

Warrior Wire

Algonquin Middle School
9185 Marsh Road
Algonac, MI 48001

Warrior Wire
Andrew Rogers, Principal
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November/December 2006
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Winning Warriors

The Winning Warrior Program recognizes students for their academic efforts as well as their good citizenship. Students must not have received any grades below a C- and have good citizenship. The following trips are the students rewards from the first marking period:

Sixth grade students will go to Joe Dumars Fieldhouse on Friday, Dec. 15.

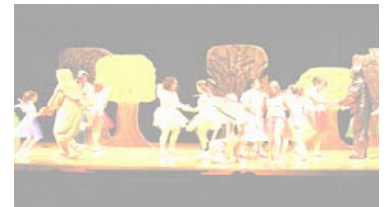
Eighth grade students will be going to Joe Dumars Fieldhouse on Wednesday, January 17.

There will be golf, in-line skating, a bungee trampoline, gator tag and more.

Seventh grade students are tentatively scheduled to see an IMAX movie at the Henry Ford Museum in December.

The Wizard of Oz

Several Algonquin students participated in the Wizard of OZ play last weekend presented by the Algonac Community Theatre. The cast included: Sam McNerney, Anthony Steffen, David Finley, Ashley Edwards, Brittany Edwards, Kelly Schultz, Alyssa Rogers, Lauren Fisher, Susan Hastings, Emily Henry, Jessica Miller, Shyla McCulloch, Jessica Nadrowski, Adelina Fischer, Kayla Rock, Melissa Snyder, Dana Zielinski, and Mr. Rogers. The play was well received with over 1000 people in attendance over a period of 4 days. Both the cast and audience enjoyed the show. The Algonac Community Theatre is always looking for new members and ideas. If you are interested, contact Shirley @ 794-5097.



Web Based Communication

It seems that whenever kids move from elementary to middle school, communication is more difficult. The nice, neat Friday folders from elementary have turned into folded notices crumpled in the bottom of a book bag. While this enigma has challenged parents and schools alike, we are trying a couple of new ideas that we hope will help.

Parent Connection is up and running. Parents can go to the site from the district web site (www.algonac.k12.mi.us) and view grades, assignments, and attendance. If the user chooses to, they can also use the news feature to find daily announcements.

Mr. Rogers now has a web log (blog). The blog can be found at www.algonquinmiddleschool.blogspot.com. The site contains informal information from the middle school. One of the recent postings contains the results from the survey given at Parent/Teacher Conferences. The

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences were held at Algonquin on November 8 and 9. Eighty percent of our parents attended. The number represents a new high for participation in the middle school. During conferences, parents were asked to fill out a survey regarding time preferences. Survey results are posted on Mr. Rogers' blog (see above article). From this information we hope to be able to better accommodate parents' schedules for future conferences.

Algonquin Scrapbooking/Cardmaking Event

The first Algonquin Middle School scrapbooking event was held on October 14. It was a great success, raising about \$2,000 to benefit the middle school Language Arts Department. Everyone who attended had a lot of fun. We look forward to the next event. Attendees included students, parents, teachers, and even several people from out of our district. Mrs. Fuller would like to thank several people. The scrapbooking industry donated so many wonderful prizes to be raffled off and included goody bags that went to everyone in attendance. More importantly, our community businesses who gave so generously through prize donations, products/services that were raffled, and monetary donations to help cover the expenses of the event. National Junior Honor Society members Julia Waite, Jordan Turner, Ashley DeSandre, Jenay Moran, and Holly Hilliker were extremely helpful in every aspect of the event. Our local Girl Scouts baked desserts that were outstanding. Algonquin Parent Connection members Tonya Wirgau, Michelle Wykowski, Amy Amiels, Jenifer Egeland, and Donna Kuhr also helped to make this event run so smoothly. They freely gave of their time and efforts once again. This type of event is not an easy one to prepare for with so many tables needed. Our custodial staff and maintenance departments rose to the occasion, were able to complete every task, and never once complained. A great big thanks goes out to them. Cindy Babisz of the Downriver Recreation Department gave on behalf of the department, but also gave in sharing her expertise of event planning. Last, but not least, the teachers who have helped in the planning of this event for many months, Lisa Forest, Valerie Turpin, Jamie Smith, Tracie Stubbs, and Miriam Meddaugh. This event seemed to bring the best out in everyone involved. Mrs. Fuller is very pleased to have brought a real community event such as this to Algonquin.



Cartridges for Kids...

Don't throw them away! Save your used cell phones, empty inkjet, laser, fax and copier cartridges. Recycling these products not only keeps millions of pounds of garbage out of the landfills, but can also produce money for improvements to Algonquin Middle School. Students should bring any of these items to Mr. Johnson (room 117) for collection.

NJHS Update

National Junior Honor Society will be sponsoring Pennies for Patients this holiday season. This will be a change collection that will take place in the Homebase classrooms. The Homebase that raises the most money will receive a pizza party during their lunch period. Please encourage your child to participate.

New NJHS members will be invited after the new year. To qualify for NJHS, the student must be either a seventh or eighth grader who has earned at least a 3.5 GPA the fourth marking period of last year and the first marking period of this year. In

Christmas is Coming...and so is the Fall Scholastic Book Fair! Beginning Monday, December 4, through Thursday, December 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Students will be visiting with their Language Arts classes. Parents are welcome to come in and shop. If you would like to volunteer your time, please call Debi Filzek at ext. 1344.

Gilbert and Torongeau Team up to Teach Students

On Thursday, October 12, Michigan State Senator Jud Gilbert of the 25th District visited Algonquin Middle School. He addressed the Social Studies students from Mr. Gratopp, Ms. Jouppi, and Mr. Vagi's classes, teaching them "How a Bill Becomes a Law". Senator Gilbert took them behind the scenes, sharing information about the inner workings of the State Senate and his particular involvement in the law-making process. He was joined by Algonac Police Chief Rich Torongeau who took the conversation beyond the law-making process and put it into practical terms, explaining how he enforces the laws that Congress passes. We wish to thank both of these busy community leaders for taking time to be a part of the learning process at Algonquin.



Band Info

Our band website is your key to keeping current on everything happening in the band program, from 6th grade to High School. To get the most out of the website, become a registered user. It is a very simple and completely free process. Go to www.algonacbands.com. Then just click on the "register" link in the upper right corner and you will be taken to the registration page. You will then be asked for your name, a screen display name, and a password. Once you are registered you will have full access to all areas of the website. You will also receive e-mail notifications for up-coming concerts, fundraisers, and events. This is a great way to help you keep on top of the band schedule.



There will be a sixth grade band concert at Algonquin Middle School on Thursday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Seventh and eighth grade students will be in the Band-O-Rama at Algonac High School on Thursday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Reminder...there is no school on Friday, November 24 or Monday, November 27.

News From the Physical Education Department

The P.E. Department is collecting labels from bottles of Nestlé Pure Life purified water. The collection of these labels will earn points for the Physical Education Department. At the end of the school year, the points will be totaled and rewards can be earned to use in P.E. classes. This is a great opportunity to help your son or daughter's Physical Education classes. There is a collection box in the office for your convenience. Please read the article below for more information on the Go Play! movement. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kochan at ext. 3341.



The P.E. classes will be involved in a fundraiser until the end of the school year. Students will be selling magazine subscriptions for \$20.00 each. The P.E. Department makes a \$12.00 profit for each subscription sold. Students have been given subscription information to share with friends and family. Please help support the P.E. Department. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Kochan.

Please post the December fitness calendar and encourage your son/daughter to participate in the activities.

PTO Today *Go Play!* Survey Fact Sheet

About PTO Today *Go Play!* Survey

- The PTO Today *Go Play!* Survey was commissioned by *PTO Today* and Nestlé Waters North America and is an online non-scientific study conducted August 11-31, 2006, among 599 male and female Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Parent Teacher Organization (*PTO Today*) school leaders nationwide.
- PTO Today is the only company dedicated exclusively to serving the entire school parent group (PTO/PTA) market with products and services, all geared toward helping leaders serve their schools more effectively and run their groups more efficiently.

Survey Findings

- When asked to grade their schools' physical education program and efforts to keep kids healthy and active, 42 percent of the PTO and PTA presidents surveyed grade their school with a "B" and 30 percent a grade "C."
- 98 percent of PTO/PTA leaders surveyed think physical activity at school is an important part of their child's education.
- PTO/PTA leaders feel physical activity has the greatest impact on:
 - Children's health— 95 percent
 - Stress relief— 93 percent
 - Social development— 85 percent
- PTO/PTA school leaders identified sporting equipment, playgrounds and field trips as the most needed items in schools.
- 96 percent of PTO/PTA leaders would participate in fundraisers for sporting and playground equipment.

PTO/PTA leaders believe parents can help their kids be more active at home by:

- Reducing TV time— 90 percent
- Encouraging family exercise— 90 percent
- 60 percent of PTO/PTA leaders believe schools should also eliminate unhealthy food and beverage options and 55 percent think schools need to upgrade play equipment to help kids become more active.

About *Go Play!*

- *Go Play!* is a rewards program that helps accredited schools with any grades from K-8 in the United States earn points that can be redeemed toward fitness and sports gear, or transportation costs assistance toward hands-on educational field trips, just for collecting labels from bottles of *Nestlé Pure Life*® bottled water products. It was created by Nestlé Waters North America for its Nestlé Pure Life water brand.
- *Go Play!* encourages healthy play and healthy hydration for kids. *Go Play!*'s mission is to encourage learning through activity by getting kids up off the couch and getting them to play.
- Any accredited schools with any grades from K-8 in the United States can join the *Go Play!* movement by registering for the *Go Play!* program at goplaylabels.com. All schools must be registered by December 31, 2006, to participate in *Go Play!*.
- To earn *Go Play!* points, families and community members remove labels from Nestlé Pure Life products and drop them in the *Go Play!* collection boxes at participating schools throughout the school year.
- Each label is worth two *Go Play!* points and each school has the opportunity to earn up to one million *Go Play!* points--valued at \$10,000 in rewards. Boxes from each registered school must be returned and postmarked by 5/31/07 and received by 6/8/07.
- School leaders mail official *Go Play!* collection box(es) to an independent judging agency for tallying. Each school can redeem their points and select its own rewards from the *Go Play!* reward partners.
- Nestlé Pure Life will notify schools of their total earned *Go Play!* points and redemption information. Schools have until October 1, 2007, to redeem their *Go Play!* points toward rewards.



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #38
Algonac, MI

Algonquin Middle School
9185 Marsh Road
Algonac, MI 48001

Phone: (810) 794-9317

Fax: (810) 794-8872

Andrew Rogers, Principal
Abraham Leaver, Assistant Principal

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Christmas Dance
December 15
2:40-4:30 PM

Algonquin Fall Charity Drives

From now until December 15, we will be having a charity drive. To better serve our community it was decided that each grade would concentrate on certain areas. Eighth grade - canned foods; seventh grade - cleaning products and toiletries; sixth grade - pet food and supplies. Feel free, however, to donate any of these items. The products and food will be distributed through the Algonac Food Pantry. The St. Clair County Humane Society will be the recipient of the animal care donations. The class with the most donations will receive popcorn and a movie to enjoy during school.

Parent Connection

Our next movie night will be on Friday, December 1. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and the movie, RV, will begin at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free with an adult or \$3.00 for all students without an adult. Students without an adult present must be signed in by a parent/guardian with a contact phone number. Come support our boys basketball team.



Our next Game Day will be on Friday, December 8, after school until 4:00 p.m. Please call Christine McCoy at (586) 716-9235 if you are available to help out.

The next Parent Connection meeting will be on December 13 at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you there.

Market Day

Algonquin Parent Connection is promoting Market Day as a fundraiser. This is excellent, restaurant quality food for you and your family. Ten percent of the amount purchased goes to the school. You can order through the school or online. Orders will be delivered to the school once a month for pickup. Our first pickup date is November 30, from 6-7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Check your child's backpack for order forms or pick them up in the office. If you have any questions, contact the chairperson, Katha, at (586)909-5877.