

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Families,

It has been a very busy term, and in particular a busy month in December, as we worked to prepare term reports cards, showcase our music students at the Poinsettia concerts, and wind up the basketball season and get our teams ready for the volleyball season starting in January. Middle schools are extremely busy places, and having a global focus means there are even more charitable projects, special events and activities happening every day of the week. I am very pleased that our students are so heavily engaged in activities promoting diversity and sustainability, and grateful that we have a team of educators so committed to these causes as well. This past fall, our staff worked with members of our PAC to renew our vision and shared beliefs, to make sure Arbutus Global Middle School is amongst the best and on the leading edge of middle school education. Using the essential attributes for effective middle schools published by the Association of Middle Level Educators, the process helped unify our staff in a common direction, and created two school goals for 2016-17 (see article on page 2 for more information). It was inspiring to see our staff unite so strongly around the process, and in the end I believe we are a more powerful and focused school as a result.

I also want to thank all parents for your support in Term 1. Your help in supporting students at home and being important partners in the education of your child is always appreciated. Thank you also to all parents who sent in goodies and baked goods to the office and staff room this week. We are very grateful. Have a wonderful Winter Break and happy holidays to everyone!

Rob Parker, Principal



January 2017 Reminders!

- Jan. 10th:** PAC Meeting in the Library 7 pm
- Jan. 23-27:** Late French Immersion (Gr. 6) Registration Week
Arbutus Global Open House 7—8 pm
- Jan. 25th:** Student-Led Conferences - Early dismissal at 11:51 am
Arbutus Global Open House 7 - 8 pm

Parents of Gr. 8 students:
Additional reminders and
info on next page



Attendance - Please remember to inform the office if your child will be late or absent. You can email to attendance62@sd61.bc.ca or phone and leave a message on our call back line at **250-360-0725**.

	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Monday, Jan. 2	Statutory Holiday—school is closed <i>Happy New Year everyone!</i>
Tuesday, Jan. 3	School re-opens at 8:30 am 3 pm Grade 6/7 Girls Volleyball Practice
Wednesday, Jan. 4	3 pm Lego Robotics Club Rm. 120 3 pm Grade 7/8 Girls Volleyball Practice
Thursday, Jan. 5	12:06 pm Tech Club - Cafeteria 12:06 pm Cartoon and Drawing Club - Art Room 3 pm Grade 6/7 Boys Volleyball Practice 3:15 pm Swim Team
Friday, Jan. 6	12 pm Cookie Sales 3 pm Grade 7/8 Boys Volleyball Practice

DECEMBER 16, 2016

TEAM AVALANCHE

PAC NEWS

The AGMS Week at a Glance...

The next meeting will be
**Tuesday,
January 10.**
See you then!



Reminders for Parents of Grade 8 students:

Challenge Program Info Session: Thursday, January 5th at 7 pm—Mt. Doug Gym

Reynolds Open House: Wednesday, January 11th at 7 pm

Mount Doug's New Student Showcase: Thursday, January 12th at 7 pm

Oak Bay High New Student Evening: Tuesday, January 17th (*time TBA*)

For information on ALL Secondary School Programs of Choice, please refer to SD61 website:
<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/programs/programs-of-choice/secondary-programs-of-choice/>

The GVSD 61 holds it's **K—12 Student Transfer Process Feb 16—24, 2017**. This is when parents can request that their child go to a school **other than their pathway school** for *next year*. Arbutus Gr. 8 English students' pathway school is Mount Douglas Secondary. Arbutus Gr. 8 French Immersion students' pathway school is Reynolds Secondary.

Renewing Our Vision and Shared Beliefs Fall 2016

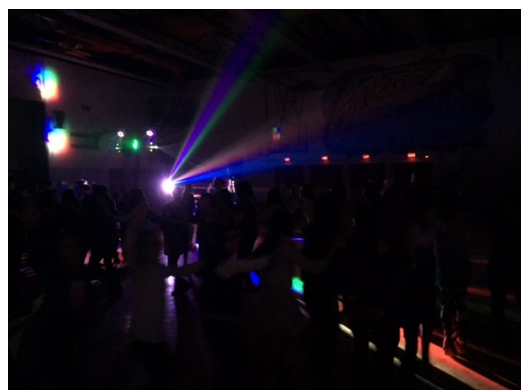
As mentioned on page 1, we undertook an important process that began last September to update our educational beliefs and specifically, what are the hallmarks of an excellent and effective middle school? In the end, we arrived at the following four shared beliefs:

- 1. We believe that students deserve a wide range of opportunities to develop strengths and passions.*
- 2. We believe that strong connections are essential in the positive development of students and school community.*
- 3. We believe that every student needs to be challenged in order to grow.*
- 4. We believe that fair means that every student gets what they need to be successful.*

Two school goals for the year emerged from the process as well:

Goal 1: Student Wellness - to improve overall student wellness through physical development and mental well-being initiatives

Goal 2: Global Citizenship - to further develop our global education programming, improve student social responsibility, and ensure every Arbutus student is effectively educated in digital citizenship.



Thank you to Team APEX for organizing the December Fun afternoon on Wednesday. The Sock Hop Dance (left) was a big hit. APEX also organized a Door Decorating Contest amongst classes, using recycled items. Students were also encouraged to bring donations in to support a Syrian refugee family and APEX organized a Candygram fundraiser as well.

Way to go Arbutus Avalanche!

DECEMBER 16, 2016

TEAM AVALANCHE

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Thank you to our PAC and Mr. Maxwell for organizing our annual Hot Chocolate morning, traditionally held on the last Friday before the Winter Break. Mr. Mazza and Mrs. Hill had students singing traditional carols in the cafeteria as well. Some classes also had a Pajama Day on Friday to add some more fun! (below)



Whatever celebration you are observing this month have a restful Winter Break!

Happy Kwanzaa
Happy Hanukkah
Merry Christmas

Parents - please sign and return your child's Report Card envelope to your child's teacher. Thank you !



Students and families celebrated the first term with a luncheon this week in our **Middle School Integration Program (MSIP)**. Thank you to Ms. Huyter and her team for putting on such a delicious lunch, and to Uncle Cam for the great music!