



ALGONQUIN RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Cory McKeown
Principal

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Vice-Principal

ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS JUNE 2023

Character attribute for the month of June – Responsibility: We are accountable for our actions, and we follow through on commitments.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Before sitting down to write this message I made the mistake of looking at what I wrote last June...and much of it seems to still be relevant so I will repeat myself. Even though we felt like it may never get here, it is June! While every month of the school year is busy and exciting, bringing its' own unique opportunities and challenges, June is special. It is the time of year when teachers and families can look back on the year that is drawing to an end and see just how far their little person(s) has come. The SK students are more than ready to move into the "number grades!" while JK's are ready to be "Seniors" who will show next year's students the ropes and how to "do school". Gr. 3's and 6's are ready to jump up to the next division where the academic demands will grow, alongside the opportunities for sports, clubs, and involvement around the school. Most importantly, the gr. 8's are coming to realize that their days at Algonquin Ridge are quickly disappearing, as they look ahead to graduation and secondary school. I am sure you will all join us in congratulating them on their growth and accomplishments as 'Rapids' and wish them all the best as they move on to face and conquer their next challenge.

Just as it is for the class of 2023, June is a time when we try to bring some closure to the year for the entire ARES community and celebrate the connections we all share. With that in mind, we are very pleased to once again be hosting the **ARES Community Fun Fair**. We hope you will all be able to attend on **Thursday evening from 5-7 pm (the 8th)**. While we will be offering food sales in the form of a BBQ, drinks, Freezies, chips, popcorn by JC Kettle Corn and cupcakes our event is not intended to be a fundraiser. Money generated will be used to offset the expenses for the many free activities that we plan to include a clown/balloonist, 2 inflatable slides (one specifically for our smaller guests) and an obstacle course, fishpond, face painting, temporary tattoos, mini-golf, Book Fair, field games, and with luck some visiting 1st responders (fire, police, paramedic). We hope our guests will understand that the cost of running this event has grown considerably over time—as a result you will see that we have had to increase some of our pricing of food items to align with these increases. (Please see attached price sheet). There is no cost to attend or enjoy the many activities and we look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday.

To ensure that the event is fun, safe, and enjoyable for all we ask that you:

- 1) Walk to the school if you are able as parking will be limited and as always, the families of our youngest students are most in need of our spaces.
- 2) Leave pets at home.
- 3) Leave bicycles, scooters, rollerblades etc. at the entrances to the yard (as you would on a regular school day).
- 4) Bring some smaller bills and change if you plan to purchase food or snacks.
- 5) Take a moment to thank an ARES School Council member (or staff helper) for all their work to bring you this event.

June is also very important as it is Pride Month. Many of our students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members identify as members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community. Flying the Pride flag not only signals that our schools are safe spaces for everyone, it also aligns with our commitment to equity and providing a learning environment that is inclusive and free from discrimination. Algonquin Ridge strives to be respectful, inclusive, equitable, accessible, and free from discrimination—we welcome, respect, include and value all students, parents/caregivers and family structures, employees, and community members, and we respect, affirm, and support the expression of diverse identities. Displaying the flag signals our commitment to preventing and addressing discrimination in our school and workplace. You will find more exciting news and information about a Pride fundraiser on the following pages.

Finally, I'd like to end this message by once again thanking the many School Council members and other volunteers (community and staff) for their dedicated work this year getting us back to 'normal'! Watch for the September Newsletter which will include information on our first School Council meeting and elections for 2022/23, scheduled for September 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

Have a wonderful June!

Cory McKeown
Principal



HAMBURGER \$5.00



HOT DOG \$4.00



CHIPS \$2.00

FREEZIE \$1.00



WATER \$1.00

POP \$2.00



GATORADE \$3.00

CUPCAKE \$1.00



CALENDAR

June 6 – Ultimate Frisbee @ Maplegrove
June 7-12 – Book Fair
June 7 – School Track Meet
June 8 – 1500m Track Event
June 8 – Fun Fair 5-7pm
June 13 – Grade 7s to Treetop Trekking
June 14 – Track & Field Zones @ Maple Ridge
June 15 – Rain Date Track & Field zones @ Maple Ridge
June 16 – A-Team to Cineplex @ 9:15 am
June 16 – Junior/Intermediate participation assembly
June 18 – Father's Day
June 20 – Primary Char Ed Assembly @ 9:10
June 20 – Slo-Pitch – Intermediate Girls – Barrie Sports Complex
June 22 – Slo-Pitch – Intermediate Boys – Barrie Sports Complex
June 22 – Tree Top Trekking – Grade 8s
June 22 – Gr 1-6 – Jump Rope for Heart
June 23 – Report cards go home.
June 26 – Junior Character Ed Assembly
June 27 – Grade 8 Graduation
June 29 – **Last day of school**



KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND WITH THE SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 IS OPEN!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2023? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

EARLYON CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres have locations throughout Simcoe County. These centres offer a variety of services, including programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for kindergarten. Programming will be offered in the spring of 2023. Check with your local EarlyON provider for dates and times. <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

LICENSED SUMMER SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care over the summer holidays. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

DAYS OF OBSERVANCE FOR JUNE

June – Pride Month
June - Italian Heritage Month
June – National Indigenous History Month
June – Portuguese History and Heritage Month
June 3 – Poson – Buddhism
June 4 – Pentecost (J) Christianity
June 10 – Portugal Day
June 11 – All Saints Day (J) – Christianity
June 16 – Jamyang Khyentse Chokyi Lodro Anniversary – Buddhism
June 16 – Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikhism
June 18 – Father’s Day
June 19 – United Empire Loyalists’ Day
June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 21 – Litha/Summer Solstice – Wicca
June 24 – St. Jean Baptiste Day
June 27 – Canadian Multiculturalism Day
June 27 – Waqdatu’Arafat – Islam
June 28 – Eid-ul-Adha - Islam

PERMITS FOR MAPLE RIDGE SECONDARY SCHOOL TURF FIELD

The artificial turf field/running track at Maple Ridge Secondary School is anticipated to be available for community groups who obtain a permit for use of the facilities after-hours beginning on May 1, 2023.

The facility will be available for community use permits from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Monday to Friday starting May 1, 2023, and from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm starting June 1, 2023. Availability for weekend and summer requests will be assessed on an individual basis. Community groups will be required to sign an agreement and obtain a permit for use of the facility. Rental rates and policies will be re-evaluated on a regular basis and are subject to change. Community groups who are interested in renting the artificial turf field/track can submit a permit request online.

Please visit the Community Use of Schools page on the school board website for more details:

https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_use_of_schools.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER ELEARNING!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2023 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in earning a new credit or upgrading a previous mark. Students can advance online learning skills, earn missed credits, or fast-track preparation for graduation or post-secondary in just four weeks. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily. Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com>.

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BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Register now for before and after school programs for the 2023-24 school year. Please contact the child care operator at your child’s school directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at [scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after).

COMPLETE YOUR DIPLOMA AND GET A HEAD START ON YOUR CAREER IN HEALTHCARE IN THE SCDSB'S PSW PROGRAM!

Did you know that the SCDSB's Learning Centre offers an accredited personal support worker (PSW) program? Individuals interested in a career in healthcare can earn 7.5 credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and a PSW certificate upon completion of the program!

Applications are now open online for PSW programs beginning in September 2023 in Barrie, North Simcoe (Midland), and Orillia. To apply, visit thelearningcentres.com and watch the mandatory virtual information session video. This video includes important information about the PSW program and the application process. Applicants will also be required to complete an online PSW Literacy Assessment. Register for the assessment using the 'Assessment Registration Form'.

Registration for September 2023 closes July 7 at 12 p.m. Have questions or need more information? Contact the Learning Centres at psw@scdsb.on.ca.

ADULT ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Looking to improve your English skills? Join our Adult English as a Second Language Program (ESL) classes to improve your listening and speaking skills through class discussions and presentations. Develop your English skills to advance in your current job or open the door to new employment opportunities. Learn more about your local community and explore Canadian culture and history. Adult ESL classes are offered year-round with a continuous intake.

To register for the program, please contact the Barrie Learning Centre at 705-725-8360 ext. 45151, or email

ganderson@scdsb.on.ca.

**Please note all students starting ESL for the first time must be assessed prior to starting the class. Fees apply for visitors to Canada and work/study permit holders.*

REPORTING IMMUNIZATIONS

Parents/guardians are responsible for reporting their child's immunizations to public health to keep records up-to-date per standards of the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) (ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900645) and the Child Care and Early Years Act (ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150137#BK46). Please note, health care providers in Ontario do not automatically report immunizations to their local public health unit. Reporting and viewing immunizations is easy and can be done online.

To book a clinic appointment to receive a vaccine, visit: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/Clinics-and-Programs/Routine-Immunization-Clinics. For more information or questions, you can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520, or toll-free at 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

USE OF STUDENT INFORMATION TO TRANSITION FROM ELEMENTARY TO SECONDARY

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. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under the Education Act. Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure, and protected at all times. Please contact Lisa Coffey, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Algonquin Ridge ES.

ONLINE LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT AND OPT OUT OPTIONS

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The online learning graduation requirement also applies to adult learners that will be entering the Ontario secondary school system starting in the 2023-24 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with learning and working in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that they will need for success after secondary school, including in post-secondary education and the workplace.

Opting out

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their children out of the mandatory online learning credits required for graduation. To opt out, a parent/guardian must submit the Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement Opt-out Form. Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:

- the parent/guardian of the secondary student
- students who are 18 years of age or older
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control

Check with your local school if you have questions regarding the registration or opt-out process.

TAKE MATH OUTDOORS THIS SUMMER!

Are you looking for ways to promote and extend your child's math learning in the summer? Take math outside! Many of the everyday summer activities that your child engages in provide opportunities for making math practical through meaningful math explorations.

Number

- Count collections of objects found in nature or on a scavenger hunt
- Calculate rates and speed during running, biking, and obstacle races
- Estimate the heights and lengths of natural and manmade objects outside

Algebra

- Find examples of growing and shrinking patterns in nature
- Code your friend, where one person is the coder, while the other is the robot, and the coder must instruct the robot on how to navigate a path or do a dance around the yard

Spatial

- Use a park map to plan a route and travel to a new location
- Go on a shape hunt and find shapes in the natural environment
- Examine leaves and other objects to find symmetry
- Estimate and determine elapsed time of road trips and adventures

Data

- Keep a tally of the different types of birds that come to the feeder or other animals that come into the yard
- Track and graph daily temperatures or precipitation over time
- Track the growth of plants in a vegetable garden and examine how they change over time

Financial Literacy

- Determine a budget and calculate the costs to refresh a garden
- Set up a lemonade stand and determine costs and sales goals
- Donate gently used outdoor items that you're done with for others to enjoy

Have fun adding some math joy to your outdoor experiences this summer!

CONTINUING LITERACY DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

As the summer break approaches, it's time for children to recharge, explore, and have fun in the sun. While the break from school is a great opportunity for relaxation, it's important to continue fostering literacy skills during this time. Here are some valuable tips to keep children engaged in literacy activities throughout the summer.

1. Visit the local library: Libraries offer an abundance of books, resources, and summer reading programs that can captivate children's imaginations. Encourage your children to explore various genres, discover new authors, and participate in library events. It's a wonderful way to nurture their love for reading and broaden their literary horizons.
2. Create a reading routine: Establish a consistent reading routine that works for your family. Set aside a specific time each day dedicated to reading. Whether it's before bedtime, during a lazy afternoon, or while traveling, having a designated reading time helps create a habit and signals to your children that reading is an important part of their day.
3. Encourage reading beyond books: While books are a great way to foster literacy, don't limit reading to just novels or story books. Encourage your kids to read newspapers, magazines, comic books, and even online articles. Let them explore topics they find intriguing, fostering a broader range of reading experiences and exposing them to different writing styles.
4. Engage in meaningful conversations: After your child finishes reading a book, engage in conversations about the story. Ask questions about their favourite characters, the plot, and their interpretation of the events. Encouraging dialogue not only improves reading comprehension but also helps develop critical thinking and communication skills.

5. Explore digital resources: While it's important to limit screen time, there are numerous digital resources that can enhance literacy skills. Look for reputable educational websites, interactive reading apps, or audiobooks that can provide a multimedia experience and make reading more engaging for your children. The SCDSB even has a digital ebook library that can be accessed through the SORA app.

6. Keep a summer journal: Encourage your child to keep a summer journal where they can document their daily activities, adventures, and thoughts. This practice allows them to reflect on their experiences, recall memories, and improve their descriptive writing skills. Provide writing prompts or encourage them to illustrate their journal entries to make it even more engaging.

7. Start a storytelling tradition: Encourage your child to create and tell stories. You can establish a storytelling tradition where each family member takes turns sharing a story they've written, or even collaborate on a story together. This activity sparks imagination, builds narrative skills, and promotes a love for storytelling.

Remember, the goal is to make literacy enjoyable and a natural part of your child's summer routine. By implementing these tips, you can ensure that your children continue to thrive academically while having a fantastic summer vacation.

GRATITUDE MOMENT COPING STRATEGY

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is gratitude moment. Viewing the world and relationships through a lens of gratitude can help children and youth intentionally notice the positive elements in their day and shift the balance towards optimism, even when facing a challenge. To practice gratitude moment at home, model to your child/youth how to express gratitude. Explain what it means to be grateful or thankful. Share something you are thankful /grateful for as an example and in turn, have your child share something they are thankful/grateful for. Repeat this practice as often as you would like. Practicing gratitude moment can be done at any time of the day, or at regular times such as at mealtime or before bed. Consider writing down the ideas and posting them in your home or creating a gratitude jar.

Find more easy and fun mental health activities to do at home here: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

Follow the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.