

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Parents/Guardians:
As we approach this Thanksgiving weekend I have to say I am feeling extremely thankful for the way our students, staff, and Arbutus families have responded to the changes implemented this year during the pandemic. Although it's sometimes easy to focus on the difficulties we have all been facing in 2020, I have been visiting classes this month and discussing the power of having a grateful outlook. Knowing that we live on an island where our communities have remained relative safe has shown us that the safety measure we are using is having a positive effect. Students have been fabulous in sharing their ideas on why this is such a healthy perspective to have.

As some of you know we have put a great deal of energy and effort into promoting emotional well-being in our students the past 3 years by sharing strategies that can be effective in this area. A regular theme is teaching ways to build self-resiliency and discussing how to 'get back up', when one suffers a setback or a challenge. These efforts are proving to be invaluable in helping our students cope and overcome the anxieties and challenges that have come with Covid 19. We will continue to make this a top priority so that all our students know that they have the supports, strategies and skills within them to get through this crisis. Please be sure to reach out to your child's teacher or our counselling team if you are noticing that your child may need even more support in this area.

Arbutus Music

We are so happy to see our band and strings groups practicing and playing together again. Many safety accommodations have been put in place to make this happen, such as using bell covers and larger rehearsal spaces (e.g., gym) but it has been worth it to hear the sweet sound of music drifting through our school again!



Health Checks

Thank you to all parents for doing the health check with your child every morning. It is really helping keep our community safe and healthy. We appreciate your vigilance at home.
Happy Thanksgiving!
Rob Parker, Principal

Side Driveway

For safety reasons, **please do not drive down the service driveway to the back door**, as there are students using this area to get to and from the playground this year. Thank you!



	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Monday, Oct. 12th	Thanksgiving Monday—no school
Tuesday, Oct 13th	
Wednesday, Oct 14th	3 pm - 4 pm After School Soccer for any students Div. 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, &17. Permission Forms in office.
Thursday, Oct. 15th	
Friday, Oct. 16th	10:45 am Earthquake Drill - <i>The Great BC Shakeout!</i>

Attendance - Please remember to inform our Attendance line 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.

OCTOBER 9, 2020

TEAM AVALANCHE

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Parent-Teacher Conferences: Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 21st

It's that time of year again! **Parent Teacher Interviews** will be held **via phone or Zoom** on **Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 21st**. We are sad to say that due to COVID protocols, we are unable to hold in-person interviews this year. However, we look forward to connecting in these new ways.

Each appointment will be 15 minutes, but each teacher has a slightly different schedule, so please access their calendar by **registering** at **School Appointments Online** using the **attached instructions** after going to **this link**:

<https://arbutusglobal.schoolappointments.com/>

Please refer to the email sent out earlier today for full information

Thank you and we look forward to connecting to discuss our wonderful students.

Carrie :)

If you have any challenges logging onto the system please contact Carrie Schlappner @ cschlappner@sd61.bc.ca

Please note that students will be dismissed at 11:51am on both Tuesday and Wednesday for these meetings.

If any families have any sports equipment around their homes that is no longer being used, please consider donating it to the school (have your student bring it to the office).



With the focus on being outside we'd like to have as much equipment as possible for students to use at break in their 9 zones. T

his would be in addition to the large purchase that PAC contributed to at the beginning of the year.

Items may include baseball gloves or balls, skipping ropes, soccer balls, basketballs, frisbees etc.

Thank you!



Employment Opportunities in SD61

The Greater Victoria School District is looking for qualified individuals to join our team in the following key roles:

- Accounts Clerk-Schools (Spareboard)
- Custodian 1 / Janitor / Cleaner
- Educational Assistant-General (Spareboard)

On Call Clerical Support

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the positions we offer, please visit our website here: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/employment/>

You can submit your resume, cover letter, and qualifications to: hrrs@sd61.bc.ca

Masks

Thank you to all parents who are reminding students to have their masks with them when they come to school. This really helps when they are in high-traffic areas in the building or encounter others not in their cohorts. We do have a supply of washable masks for students that can be washed at home, but it also helps when students are bringing their own from home.



Homework Club: Wednesday's 2:45-4:00pm beginning October 28th.

Students are welcome to come to the Learning Centre to work on homework in this bright, spacious setting. Chromebooks, PCs, and other paper supplies are available.

We will ensure that distancing is maintained, so will limit numbers if it becomes necessary.

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Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Oct 20	PAC Meeting 7 pm via Zoom
Oct 20	Parent Teacher Interviews via Zoom (information to come soon) Students Dismissed at 11:51
Oct 21	Parent Teacher Interviews via Zoom - Students Dismissed at 11:51
Oct 21	Grade 6 Immunizations - 1st dose
Oct 23	Pro-D (students not in session)
Oct 27	Pick up day for missed Grade 6 Immunizations
Oct 28	Homework Club resumes in the Learning Centre—Wednesdays 2:45-4:00pm
Oct 30	Orange and Black Day

It was so wonderful to make music at Arbutus together again this week! Thank you to all of the students for following the new rules of distancing and PPE in music classes.

A note from Tapestry Music: Many of the bell covers ordered through Tapestry Music have come in and will be delivered to the school soon.

For your child's music schedule and information on the music program this year, go to our new site: <https://sites.google.com/sd61learn.ca/arbutusmusic/home>



Library Safety

Thank you to Mrs. Popovic and Mrs. Haase for working to keep our Library safely operating this year. Through the use of one way traffic flow and regular cleaning, classes are able to access the resources in they need this year. Mr. Trans's class is pictured above in a research block on Friday afternoon.



New Automatic Hand Sanitizer Stations

We want to thank the District Facilities Department for delivering these new battery-operated stations (above) for students and staff to use. They help alleviate crowding in the washrooms. Students are frequently having to wash or sanitize their hands during the day and these stations will help make that process more efficient.

Covid Protocol if Your Child is Unwell

Please use the new and recently revised [Daily Health Check](#) form each morning (can be found on our website under "quick links") 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.