

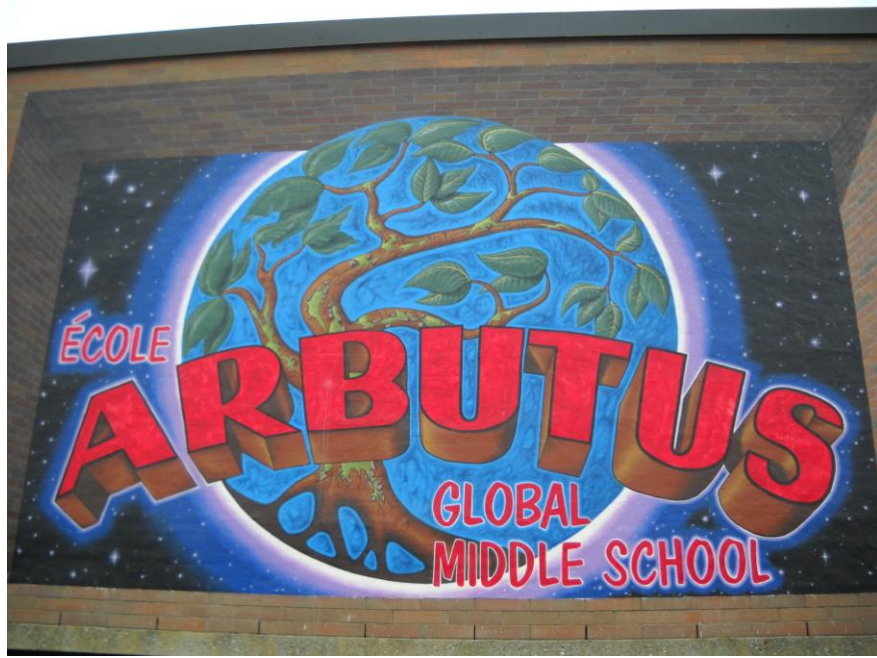
December Events

December 7th – Report cards go home

December 16th – last day before Winter Break

December 19th – January 2nd – Winter Break

January 3rd – School re-opens



Newsletter December 2011

Arbutus by the Month- December

As you may already know, under phase one of the current teacher job action, the teachers' union is directing members not to complete report cards. Working within these conditions, the school will still be sending home report cards that will include student demographic identification, attendance records and a message from the Superintendent of Schools. They will not contain the detailed data regarding student progress that you are used to receiving. Students that are in divisions 7-5 and 8-12, whose PE is taught by an administrator, will be receiving PE marks on their report card.

While teachers are not writing report cards they are continuing to record assessment and evaluation data. Teachers will continue to communicate student progress to the students through formative feedback, marks on assignments, tests and indications about overall progress. Teachers will continue to meet with parents, formally or informally, using a variety of methods including phone calls, sending home assignments, comments in the agenda planners and/or through email. Our staff feels it is important that teachers keep parents/guardians informed regarding student progress.

If you have any questions, or concerns regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher, or me at 250-477-1878 or spowell@sd61.bc.ca

Sean Powell
Principal

Global Update

Many of our students will be involved in the "Write for Rights Event" for our school in co-operation with Amnesty International. Students will be completing the actual writing on Thursday December 8th at lunch time in the library. These written works/presentations are to raise awareness to the cause as well as to provide teachers with a framework to write letters with their own classes if they so wish.

If you're unfamiliar with this event, Amnesty is describing it as one of the biggest human rights events of the year and they are promoting it at the same time as Human Rights Day, which is December 10th.

Please join us in writing a letter on human rights day — it's a simple act that can save a life!



Band Night

Thank you so much to all of our Music students at Arbutus for your fine performances at the Poinsettia Concerts that ran last Wednesday and Thursday. It was clear, from your performances, that you put forth a great deal of effort in preparing for these shows. Thank you!

Thank you again to Mr. Mazza and Mr. DeVries for their organization and leadership during both concerts. We appreciate your dedication to our students at Arbutus Global Middle School.



Athletics Update:

Volleyball season begins!

Grade 6/7 Girls Recreation Team

Grade 6/7 Girls Competitive

Grade 6/7 Boys

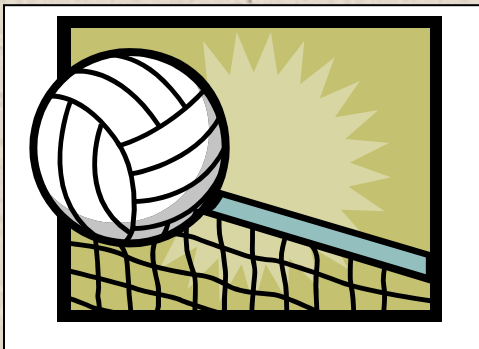
Grade 7/8 Girls Competitive Team

Grade 7/8 Boys Competitive

Please listen to announcements or check in with Mr. McKinnon for practice times.

GREATER VICTORIA MINOR BALL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Visit the website for information on **early registration before December 31st** and for regular registration sessions in January! www.vmbh.ca



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

Anti-Bullying Committee (ABC)

A.B.C. is a program/committee that is dedicated to bringing an end to bullying. Our goal is to highlight the negative impacts that the act of bullying has on others. A person should not be bullied for what they look like, how they act or speak. A person should never be bullied because of their beliefs.

ABC also promotes tolerance amongst each other, understanding that all of us are unique in some ways. We would like to thank everyone who has chosen to stand up to bullies. A special thank you to Sierra Boland, for all of her hard work and dedication in organizing this committee.

Please feel free to join us for our ABC meetings which happen every Thursday at 12:06 p.m.

-ABC

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

Vice Principal: Gautam Khosla
gkhosla@sd61.bc.ca

PAC: Kami Bourgeois
arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca

See our website at
www.sd61.bc.ca

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

PAC News

A big bouquet goes to Kami Bourgeois, Pac President, for all of her efforts in organizing the Poinsettia Sales for the Music concerts last week. Thank you also to Sharon and any other parent that helped behind the scenes in collating forms and setting up plants.

Next PAC meeting- January 10th at 7 p.m.

Division 10 Global Action Exploratory

After looking at the issue of homelessness locally and internationally, students in Division 10 chose to act. They organized the Winter Clothing, Blanket and Non-perishable Food Drive, dividing themselves into teams (Collectors, Advertisers, Sorters...etc). Students initiated the event from communications with the school to the receiving charity organization, the Mustard Seed. From banners to announcements to emails the students did it all. But it wouldn't have been a success without the generosity of the whole student body--THANK YOU! We have delivered the majority of your donations to the Mustard Seed and they couldn't be more grateful. With huge smiles Mustard Seed volunteers unloaded the donations. Even before the final food boxes were delivered, they weighed in at 141 pounds. Way to Go! When the receptionist heard that the bags and boxes were filled with warm clothing and blankets, she was more than ecstatic to accept them. It is exactly what they needed. With the campaign at a close, it is important that all students remember that the Drive was not about a onetime donation but also about changing our attitude towards the homeless and making a lasting difference. Division 10 has made a promise to educate others and to dispel the assumptions people make about homeless people. Ask them what they've learned! They'll be more than willing to share.

Healthy, Safe and Caring Schools Update:

The **Victoria Film Festival's FilmCAN** is expanding and offering an opportunity for young filmmakers from middle and high schools to have a taste of the filmmaking process, from the creation to the final exhibition. Youth are invited to make a short film on a subject of their choice. The winning submissions will be awarded prizes and be shown on the big screen at the Victoria Film Festival. Deadline for submissions is December 15th. More details can be found at [Victoria Film Festival](http://VictoriaFilmFestival.com) or by contacting mentor@victoriafilmfestival.com

On December 8th **Royal Roads University** is offering **Public Engagement and Communication Influencing Change for Sustainability**. You will learn how an understanding of the *people change* side of climate change can help you create more meaningfully communications, engagement and behaviour change programs. This course is part of the Carbon and Energy Leadership Certificate program. To register or learn more visit [here](#).

A Million

A million white trees growing out of
green land,
Each owning their branches, from the sides
and reaching the sky.
These trees are no ordinary trees, for
their branches look like squares,
And on these white trunks, their bark
spells out a name.

A million red cups surrounding these trees,
Though nothing has ever been poured
into them,
These brilliant red cups are only for decor,
Yet there is a meaning behind each
growing flower.

For all who have fought, have died, and
survived,
A million people will remember you by,
All your intentions and all your
good deeds,
We keep them in our hearts, with
red cups and trees.

