

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Parents/Guardians:

I want to say a big welcome to all our Grade 6 families who are joining Arbutus Global and a welcome back to all our returning families. I do not recall a September when I was so happy to see students back in the building. It's been far too long! :) It has been a start like no other as you well know, but we have been extremely impressed and happy to see students in the full-time model following safety guidelines, settling into routines, and renewing friendships put on hold for the past 6 months. We have tried to design options for the various family situations that exist across the school community and are pleased to offer 2 hybrid or part-time classes which began this week as well. We are also offering educational accommodations for those students and families with immune-compromised issues to keep them as safe as possible.

Bell Schedules

There are a few hitches that are creating some conflict with our two bell schedules that we may be addressing this month, but for now classes will continue on the Group A (8:25 am) and Group B (8:45 am) schedule for all of next week. Any changes made will be minimal to respect your family schedules at home. More to follow if any changes are coming.

Outside Break Times

I have had a few questions regarding outdoor play time and how cohorts interact at the breaks. We have separated cohorts (2 divisions each) into 5 different play zones around the school grounds. As per the K-12 Provincial Health Guidelines, we are accommodating students who on occasion wish to visit a friend in another cohort. We ask that it be for a short period time and that they check with a Supervisor beforehand, and keep 2 meters back when visiting. Many students are wearing masks both in class and outside at the breaks, and we are trying to teach our students the benefits of wearing a mask.

Meet the Teacher Opportunities

Unfortunately we will not be able to host our annual PAC Barbeque and welcome night in the gym due to the pandemic. However, we are working on a plan for teachers to host individual virtual events, and more news on this will follow next Friday.

Pro D Day: A reminder to our families that **Monday, September 28th is a Pro-D day. Students do not attend that day.**

Hot Meal Program: Due to the restrictions in the pandemic we will not be running the hot meal program at this point in the year. If you are new to the school, we have traditionally offered parents the option to buy pizza, wraps, and burritos on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays respectively. Watch later in the year to see if this will be re-starting.

Outstanding Student Forms: We are missing forms for many students. Please sign and complete the forms and return to our school office ASAP.

Orange Shirt Day: Wednesday, September 30th is Orange Shirt Day - a day we wear orange to recognize past injustices to aboriginal people in Residential Schools and also a time to celebrate the importance of aboriginal culture in our community and country. Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange to mark this occasion. **Sept. 30 is Photo Day** as well.

Rainy Weather: Just a reminder as we approach the rainy season that students should always be bringing a jacket to school for our outdoor breaks. We typically try and get students outside even if it is raining to enjoy some exercise and fresh air. Rain Days (staying inside) are only called if it is a heavy downpour.

Enjoy the weekend!

Rob Parker, Principal

YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE	
Monday, Sept. 21st	
Tuesday, Sept. 22nd	
Wednesday, Sept. 23rd	
Thursday, Sept. 24th	
Friday, Sept. 25th	

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.

When a student is late: Please have them come to our side service door (#4) and ring the door-bell; someone will come let them in.
 Then they will need to come into the Office and sign in at our attendance binder.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

TEAM AVALANCHE



The AGMS Week at a Glance...

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Sept 28	Pro-D Day (students not in session)
Sept 30	Photo Day Orange Shirt Day
Oct 12	Thanksgiving (school not in session)
Oct 20	PAC Meeting 7pm via Zoom



PAC News

Big thanks to Rob Parker and Carrie Schlappner, and the more than 40 parents who came out to our first PAC meeting of this school year! There were lots of great information and questions. If you didn't make it, [the minutes are available](#) for you to read now.

You will have seen a note about our donation drive in your forms package. If a donation is possible for you this year, please consider donating at [School Cash Online](#) (select Arbutus Global Middle School - PAC as your fund destination) or fill out the form and send to school with your child. This is our only fundraiser each year, and all funds raised go back into the school for things like sports equipment, extracurricular activities, emergency supplies, bike racks and events. We appreciate any amount - for those who can manage it the suggested donation is \$50 per child.

Covid Protocol if Your Child is Unwell

Please use the Daily Health Check form each morning (sent home in an email last Friday) to ensure your child is healthy and not exhibiting any respiratory symptoms. If any students or staff are sick **they must not come to school.** This will be essential in keeping our school community safe this winter. Parents must also check with a medical professional or call 811 to ensure their child does not have COVID 19 before they can return to school. Students must also be symptom free before returning to school.

Parent Access to the Building—Parents will not be able to enter the school this year (all exterior doors are locked) and teachers will be communicating with you by phone or video call. In rare and urgent situations in person meetings may be able to be arranged.



So great to see students back in class! Mme. Engelbrecht is pictured here starting a math lesson this morning with Division 12.

Sustainable and Healthy Transportation

As a global school we try to promote sustainable and healthy living.

Some suggestions to achieve this are:

Parents

- “Drive to Five” - drop your child off so they have a short but healthy 5 minute walk to school instead of driving right to our parking lot.
- Ride your bike with your child to school, then carry on to work.

Students

“Two-Wheel it!” - try and see how many friends will join in and ride their bikes with you

Hike and play - Invent a game to play (e.g., Who Can Spot the Most....) while you walk with friends to school.

