

ÉCOLE ARBUTUS GLOBAL MIDDLE SCHOOL



AVALANCHE WEEK September 5-8, 2017

As part of the transition back to school we will again be organizing a variety of engaging events and activities for the first week back that all relate to our nickname *The Arbutus Avalanche*. This is designed to be a fun way for students to begin school and meet new friends, while they wait for the final organization of class lists for the year. (Hopefully completed by Friday, Sept. 8th.)

Please note: Due to the installation of a new gym floor, the gym will be unavailable for the first part of September, and some meeting locations have been changed from information sent to you in July. Please see below.

Classroom Assignments:	<p>On the first day of school, your child's temporary classroom placement will be posted outside the entrance of the school on portable boards. Grade six students and any other new students will <u>gather in the cafeteria</u>. Grade seven and eight students will move directly to their temporary rooms. International students should report to the office. Mixed groups of English and French students by grade level will spend the first few days of the year together in temporary groups during <i>Avalanche Week</i>. Classes should be finalized the end of the first week.</p>
School Supplies:	<p>Supply lists are available on the school website. The direct link is: https://arbutus.sd61.bc.ca/student-info/supplies/ (No school supplies are necessary for Tuesday.)</p>
Tuesday, September 5th	<p>9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Students gather outside the main entrance and will enter the building when the bell rings at 9:30 a.m. Students should bring a pen, some paper, and a small snack. We know students will be excited to get back to school, but we ask that they not arrive too early or enter the building before the bell goes.</p> <p><u>Grade 6 students and all new students:</u> At 9:30 a.m., report to the cafeteria <u>Grade 7:</u> At 9:30 a.m., go directly to your grade 7 class. <u>Grade 8's:</u> At 9:30 a.m., go directly to your grade 8 class. <u>International students</u> and your home stay parent please report to the office at 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Welcome Café: New parents to Arbutus Global are invited to join the PAC in the library for coffee at 9:30 a.m. on September 5th.</p> <p>Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. They will leave from the gym. Students will not return to school that afternoon.</p>
Wednesday, September 6th	<p>8:30 a.m. Warning bell rings. Students may enter the building. 8:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Regular daily schedule.</p> <p>Students should bring their school supplies, snack and lunch today. Students are encouraged to bring healthy foods to school. New students pay a one-time deposit for text books & a one-time fee for locks; a form will be included in the student pack-up that goes home by the end of the week. Please, no private locks.</p>

Thursday, September 7th & Friday, September 8th	<p>8:30 a.m. Warning bell rings. Students may enter the building. 8:35 a.m. Students should be in class with their supplies ready to learn. 8:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Regular hours now in place for the year (see below). <u>NOTE:</u> We will make every effort to have our students placed in their permanent classes by Friday morning.</p> <p>We will again be taking the whole school to Gyro Park for Beach Day on Friday. Students walk there and back with their class, so please ensure they have comfortable shoes that day. Classes leave the school at 10:30 am, and return at 2 pm. For safety reasons, students are not permitted to be dismissed from Gyro Park, unless a parent is there in person to pick up the student. (No permission notes will be accepted.)</p>														
School Hours:	<p>School hours for the 2017-2018 school year will be: Warning bell 8:30 a.m. Monday – Friday daily schedule 8:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Lunch 11:51 a.m. – 12:36 p.m.</p>														
Lunches & Snacks	<p>We recycle and compost at school. In fact, we only have one garbage can inside the school. We are an environment friendly school with the goal of no garbage. Pack it In – Pack it Out: Please send foods in reusable containers, metal water bottles, cloth lunch bags, etc. We also ask students to take home any garbage/and snack/lunch wrappers.</p>														
Personal Devices	<p>We are a Bring Your Own Device School – students may have their phones or tablets at school for educational purposes. Some teachers have students use their own phones or tablets in class for research or uploading assessments, and some teachers do not (they use school-owned sets instead). Each teacher will let students know what their classroom policy is.</p> <p>Students are not permitted to take their personal devices (phones, tablets) outside, so they will maximize their physical activity and socializing time on their Nutrition Break and Lunch Break. We ask students not to have devices out in the hallways between classes for safety and social reasons as well.</p> <p>To minimize disruptions to learning, we also ask that parents do not text or call students on their phones during the day until after 2:45 pm. In case of an emergency, where students need to be contacted, parents are asked to call the Office at 250-477-1878. We realize that some families use personal devices to stay in touch while children go to and from school but want students to be able to focus on school and their learning during the school day. Our main goal is to help students learn to use modern technology in a balanced and healthy manner that supports their learning. We appreciate your support at home in furthering this cause.</p>														
Leaving Staff:	<p>There has been a big turnover of staff as many new teaching jobs were added to our school district for next year, and temporary contracts ended in June. We are very sorry to see the following staff go from Arbutus Global and wish them all the best in their new positions:</p> <table data-bbox="527 1367 1235 1598"> <tr> <td>Mrs. Cameron</td> <td>Monsieur D’Entrement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Gage</td> <td>Mrs. Porter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Meredith</td> <td>Mme. Havelaar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Tymoshuk</td> <td>Ms. Morrison</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. Andrea Scott</td> <td>Ms. Judith Scott</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Drysdale</td> <td>Mr. Horton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Knorr</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The hiring process has continued this summer and we will be welcoming and introducing new staff in September at our Meet the Teacher Night on Sept. 19.</p>	Mrs. Cameron	Monsieur D’Entrement	Mr. Gage	Mrs. Porter	Ms. Meredith	Mme. Havelaar	Mr. Tymoshuk	Ms. Morrison	Mrs. Andrea Scott	Ms. Judith Scott	Mr. Drysdale	Mr. Horton	Ms. Knorr	
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Other School- Wide Events in September:	<p>Sept. 7 Instrument Rental Night: 4 - 6 pm in Cafeteria Sept. 8 Whole school goes to Gyro Park for beach clean-up and picnic Sept. 18 Professional Development Day (no school for students) Sept. 19 PAC BBQ at 6 pm, <i>Meet the Teacher Night</i> for all Arbutus families at 7 pm Sept. 19 Photo Day (individual)</p> <p>Finally, we are very excited about welcoming all students back to be part of the Avalanche Team, and know it will be another engaging and active school year in 2017-18. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns prior to the start of school. See you soon!</p> <p>Rob Parker, Principal Aaron Maxwell, Vice Principal</p>														