

# ALGONQUIN RIDGE SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER #1

SEPTEMBER 2011

PRINCIPAL: S. Young

VICE-PRINCIPAL: K' Jessop

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## FROM THE PRINCIPALS' DESK

Welcome Back! We have had a wonderful start to the year here at Algonquin Ridge. The feedback from parents, staff and students was extremely positive. Many families were pleased with their opportunity for parent voice in the class development stage and their prior knowledge of classrooms placements which made any anxious energy far less this year. The JK-3 and 4-8 lunches are going well! A couple of little changes were adjusted as Ms. Jessop the master of the schedules fixed it up right away. I see the yard moving to be a more inclusive and enjoyable place for all students. This year we will be using restorative practices more when situations arise. I believe this allows for all involved to learn from and grow from adverse situations. I would also like to remind you of the Parent Engagement Committee that is being established. Information can be accessed on our web-site and all are welcome to get involved. It has been delightful to get back in the swing of school and I look forward to another great year at the Ridge.

S. Young Principal

### Daily School Schedule

(Please keep it handy for future reference)

**Staff Supervision has been scheduled to supervise students from 8:45 – 9:00 am.**

Entry Bell	9:00 am.
Period 1	9:00–9:50am.(50mins.)
Period 2	9:50-10:40am.(50mins.)
Nutrition Break	10:40-11:00 am.
Fitness Break	11:00-11:20 am.
Period 3	11:20-12:10pm(50mins)
Period 4	12:10-1:00pm(50mins)
Nutrition Break	1:00-1:20pm-students
may go home with parents' written consent	
Fitness Break	1:20-1:40 pm.
Period 5	1:40-2:30 pm. (50mins.)
Period 6	2:30-3:20 pm. (50mins.)
Dismissal Bell	3:20 pm.

## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

First day of school (Gr. 1 – 8 students and returning SK students)	Tuesday September 6, 2011
P.A. Days (no school for students)	Friday, September 23, 2011 Monday, October 24, 2011 Friday, November 18, 2011 Friday, January 27, 2012 Friday, June 8, 2012 Friday, June 29, 2012
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10, 2011
Christmas Break	Monday, December 26, 2011 Friday, January 6, 2012
Back to school	Monday, January 9, 2012
Family Day	Monday February 20, 2012
School Holiday March Break	Monday, March 12 - Friday, March 16, 2012
Back to school	Monday, March 19, 2012
Good Friday	Friday, April 6, 2012
Easter Monday	Monday, April 9, 2012
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21, 2012
Last day of school for students	Thursday, June 28, 2012
P.A. Day	Friday, June 29, 2012

## SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Our safe arrival program continues to be operational **for all students**. It is our school policy to contact parents/guardians and, if necessary, emergency contacts of students who are marked absent/late without an explanation. Parents/guardians are requested to communicate the child's name, grade, homeroom teacher, date(s) and reason for absence to us prior to an absence/lateness. Simply call our safe arrival line (**739-9715**) at your convenience anytime outside of school hours in order for you to convey this information to us. Thank you for assisting the safety of our students. If you are able to

volunteer to work as part of the Safe Arrival program please leave your name in the office.

### **STUDENT DISMISSAL**

In the best interest of student safety, students not participating in school sponsored extra-curricular activities are requested to leave our school grounds promptly once dismissed by our staff at the end of the day and go directly home or to the designated caregiver.

### **STUDENTS WHO WISH TO GO HOME FOR LUNCH**

As in previous years, students whose parents/guardians wish them to go home for lunch, or leave school property for any other reason, are required to give the student's homeroom teacher a signed note of permission from the parents/guardians in advance. The second nutrition break is the time for students to go home, if parents/guardians wish (1:00 – 1:40 p.m.).

### **KISS AND RIDE UPDATE**

Thanks to all our ARES families who have previously demonstrated safety, understanding and patience when using the “kiss and ride” area of our parking lot/driveway to pick up and drop off students. **The “kiss and ride area is on the side of the school connected to the parking lot. Pull up to the front of the line to drop your children off. Please do not stop in front of the school to drop students off, as this is a designated area for busses and school vehicles.** *Please be aware that there is no parking in the pyloned areas in the Kiss-N-Ride due to school transportation requirements. Please do not move these pylons for safety reasons.*

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 cooperation of all families in order to maintain a safe “kiss-and-ride” area. Please do not park in front of the recycling bins or other areas not designated as a parking spot.

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.

### **ZEHR'S GROCERY TAPES**

We are looking for parent volunteers interested in helping tally our Zehr's grocery tapes. Please see Mrs. Korpela in the office. Thanks to Mrs. Stone for tallying the Zehr's tapes for us for so many years.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE**

All ARES parents/guardians are welcome to attend the School Council meeting to be held on Tuesday September 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Please forward agenda items to Chair Jillian Fenik, via the school office, by Thursday, September 22.

### **MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT**

This is the first notice of our annual “Meet the Teacher Night” which will be held at the school on the evening of Wed., September 21, 2011. The time and details of this event will be forthcoming. We look forward to meeting all our ARES families. This is also the best opportunity for parents/guardians to sign up for the fall student/parent/teacher conferences.

### **WE'RE NOT “NUTS”!**

We wish to request that all parents/guardians help staff assist students/staff with potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts by ensuring that all lunch and snack items brought to school are nut-free. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

### **SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL**

Some students experience severe discomfort from stings of insects and/or contact with specific foods. In some cases, the reaction is so severe that an injection is required immediately. If your child is subject to severe allergic reactions or has some other life-threatening condition which requires the immediate administration of medication or medical assistance, please contact the office promptly to discuss the need for an appropriate emergency plan.

Also, parents/guardians of students who have had medication prescribed by a physician to be administered during the school day are asked to contact the school office in order to receive a copy of the required administration of medication form. This form details the specific medication, information regarding schedule of administration of medication to the student and the signature of the prescribing physician. **Please arrange to have your doctor complete the required forms, which are available from the school office, in advance. For student safety, school personnel are not permitted to administer any medication until the required forms are completed in compliance with school board policy.** For the safety of all students, any medication, whether by prescription or not, **MUST** be stored in the office and dispensed by staff. **Students are not to carry medication with them or have medication stored in the classroom or school bag.**

#### **STUDENT WELFARE – HEALTHY FOOD AND BEVERAGE**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is committed to making schools healthier places for students in order to establish the conditions needed to realize the potential of all students. A healthy school environment enhances student learning and success, and enhances students' social and emotional well-being. Schools have an important role to play in helping students lead healthier lives, including teaching students the skills to make healthy choices and reinforcing those lessons through school practices.

#### **HOUSE COLOURS & LEADERSHIP TEAM**

We are in the process of starting our House Colour school spirit and Character assemblies. If your child is new to the school, they will be assigned a house colour, and information about the program. We are also in the process of setting up all of the teams within the Leadership Team. Any and all student volunteers (lunch monitors, library helpers, safety patrollers, etc.) are considered members of the leadership team this year. Once both of these programs are up and running, we will be

putting a blurb in the October newsletter with all of the necessary information for parents.

#### **HELP US KEEP OUR ARES ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND TIDY FOR EVERYONE**

Parents/guardians, please take note of the following procedures to assist our school environment.

-Students are asked to change to indoor shoes when they enter the classroom or library to help keep classroom floors clean.

-We encourage students to walk to/from school whenever possible to promote student fitness, "spare the air" around the school and reduce traffic congestion in our school "kiss-n-ride" parking lot area.

-We encourage students to bring "garbageless" lunches whenever possible and to recycle at school all possible materials in the proper recycling containers.

#### **EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is committed to an equitable education system that upholds and reflects the principles of fair and inclusive education. You may view the SCDSB's Equity and Inclusive Education policies and procedures at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) (under the "Board Highlights" menu tab). These procedures include a Religious Accommodation Guideline which outlines individuals' rights and responsibilities and emphasizes the board's commitment to providing an environment that is inclusive and free of barriers based on creed or religion. Please contact your principal if you do not have access to the Internet and wish to obtain copies of this policy and procedures.

#### **PARENT/COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS 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.

All new and returning volunteers are invited to attend our annual Volunteer Orientation Meeting on Tuesday, September 27 at 3:30 p.m. in the Library. Volunteers are most welcome to work in the school on a flexible schedule and with times that suit our volunteers' busy schedules.

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.

#### **VOLUNTEER TAGS**

We are unable to locate many of the volunteer tags that are in the office for volunteers to put on when visiting the school. If you happen to have one of the tags at home, could you please return it to the school.

#### **SCHOOL AGENDAS FOR STUDENTS**

We continue with the use of student agendas this year for students in each grade 2-8 class. In addition to the development of organization and time management skills, the agenda serves as a communication tool for students, their parents and the teacher. Its regular use has proven to be a very effective mechanism in a student's academic achievement and success. **The agendas contain important school and school board information.** The Simcoe County District School Board has issued a common agenda for all of the schools in Simcoe County which will be purchased from the school's basic budget.

#### **UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS TO REMEMBER**

ADDITIONAL DATES AND INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW

Sept. 6-9	JK/SK Orientation and Interviews
Sept. 12 - 23	School Council Parent Nominations
Wed. Sept. 21	Meet the Teacher Evening Bar B Q 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Classrooms open 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Sept. 27	School Council Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Library
Tues. Sept. 27	Volunteer Orientation in the school library from 3:30 – 4:30
Wed. Sept. 28	Terry Fox Run (time T.B.A.)
Wed. Sept. 28	School Council Election Day (if needed)
Tues Oct. 4	School Council Meeting, Library, 6:30 p.m.
Wed. Oct. 5	Student Photo JK-3
Thurs. Oct. 6	Student Photo 4-8
Wed. Oct. 6	Grade 8 Info Night
Mon. Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Holiday

#### **SCHOOL BOOKS AND SUPPLIES**

Please ensure that all school resources issued to students are cared for in a responsible manner. With texts and library books often costing \$50.00 per title or more, broken/lost/defaced items contribute to added costs for our school's annual operating budget. We are sure that everyone can appreciate the need for all resources issued to be returned in good form. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. If you have located items over the summer that belong to our school, please return them to us at your earliest convenience. ***Please note: Students are encouraged to wait for direction from their teachers before buying supplies.***

#### **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY** **BREED SUCCESS**

To ensure that your child maximizes his/her learning potential, please make his/her punctuality a priority by assisting your child to achieve excellent attendance and punctuality

records. It is no surprise that our highest achieving students also have excellent attendance records. When students miss school, gaps in learning may occur since much of what they learn builds on previous experiences. A student with 20 days of absences actually misses one whole month of important learning activities. At Algonquin Ridge, students who arrive late for class without a justified reason will be required to make up the instructional material missed.

### **WHAT A SPARKLING SCHOOL!**

The months of July and August have been industrious months for our custodial staff. They have had an extremely busy time cleaning and polishing every square centimeter of our school. We extend a great big thank you to our dedicated custodial staff for their ongoing commitment to prepare our school for another school year and for their continued effort in its maintenance throughout the school year. We will all do our best to assist them in keeping our school clean and tidy. Thank you! To that end we encourage students to use a pair of **indoor shoes** during instructional time. These can be the same ones used for gym classes. Also, students will be provided time **indoors for eating, including snacks/drinks**, during two nutrition breaks each day. No food or drinks are to be consumed outside during recess times in order to reduce garbage outside and reduce the attraction of hazardous insects.

### **LUNCH STUDENTS**

**For safety reasons, no student is allowed to leave school property for any reason unless he/she has been signed out at the school office by his/her parent/guardian or a note of permission signed by his/her parent/guardian with a specific date, timeframe, purpose and destination has been presented to the homeroom teacher, in advance.**

### **PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) CHECKS**

Parents/guardians should check their children's heads 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. 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. Any parents who wish to form a team of volunteers to screen students throughout the school are asked to contact the office.

### **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 at Algonquin Ridge) 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. All of 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 our school secretaries. Similarly, our school telephone lines are not for regular student use, except for emergency situations.

### **BICYCLE/SKATEBOARD SAFETY**

**Students choosing to ride bicycles to school must walk their bikes through the school grounds.** All riders of elementary school age are required by law to wear bicycle safety helmets and should use a bicycle lock to secure their bikes to the school bike racks while they are in class. **Please note that the bike racks are unsupervised therefore the security of personal property in that area is the responsibility of the owner. For safety reasons, students are to walk their bikes on the school property.**

Skateboards, scooters and roller blades are best left at home. For the safety of everyone, any such items brought to school must be picked up and carried on all parts of school property, both inside and outside the building, including the sidewalks, tarmac, parking lot, driveway and all areas of the school playground and grass areas.

### **FORMING THE 2011 – 2012 SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Each September the annual School Council formation process takes place. Our School

Council is made up of the school principal, a teaching representative, a non-teaching representative, and up to and including fifteen parent/guardian representatives. At this time we would like to pass on some key information about the formation process for parents/guardians who are interested in the role of the parent/guardian representative.

Should nominations received exceed the number required (max. 15), we will proceed with an election process outlined below, including a Candidates Forum at the school on the evening of Tues. September 27 where all nominated candidates are invited to speak to the school parent community regarding their candidacy for School Council. If nominations do not exceed the maximum, all nominees are acclaimed and shall attend the first school council meeting of the school year as parent/guardian representatives.

- Elections, if required, shall be held within 30 days of the start of school and the first council meeting shall be held within 35 days of the start of school.
- Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. Neither proxy nor absentee voting is permitted. Voters must be present at the school to vote on election day, during the pre-set hours and must vote in person.
- All parents/guardians of a student enrolled in the school are eligible to vote for parent/guardian representatives.
- Parents/guardians of a student enrolled in the school are eligible to run as parent representatives. Board employees are not eligible to run at their child's school if they are employed at the same school.
- The election takes place at the school and the election proceedings shall be supervised by the school principal.
- Parent/Guardian candidate nomination forms are available in the school office and shall be completed by all candidates and submitted to the school office by the deadline listed on the nomination form.

- Information about the roles and responsibilities of School Council members is attached to this newsletter.
- Please note that any current or previous members of the School Council must re-apply by submitting a parent nomination form for the 2011 - 2012 school year.

**Important Dates In the 2011-2012  
Algonquin Ridge School Council Election Process**

Call for School Council parent nominations  
Mon. Sept. 12 – Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011

Nomination forms back to school office by  
Thurs. Sept. 22, 2011 (4 p.m.)

Candidates' Forum (if necessary)  
Tues. Sept. 27, 2011 school council meeting  
Election Day – if needed, voting at the school, Wed. Sept. 28, 2011 (8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

First School Council meeting for 2010-11 School Council -  
Tues. Oct. 4 – Library

We encourage all parents of students at Algonquin Ridge to consider becoming parent representatives on our School Council. It is an informative and rewarding role of support for all students. Please contact Mr. Young or Ms. Jessop in the school office with any questions.

**FRIDAY FUN LUNCH AND DAILY MILK PROGRAM**

In order to successfully provide a Friday fun lunch and daily milk program for your child(ren), we require additional parent volunteers. If you are able to assist, please leave your name with the school office.

**SUN SAFETY**

For as long as the warm, sunny weather continues, we encourage all students to wear a sun hat, appropriate protective clothing and sunscreen.

**CHARACTER EDUCATION CONTINUES TO BE ALIVE AND WELL AT ALGONQUIN RIDGE**

Character Education continues to be woven into the instruction all students receive in all subjects. It is not a separate curriculum. Character Education helps to instill in all students the responsibilities and benefits of

being an active member of a caring school community. Character Education will continue to be a focus of the Simcoe County District School Board, and as such, students, staff and parents are encouraged to become partners in this initiative. This initiative has been subdivided into the following positive behaviour traits: Integrity, Responsibility, Co-operation, Caring, Respect, Optimism, Honesty, Empathy, Courage and Inclusiveness. Watch for further information about Character Education. For more information, please visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).

### **IMMUNIZATION UPDATES**

Do you have a record of your child's immunization? As a parent, you need to keep your child's immunizations up to date. You also need to provide a copy of your child's immunization record to the Health Unit when they start school and inform the Health Unit every time your child receives an immunization. It is recommended that you keep a record of your child's immunizations on their yellow Immunization Record. If you do not have an Immunization Record for your child, or you need to update the Health Unit on your child's immunization status, please contact the Health Unit at 721 – 7520 or 1 – 877 – 721 – 7520.

### **HANDWASHING TIPS**

Students are reminded that frequent handwashing helps reduce the transmission of germs and illness. Students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating, after using the washroom and after coughing or sneezing. Remember to:

- use warm running water
- use soap
- rub soapy hands together briskly for at least 10 seconds
- rub on the fronts and backs of the hands, between the fingers, under the fingernails and on the wrists
- rinse hands under warm water and dry.

### **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE** **2011 – 2012**

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular athletics are not covered by the Board or its insurance

company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected Reliable Life Insurance Company as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year.

Reliable Life offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices.

Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about new requirements for extra-curricular athletics and out-of-province or out-of-country field trips.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY AT SCHOOL**

We wish to remind all students and parents that all valuable and/or treasured items should be left at home for safe keeping. Those items may include (but are not limited to) CD players, CD's, iPods, cameras, handheld electronic games, toys, expensive watches and jewellery. Cell phones are discouraged, but if parents believe that they are necessary for their child walking to and from school, students are to ensure that all cell phones are shut off, out of sight and not used on school property, inside or outside the building, throughout the entire school day. The school cannot be responsible for any such items. Students should avoid bringing large sums of money to school. Payment for lunch orders, field trips, or any other school related purpose should be made to the child's homeroom teacher as soon as the student arrives in the morning, preferably by cheque.

### **COMMUNITY TERRY FOX RUN - BARRIE**

**Location:** Centennial Park

**When:** Sunday, September 18, 2011

**Time:** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Come on out and support this great cause!

### **GRADE 8 GRADUATION TRIP**

Attention Grade 8 Parents. A grade 8 fundraising committee is being formed to start raising money early this year to offset the cost of the Grade 8 Grad trip to Quebec City in the spring. Please send a note to your Grade 8 students' home room teacher by Thurs Sept. 15th listing your name, your child's name and your home telephone # and the organizers will contact you with details of the 1st short meeting.

We want to help reduce the parent cost of this trip, so please send in your information ASAP. Thank you.

**YMCA  
Healthy  
ACTIVE  
Schools  
initiative**



ymcaofsimcoemuskota.ca

**SEPTEMBER – SAFE SCHOOLS!**

The school, parents, and community must work together to support students make positive choices. Together we need to stop the bullying that is already happening and prevent students who bully or those who are targets, from starting down that road.

Your children will have questions about bullying. Talk to your school about resources.

**Check it out: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/safeschools.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/safeschools.html)**

Stand Up – Reach Out – Tell Someone



