

# The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Arbutus Families,

**Arbutus Video Concerts:** It was great to see our Bands being filmed in concert this week to share with parents at home. Thank you Mrs. Hill and Mr. Mazza for coming up with creative ways to continue to show the growth these groups are achieving this year, despite the pandemic!

**Covid 19:** There was a very real reminder that the virus is on the island, after the exposure at Arbutus last week. Please see the emails and letters I sent out from Island Health on Wednesday evening April 7 for more information on how to continue to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.



**Safety in the Community:** We also had an incident in the community this week that helps emphasize how important it is to ensure our students are aware of the appropriate safety precautions to take if they encounter a suspicious stranger. Please see my email from Wednesday morning in which I shared a media release from Saanich Police regarding an incident that happened in the Queenswood area on Monday evening. <https://www.saanichpolice.ca/index.php/spd-media/media-releases/1514-suspicious-vehicle-prompts-warning-to-parents-21-7317.html>



**2021 Student Learning Surveys:** The Ministry of Education is again surveying all Grade 7 students and their parents in this annual online survey. Parents can access the survey at:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)

Go to the Parent Direct Access button and select SD61 and our school on the pop-down menu. Grade 7 students will be doing their survey in class with teachers.

Have a great weekend!

Rob Parker, Principal

	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Monday, April 12	
Tuesday, April 13	
Wednesday, April 14	<b>CLASS PHOTO DAY</b> <b>11:55 am Anti-Racism Leadership Group</b> —Cafeteria Homework Club after school in the Learning Centre Yoga Club—3:15-4:00pm
Thursday, April 15	
Friday, April 16	

APRIL 9, 2021

TEAM AVALANCHE

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## Upcoming Dates to Remember:

April 14	Class Photos
April 20	PAC Meeting—7pm Zoom
May 21	District Pro-D—students not in session
May 24	Victoria Day—school not in session

Have you ordered your yearbook yet? It's not too late—order online through school cash online. Deadline is April 23.



## Nominations needed for 2021/22!

It's that time of year - we are looking for new PAC executive for the next school year. Most of our current executive are moving on from the community, so please consider any position that interests you. We need at least three members to be able to keep our PAC active and receive and administer the Gaming

Grant - a huge portion of our funding. More than three members is better. It is a much lighter workload than what you may remember from your elementary schools. Please consider helping out - the funds have gone to new bike racks, sports equipment, Chromebooks, community celebrations, learning tools, emergency supplies, parent education, improvements to the Indigenous garden and much more! If you have questions, please email [agms.pac@gmail.com](mailto:agms.pac@gmail.com)

Positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Members-at-large. You can find descriptions in the [AGMS PAC Bylaws](#).

Want to connect with the community? Come join more than 100 other AGMS parents in our [private Facebook Group](#)!

We are pleased to let you know that the Ministry of Education has announced new **Mental Health and Wellness Sessions for Educators, Parents and Students** which include the following topics:

### **Parent Sessions:**

Mental Wellness  
Substance Use

### **Student Sessions:**

Stress & Anxiety

There are also four additional Hybrid VTRA/DTA full day trainings in May, as well as four Social Media Awareness Sessions for Students in grades 8-12.

**For more information and to register**, links to all trainings can be found on the erase website at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/erase/documents/erase-training-schedule.pdf>

### **Masks and Water Bottles**

Students should bring a water bottle to fill at the Bottle Filler Stations. **Please label water bottles.**

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

**Attendance** - Please remember to inform our Attendance line 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**.

### **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—found at <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/covid-19/> 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 spring. 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.

