

Algonquin Parent News

October, 2021

The educators at Algonquin will actively commit to creating a stimulating, language-rich classroom environment that is developmentally appropriate, implements best practices, and is differentiated to meet the needs of every student. The classroom will capture the individuality of the whole child, encourage students' curiosity and creativity, and prepare them for future success.



Our school year is off to a great start!!! The students are learning the routines and procedures of our school. Tears are a thing of the past, students walk into our school, sanitize, and inform if they want breakfast or not. Some of our students will readily articulate when asked, their teacher's name!!! Our teachers are hard at work every day, developing creative and innovative minds through play based inquiry daily. Please make sure that you are watching for communications from our teachers through class dojo, or classroom newsletters. We believe that our partnership with our parents is significant in the learning process.

As the weather begins to change, please make sure that your children are dressed for the weather. Our students are outside daily (if the weather permits).

Character Day



Please help us make “Character Day” a safe and fun event at Algonquin by following the procedures listed below:

Students’ costumes should represent a book character. It would be great if the student brings the book to school with them. Assistance will not be available to apply makeup, etc.

Please remember that students at Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten range in age from 3-5 years old. Costumes should be appropriate to an pre-kindergarten school environment and represent a story book character. **Weapons, violent themes, blood and gore are not permitted.** Masks must allow students adequate visibility to walk around the school.



Character Day Safety Protocols

- Parents are not allowed in classrooms for parties
- Children are allowed to bring candy to share
- Children are not allowed to pass out candy to each other
- Masks (health protocols mask) are still required
- If sharing candy, individual bags should be prepared by the staff and placed on student's table during celebration by the teacher after her hands are sanitized or gloved

Extended learning tips for at home



The Importance of reading aloud

A, B, C easy as 1, 2, 3. Your child may be starting to recognize letters and numbers. That's why books about counting and the alphabet are good choices. While reading, point to the letters, move your finger under the words, and talk about pictures and words that begin with the same sound. Display the alphabet where your child can see and interact with the letters--- and remember to sing the alphabet song together.

Finding Focus. Your child may now sit longer for stories and have the ability to turn pages one at a time. That's why it's great to encourage your child to be actively involved in your read aloud sessions. Have your child choose the book, hold it, and turn its pages. Let them take the lead in telling a familiar story or talking about the pictures.

Rhyme time!! Rhyming is a fun way to build language skills. You should read nursery rhymes or books with rhyming words and repeated phrases. Pause the story to give your child a chance to finish a familiar line.

Children's Book List

Being a Friend

A Rainbow of Friends by P.K. Hallinan (Ages 4-8)
Best Friends by Charlotte Labaronne (Ages 3-5)
Can You Be a Friend? by Nita Everly (Ages 3-6)
Can You Talk to Your Friends? by Nita Everly (Ages 3-6)
Care Bears Caring Contest by Nancy Parent (Ages 3-6)
Care Bears The Day Nobody Shared by Nancy Parent (Ages 3-6)
Fox Makes Friends by Adam Relf (Ages 3-5)
Gigi and Lulu's Gigantic Fight by Pamela Edwards (Ages 3-7)
Heartprints by P.K. Hallinan (Ages 3-6)
How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague (Ages 3-5)
How to be a Friend by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown (Ages 4-8)
Hunter's Best Friend at School by Laura Malone Elliot (Ages 4-7)
I'm a Good Friend! by David Parker (Ages 3-5)
I Can Share by Karen Katz (Ages infant-5)
I Can Cooperate! by David Parker (Ages 3-5)
I am Generous! by David Parker (Ages 2-5)
I'm Sorry by Sam McBratney (Ages 4-7)
It's Hard to Share My Teacher by Joan Singleton Prestine (Ages 5-6)
Jamerry by Bruce Degan (Ages 2-5)
Join In and Play by Cheri Meiners (Ages 3-6)
The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear by Don & Audry Wood (Ages 2-5)



The Path to Math: Beginning Numbers



Use the language of numbers.

- Use words like *amount*, *enough*, *none*, *before/after*, *most*, *pair*, *take away*.
- Help children ask and answer thought-provoking questions involving numbers: "How many of our caterpillars haven't made cocoons?" "Do I have more silver keys or more gold keys? How can you tell?"



Make numbers part of the daily routine.

- Have children "sign in" by moving a nametag or other token from one basket to another. They can count leftover tokens to find out how many are absent.
- Ask children to set tables with one napkin and one cup per chair.
- Encourage voting on classroom issues. "Ten people want apples for snack Friday. Seven want crackers."



Provide games that involve numbers and counting.

- Teach card games such as Go Fish, War (Top That), Animal Rummy.
- Provide games such as Tic Tac Toe, Mancala, Checkers.
- Use "choosing" games like One Potato Two Potato.
- Teach active games such as Farmer in the Dell, scavenger hunts, and variations on bowling.



October 1, 2021 Preschool Screenings

October 5, 2021 Bluepoint Drill & 10:45 Early Release; Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

October 6, 2021 Bluepoint drill practice at Algonquin

October 11, 2021 No School; Columbus Day

October 12, 2021 6:30 p.m. Virtual Early Childhood Network

October 25, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

October 27, 2021 Virtual Family Playgroup

October 28, 2021 No School: Teacher Institute Day

October 29, 2021 Character Day



ALGONQUIN

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