

# The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Parents/Guardians:

An interesting editorial appeared in the Saanich News this week about student device use at schools in Vancouver. In the editorial, an argument was made that students should be able to use their phones and devices on their breaks. I am assuming they were referring to high school students - which some may say is debatable as well. As a middle school staff, we are extremely pleased with changes we have made in the last few years regarding student device use, including not allowing devices at break times. Two vitally important activities for this age group are **movement and socialization**. We have found restricting the use of personal devices to just educational purposes (i.e., in-class use guided by the teacher) has had a very positive impact on our students. They now run and play more at the breaks in games together, and engage with each other more in conversation. Gone are the days when we had 30 or 40 students gathered around the edge of the building at recess trying to get a Wi-Fi signal and playing video games. We have tried to strike a common sense and reasonable approach to this modern issue, taking advantage of the benefits of this technology while safeguarding against the problems that come with excessive device use. Smart phones are amazing devices these days, but too much screen time is a concerning issue that schools have a responsibility to address, especially at such a critical developmental point in students' lives.



Yours truly,  
Rob Parker, Principal

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

**For information on school sports game and meet dates visit:**

<http://lowerislandschoolsports.ca/>

	<b>YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE</b>
Monday, Sept. 25th	12:06 pm Cross Country Practice
Tuesday, Sept. 26th	3 pm Boys 6/7 Soccer Practice
Wednesday, Sept. 27th	2 pm School Assembly—Gym Re-Opening Ceremony
Thursday, Sept. 28th	8 am Cross Country warm up for race day 3:45 pm Cross Country Race at Lambrick Park (please always refer to lowerislandschoolsports.ca for the most up to date info on locations.
Friday, Sept. 29th	<b>Aboriginal Awareness (Orange Shirt) Day</b> Cookie Sales outside cafeteria—12:06 pm <b>Terry Fox Run</b> in the afternoon

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

TEAM AVALANCHE

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## Thank you PAC!

We want to thank all volunteers from the PAC, and Tracy Poulin who was the lead organizer in getting the **PAC Barbeque** ready for Tuesday's *Meet the Teacher Night*. The food was delicious and it was a great opportunity for parents to meet others.



## September Safety

As we start back at school this month we want to remind all parents to be discussing traffic safety with your children. Please review pedestrian safety, and the importance of using crosswalks and making eye contact with drivers when walking to school.

Also if your child is riding their bike to school please make sure they are wearing their helmet. Bikes should be locked up in the bike racks at the back of the school, which can be accessed down the side drive.

Finally, we ask that **parent drivers** exercise patience and drive **very slowly when entering our parking lot** to drop off students in the morning. The parking lot is a very congested place and we know everyone is in a hurry, but your commitment to slow down, be patient and proceed carefully in the parking lot will keep everyone safe. Thank you for your help on this important issue.



## New Gym Floor

Our beautiful new maple gym floor is just about ready for use. We will be having a Grand Reopening at a school assembly next week on Sept. 27 at 2 pm. New bleachers arrive in October. We cannot wait to use it!