

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

TEAM AVALANCHE

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to a new school year! We have had a lot of fun this week getting to know our new students and welcoming all the returning students back to AGMS. **Avalanche Week** is a great time for students to connect with each other and build team spirit in a variety of light-hearted activities and challenges. For the remainder of the year, classes are put on one of the following teams: **Blizzard, Frostbite, Glaciers, Ice, Hail, Storm, Snow or Arctic** (each team has two or three divisions in it). Those classes and teachers collaborate throughout the year, which is one of the pillars of our middle school model in SD61.

School Sports - Sign-ups are starting for **Soccer, Cross Country, Athletic Leadership, and the Media Team** for students. We hope all students will find a team to join this year. Sports team letters will come home soon outlining coaching personnel, practice and game times.

Mr. Howe has created a [Google form for kids to sign up for every sport](https://goo.gl/forms/aa8jyyi0j1wohJl2) other than soccer and cross country. Soccer and Cross Country sign up was at recess and lunch today, and will be again on Monday:

<https://goo.gl/forms/aa8jyyi0j1wohJl2> Parents can see when the game days are and are encouraged to talk with their children about which sports they want to try. If your child has any interest they should add their name; we can always remove them later if need be.

Coaches sign up - We are still in need for parent coaches for all sports. Please sign up here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/QtvFysmgOK0gb2Re2>

Student Pack-Ups: please try to return the completed school forms sent home today (by paper copy) to our school office asap.

Picture Day is Wednesday, September 19. Order portraits now at mylifetouch.ca, or up to 48 hrs after photos, using Picture Day ID **QU478477Q0**, or students can bring form and payment to photographer.

Parking Lot Safety - As usual at this time of year, I want to remind parents to be patient, and drive slowly in the parking lot and school zone in front of the school. **Please have your child get out or in the car at the drop-off/pick up area only** by the gym wall (drop-off zone), to avoid students walking through the parking lot, which can be a dangerous area. Having your child walk or ride a bike to school can really help reduce congestion as well. (Bicycle helmets are mandatory and the law in BC.) Your support will really make for improved safety in this area.

ASRA Project - Please come to the PAC Meeting on Tuesday September 11 at 7 pm to hear more about the Active and Safe Route to Schools Project being undertaken at our school this year. Saanich Engineering, CRD reps, Saanich Police, PAC and school administration will be reviewing local travel routes for students and making recommendations for improved safety. This is a very timely project as traffic increases every year in our neighbourhood.

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 or phone and leave a message on our call back line at **250-360-0725**.



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BC's Curriculum

Here is a recap of the main competencies we will be working on with our students this year:

- 1. COMMUNICATION SKILLS** – writing, listening, presenting and talking about their thinking, and integrating technology and media.
- 2. CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING** – building, creating and finding novel and valuable ideas with flexible and agile thinking.
- 3. COLLABORATION SKILLS** – for strong personal and social development and the ability to work successfully on a team.

Again this year, you will see your child involved in various activities that will allow them to develop and build these competencies as they move through the various grade levels. It is an exciting time in education as staff work to personalize the learning for each student and to harness the passions and special interests each student will have.

A few pictures from Avalanche Week....



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The following music classes begin next week:



**ARBUTUS
MUSIC**

Band 6, 7 and 8 start Sept. 10. Classes occur during the school day

Choir sign up is on Tuesday at lunch recess in the Drama Room. Classes are Tuesdays at lunch recess and Wednesdays at 7:30 am in the Drama Room.

Junior Strings starts Sept 10. Classes are Monday 2:45-3:45 pm and Wednesday at lunch recess in the Drama Room.

Intermediate Strings start Sept. 11. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 am in the Drama Room.

Avalanche Band for interested students in Grade 7/8 band. Sign up on Sept 11. Classes are Tuesdays and Fridays at 7:30 am in the Music Room

Students should bring their instrument to band/strings classes next week. Please label your child's instrument and book with their name, school and phone number.

(No child will be denied access to a resource because they cannot afford to pay. Please contact the principal or teacher if finances are an issue for you and a solution will be worked out). If you have any questions about music classes please contact Mr. Mazza and Mrs. Hill at arbutusmusic@me.com.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Information

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the Welcome Coffee on Tuesday. It was great to meet so many of you. If you weren't able to join us, but are interested in keeping in touch, please email the PAC at agms.pac@gmail.com.

Next week is our first PAC meeting of the year. It will be held on **Tuesday September 11th at 7:00pm** in the school's library. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be having a special guest, Kate Berniaz from the Capital Regional District, presenting information on the Active and Safe Routes to School program. A copy of our agenda is attached.

And mark your calendars for Tuesday September 18th when the PAC will be hosting a BBQ at Meet the Teacher Night. More details to come.

We look forward to a great school year ahead! - Erin Farris-Hartley, PAC President

	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Monday, Sept. 10th	
Tuesday, Sept. 11th	PAC Meeting 7 pm in the Library
Wednesday, Sept. 12th	
Thursday, Sept. 13st	
Friday, Sept. 14th	Cookie Sales outside cafeteria—12 pm

For information on school sports game and meet dates visit:

<http://lowerislandschoolsports.ca/>