

The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Arbutus Families,

Track and Field Season: It is very heartening to see this sports season starting this month, and so many students coming out to practice their events in cohort groups after school. This sport lends itself well to the Covid safety protocols because of the outdoor environment and room to spread athletes apart on the field. This year's competition will be held on-line with results posted to compare with other schools. Thank you to all the staff coaches who are leading these practices. *Go Arbutus Avalanche!*



PAC Parent Education Night on Anti-Racism: Many thanks to the parent organizing committee for a wonderful zoom session last night with Pulxaneeks, from the Eagle Clan of the Haisla First Nation. It was great to see so many Arbutus attend and take part in this difficult yet important subject.



Strings practice early on on Tuesday morning!

Ramadan: Muslims around the world are taking part in a month-long major festival called Ramadan until May 12. Ramadan is the name of the ninth month in the Hijri, or Islamic calendar. The word derives from the Arabic ramida or ar-ramad meaning a fierce, burning heat. The main obligation of the festival is the Sawm, or fast. Believers are expected to refrain from eating and drinking from dawn (fajr) until dusk (maghrib) for the entire month, a discipline that is thought to burn away all sins (hence the origin of the word 'ramadan'). The Sawm is considered one of the five "pillars," or foundations of Islam, the others being the Shahadah (profession of faith), Salat (praying five times daily), Zakat (charity) and Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca). Ramadan officially ends on the first day of the month of Shawwal. This heralds a three-day celebration called Eid al-Fitr, or the "Festival of Breaking Fast", a joyous occasion during which believers attend mosques, give gifts, visit friends and family and decorate their homes. One of our central themes at Arbutus Global is to **celebrate diversity**, so teachers will be sharing this cultural event with all students to broaden their understanding of the different cultures and religions that the world is made up of.

Class Placement Requests for September: For parents who may feel that there are special or extenuating circumstances about your child's placement that we need to consider, all parent requests need to be in to the school by **Friday May 14**. In light of the pandemic, please email your letter to our Administrative Assistant, Shauna Johnson at: shjohnson@sd61.bc.ca.

While most parents should not have to write a letter, we may in fact need to know about any special or important information that will help us place your child. Please note that it can be challenging to build successful class groups, and certain factors may limit a parent request being accommodated. We use a wide-variety of criteria when placing students in classes, including but not limited to: their academic and social/emotional needs, maturity, physical size, any special needs, past teacher experiences, and class size limits. Our overall goal is to build diverse and heterogeneous groups of students who will thrive together.

Have a great weekend!

	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Monday, May 3	
Tuesday, May 4	Track Practice: Div's: 2&3, 12&13
Wednesday, May 5	11:55 am Anti-Racism Leadership Group—Cafeteria Homework Club after school in the Learning Centre Yoga Club— No Yoga Club this week —it will resume next week Track Practice: Div's: 8&9, 14&15, 6&20
Thursday, May 6	Track Practice: Div's: 16&17, 18&19
Friday, May 7	

APRIL 30, 2021

TEAM AVALANCHE

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Upcoming Dates to Remember:

May 18	PAC Meeting—via Zoom
May 21	District Pro-D—students not in session
May 24	Victoria Day—school not in session
June 4	Curriculum Completion Day—early dismissal



Arbutus Global Middle School - Spring Concert 2021



Dear Arbutus Global families,

This is the time of year that we would normally be celebrating the learning successes of our students at UVic Farquhar Auditorium with the Arbutus Global community. Instead, we present to you our online concert and encourage you to sit down as a family and enjoy these performances and share them with those members of our community that would have attended our in-person concerts. Music has been a respite from this pandemic for so many of us, and we are so excited to share our love of music with you.

<https://sites.google.com/sd61learn.ca/arbutusmusic/spring-concert-2021>

If you are interested in knowing **what is going on with consultation and advocacy around proposed budget cuts within SD 61** for next year, [you can see updates on this Google Doc](#). Please also join us in [our private Facebook group](#) if you are on there and want to connect with the community more regularly.



Your PAC is **desperately in need of new executive for the next school year**. Please email agms.pac@gmail.com if you would like to know more.



Victoria Symphony Outdoor Concert at Arbutus

Div. 14 Grade 6 Band students were treated to a special concert (above) by members of the Victoria Symphony on Tuesday. It was inspiring to see such high quality professional players at our school for these band students to hear.

Mt. Doug Pkols Salmon Release

Mme. Caletagne's class has been busy incubating salmon eggs in the school since January and are pictured left releasing them this week.



***Changing from French Immersion to English Program for 2021-22?** For parents considering a move out of French Immersion for your child, please note that there may be space limitations in the English Program. **Please contact Mr. Parker by May 14** if you are considering this so we can discuss each situation.

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—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.

