



ALGONQUIN RIDGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

#2 OCTOBER 2011

S. Young
Principal

SCHOOL OFFICE 737-4080

SAFE ARRIVAL 737-4080(option 1)

FAX 730-5820

K. Jessop

Vice-Principal

WEBSITE www.alr.scdsb.on.ca

THANKS FOR A GREAT OPEN HOUSE EVENT

Thanks to everyone who attended the Open House event on Wednesday, September 21. We were delighted with the large number of parents and students who attended. It was a very successful evening.

ALGONQUIN RIDGE STAFF LIST OCTOBER 2010

School Administration

S. Young, Principal K. Jessop, Vice-Principal

Primary Division Teachers

L. Bottrell(JK/SK)	S. Chalmers (Gr. 2)
K. Bamford(JK/SK)	W. McIver (Gr. 2)
M. Yahn(JK/SK)	J. Johnson (Gr. 2)
K. Hay (JK/SK)	L. Edgar (Gr. 3)
K. Wilson (Gr.1)	J. VanKrimpen (Gr. 3)
J. Lynn (Gr.1)	M. Haenni (Gr. 3)
S. Boyd (Gr. 1)	K.Gray/A. Creamers Gr.3)

Junior Division Teachers

T. Gill (Gr.4)	C. Imhoff (Gr. 5/6)
H. Murphy (Gr. 4)	S. Sclater (Gr. 6)
D. McCormick (Gr. 5)	G. Cunning(Gr.6)
A. Welsman (Gr. 5)	

Intermediate Division Teachers

B. Michaels (Gr. 7)	M. Horie (Gr. 8)
R. Collett(Gr.7)	R. Ward (Gr.8),
M. Hamblin (Gr.7/8)	D. Turner(Gr.8),

Special Education Teachers

J. Smith(Learning Centre)	P. Jackman (SERT)
K. Cascone (ASD Class)	J. Hewson (SERT)

French as a Second Language Teachers

C. Leonard	J. Murphy
L. Lippert	

Librarian – D. Heidman

Planning Time Teachers

K. Gray – Literacy Coach	J. Litt
K. Hamilton	K. Jessop
J. Miller	L. Whelan
J. Touchette	L. Lippert

Educational Assistants

M. Cook	L. Prince	C. Domik
A. Preston	M. Boulton	H. Rodger
L. Ellis	J. Westman	S. Koster
A. Makivirta	D. Gilbert	

Office Staff – B. Westbrook, S. Banks

Custodial Staff– K. Shannahan, S. McMinn, J. Ramsay, J. Savard

PARENT/STUDENT CONFERENCES

If you attended the Open House on September 21, we hope that you signed up for a parent/student conference to be held with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 8 during the week of November 15-18th. Any parents who have not yet signed up for a parent/student/teacher conference, please contact your child(ren)'s teacher(s).

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

At the September 28th meeting, the following parents were installed as Members at Large (voting members) of the School Council for 2011-2012:

Linda Mullins	Chris Wagg
Tammy Ovens	Nancy Hyde
Joanie Ryan	Mary Santos
Maria Powell	Tanya Bingham
Jillian Fenik	Nancy Hyde
Helen Wallace	Neil MacKay
Rob Theriault	Donna Mae Matheson
Liane Brassard	

The following parents were acclaimed to the School Council Executive for 2011-2012:

Co-Chairs – Neil MacKay & Rob Theriault
 Secretary – Donna Mae Matheson
 Treasurer – Liane Brassard
 Staff Rep – Deb McCormick

The first "new" School Council meeting was held at 6:30 pm on October 4 in the ARES Library. The next ARES School Council meeting will be held on November 1 at 6:30pm in the ARES Library, all are welcome to attend.



PARENT/COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Volunteers play a vital role in many aspects of school life at Algonquin Ridge. If you have some free time and would like to help out at the school please come and see us in the office. There are many volunteer positions available. We need people to help with fun lunches, safe arrival, for special events, in the classrooms and even gardening!!! The list goes on and on. Please consider volunteering, you won't regret being a part of the Ridge team.

As per the previous school year, all potential volunteers who did not volunteer last year at Algonquin Ridge must submit to the school office a criminal record check with a vulnerable sector screening attachment, produced in the previous six months. Please obtain a Volunteer letter from the main office to be taken to the Barrie City Police to have your police check done for free. Returning volunteers who submitted their criminal record check last year must complete a brief Criminal Offence Declaration which is available from the school office before they begin to volunteer for the 2011 – 2012 school year. Please contact the school office with any questions.

KISS AND RIDE UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who continues to demonstrate safety, understanding and patience when using the “kiss and ride” area of our parking lot/driveway to pick up and drop off students. Thanks to the amazing student safety patrollers who continue to do an amazing job at encouraging all of our ARES families to observe our safety rules on school property.



With the wetter and colder weather upon us, it is becoming much busier in the parking lot and therefore **EXISTING RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS.**

The “kiss and ride area is on the side of the school connected to the parking lot.

Drivers/Parents please:

- ✓ Pull as far forward in the kiss-n-ride lane as possible before allowing children to exit your vehicle. This does not mean your child cannot exit until you are at the front of the line. If the kiss-n-ride is full and you are at the side curb, your children can exit there.
- ✓ Have children organized and ready to leave your vehicle when you get to school.
- ✓ Have all children exit vehicles on the passenger side and only at the kiss-n-ride curb.
- ✓ Once children have left the vehicle, continue immediately to the stop sign in the kiss-n-ride lane, then merge.
- ✓ Please give the right of way to merging vehicles from the kiss-n-ride lane into the exit lane.
- ✓ Do not leave your vehicle while you are in the kiss-n-ride lane. If your children are too small to open vehicle doors on their own, please park in a designated parking space and escort them to the sidewalk.

Walkers/Parents please:

- ✓ If parking, please escort your children (in a group) through the parking lot. Please cross at the stop sign or at least let the traffic flow before crossing. Please cross directly to the sidewalk.
- ✓ If you are walking with children (especially with strollers, etc.), please stay between the school and the bike racks to alleviate congestion at the kiss-n-ride. When pedestrians are too close to the curb, drivers become nervous and there is no room for children to exit vehicles.
- ✓ If you are walking, please use the designated crosswalk in front of the school to cross safely onto and off of school property.

Please do not park in front of the recycling bins, on yellow lines or other areas not designated as a parking spot.

Please do not stop in front of the school to drop students off, as this is a designated area for busses and school vehicles.

In the interest of the safety of all ARES students and staff, please continue to drive slowly and carefully through the designated area. We continue to require the daily co-operation of all families in order to maintain a safe “kiss-and-ride” area. We continue to promote students walking to and from school, under supervision of a parent/caregiver or older student as necessary, to promote student health and to reduce vehicle exhaust emissions and traffic congestion in our school environment. All drivers are reminded that when picking up or dropping off students in the kiss-n-ride area of the parking lot, there is signage indicating the request to turn off your vehicle’s engine and “spare the air” for any stay other than a quick drop off or pick up of student(s). We appreciate your consideration of this request to help our school environment.

Please leave your name in the office if you wish to volunteer to assist with supervision in the kiss-n-ride area.

STUDENT PHOTOS



Student photos were taken by our photograph company Edge Imaging. Students who were absent on our October 5 and 6 photo days and any other students who are newly registered since then, please be prepared for student photos to be taken on November 8, 2011.

Students who require retakes of photos taken on October 5 and 6 will also be included at the same time on November 8. **For any retake photos, please ensure that the student has with him/her the original photos when the new photos are taken and a brief note from his/her parent/guardian explaining why the retake is needed.**

MONDAY OCTOBER 24 IS A P.A. DAY

Students and parents/guardians are reminded that Monday October 24 is a P.A. Day. There will be no school for students on that day.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL



Monday October 31 is Halloween. It will be orange and black day for students in JK-8 who wish to wear orange and black to school. JK/SK B day will be wearing orange and black on October 27, 2011 if they wish to do so.

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) CHECKS

Parents/guardians are requested to check their child(ren)’s head(s) on a weekly basis for head lice. At school we do our best to keep you informed of outbreaks of head lice reported to us by parents. However, it is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to monitor this situation and inform the school of an outbreak. Such reports will remain confidential, but general notification will be sent home to affected classes of students. If you wish to volunteer in order for us to conduct school-wide screening of students for head lice, please leave your name in the office.

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 contact information.

YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNIZATION RECORD



The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required by law to keep an up to date immunization record on file for every student who attends elementary or secondary school in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Unfortunately the health unit does not receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices, therefore parents need to contact the health unit each time students receive a vaccine from their health care provider to update their record. If a student's immunization record on file with the health unit is not up to date, the health unit will mail a notice requesting immunization information or proof of a valid exemption. If the information requested is not provided, the student may be suspended from school. If a student is due for immunizations, an appointment can be made with their health care provider or at a health unit immunization clinic by contacting Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. Parents can now provide updated immunization information to the health unit online at: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline. For more information visit the [immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) on the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Immunizations for Grade 7 Students

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the Hepatitis B (Hep B) and Meningococcal Conjugate ACWY (Men-C-ACWY) vaccine to all grade 7 students at school based immunization clinics. Both vaccines are publicly funded for all grade 7 students. The Hep B vaccine is a two dose series and the Men-C-ACWY vaccine is one dose. More information will be sent home this fall for review by the parent and student. A consent form will be sent home at the same time and is to be signed by both parent and student in their respective sections. All consent forms must be returned to the school before the clinic date regardless of decision for vaccination. Unless cancelled in writing, this consent is valid until the series is completed. For more information visit the [immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) of the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Grade 8 Girls

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the HPV vaccine to all grade 8 girls at school based immunization clinics. The HPV vaccine series is publicly funded for grade 8 girls and is given in three doses throughout the school year. Information will be sent home for review by the parent and student this fall. A consent form will be sent home at the same time and is to be signed by both parent and student in their respective sections. All consent forms must be returned to the school before the clinic date regardless of decision for vaccination. Unless cancelled in writing, this consent is valid until the series is completed. For more information visit the [immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) of the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

IMMUNIZATION FOR THE INTERMEDIATES WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Round # 1 - November 7, 2011
Gr. 7 Hep.B Gr. 8 HPV (girls)

Round # 2 – January 30, 2012
Gr. 7 Menactva Gr. 8 HPV (girls)

Round # 3 – May 25, 2012
Gr. 7 Hep. B Gr. 8 HPV (girls)

Permission forms will be sent home at the end of October.

PLEASE NO DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY



Kindly adhere to the posted request on our property to keep dogs away from the school grounds. We appreciate your assistance and support.

PLEASE UPDATE EMERGENCY CONTACT AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

All families are reminded of the need to keep the school office informed of any changes in emergency contact or parent contact information. With updated and accurate information we can contact you, or another designated adult, should the need arise.

Please also continue to advise the school regarding any critical or potential emergency health issues for your child. The secretaries can provide you with an emergency medical plan template to complete if your child has a critical medical condition of which staff should be made aware.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent, and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation.

Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance. Definition of bullying from Policy/Program Memorandum 144 Stand Up – Reach Out – Tell Someone

Check it out: www.bullying.org

PARENTS CORNER

Please stay tuned for information on resources to support our Algonquin Ridge families

ALGONQUIN RIDGE IS GOING ELECTRONIC

All future issues of the monthly newsletter will be posted on our web site. We would also like to send the newsletter to you via email. Please forward your email address with your child's name and teacher's name to algonquinridge@scdsb.on.ca If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter please complete this form and return it to the school.

Families who do not return this form will no longer receive a paper copy of the newsletter, and will be able to access the current and past newsletters on our web site at www.alr.scdsb.on.ca.

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

***would like to receive paper copies of the A.R.E.S. Newsletters**

****watch on our website for the opportunity to sign up and receive our newsletters by email. COMING SOON!**