

## Newsletter October 2011

### Arbutus by the Month- October

September flies by as it always does, and leaves us with great startup memories and slightly cooler weather. The school has been a hub of activity during the past month as classes become settled, new students arrive and everyone finds their way and their interest in a number of different directions.

We have a number of school-wide events focused on building school spirit and promoting a positive, collaborative community at our school during September. The first week of school begins by assigning all students to **House Teams**: red, yellow, blue or green. Ask your child what house team they are on. Students can earn house team points throughout the year through great behavior, helpful acts and positive attitudes.

September began with school-wide **House Team events** and our annual **Corn Roast**. Thank you to Mr. Lemon and Mr. Khosla for your organization of the event. Thank you to all staff and parents that aided in making this event a big hit.

At the first monthly assembly our Media Team student group of Sierra, Jaymie, Michelle and Emmelyn were the MCs. We recognized sports teams, clubs, school-wide events and individual students during the assembly. Special thanks to Cody for playing O'Canada. Our monthly assemblies generally run at 2:00 p.m. on the last day of every month. Please join us if possible.

We also have school-wide projects connected to global and environmental events. In September, the whole school ran for the **Terry Fox Run** on September 28 and Global Leadership students ACT have been working with Mt. Douglas High School leadership students in raising funds for **Tour de Rock** on Oct. 7th.

Enjoy your month,  
Sean Powell  
Principal

**The Parent/Teacher interviews previously scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> have been cancelled due to Teacher Job Action. Students will be dismissed from school at the regular dismissal time of 2:45pm.**

### October Events

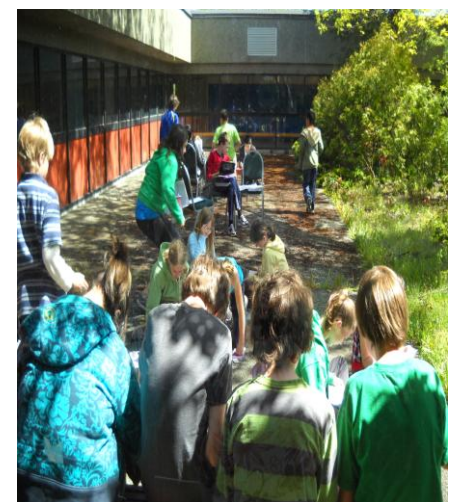
- Oct. 7 Food orders due
- Oct. 7 Tour de Rock at Mt. Doug
- Oct. 10 Thanksgiving holiday
- Oct. 15 We Day Conference in Vancouver
- Oct. 17 Food orders begin
- Oct. 21 Pro-D Day. No school for kids.
- Oct. 24 United Nations Day
- Oct. 26 October assembly at 2:02
- Oct. 27 Photo retake day

## Global Update

**We Day Conference in Vancouver** "We so often feel powerless to do anything about the many problems in the world around us. We are so often left to wonder whether one person can possibly make a difference. Mother Teresa said yes we can. Her life was resounding proof that it is possible." Craig Kielburger, 2010 '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, is one of the many speakers at 'We Day' in Vancouver on October 13. Thirteen Arbutus students in grades 7 and 8 will be attending this amazing and inspiring conference. There are many different speakers coming to perform: Craig and Marc Kielburger; Hedley; Rick Hansen, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Shaquille O'Neal.

By Jaymie Fletcher, ACT member.



# Environmental Update

## Information from Environmental Leadership:

**School-wide Composting and Recycling:** All classrooms and our cafeteria have sorting bins for compost and garbage. Students are asked to sort the refuse from their lunches before they go outside at lunch time. Recycling patrol students, from our Environmental leadership group, sort the recycling from the classroom bins into large containers and Ms. Hashka, our custodian, takes the large containers and the compost outside for our waste company. It takes all of us working together to make this an effective project. Our focus this month: take care of your own garbage inside and outside. Wrappers taken outside at recess and lunch need to be brought inside for sorting.

## Transportation to and from Arbutus

**Walkers:** Be responsible pedestrians. Look both ways before you cross the street. Stay on the sidewalk. Keep looking as you cross in the crosswalks.

**Bicycles:** Must wear helmet and have lock. Walk bike on grounds. Lock bike at bike racks.

**Scooters:** Must wear helmet. Walk scooter on grounds.

**Skateboards:** Must wear helmet. Carry skateboard on grounds.

**Students being driven:** Westbound on Edgelow: drop off at sidewalk in drop-off bays in front of the school. Eastbound on Edgelow: 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 pick-ups, please remember we are an idle-free zone so shut off your engines.



## October 31: Halloween: Orange and Black Day

Students are invited to wear a costume or wear orange and black. Students and staff are asked not to wear masks or to bring weapons (swords, etc...) Students will receive one house team point each for participating. It is a fun event and we encourage students and staff to join in. Photos will be taken at recess of creative costumes.

# Athletics Update

## Cross Country:

Cross country season is running along smoothly (sorry, I couldn't help myself). We have a dedicated team this year, runners willing to run on Friday, in the rain and even while being chased by bees. Thank you to parent Jesse Lyman for coaching and getting our season off to such a great start. Practices are Wednesday's and Friday's at 2:45. Meets are on Wednesday's and Thursday's.

All team members have been given dates and times for meets. We recognized the cross country team members in our September 30 assembly.

## Soccer

We have over 80 students playing soccer this year on five different teams. Thank you to Kerry Delaney, Mrs. Coleman, Haley Davidson, Chris Parenteau, Jackie Cummings and Matt Roy for volunteering as coaches this year.

We recognized our Arbutus soccer team members at our September 30th assembly.

## Sports Information

As soon as sports schedules and practices are available they will be posted on the Arbutus website.

If you have questions about our sports programs, please contact Mr. Alex Lemon, our Athletics Director. For specific information about

## 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:

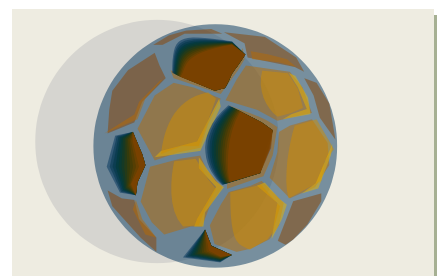
Wed. @ 12:15: Global Leadership in Room 117 with Mrs. Walker

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

Thurs. @ 3:00: Lego Robotics Club in the Drama Room

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

Fri. @ 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 by 8:30 a.m. if your child will not be attending or will be arriving late.

# PAC News

“Welcome back to what we hope will be an outstanding year at Arbutus Global Middle School. PAC is excited to be working with the staff and administration to enhance our children’s school experience. We are looking forward to celebrating our school community with two Family events this year and possibly an Adult’s Only Social Evening. Our first family event will be a Bingo Night on Monday November 7, to be held in the gym and our second will be a Family Barbeque and Games Day/Evening towards the end of the school year. If you are interested in being on the committee and helping out at either event, please contact PAC via our the PAC email address [arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca](mailto:arbutus.pac@vcpac.ca)

The start of the school year also brings with it PAC’s budget planning. Our budget will be presented at the October 11 PAC meeting at 7:00 in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the allocation of funds, please email PAC prior to Thursday October 6. A copy of the draft budget will be on the website shortly.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.”

## Healthy, Safe and Caring Schools Update:

**Clean Air Champions** has free, current, engaging and ready-made programs for use in classrooms grades 5-12. They include curriculum connected activities, ongoing staff support, and Clean Air Champions (National, Olympic and Paralympic Canadian athletes) to educate and motivate your students about the environment and personal health. Sign up now and book your Champion visits at <http://www.cleanairchampions.ca/>

**My Parks Pass** is excited to bring you **Canada’s Coolest School Trip**. Grade 8 students are invited to re-create a significant Canadian moment related to a national park, national historic site or national marine conservation area and submit their video. Winners receive 4 days of fun in Banff National Park for their whole class. For more information visit [www.myparkspass.ca/](http://www.myparkspass.ca/)

**Planet Organic Market** is committed to the personal wellbeing of its customers and the health of the planet. We offer guided store tours that highlight healthy eating, label reading, taste testing and the importance of a balanced diet. Staff can visit schools to do a healthy cooking demonstration or presentation on all aspects of healthy eating. We are happy to participate in any events with our tent and provide free cloth bags and organic bananas. For more information contact [chermanson@planetorganic.ca](mailto:chermanson@planetorganic.ca)

# Food at Arbutus

**Food Pre-Orders:** Students can pre-order food at Arbutus. Forms were sent home via Synervoice email to all families on Thursday, September 29 and were posted on the Arbutus web site. They are due to the office with a cheque by Friday, October 7. (Please note: if you did not receive the form via email, it means that we do not have your correct email at school. Please send it to Mrs. Carbery at [bcarbery@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:bcarbery@sd61.bc.ca).)

Food is all done on a pre-order basis. We do not sell on the spot.

**School Store:** Our MSIP class runs a small school store at recess and lunch. Students can purchase healthy snacks such as granola bars, rice crispy squares, baked chips, fruit juice and chocolate milk. The store is open Monday - Thursday.

**Friday Cookie Sales:** An Arbutus class will be selling home baked oatmeal chocolate chip cookies (which meet our healthy foods guidelines) on Friday's at 10:12 for the next several weeks. Cookies are \$0.50 each. They are delicious!