



ALGONQUIN RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

191 Golden Meadow Road

Barrie, Ontario, L4N 9R6

Phone (705) 737-4080

Fax (705) 730-5820

<http://alr.scdsb.on.ca>

Cory McKeown
Principal

K. Moffitt
Vice-Principal

ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS MAY 2023

Character attribute for the month of May— Respect

Respect - we treat ourselves, others and the environment with consideration and dignity.

More information about character education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is May and the warm (and hopefully drier) weather is finally here. In these final few months of the school year, you should expect no slowing down with the number of things on the go at school—and often at home as well! This month we have already enjoyed a fun and successful community event with ARES Bingo. We were thrilled to see so many families and friends join us (even though there may have been a conflict with some kind of highly anticipated sporting event—or so we've been told LOL). The night was a great success thanks to your School Council and staff volunteers as well as the amazing participants who also pitched in to help us get the school back to 'normal' in record time.

Many classrooms, clubs and teams have special events coming up including fieldtrips and, for our gr. 3 and 6 students, EQAO assessments are about to begin. This provincial testing will begin soon, with families of those students receiving more detailed information directly from classroom teachers. It is important to know that this assessment is not dissimilar to the regular assessments that teachers complete regularly with their students. The entire assessment can be completed in a total of about 4 hours and we are free to schedule this over a significant period of time to ensure that no one feels overwhelmed, and children are able demonstrate their learning accurately. These elementary assessments are excellent practice for the gr. 9 testing of Literacy and Math and gr. 10 OSSLT (Ont. Secondary School Literacy Test) which are administered in the same way. We know your students will continue to do well and we appreciate all the help that comes from home in terms of getting the children to school well rested and ready on assessment days.

We are also pleased to be able to offer another excellent learning opportunity to our community on the evening of Thursday, May 18th from 6:30 to 7:30, in our school library. Financial advisor Jonathan Somers has graciously volunteered to visit our school to share his advice and expertise on a number of financial topics that will be of interest to parents and guardians. The feedback I have received from another school where he has presented has been very positive and I know Jon is excited to Algonquin Ridge. Some financial 'hot spots' he plans to address are: Handling Debt, Budgeting, Managing Cashflow, Saving for Big Purchases, Planning for Children's Education, Investing for Retirement, Family Safety Nets, etc., followed by some time for Q & A. Children who can play, read or amuse themselves independently are welcome to join—we will have one side of the library available for them. We will send out a school email reminder message the week of the event and hope that many of you will be able to join us.

Mark Your Calendars! And other FYI

Financial Education Night, Library-Thurs. May 18 6:30-7:30 (see above)

ARES Fun Fair is returning—save the date! Thursday June 8 from 5-7 pm

Watch for information to be sent home about our upcoming Track and Field Day for gr. 4-8 on June 7 (rain date June 8)

Our playground equipment is now open for use during nutrition break (tilling has been completed)

The Lunch programs (pasta, subs, pizza) have once again been a big success—thank you for your support of our most important fundraiser and remember that you can find information about our current fundraisers at any time through **schoolcashionline** on our school webpage <https://alr.scdsb.on.ca/>

We hope you will all enjoy the long weekend when it comes!

Cory McKeown Principal

705 737-4080 x 20304

Pronouns: He/His/Him

cmckeown@scdsb.on.ca



COMMIT TO CHARACTER

The Simcoe County District School Board's Character Recognition Evening is an evening to honour students, volunteers, staff, and employees of cooperative education employers for their exemplary demonstration of our Character Attributes.

Congratulations to Meaghan Puchoon, Grade 7 and Nia Sherwood, Grade 8 who have been nominated for and have been selected as a recipient of the Character Education Award. They will attend an evening of celebration, music, and character presentations on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at the Education Centre. Their commitment and dedication to their roles as safety patrollers, keeping our school population unharmed has been greatly appreciated. Well done Meaghan and Nia!

CALENDAR

May 10 – Kindergarten Orientation Night 4-5pm
May 10 – Science Centre – Grade 6
May 10 – Rugby Regionals
May 11 – Rugby Regionals - raindate
May 11 – Medieval Times – Grade 4
May 11 – Collett to Water Treatment Plant
May 14 – Mother's Day
May 17 – Rugby Counties
May 18 - Financial Education Night – Library - 6:30-7:30pm
May 18 – A Team Celebration – 3:30-6:30
May 22 – **Victoria Day – school closed.**
May 23 – May 26 – EQAO week – Grade 6
May 24 – Sainte Marie Among the Hurons – Grade 3
May 30 – June 1 – EQAO – Grade 3
June 1 – Blue Jays game – Intermediates
June 2 – PA Day – no school
June 3 – Ultimate Frisbee @ Maplegrove
June 7-9 – Book Fair
June 14 – Track & Field Zones @ Maple Ridge
June 15 – Rain Dated Track & Field zones @ Maple Ridge
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 27 – Grade 8 Graduation
June 29 – **Last day of school**
July 6 – **Office closes for summer.**
August 28 – Office re-opens

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](https://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 MAY

Asian Heritage Month

Dutch Heritage Month

Jewish Heritage Month

South Asian Month

May 14 – Mother's day

May 15 – International Day of Families

May 17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

May 22 – Victoria Day

May 23 – Zarathosht-no-diso (SC) – Zoroastrianism

May 24 – Declaration of the Bab – Baha'i

May 25-27 – Shavuot – Judaism

May 28 – Pentecost – Christianity

May 28-June 3 – National AccessAbility Week

May 29 – Ascension of Baha'u'llah – Baha'i

May 31 – Red Shirt Day (in recognition of AccessAbility Week and Easter Seals)

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.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE WAYS THAT THE SCDSB SUPPORTS STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES? JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION OUTREACH SERIES

In 2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs. The remaining session is:

Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma

May 9

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at

scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

ELEMENTARY SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS IN THE SCDSB

The SCDSB continues to support student achievement and well-being throughout the summer months by providing a range of elementary summer learning programs. This summer, the SCDSB is offering programs that will focus on reading (Grades 1-3), math (Grades 4-8), multilingual learners (Grades 4-8), as well as students with learning disabilities who use assistive technology at school (Grades 4-8). The programs will be delivered through both a virtual synchronous learning format and in-person, and take place from July 10 to 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. daily. In-person programs take place at Terry Fox Elementary School in Barrie.

Interested families are asked to contact their children's school principal for further details and registration information. Registration is completed through the SCDSB's public website starting Monday, May 1. Deadline to register is Friday, May 19.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER LEARNING!

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.

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

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2023

Four finger affirmations coping strategy.

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

This month's strategy is four finger affirmations. Parents/guardians can guide their child to think positively in the face of stress or challenges by using affirmations to promote confidence, a growth mindset, self-regulation, and resiliency. To practice four finger affirmations at home, work with your child to generate four words that make them feel calm and confident. For example, "I am loved today" or "breathe, listen, smile, love." Explain that each word will match a finger on their hand. Have them say the words (affirmation) aloud or in their head and connect each finger with their thumb. Tell your child they can repeat this as many times as they like, to themselves or out loud.

Consider practicing four finger affirmations at home with your child at a time of day that will be most helpful for them. 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 along on the SCDSB's Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

MAKING 'CENTS' OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

All students need the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for managing their personal financial well-being with confidence, competence, and a critical and compassionate awareness of the world around them. In the 2020 math curriculum, there is focus on financial literacy learning in Grades 1 to 8, including understanding the value and use of money over time, how to manage financial well-being and the value of budgeting.

Students build their skills and knowledge about the value and use of money, how decisions impact personal finances, as well as develop consumer and civic awareness.

Students will:

- Learn how to manage finances responsibly, such as creating a budget to help save enough money to buy something they want such as a book, toy, or video game.
- Begin to develop a greater awareness as consumers and contributors in the local and broader economic system.

Wondering how you can support the development of your child's financial literacy skills at home? Check out some of these great tips and resources!

Tips:

- Find daily, real-world opportunities to talk about money in the contexts of earning, saving, spending, and giving.
- Consider the financial habits you want to instill in your child and talk about them.
- Involve your child in making decisions about purchases for household items, and compare the costs of different items (e.g., we need to save money to repave the driveway so we're going to cut down on spending, do you have any ideas?)

Resources:

- Peter Pig's Money Counter, Practicalmoneyskills.ca
- Financial Literacy Rocks, financialliteracy.rocks/financial-literacy-for-kids



LET'S GET IT POPPIN'!

**A.R.E.S. POPCORN
FUNDRAISER WITH
JC KETTLE CORN**



PRICES
SMALL \$4.00
MEDIUM \$6.00
LARGE \$8.00

**ALL ORDERS ARE TO BE PLACED VIA SCHOOL CASH
ONLINE**

**FUNDRAISER WILL BE LAUNCHING SOON. STAY
TUNED FOR MORE INFO**

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE EMAIL COUNCILCHAIRLR.SCDSB.ON.CA

ALGONQUIN RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

May 2023

Volume 1, Issue 1

COUNCILCHAIRALR@SCDSB.ON.CA

GIOVANNA BOWES QUINTINA WIEN

HELLO ARES FRIENDS. WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EDITION OF THE ARES SCHOOL COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT. WE COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD OF ARES AND WANTED TO PROVIDE A SPACE WHERE WE COULD HIGHLIGHT SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS, FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS.

Spring has sprung and we are down to the last two months of school. May and June are shaping up to be very busy months for School Council with lots of exciting activities, events and volunteer opportunities. Our Big Box of Cards fundraiser was a success. Our school sold 89 boxes and Ms.

Bottrell's class won a pizza party with the most boxes sold. Congratulations students!

Bingo Night was a huge hit and our best turn out to date! The energy was high and the smiles were bright! We are putting together a staff breakfast in June to show our appreciation to everyone who helped make this school year a success. More details to come. We have partnered with JC Kettle

Corn to offer a super-awesome popcorn fundraiser. Stay tuned for more info. ARES now has a Garden Club! This interesting and fun club will not only be learning new skills but they will also be weeding, mulching and helping to beautify our school property.

Lastly, we cannot forget to mention our annual Fun Fair. Once again it will not disappoint. With all of these initiatives comes the need for volunteers. If you are available to help, we would love to have you join us. We cannot run these events without the hands of our community. We encourage you to reach out to us via email to further discuss how you can help.

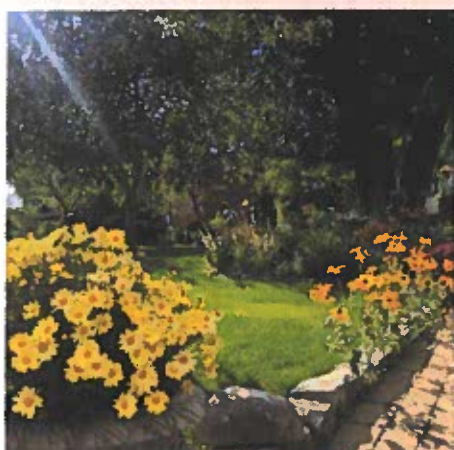
Many thanks,
Your School Council

PAGE |

01



ARES & BRADFORD GREENHOUSE - SHARE YOUR POINTS PROGRAM



Spring is finally here and once again this year our community school, is participating in the Bradford Greenhouse Fundraising Program. Simply make your regular purchases and before you check out, tell the cashier that you would like to donate your points to Algonquin Ridge. No sign up or extra purchases necessary. At the end of the season, Bradford will donate 5% of all ARES purchases back to the school in the form of a gift card. Spread the word and share with all your friends and family. Thank you so much for all of your support!



LET'S CELEBRATE!

**JOIN US FOR THE
ANNUAL**

ARES FUN FAIR!

Thursday, June 8th at
Algonquin Ridge
5 - 7pm

We hope to see you there!