

The AGMS Week at a Glance...

Passions, Challenge, Connections and Supports



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Rain Jackets

As we move into the fall please be sure your child brings a jacket to school for inclement weather. To get students moving and out in the fresh air, we usually send them outside if it is raining lightly. There are under cover areas, but a rain jacket really helps on the wet days. During heavy rainstorms we usually open up the cafeteria and gym so students can remain inside, but we do try and train students to be “rain-friendly” and west coast kids! :)

Safety Drills

Saanich Fire department were here on Tuesday to observe a **Fire Drill**, and Saanich Police were here to take part in our **Lockdown Drill** this morning. Fire drills happen every two months, and Lockdown and Earthquake Drills happen twice per year. Our School Liaison Officer, Const. Steve Robinson, came to our staff meeting this week to help train staff for the Lockdown Drill. Regular practice helps make staff and students ready for any hazard or emergency. Our **Earthquake Drill** takes place on October 19th during the **Great BC ShakeOut**, happening province-wide that day. We appreciate the strong support of our PAC in purchasing and helping organize our earthquake supplies, which we continue to add to every year. You can do your part at home by making sure your smoke alarms are tested regularly and functioning, and by having emergency supplies on hand for an earthquake or other event as well.

Grade 7 FSA testing

The province has moved these annual tests to October from February in an effort to get the results to schools in a more timely manner. They have started this week, and we appreciate parents support in having students take part. I very much value the evidence that this assessment provides us. Combined with other sources of data, it is used at AGMS to determine where we need to focus our efforts for improved student learning.

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 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/>

	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Monday, Oct. 16	12:06 pm Cross Country Practice 12:06 pm Dance Club in the gym 2:45—3:45 pm Junior Strings 3 pm Gr. 8 Boys Competitive Basketball Practice 4 pm—5 pm Yoga Classes in Cafeteria
Tuesday, Oct. 17	12:06 Choir 3 pm Gr. 6/7 Boys Soccer Practice 3 pm Gr. 8 Boys Rec Basketball Practice
Wednesday, Oct. 18	7:30—8:35 am Choir 12:06 Junior Strings 3 pm Gr. 6 Girls Basketball Practice 3:45 pm Cross Country Race (Juan de Fuca Rec Ctr)
Thursday, Oct. 19	3:45 pm Gr. 6/7 Boys Soccer Game at Gordon Head Middle School 3 pm Gr. 7 Boys Basketball Practice 3:15—4:00 pm Arbutus Swim Team Practice at Gordon Head Rec Ctr.
Friday, Oct. 20	Pro D Day—No school for students

For additional sports practices, students should listen to daily announcements and/or see daily announcements on whiteboard outside the office.

OCTOBER 13, 2017

TEAM AVALANCHE

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Dates to Remember:

Thurs. Oct. 19

Earthquake Drill 10:30 am



Fri, Oct. 20th

Pro D Day (no school for students)

Oct. 25th & 26th

Parent-Teacher Conferences (more information to follow)

Fri, Oct. 27th

Gr. 6 Immunizations

Tues, Oct. 31st

Orange & Black Day

Wed, Nov. 1st

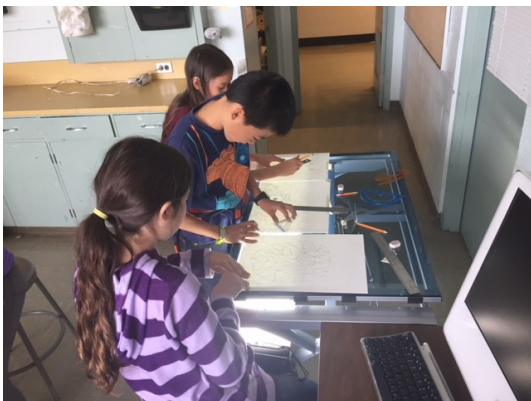
Photo Re-take Day

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place **October 25th and 26th**.

This year we will once again be using an online booking system to sign up for our parent-teacher conferences. The website is <http://arbutusglobal.schoolappointments.com/>. The website will walk you through the registration and booking process. **All families will need to create an account since the accounts from last year have been deleted for security purposes.** Once bookings are made the times will then be confirmed with an email home. Bookings can be made/changed online using this system from Friday, October 13 until Monday, October 23 at 8am. After this time period, parents will need to contact their child's advisory teacher directly to make any changes or to create new appointments.

Parents are asked to choose a time to meet with their child's advisory teacher as this is the person that oversees your child's academic program. If your child is working with our resource teachers then you can set up an appointment with them as well. If you have questions for your child's other teachers then please talk to your child's advisory teacher and they can set up another meeting or find out the answer to your questions.



Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are limited to 21 students in all grades this year due to restored contract language. This has had a positive effect in these classes, and teachers are enjoying being able to provide more time per student. We have eight different Exploratory courses at AGMS available over the 3 years: Art, Drama, Home Economics, Global Action, Music, Technology Education, Outdoor Education and Coding.

Global Action

A guest speaker from the SPCA speaks with Mrs. Petrini's Global Action Exploratory class on Thursday. Students often get involved with charitable agencies to learn the importance of helping in one's community.



Active Learning

Students in Ms. French's Grade 8 class share their 3-D cell project on Friday morning. Opportunities to practice collaboration and communication skills are built into most subjects nowadays, to build these competencies in our students.

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Attention Music Families:

The Meridiem Wind Orchestra (which includes Mrs. Hill) invites you to their concert "Celebrate Canada" on **October 23 at 7:30 pm at First Metropolitan United Church**. Admission is by donation. This is an excellent chance for music students and their families to see a high level concert band.



The Meridiem Wind Orchestra was created in 2012 as a model ensemble with 3 mandates:

- to **Model** wind and percussion ensemble music for over 1500 young people involved in Band programs all over the Greater Victoria region.
- to **Create** a collaborative experience for professional musicians in the Greater Victoria region.
- to **Inspire** music lovers with high quality performances of outstanding repertoire written for the symphonic wind ensemble.

The membership of this ensemble includes professional musicians who also perform with the Victoria Symphony, the Victoria Operatic Society and the Naden Band of Maritime Forces Pacific. Membership also includes music educators from the University of Victoria, Greater Victoria School District, Sooke School District and the Saanich School District.

Nov. 14 Earthquake

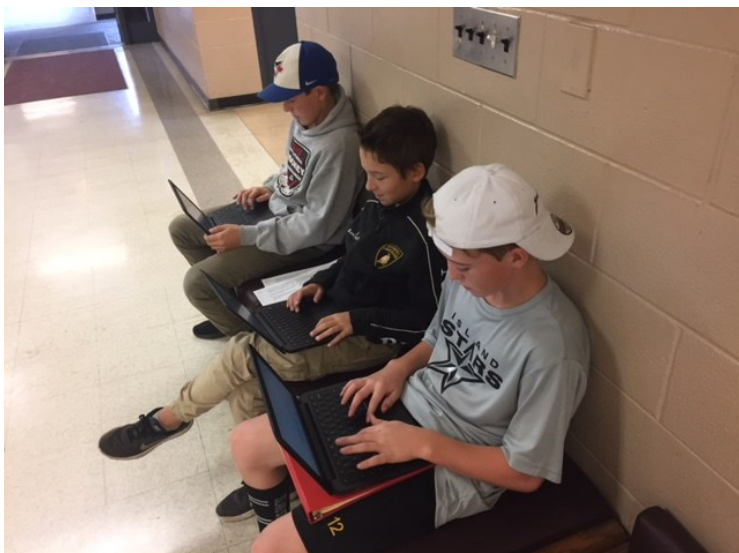
Preparedness Workshop at AGMS

Please join us before the next AGMS PAC Meeting on Nov. 17 in our school library from 7 pm - 8 pm for a special workshop by the Municipality of Saanich on how to prepare for an earthquake. (Our regular PAC Meeting will take place afterward.) Being ready in your own home will be important for when a large earthquake occurs.



SWEATER DRIVE

We need your clean and gently used youth sweaters for our Kiosk to help keep students warm after an earthquake. If you are able to donate, please send clean sweaters in a plastic bag to the office.



New Chrome Books

Arbutus Global received 160 new chromebooks from the school district this year to support student learning. These devices make the use of technology more equitable and accessible for all students.