

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018

TEAM AVALANCHE

# The AGMS Week at a Glance...

*Passions, Challenge, Connections and Supports*



Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Track and Field** - Track season continued with Meet #3 on Wednesday afternoon. Many thanks to Mr. Lemon who coordinates the Meets, Mr. Howe who has organized all our staff and parent coaches for the different events and Mrs. Walt who supports the athletes at the meets. Thank you coaches—without you there would be no season for our students!

**Grade 8 Celebrations:** A Recognition Ceremony will take place for Grade 8s and parents at 10:30 am on Monday, June 25th in the gym. A parent committee is organizing decorations for the ceremony and a pot-luck lunch for the students afterwards. In the afternoon, we will be holding a dance and other fun activities for the grade 8s.

An email will be going out by a member on the parent committee for parents to sign up to bring contributions to the student pot-luck lunch.

**Thank you Parents!** We want to say a huge thanks to all of the parents that organized the *Staff Appreciation Luncheon* yesterday. Staff were very grateful for the delicious food at this busy time of year!



Library Courtyard

**Outdoor Learning** - There is an emerging trend in education that recognizes both the value and potential of learning outside and in the natural environment. We are fortunate to have two courtyards in our school that our Global Action and Sustainable Living teachers maintain to create beautiful learning spaces for our students. We also have two dedicated Exploratory classes in Outdoor Education. In addition, the local amenities such as Haro Woods and Arbutus Cove are ideal settings to pursue place-based learning and environmental education. Our staff are now continually planning projects that can capitalize on local settings so all our students can realize the benefits of learning in nature. Please look for more news on the power of outdoor learning at AGMS in the future.

**Thank you PAC** - I want to thank outgoing PAC Executive members **Hayley Stroebel** (current President) and **Wendy Darby** (current Secretary) for their effective leadership over the past many years. Under their leadership the PAC has been a steady and powerful supporter of student learning and school improvements, including our music program, essential school culture events and welcomes, Grade 8 celebrations, new technology, parent education evenings and important earthquake and safety supplies. They have truly changed the school for the better. I want to welcome our new 2018-19 PAC Executive members **Erin Farris-Hartley** (President) and **Ingrid Friesen** (Secretary). We really appreciate them stepping forward next year. Also, thank you to parent **Fei Zhang** (Treasurer) this year, and Val Neaves (Emergency Container Coordinator) who will both continue next year.

Rob Parker, Principal

	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Mon., May 28	12:06 pm Long Jump Practice <b>Track &amp; Field Meet #4 (4—6:30 pm) UVic Stadium</b> (2000m Final, 4x100m, 4x400m)
Tues., May 29	3 pm Throwing Event Practice (Track & Field)
Wed, May 30	12:06 pm High Jump Practice in the Gym (Track & Field) 2 pm Monthly School Assembly
Thurs., May 31	7:30 am Running Events Practice (Track & Field)
Fri., Jun 1	3 pm Running Events Practice (Track & Field) 12:06 pm Dance Club in the Drama Room

**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.

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# The AGMS Week at a Glance...



**Arbutus Global:**  
Celebrating diversity;  
Seeking sustainability

## Dates to Remember:

- Fri. June 8** CC Day, dismissal at 11:35 am, Athletic Leadership  
Camping Trip (Fri—Sat)
- June 19—20** Band/Choir/Strings Trip to Vancouver
- Mon. June 25** Gr. 8 Recognition Ceremony 10:30 am
- Thurs. June 28** Last Day of School—Dismissal at 2:45 pm



## Ramadan

This religious observance started last week for many of our students and families. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar (moon Calendar) and is said to be the most sacred month. It is the holy month of fasting where Muslims around the world are trying to do more good deeds such as prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability. During the holy period of Ramadan, many Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. The fasting during Ramadan is one of the five Pillars (fundamental religious duties) of Islam. It is a time of self-examination and increased religious devotion. The fast is broken with prayer and a meal after sunset, called *iftar* - featuring many kinds of food, especially dates. Muslims broaden their compassion for the hungry and less fortunate people when they fast, and they should be more patient and self-controlled during the holy month of Ramadan. Special prayers known as *Tarawih*, are held every night in the Mosque. Ramadan ends when the first crescent of the new moon is sighted. *Eid-al-fiter* is the Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. This year Ramadan started on May 17. Muslims congratulate each other at the beginning of Ramadan saying "Ramadan Mubarak", which means have a blessed Ramadan.

We are fortunate to have families from many cultures at Arbutus Global Middle School. If you have a cultural or religious tradition you would like to share from your family, please let the school know. We always want to celebrate and recognize the strength of our diversity, and help everyone deepen our understandings of each other.

***AGMS: Seeking Sustainability; Celebrating Diversity***

### Moving Next Year?

Please remember to let our office know if your child will not be at AGMS next year, if they are currently in Grade 6 or 7. This information really helps us with our planning.

### Sun Safety & Hydration

It's especially important this time of year for students to come prepared with water bottles, hats, sunglasses and sunscreen.

