

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Arbutus Families,
Indigenous Education

Our work continues at Arbutus to implement the Calls to Action laid out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015. This will be a long-term process but we are committed to improve the lives of our indigenous students in the district and at AGMS. Most concerning is the disparity in Grade 12 graduation rates between indigenous and non-indigenous students. Our Indigenous Education Committee at Arbutus is working to build academic engagement and cultural learning, and advisory teachers are embedding First People Principles of Learning into their teaching. Pictured right is Mrs. Hill leading a drum group in Mr. Rosenberg’s Grade 6/7 class this week.



New Covid 19 Safety Guidelines: Our staff have been helping students prepare for the new guidelines (see Feb. 5 newsletter) which *will be formally required starting next Friday Feb. 19* at our school. We will be holding a Zoom assembly for students next week so they are clear on the new rules, once our Health and Safety Committee has finalized the guidelines and details at Arbutus. Many students and staff have already started following the new rules; the main changes are the requirement for masks in cohort groups, unless seated at a desk or eating. There is also a **renewed emphasis on making sure we are physical distancing 2 metres apart**, which may affect some clubs and groups.

Curriculum Completion Day February 19: Please look for letters next week from your child’s teacher indicating whether they must remain at school to complete assignments next Friday afternoon. This is often a good opportunity for students to catch up on any missing assignments before the Term 2 report cards are completed and sent home on March 10.



Sounds like the snow will start to fly tonight so stay warm and safe, and I hope the kids all enjoy the excitement this weekend. Also please take time to relax and have some extra time on Monday with your family on Family Day.
Enjoy the long weekend!

Rob Parker, Principal



| | YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday, Feb. 15th | Family Day Stat Holiday—School not in session |
| Tuesday, Feb. 16th | 3 pm Volleyball for <u>Girls</u> of Divs 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, and 15. |
| Wednesday, Feb. 17th | 3 pm All <u>Boys</u> interested in volleyball. 3 pm Homework Club in the Learning Centre after school. |
| Thursday, Feb. 18th | 3 pm <u>Girls</u> of Divs 2, 3, 8, 9, and 16, 17. |
| Friday, Feb. 19th | CC Day —early dismissal for students not required to stay—11:35am |

FEBRUARY 12, 2021

TEAM AVALANCHE

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Arbutus Spirit Wear is available for purchase!

There is still time to order your Arbutus Wear.

The online store is open now and will close on Friday, Feb. 19th



<https://arbutus.orderpromos.com/>



Our next Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting is on Tuesday, February 16th at 7 pm. This is a rare opportunity this year to connect with other parents, and with our Principal and Vice-Principal. Please [join us on Zoom!](#)

~ Minutes from past PAC meetings can be found in the [PAC News section of our school website](#).

~ If you are on Facebook, please join our private parent's group at facebook.com/groups/agmspac

~ Contact your PAC executive any time at agms.pac@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

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|-------------|--|
| Feb 15 | Family Day Stat Holiday— school not in session |
| Feb 16 | PAC Zoom meeting—7pm (Zoom invite to follow on Tuesday) |
| Feb 19 | Curriculum Completion Day— Early Dismissal 11:30 am |
| Feb 24 | Pink Shirt Day |
| March 10 | Report Cards go home |
| March 15-26 | Spring Break |

Masks and Water Bottles

Plastic cups will no longer be supplied due to the waste. The water fountain is now available and students should bring a water bottle to fill at the Bottle Filler Stations.

Please label water bottles.

Please help us reduce our waste and keep our school safe by **making sure your student has their water bottle and a couple of extra masks** tucked into their backpacks every day.

Our **District Careers Program** would like to invite you and your students and families to this exciting [career expo](#) on the evening of **February 24th from 6:00-8:30 pm**. Learn about exciting careers at this **FREE** online event for **young women and those that identify as female in grades 7-12!**

- ❖ Get ready to explore new career pathways with the Build a Dream **#DreamBig Career Discovery Expo** coming to Greater Victoria on **February 24, 2021**.
- ❖ Join us from the comfort of your own home, and tune in virtually!
- ❖ Young women in grades 7-12, and their parents/guardians are invited to learn more about careers in skilled trades, science, technology, engineering, math, emergency services, and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Making decisions about a future career path can be difficult, but we are here to help! Tune in to get insight into new careers, resources, and information, PLUS insight into different employers and post-secondary education options. This FREE event is here to help you, build your dream!

See the attached flyer for Registration Links.

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 doorbell;**

someone will come let them in.

Covid Protocol if Your Child is Unwell

Please use the new and recently revised **Daily Health Check** form each morning (https://www.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/91/2021/01/GVSD61_DailyHealthChecklist_20210115_parents.pdf

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.

