

# The AGMS Week at a Glance...



Dear Arbutus Families,

It was with very heavy hearts that we began the week after learning of the tragic discovery at the Kamloops Residential School on the lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation last week. We have reached out to all students and staff to ensure they know there are supports available at the school to support them during this very difficult time. This is particularly true for indigenous students and families, who we know are deeply impacted by this news. Staff gathered at the end of day on Monday (right) to drum the Residential School song to honour the 215 children lost in this tragedy. This grim reminder of a terrible time in Canadian history can hopefully help all of us redouble our efforts to achieve true reconciliation, and implement all 94 recommendations from the Justice Murray Sinclair in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Indigenous music educator, Mrs. Hill, leading our staff in the Nelson Family Healing Truth and Reconciliation song, composed by Chief Frank Nelson Yekawid, Dżawataineuk Nation. Permission has been given for this song to be drummed in SD61.

**Grade 8 Celebration:** Grade 8 parents, please reserve the morning of **Monday, June 21** to join us in a covid-safe celebration with a drive-by and photo opportunity in our front parking lot. More details will follow on exact times, but cohorts will be invited to come by in 30 minute time frames with family members to celebrate that day. As well, a Grade 8 celebration video is being produced to recognize our Grade 8s and will feature traditional year-end speeches and performances. Grade 8 classes will organize celebrations by cohort in the afternoon that day. More to follow!



**Anti-Racism Leadership Group:** We are really proud of this group of students (pictured below) who have been bringing issues on racism to our school assemblies and in classroom presentation this year. Their advocacy to make the world a better place is admirable and I want to thank Ms. Schlappner for guiding and leading this group of students!

Enjoy the weekend!

	YOUR WEEK AT A GLANCE
Monday, June 7	
Tuesday, June 8	
Wednesday, June 9	<b>11:55 am Anti-Racism Leadership Group</b> —Cafeteria Homework Club after school in the Learning Centre <b>Yoga Club</b> —After school in the Gym
Thursday, June 10	
Friday, June 11	



JUNE 4, 2021

TEAM AVALANCHE

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## Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Fri. June 4	Curriculum Completion Day—early dismissal 11:35 am
Mon. June 21	Grade 8 Recognition Celebrations—more information to follow
Wed. June 23	Fun Day Stations on Field in Cohorts
Thurs. June 24	Last day of school for students. Report cards go home.



**Battle of the Books:** We had another great team effort in this year's Battle of the Books (right) held this week. This middle school event, arranged annually by the SD61 teacher-Librarians is a contest to see which school team can answer the most questions correctly on various books each team reads. It had to be held on Zoom this year but was a great success all the same!

## **Hot Weather and Hats for the Sun:**

Just a reminder to parents to make sure your child has a **hat to wear** on the hot sunny days this summer. **Water bottles** are essential on hot days as well. We had quite a few students feeling the effect of the heat this week. Also, don't forget to **get out the sun-screen** for field trips and lunch



Check out the article some of the students wrote about their DJ experience over the course of 8 weeks in the music exploratory. It was published in the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria's latest edition of their magazine.

<https://emagazine.aggv.ca/middle-school-students-learn-to-dj/>



Grade 8 Band in rehearsal on Wednesday morning this week.



Outdoor PE classes in action this week.

**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.

