



## Newsletter November 2011

### Arbutus by the Month- November

It is officially that time of the year, when the rain no longer catches us unprepared and the cold visits on a regular basis. It still hasn't deterred many of our middle school students to brave the elements in shorts. "They're just more comfortable," is the most common defense. Please encourage your son or daughter to be at least prepared for the west coast weather, knowing that they will be venturing outside most days.

With the increase in rainy days comes, inevitably, an increase in vehicle drop-offs in our parking lot. May I request that if you must drive your son or daughter, please respect the following expectations to make life easier for all. Students being driven: Westbound on Edgelow (up the hill): drop off at sidewalk in drop-off bays in front of the school. Eastbound on Edgelow (down the hill): drop off in parking lot. Please avoid the parking lot if possible. If you have to drop off due to injury or huge musical instrument, please drop off your child directly in front of the school, not the middle of the parking lot. For pickups, please remember we are an idle-free zone so shut off your engines.

November is also the time of year when our band/strings/choir groups are working hard in preparing for our Poinsettia Concerts on November 30<sup>th</sup> and Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Please pencil those dates in your calendar, more specific agenda to follow in the coming weeks.

I would remiss if I did not mention the PAC sponsored, Family Bingo night which is just around the corner on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The tables are ordered, snacks are bought and candy daubers (bingo terminology) are packaged. All we need is you! We only ask that students have a chaperone. If you are willing to bring four students, then great- game on!

Looking forward to meeting you at the Bingo,

Sean Powell  
Principal

## November Events

Nov. 7 – Family Bingo Night  
Nov. 8 – PAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.  
Nov. 10 – Remembrance Assembly – 10:45 a.m.  
Nov. 18 – Curriculum Completion Day –  
Postponed- regular school hours in effect  
Nov. 21 – Pro D Day – no school for students  
Nov. 30 – Poinsettia Concert – 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 1 – Poinsettia Concert – 7:00 p.m.

## Global Update

### Oct. 13: We Day Conference

Craig Kielburger, founder of 'Free the Children', an organization that empowers children in North America to take action to improve the lives of other children overseas, was one of the many speakers at 'We Day' in Vancouver on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen Arbutus students in grades 7 and 8 attended this amazing and inspiring conference. There were many different people who came to speak and perform: Craig and Marc Kielburger, Hedley, Mikhail Gorbachev, Mia Farrow, and Spencer West.

### 'Halloween for Hunger'

ACT (Arbutus Change Team) organized 'Halloween for Hunger' at Arbutus, by collecting non-perishable food items the week of October 31<sup>st</sup>. The team organized and ran the Halloween Haunted House on the stage on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Students donated one nonperishable food item to enter the haunted house, and all the food donations went to Mustard Seed.



### Remembrance Day Ceremony: November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.

Families are invited to join us for our Remembrance Day Ceremony on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 in the gym. Classes have been working on presentations for several weeks. We work hard to help students understand the history of wars in the past, honour those who sacrificed for us in past and current conflicts, and focus on the importance of working hard on peace at home for now and in the future.

We ask that all scouts, guides and cadets wear their uniforms on this day. We will be inviting them to stand at the front and play a role in the ceremony.

# Environmental Update

## Information from Environmental Leadership:

**School-wide Composting and Recycling:** As a kick off to our year-long Green Olympics, the Environmental Leadership group would like to focus on proper waste disposal and the cleaning up of the school grounds for the month of November. The students have noticed a lot of litter on the fields and other parts of the school grounds. The students kicked off the Green Olympics at this Wednesday's assembly. Staff handed out ROAR tickets to students who are picking up garbage or who are generally being good environmental citizens?



Student Photo taken for Outdoor Education Class

## Parent Reminder: Phone calls

Office staff has been overwhelmed recently with phone messages for students. While we realize that there may be urgent information to pass on to your child, please try to help us reduce the number of phone messages going through the office.

Thank you!



## Athletics Update:

If you are requiring the dates/ times of specific games or practices, please refer to your child's schedule, visit the athletics calendar across from the office or find it on our school web page.

### **Basketball**

Basketball season is underway and will wrap up during the first week of December. We have six different basketball teams playing. Volleyball will be starting in January.

Students will have to listen carefully to the announcements to find out when tryouts, practices and games are taking place.

### **Cross Country**

Congratulations to the grade 8 boys' and the grade 7 girls' cross country teams who both finished first overall for their age groups.

## ARBUTUS CLUBS

We have many different clubs at Arbutus each year. Clubs can be started by staff, students or parents; if you are interested in starting a club, please contact Mr.Powell to set it up. All clubs require a staff sponsor.

Students can join a club at any point during the year (except for Lego Robotics Club).

So far this year, we offer:

Monday @ 12:06: Anti-Bullying Committee in Foods Room with Mr. Powell

Wednesday @ 12:15: Global Leadership in room 117 with Mrs. Walker

Thursday @ 12:06: Clay Club in Art Room with Ms. Liddell

Thursday @ 3:00: Lego Robotics Club in the Drama Room

Fri day@ 12:06 Environmental Leadership in room 111 with Ms. Zumach

Friday @ 12:06: Dance Club in the Drama Room with Mrs. Watt



**School Hours:**

Monday: 8:30 – 2:45

Tuesday: 8:30 – 2:45

Wednesday: 8:30 – 2:45

Thursday: 8:30 – 2:45

Friday: 8:30 – 2:45

**Contacts:**

Principal: Sean Powell  
[spowell@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:spowell@sd61.bc.ca)

Vice Principal: Gautam Khosla  
[gkhosla@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:gkhosla@sd61.bc.ca)

PAC: Kami Bourgeois  
[arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca](mailto:arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca)

See our website at [www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca)

Call back Line 250. 360.0725  
Please call this line if your child will be arriving after school starts.

**PAC News**

- **Family Bingo Night**  
**Monday November 7, 2011**  
**7:00 – 8:30 – doors open at 6:45**  
**Bingo by donation (suggested donation \$2 per card, \$5 for 3)**  
**Candy marker refills \$1 per cup**  
 Concession hot and cold beverages, chips, candy bags, fruit, ice cream \$1.00 per item

Volunteers required. If you are able to volunteer, please email [arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca](mailto:arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca)



- Thrifty's Smile card application has been approved and all those parents that were issued cards may begin to use their cards again.

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**Important PAC Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m. – Library

- Budget discussion
- Mr. Powell will be speaking about report cards.

**Healthy, Safe and Caring Schools Update:**

**Mental Health First Aid Victoria** aims to improve mental health literacy and provide the skills and knowledge to help people better manage potential or developing mental health problems in themselves, a family member, a friend or a colleague. The program does not teach people how to be therapists. It does teach people how to: recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health problems; provide initial help; guide a person towards appropriate professional help. November 19 and 20 For more information visit <http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.ca/EN/about/Pages/default.aspx>

The **Vancouver Island Narrative Collective** is proud to host Vikki Reynolds, therapist and activist, as she speaks on how we as a society can take a stand alongside folks struggling against hate stigma and oppression. Reflection discussion to follow featuring faculty members from the UVic School of Child and Youth Care. Ideas discussed include human rights, social justice and how we can demand accountability and change the conditions that promote suicide. November 15 from 4:30–6:30pm at UVic Campus RSVP to [dsegal@uvic.ca](mailto:dsegal@uvic.ca)

