

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

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.

**PAC Support** - Thank you to our PAC and Vice President Sharilynn Wordrop for organizing the Parent Coffee on the first day of school. It was excellent for parents to meet others and learn more about the school.

**School Sports** - Sign-ups are starting for **Touch Rugby, Cross Country, Ultimate, 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.

**Coaches** - We are still in need of parent coaches for all sports. Please let us know if you are interested in one of the above sports.

**Student Pack-Ups:** will be sent home early next week. Please try to return the completed school forms (by paper copy) to your students advisory teacher asap.

**Picture Day** is Wednesday, September 18. Order portraits now at [mylifetouch.ca](http://mylifetouch.ca), or up to 48 hrs after photos, using Picture Day ID **QU479477Q0**, or students can bring form and payment to photographer. (Order forms will be sent home with the pack-up forms next week.)

**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. Also consider doing **'Drive to Five'** using one of the drop-off locations within 5 minutes of the school such as Graduation Place, Lexington Avenue, or Dawnview. This will help us cut-down on traffic congestion on Edgelow. 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.



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**.

## YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, Sept. 9th

Tuesday, Sept. 10th      **PAC Meeting 7 pm** in the Library

Wednesday, Sept. 11th

Thursday, Sept. 12th

Friday, Sept. 13th      **Cookie Sales** outside cafeteria—12 pm

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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. 9. 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 9. Classes are Monday 2:45-3:45 pm and Wednesday at lunch recess in the Drama Room.

**Intermediate Strings** start Sept. 10. 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 10. 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](mailto:arbutusmusic@me.com).

Music update: Notices were sent home with interested students this week with information on band, choir and strings classes. Music classes start next week. Please ensure that your child's instrument is clearly labelled with their name and phone number. Contact Mr. Mazza and Mrs. Hill at [arbutusmusic@me.com](mailto:arbutusmusic@me.com) if you have any questions.

## 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](mailto:agms.pac@gmail.com).

Next week is our first PAC meeting of the year. It will be held on **Tuesday September 10th at 7:00pm** in the school's library. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

### PAC Barbecue

**Tuesday Sept 17th, 6 - 7 pm.** (*Meet the Teacher Night* to follow - 7-8 pm)

Take a break from making dinner and join your school community for a fun, social barbeque before Meet the Teacher night! It's a great opportunity to kick off the school year. We need parents to pitch in to make this event a success. Click the link below to choose a way you can help - there are lots of options to fit every schedule!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4DAFAB2AA1FC1-2019>

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Calling all swimmers to join the **Arbutus FAST school Swim league!!**

Practice schedule: Every Thursday 3:15pm to 4:00pm from 17th of October 2019 to February 27, 2019

Location: Gordon Head Rec Swimming Pool

Registration Cost: \$90, optional swim cap purchase \$7 payment **School Cash Online**

Registration: **MUST register with Pacific Coast Swimming** <https://pcs.poolq.net/program-info/f-a-s-t-school-league>

Questions: contact Yen Pham at [yenmoser@gmail.com](mailto:yenmoser@gmail.com) (note I am a parent volunteer that helps run this club for our school).

Please read the swim attachment for further information on the program.



We were treated to perfect weather on Friday for our Beach Day at Cadboro Bay. It was a great way to finish Avalanche Week and celebrate the start of another school year.

The Avalanche Challenge took place on Wednesday (right) followed by the Avalanche Games on Thursday. Thanks to Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Lemon for all their work in organizing these fun events!

