



Newsletter February 2013

Absentee Line: 250-360-0725

Arbutus by the Month-February

I wanted to direct your attention to our completely revamped website at <http://www.arbutus.sd61.bc.ca/>. Many of you have used our website in the past as a reference...so what's new? The website is completely reformatted to suit our school community. The UPCOMING EVENTS section will highlight events that students and parents need to know about. The website gives us the ability to stay up to date with weekly events and post them in real time.

The ERASE button is a link to the Ministry of Education's ERASE program (Expect Respect and A Safe Education). The ERASE program is now being implemented in schools, with some of our staff beginning training in a month. For further information about the ERASE program please click on the link or go to www.erasebullying.ca.

STUDENT ABSENCES – When you send a note to your child's teacher about an absence please make sure that you call the absentee line as well. If a teacher is absent and the notes are not seen by the TOC that comes in then unfortunately a call will go out through our automated system.

If your child is late for school please encourage them to come to the office to sign our late book. If they don't sign in our automated system will send a message.

Absentee Line: 250-360-0725

Sean Powell
Principal

February Events

February 8 - Curriculum Completion Day
early dismissal 10:38 a.m.

February 11 – Family Day – school is NOT session

February 14 - 22 - Student transfer process

February 15 – Pro D Day – school is NOT in Session

February 27 – Pink Shirt Day

Global Update

Global Action News...

Well the third rotation of our grade six and grade seven exploratories have come to an end and that means we have just completed another Global Action event! The students in advisory four and ten really wanted to do something to help animals and after much research we identified habitat restoration as the project we wanted to tackle. We started with some work on the school grounds identifying some of the invasive species that were destroying the habitat and we removed a large amount of English Ivy that was choking out some of the native shrubs and trees. The classes also wanted to work on one of the parks in the area and so we arranged to volunteer with Saanich Parks "Pulling Together" program. The two classes spent three hours at Mt Douglas Park working with community volunteers and parks employees to remove the holly and ivy that is taking over much of the native areas. It is one step to help protect these natural areas, but the students truly achieved their goal of "making a difference". Well done!

PINK SHIRT DAY

**On Wednesday, February 27th
Arbutus is supporting a
BULLY FREE ENVIRONMENT.**

We encourage all students to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a school will not tolerate bullying anywhere.



ARBUTUS CLUBS

We have many different clubs at Arbutus each year. Clubs can be started by staff, students or parents; if you are interested in starting a club, please contact Mr. Powell to set it up. All clubs require a staff sponsor.

Students can join a club at any point during the year (except for Lego Robotics Club).

So far this year, we offer:

Wednesday @ 12:10 pm: Environmental Leadership in the cafeteria

Thursday @ 8:00 am: Global Leadership ACT Room 115

Thursday @ 3:00 pm: Lego Robotics Club in the Drama Room

Thursday @ 12:10 pm: Anti-Bullying Club (ABC) in cafeteria

Friday @ 12:06 pm: Dance Club in the Gym with Mrs. Watt

PAC News

- **PAC Meeting**

Tuesday, February 12th 7:00 p.m. – Library

- **Adult Social Event - Friday April 26th**

Volunteers are needed to assist in the planning of an Adult Social Evening and Silent Auction to be held on Friday April 26th. If you love food, beverages (adult), entertainment, procuring items for silent auctions, decorating and are able to share your time and talents, please email Kami at arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca

This year's **Vancouver Island Parent Conference** has an exciting array of speakers, each with one of the keys needed to ensure successful learning, plus personal value topics including the nature of discrimination, turning conflict into opportunity, building resilience and learning to do the right thing.

Jane Elliott, internationally renowned for her Blue Eyes/Brown Eye exercise, will join us electronically from California to start the day by challenging the way we see prejudice in society. Following this dynamic presentation, will be an outstanding line up of workshops for you to choose from. Dr. Gabor Maté will close the conference by showing us how to restore a healthy balance in adult-child relationships.

School Hours:

Monday: 8:30 – 2:45

Tuesday: 8:30 – 2:45

Wednesday: 8:30 – 2:45

Thursday: 8:30 – 2:45

Friday: 8:30 – 2:45

Contacts:

Principal: Sean Powell
spowell@sd61.bc.ca

Vice Principal: Aaron Maxwell
amaxwell@sd61.bc.ca

PAC: Kami Bourgeois
arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca

See our website at www.sd61.bc.ca

Call back Line 250-360-0725
Please call this line if your child will be
arriving after school starts.



FIELD HOCKEY VICTORIA

Victoria Junior Field Hockey Association offers a Spring Field Hockey League for players aged 5 to 18.

- 10 week season, starting April 6, 2013
- Divisions for boys and girls
- Come Try the Game Free Days! UVIC Turf Fields near McKinnon Gym

- Sunday, February 3, 2013
- Sunday, March 3, 2013

For more information, please visit
www.victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca or email
info@victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca Registration opens
January 28, 2013.

LAKEHILL BASEBALL REGISTRATION

Little League Baseball and SVI Softball at Lakehill Ball. Boys ages 3 – 13 &
Girls ages 3 – 16.

Go to www.lakehillball.com and follow the registration prompts.

In person registration at Ambassador Park, February 2nd & 3rd and
9th & 10th - 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

The Board for Gordon Head Baseball and Lambrick Park Baseball would like to announce that BASEBALL REGISTRATION is now OPEN!

During the recent Annual General Meetings of both Gordon Head Baseball and Lambrick Park Baseball, special resolutions were passed approving the amalgamation of these associations into the Gordon Head at Lambrick Park Baseball Association.

With the upcoming baseball season just around the corner, we wanted to communicate that the online baseball registration is now open for the spring season for players in the catchment area for Gordon Head/Lambrick Park from Blastball to Junior Men.

Please go to the following link to register online: http://www.gordonheadbaseball.org/registration_info/index.php

The deadline for registration is February 23rd and assessments will start as early as February for some divisions.

We look forward to seeing you on the field this spring!

If you have any questions please contact Lisa Stark, Registrar at ghba_registrar@gordonheadbaseball.org

Greater Victoria Public Library News

Grades 6-12 -Winter/Spring 2013

Teen Volunteers Needed at the Public Library

Teen volunteers are needed to help kids practice their reading in the Reading Buddies program, to help older adults with new technologies in the Tech Buddies program and many other programs.

Reading Buddies: Offered at Emily Carr, Central Library and Juan de Fuca branches (includes a French session) on Saturdays, March 2 – April 20. New Big Buddy training session on February 23.

Tech Buddies: 1. Saanich Centennial Branch Fridays, February 15 – March 8. New Tech Buddy training session on February 8.
2. Nellie McClung Branch Fridays, May 10 – 31. New Tech Buddy training session on May 3.

For more details, visit <http://gvpl.ca/about-the-library/work-with-us/teen-volunteers>. Register online at www.gvpl.ca or call your local branch for more information.