MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION
Algonquin Ridge is a busy place with lots of great things happening. It has been wonderful to see all the students celebrate reading in the month of January and complete almost a quarter of a million minutes of reading!!! The arts were celebrated too, as all classes participated in the Groove Dance Education workshops. It is great to see our students receiving a well-rounded education in language, mathematics, humanities, health, physical education and the arts. Teachers are now working on completing report cards that you will be receiving on February 20th. Please take the time to read through the report with your child and celebrate successes as well as discuss next steps for improvement going forward.
We hope you have a wonderful time on Monday, February 16 celebrating Family Day and taking time off from all your regular activities to enjoy some extra time with your family members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VIP – Grade 6 — 9:15 – 10 – Tuesdays - Jan 13-Mar 10th
School Council meeting – Feb 10th @6:30 pm in the Library.
Operations Appreciation Day – Blue and Grey Day – Feb 11th
Family Bingo Night – Feb 11th @ 6:30
FAMILY DAY – school closed – Feb 16th
Report Cards home – Feb 20th
Int. Girls VBall Zones – pm @ Hyde Park – Feb 23rd
Int. Boys BBall Zones – pm @ ARES – Feb 24th
Pink Shirt Day – Feb 25th
Int. Girls VBall Crossover-after school @ St Gabe’s – Feb 25th
Int. Boys BBall Crossover – after school @ ARES – Feb 26th
Scientist in School – Kindie – Feb 26-27th
Character Ed Assembly – Inclusiveness – Feb 27th @ 11:30
Spirit Day – Rock Star Day – Feb 27th
Gr 8 Grad Pictures – March 3rd
Int. Girls VBall @ Mapleview – pm – March 3rd
Blades of Glory – Grade 4 – March 4th
Camp Kandelore – Gr 7&8 – March 4-6th
Int. Boys BBall @ Algonquin Ridge – March 4th
Think Pink Day – March 4th
Grade 6 VIP Graduation – March 10th
Grade 4-8 Talent Show – March 10th @ 7:00 pm
Int. Boys BBall Counties – March 10th
Int. Girls VBall Counties – March 10th
Grade 1-3 Talent Show – March 11th @ 7:00 pm
Grade 6 to XCtry Skiing – March 12th
MARCH BREAK – school closed – March 16-20th
Character Ed Assembly – Integrity – March 27th
Spirit Day – Wacky Shirt Day – March 27th

FAMILY Bingo Night Again!!!

Our last family bingo night at Algonquin was a huge success so we’re going to have another one. We had approximately 150 people at our last event, lots of fun and many great prizes. So be sure to mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 PM. This is a fun community event for the entire family, and you’ll still be home and have the kids in bed by 8 PM! Thanks to our school council for organizing this fun event. See you there!!!

CELEBRATE READING SUMMARY
The final school day of January was an exciting day at Algonquin Ridge ES! It included a variety of special reading events taking place in every classroom, reading buddies getting together to make special bookmarks, and a Character Education assembly celebrating all the good things happening at our school including all the STAR students receiving awards.
It was a special day of dressing up as a story book character and there were many great costumes to enjoy! Congratulations to staff and students for all their planning and participation in this special month and special celebration day. The best part... the students of Algonquin completed a combined total of over 225,000 minutes of reading during the month of January. Congratulations students on meeting your goals, and keep reading!!!

GROOVE “EDGE”UCATION DANCE WORKSHOPS
A great big “thank you” to our school council for their support of the Groove “Edge”ucation workshops that took place in January. All students were given the opportunity to participate in four sessions of groove dance education. There was lots of great dancing and many smiles. The dance activity was enjoyed from kindergarten to grade 8! Ask your child to show you a few groove dance moves. Thank you to all our Algonquin Ridge families for their support of all our different school fundraisers. They have made it possible for great activities like this to take place..

PINK SHIRT DAY – NATIONAL ANTI BULLYING DAY
Bullying is a constant challenge in our schools, workplaces, homes, and over the Internet. Each year, on Pink T-shirt Day, we encourage all of you to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere. Pink Shirt Day is Wednesday, February 25th.
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEBSITE
Check out our website. It is full of information about our school. It has links to great resources, class blogs and regular posts about what is happening at Algonquin Ridge. Check us out at http://algonquinridge.edublogs.org/ and click on the Subscribe button to join so that you can automatically receive regular updates and monthly newsletters.

VALENTINES FOR VETERANS
The student leaders at Algonquin have joined in with a nationwide initiative to show our support for past and present members of the Canadian military. Valentines for Veterans is a program initiated by Canadian Veterans Affairs in which people have an opportunity to write a special Valentine message to a Canadian veteran. Students at the school participated in writing valentines for veterans over the course of the last week. The valentines have now been collected and will be shipped and delivered to our Canadian veterans on time for Valentine’s Day. Thank you to parents and families who have also participated by submitting valentines of their own. Our Canadian veterans will be pleased to receive valentines from Algonquin Ridge.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2011? If so, it is time to register them for Kindergarten. Registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization.

For more information visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

OPERATIONS APPRECIATION DAY
February 11 is set aside as the day provided for staff, students, and school communities to have the opportunity to express appreciation to our operations team, including custodians and regional operations maintenance employees, for the safe and healthy learning and working environments that they help to provide on a regular basis. Please join us in thanking our amazing custodial team of Ms. Shanahan, Ms. McMinn and Mr. Powell for the excellent work they do to keep our learning environment clean and safe every day!

A MESSAGE FROM SEEDS
The children have been enjoying the outdoors! We have had some great learning experiences outside including co-operative games, discovering unique colours such as turquoise and violet, painting snow and much more! These experiences helped to teach the children about co-operation, leadership, problem solving, and inquiry skills! Spaces are still available! If you are interested please contact Sheena Bardai at 705-726-3770.

IT’S FLU SEASON – PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY
The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has issued a declaration of widespread influenza activity in Simcoe Muskoka. To protect yourself and your family, consider getting the flu shot. Stay home if sick, cover your cough and wash your hands frequently. More information about the flu is available on the health unit’s website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org, or by calling Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GETTING OUT THE DOOR ON TIME IN THE MORNING
Ah, the morning chaos of a household waking up: cleaning, dressing, eating and racing out the door... Any number of things can make for a stressful morning: lack of sleep, a child needing reminders every step of the way, the last minute lunches. The key is organization. Be realistic about how much time you need to get ready in the morning. Time pressures add stress to everyone.

Some tips from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

- Get yourself ready first, before your child. Go to bed at a reasonable hour so you wake up rested and ready for the day.
- Plan ahead: pack lunches, find the mittens, and pick clothes the night before.
- Keep the television off! Electronics and TV can be very disruptive first thing in the morning. If there is extra time, let them use it to read, chat, or help out.
- Be clear and realistic about what your child can do. Praising them when they do something well encourages them to do it again and gain new skills.

Remember to have patience. Your child learns from watching you and you have the unique opportunity to show these skills. In time your child will learn to plan ahead, be organized, and develop patience. For more information you can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and speak with a public health nurse or click on the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or visit www.triplepontario.ca. For more tips, check out SCDSB’s Sharing Simcoe blog at www.sharingsimcoe.com and read the post “Resolve to have an organized household this year – 6 tips to get you started”.

NOMINATE A SCHOOL FOR THE 2014-15 PREMIER’S AWARDS FOR ACCEPTING SCHOOLS
The Premier’s Awards for Accepting Schools recognize exceptional and innovative work being done in schools to create welcoming environments. The SCDSB welcomes staff, students and community members to nominate a local school for the Premier’s Awards for Accepting Schools. Schools should be considered who show initiative, creativity, and leadership in at least three areas related to school climate. More information, including the nomination form, FAQs and a tip sheet can be found at www.ontario.ca/acceptingschools. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 20.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

IT’S FLU SEASON – PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

GETTING OUT THE DOOR ON TIME IN THE MORNING

A MESSAGE FROM SEEDS

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEBSITE

VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

OPERATIONS APPRECIATION DAY
CAR SEAT SAFETY REMINDER - USE A BOOSTER SEAT UNTIL THE SEAT BELT FITS YOUR CHILD CORRECTLY
Adult sized seatbelts are not designed for small children. Children between the ages of 4 to 9 do not fit into a seat belt properly. If a child is moved out of a booster seat too soon they can be hurt or killed in the event of a crash.

- Seatbelts are made for people who are at least 4’9” or 145 cm tall
- A booster seat lifts your child up so that the seat belt fits your child correctly
- A properly fitting seat belt crosses low on the hips with the chest strap lying across the shoulder and middle of the chest.

For more information on booster seat safety see Parachute Canada’s Guide to Installing a Booster Seat video or visit www.parachutecanada.org (search ‘injury topics’ – ‘car seats’).

FREE AFTER SCHOOL WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ASD
This year, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) and the Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences at Mackenzie Health are partnering to offer workshops for parents and educators of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These workshops will be offered monthly during the school year. They started in the month of October. All of the workshops are free for parents and educators, and run from 4:30 to 6:30p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. Space is limited in each workshop and registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, contact Sue McNabb at smcnabb@scdsb.on.ca or 705-734-6363 x11246.
For more information and specific session descriptions, visit SCDSB’s website at www.scdsb.on.ca/Parents/Pages/Workshops.aspx.

PARTICIPATE IN THE 2014 ONTARIO CHILD HEALTH STUDY AND SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SURVEYS
The 2014 Ontario Child Health Study is underway and will provide vital information about the mental health needs of children and youth living in Ontario today. This study will be the first of its kind in Canada to examine the influence of family, community and school environments on child and youth mental health. The results will be used to develop programs and services to improve the mental health of young people in Ontario. From October 2014 to May 2015, Statistics Canada will be inviting 7,000 families with children aged 4 - 17 to complete an interview in their home. At the same time, McMaster researchers will be conducting School Mental Health Surveys in 240 Ontario schools to help us learn new ways of promoting and addressing student mental health needs.
Let’s make our province a better place for children and youth. If invited to participate, please say ‘yes’ to the 2014 Ontario Child Health Study and School Mental Health Surveys. For more information, visit: www.ontariochildhealthstudy.ca.

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR CHARACTER RECOGNITION EVENING
The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes students, staff and volunteers who demonstrate good character in their daily lives at our annual Character Recognition Awards Evening, taking place on May 21 this year.

Each year, nominations from schools and the Education Centre are received highlighting the good character of our students, staff and volunteers. All nominees are invited to the Education Centre on May 21 to celebrate those who exemplify the SCDSB Commit to Character attributes.

The nomination process opens on February 2 and ends on February 20, 2015. Recommendations can be made by email or fax. More information and the Character Recognition nomination forms are available at www.scdsb.on.ca under ‘About Us’ and then click on ‘Commit to Character.’

PEANUT AND NUT AWARE SCHOOL
Our school strives to be a Nut-Safe School. At Algonquin Ridge we have a number of students who have a severe nut allergy. These students cannot be exposed to nuts in ANY form, as this may trigger an anaphylactic reaction that is life-threatening and requires immediate medical intervention. Therefore, in the best interests of these students and for any other students who may develop peanut or nut allergies in the future we have banned all peanut/nuts and food containing nuts within the school. These will include but are not limited to:
- Peanut butter sandwiches, dips or crackers
- Nutella
- Cookies or cakes with nuts
- Granola Bars with nuts
- Chocolate bars containing nuts e.g. Snickers
- Dried Fruit and nut mixes

Direct contact with the food is not always required to trigger a reaction. For example: if someone in our school eats peanuts and then touches playground equipment, the equipment may then become contaminated with enough peanut butter to trigger a severe reaction. We also ask that children who have peanut butter for breakfast on school days please wash their hands thoroughly and clean their teeth before coming to school.

As always, our paramount concern is for the safety and well-being for all children in our care. We feel this is the best way to attempt to ensure the safety of students that have severe nut allergies in our school. If your child forgets to comply with this, a reminder notice will be sent home with them and an alternative snack will be provided. Teachers will also assist students by reinforcing the policy through class discussions.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, and our efforts to make this the safest environment possible for all students.
STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 TO 12 ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR THE MINISTER’S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
The Ontario Ministry of Education is seeking local students for the 2015-16 Minister’s Student Advisory Council (MSAC). The MSAC is a group of 60 students from all parts of the education system (English/French, Public/Catholic) and regions from across the province. Student members share their ideas and advice with the Minister of Education on how to ensure Ontario’s schools remain the best in the world. The deadline for students to apply is Feb. 28. The MSAC is open to students in grades 7 to 12. Everyone is welcome and no special qualifications are required. The council honours diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from students who combine lived experience with a perspective that they are genuinely interested in sharing and representing. For more information or to apply, visit the Ministry’s website at http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/speakup/msac.html.

BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER
Winter has arrived in and with it comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and, as a result, possible bus and school event cancellations.

Did you know you can subscribe to receive bus delay notifications from the Transportation Consortium?
Sign up at: https://scstca/Subscriptions/Subscribe.aspx

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. 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.

CIRCLE OF LEARNING PARENT ACADEMY - FREE WORKSHOPS TO HELP YOU BOOST YOUR CHILD’S SUCCESS
As a parent/guardian, you were your child’s first teacher and you are still his or her most important teacher. Your involvement in your child’s education has an impact on success. Register to attend workshops throughout the year designed to help you support your child’s learning and development.

The workshops are:

- March: Make the difference in math with a growth mindset
- April: Math 101 - all parents can support their children in math
- May: Resilience: Nine things kids need from their families, schools, and communities

Find workshop dates, times, descriptions and register online at www.scdsb.on.ca/circleoflearning.

The Circle of Learning Parent Academy is hosted by the Simcoe County District School Board’s Parent Involvement Committee and made possible with the support of the Ministry of Education through a Parents Reaching Out Grant.

STUDENT CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES USAGE AT ALGONQUIN RIDGE
Many of our students carry cell phones with them to school. While these devices can be a huge benefit in the classroom when a teacher gives permission for the students to use their electronic device for teaching and learning purposes, they can also be a significant distraction when they are used for personal use without permission. Our general policy regarding cell phones for students at Algonquin Ridge is that they should be off and away. Since it is impossible for staff to monitor how a personal device is being used at all times, students who use their cell phones without first requesting or being given permission will have them safely stored away by the teacher until the end of the school day. If a student needs to make an important phone call this can be done at the office with prior permission.

To help your child with these rules please avoid texting your child at school as you may be interrupting the student during class time.

Electronic devices include but are not limited to cellular phones, iPods 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 9:00 am and maybe turned on at 3:20 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 to any device being used in the classroom.
- 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.

SIGN-IN PROCEDURES FOR ALL VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS
All visitors and volunteers are to report to the main office on arrival at the school, sign-in, in the Visitor/Visitor Log and indicate which teacher they are meeting/volunteering with. Once the office has confirmed the meeting or volunteer activity with the supervising teacher, a school Visitor or Volunteer tag will be issued. All visitors and volunteers are to report to the main office on departure from the school, sign-out in the Visitor/Visitor Log and return the Visitor or Volunteer tag.

If a person is found in the school building, in/around the portables or in the school yard without being signed-in, being announced to/supervised by a staff member or wearing a Visitor/Volunteer tag, the school may be placed in a Lockdown. The visitor/volunteer could possibly be asked to leave the school building, given a trespass warning or issued a formal trespass notice.

Thank you for your continued support for our student’s academic achievement and safety here at school.