one day a cure will be found. We were once again part of the National School Run Day. Enthusiasm, determination and energy were evident by all participants during the time we spent together. We all went out with a common purpose and truly succeeded. Algonquin Ridge staff and students would like to thank everyone for their involvement and commitment towards this worthy cause.

Thank you to staff, students and parents.

Thank you to the Campbell family for their donation of two vouchers (4 tickets each) to a Thursday night Colts game.

Thank you to the Sinopoli family for their generous donation.

Thank you to Mr. Young and Ms. Jessop who promised us if we reached our goal they would come dressed up in crazy blue (Mr. Young) and green (Ms. Jessop) outfits. We reached our goal and they entertained us at our last assembly.

On behalf of Algonquin Ridge Elementary School, the Terry Fox Foundation will receive over \$6000.00 WOW!! That is fantastic! Thanks again for helping us to help Terry fulfill his dream. Special thanks to The Interested Parents Group for their donation of our "healthy snack" of apples from Carpe Diem following our event.

THANKS TO THE MAYCOURT CLUB AND EAT WELL TO EXCEL

We are privileged to receive the support of the Maycourt Club of Barrie and Eat Well to Excel who provide our school with a limited amount of snack foods. These valuable services enable us to provide small snacks or lunches to students who, on rare, infrequent or emergency occasions, have not brought any food to school.





ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

November 14-18 is Anti-Bullying Week at the Ridge. Staff and students have been working hard preparing a set of activities around this topic that will take place at the school during Anti-Bullying Week. These include a guest presentation, an outdoor fun day, and read-alouds. Listed below are the dates and details of important events.

-On Wednesday November 16, or Thursday November 17, Master Jim Morrison from the Champion Taekwondo Academy will be visiting to introduce their Bully Busters Program.

-Throughout the week, every division will have the chance to listen to a book read aloud in the gym. They will also have an activity following up the book to complete, and a discussion with their teachers on the subject upon returning to class.

-On Tuesday November 15, the Leadership team has an outdoor character-building day planned. It will consist of a series of outdoor games involving teamwork. Students will be travelling throughout the games with their house-colour teams, and should be prepared to go outside. For the other half of the day, students will be viewing an anti-bullying related movie selected for their age group.

We are working together to make our school the best it can be!

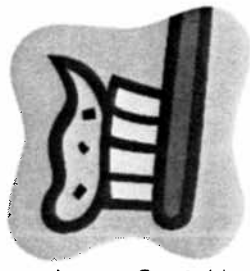
Dental Treatment

Get a healthy start with free dental care

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has a new no-cost dental program for eligible children and teens ages 17 years and under. Healthy Smiles Ontario offers a full range of dental services including checkups, cleaning, fillings, x-rays, scaling and more. The program is available three different ways:

- Through a full-service clinic at the health unit's Barrie 80 Bradford Street office,
- By visiting a participating dentist or dental hygienist or
- By visiting the health units mobile dental clinic that travels to communities in Simcoe Muskoka

To find out more about the program, eligibility requirements and how to make an appointment, call your Health Connection Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.



Parent Engagement Committee

The Parent Engagement Committee (PEC)'s aim is to increase the parent/school communication, improve the school climate and support parents.

As a new sub-committee of the Parent Council our meetings will be held at 107 Hurst Drive at 7pm on November 29th, 2011, January 31st, 2012, February 28th, 2012, March 27th, 2012, April 24th, 2012 and May 29th, 2012. We hope to see you! Bring your ideas.

Did you know that ARES boasts 15 sport teams and 20 clubs! All of these are made possible by the generous donation of their time by our teachers.

Check out more about the Parent Engagement Committee on the school website <http://alr.scdsb.on.ca> under Parent Info.



FUNDRAISING AT ARES

There are various fundraising events happening at the school throughout November and December. They are as follows:

Popcorn Tuesdays
Hot Dog Wednesdays

Barrie Coupon Book -\$20 per booklet, includes a FREE 4 hr tubing coupon worth \$25, FREE Night Lift Ticket at Snow Valley worth \$28, McDonalds, Dairy Queen and FREE drink at Cora's

Rapidswear
Holiday Wreaths
Christmas Dance

QSP magazine subscriptions ARE still available online at www.QSP.ca—enter code 9076 for Algonquin Ridge. It's a great opportunity for Christmas gift giving or just to renew your favourites!!!

Thanks to All Our Great Volunteers

Staff and students at Algonquin Ridge are very grateful for the support and assistance our volunteers provide in a variety of ways throughout our school. This year we are in great need of new volunteers for our Safe Arrival Program. Please leave your name in the office if you are interested in any volunteer responsibilities. We are glad to adjust volunteer schedules to fit our volunteers' busy lives.

All potential volunteers are reminded of the need for a valid criminal record check with a vulnerable sector screening done within the previous six months. Parents & guardians new to the school this year require the criminal record check before they begin to volunteer.

Returning volunteers who have submitted a criminal record check last year, need to complete an offence declaration document available at the office counter.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Popcorn—Tuesdays

RAPIDS DAY—Wednesdays

Hot Dog Days—Wednesdays

Fun Lunch—Fridays

Intermediate Girls BB Zones—November 15

Intermediate Boys VB Zones—November 16

Gr. 4-6—Georgian “Willy Wonka” - November 16

Book Fair—November 16-18

Gr. 3—Georgian “Willy Wonka” - November 17

PD Day—November 18

Character Ed Assembly—November 25



ALCONQUIN RIDGE BOOK FAIR SCHEDULE November 15 - 21, 2011

D. Heidman

TIME	TUESDAY Day 3	WED. NOV. 16 Day 4	THURS., NOV. 17 Day 5	Fri. Nov. 18 P.A. Day	Mon. Nov. 21 Day 1
9:00 - 9:25	Book Fair arrives	Anti-Bullying Assembly	Anti-Bullying Assembly	Book Fair open during interviews	1. W. McIver (Gr. 2)
9:25-9:50					2. S. Chalmers (Gr. 2)
9:50 - 10:15		1. J. Johnson (Gr. 2)	1. MB Yahn (Ks B-Day)		1. G. Cuning (Gr. 6)
10:15-10:40		2. D. McCormick (Gr. 5)	2. K. Bamford (Ks B-Day)		2. H. Murphy (Gr. 4)
10:40 - 11:00	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess
11:00 - 11:20	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess
11:20-11:45	Set up	1. L. Bottrell (Ks A-Day)	1. S. Sclater (Gr. 6)		1. B. Michaels (Gr. 7)
11:45-12:10		2. K. Hay (Ks A-Day)	2. R. Ward (Gr. 8)		2. M. Hamblin (Gr. 7/8)
12:10-12:35		1. L. Edgar (Gr. 3)	1. T. Gill (Gr. 4)	BOOK FAIR CLOSED	BOOK FAIR CLOSED
12:35-1:00		2. J. Lynn (Gr. 1)	2. R. Collett (Gr. 7)		
1:00 - 1:20	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess	K - 4 NB/ 5 - 8 Recess
1:20 - 1:40	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess	5 - 8 NB/ K - 4 Recess
1:40-2:05		1. A. Welsman (Gr. 5)	1. L. Bottrell (Ks B-Day)		
2:05-2:25		2. A. Cremers (Gr. 3)	2. C. Imhoff (Gr. 5/6)		
2:30 - 2:55		1.M. Haenni (Gr. 3)	1. K. Wilson (Gr. 1)		
2:55-3:20		2. S. Boyd (Gr. 1)	2. J. vanKrimpen (Gr. 3)		

• Teachers are invited to a Sneak Peak after school on Tuesday to fill out "Wish List" coupons.