



## First Week Update of School Information For Parents and Guardians

Thursday, September 7, 2023

### **Important Information & Class Placement Timeline:**

#### **A Message from the Principal...**

Thank you once again to our entire Irwin Park Parent/Guardian community for your flexibility and patience as our staff has taken the necessary time this week to observe, consider, and reflect upon classroom placement decisions. Regardless of your child's final placement, our teachers appreciate your patience and support during these next several weeks while your child becomes accustomed to their new learning environment.

While we always hope to be able to finalize our classroom placements by the end of our first week of the Fall Term, this school year **Irwin Park will be delaying final classroom placement of students until early next week.**

Unexpected heavy enrollment at Irwin Park specifically, in addition to a surge in enrollment District wide, has led to a District decision to open an additional division/classroom at Irwin Park.

Therefore, instead of the expected 16 divisions that Irwin Park has had across grades K-7, this year we will be home to 17 divisions.

Since this district decision was only finalized recently, it has meant that our staff must delay final classroom configurations until early next week as new students continue to join our grade cohorts daily. As I have expressed previously, our teaching staff invest significant time and energy in the collaborative process of creating balanced classes and this process is not considered lightly as a multitude of factors are considered carefully. Our teams want to be sure to consider the many factors at play (learning styles, ability groupings, work habits, friendships & social dynamics, gender balance, etc.).

Like last year at Irwin Park, and at every other comprehensive elementary school site in West Vancouver Schools, we will have several multi-age grade configurations or combined grade arrangements. We are confident that all our students will receive the first-rate education they deserve, and our teaching teams are very excited and confident about the year ahead. Once again, as I explained in successive Irwin Park E bulletins this past spring, this is very much a normal practice and widely accepted across the district, province, and nation.

I have provided a [link](#) to our District Webpage that helps provide context and research to relieve any potential parent anxiety or questions about the efficacy and value of combined classroom arrangements. Thank you again for your patience and trust in our excellent teaching staff as we strive to meet the needs of all children, both academically and social emotionally; regardless of their grade level.

Once again I hope to be reaching out to you early next week to finalize our configuration process and to share more information. You can expect to receive an introductory message from your child's teacher shortly after our final configuration next week.

### **2023-2024 Bell and Recess Schedule @ Irwin Park Elementary**

Arrival	8:50 AM
Morning Recess K-7	10:10 AM-10:30AM
Lunch Eating Time	12:30 PM-12:51 PM
Lunch Recess K-7	12:51 PM-1:11 PM
Lunch Recess K-4	1:11 PM- 2:50 PM
Dismissal	2:50 PM

### **[School Sports are On! Cross Country Team Starting Soon \(Grade 3 to 7\)](#)**

School sports are ON this year and the first sports season, Cross Country Running, will be starting soon for all interested Grade 3 to 7 students. Races occur at [Ambleside Park](#) each Tuesday for 3 weeks consecutively, starting Sept 19<sup>th</sup>; with practices during the school week.

**All Grade 3 to 7 students are welcome to join in.** Parents and students can anticipate permission forms with more information coming home shortly. We encourage all abilities as the aim of the game is participation and healthy bodies and minds! And while you're at it you will meet new friends and teammates!

**\*NEW\* WVECA Athletic Fees** - Due to the increasing cost of fees associated with running our Elementary Athletics programs in all West Vancouver schools, the West Vancouver Elementary Coaches' Association (WVECA) will be charging \$10 per student per sport for the 2023-2024 school year. These fees were Board approved in the Spring of 2023 for the upcoming school year.

Payments will be made through School Cash Online which has been set up for each school through the District. **All families of students in Grades 3-7 will receive a School Cash Online message saying the payment link for Cross Country fees will be live as of September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please note that we ask you to wait until your child has come home on Friday this week to discuss and confirm their participation.**

**If they WOULD like to join the team:**

1. Complete the Cross Country permission form (Coming home shortly!) and return it to the school ASAP to Mr. Hamelin's classroom.
2. Pay the \$10.00 fee via the School Cash Online link.

**If they WOULD NOT like to join the team:** NO further action is required.

**Grade 6 & 7 Irwin Park Band Program 2022/23: Starting Next Week!**

Grade 6 & 7 Band at IRWIN PARK starts next week on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Students should bring their instruments and have their method book ready. Contact Ms. King at [janine.king@wvschools.ca](mailto:janine.king@wvschools.ca) if you need more information.

Registration is still open for returning band students and other interested students to join the Irwin Park Band Program at <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/elementary-band> - no previous music experience is necessary!

This is a user-pay program and there is a fee paid to the District. Irwin Park has a proud tradition of Band at the Grade 6 & 7 Levels where students learn a symphonic instrument. **Students currently in Grade 7 who were not in Band last year can also join the Grade 7 Band if they are interested** – special arrangements are made at the beginning of the year to incorporate Grade 7s starting as beginners in band.

## HOT LUNCH – Stay tuned for more information.

The IPPG is pleased to announce that once again the MunchALunch website will be opening in the coming weeks. Pls stay tuned to the weekly E Bulletin for more information on this fabulous fundraising opportunity for our school but also the provision of delicious and nutritious lunch menu items for students.

Similar to last year, lunch orders will be expected to be delivered to students at the school on **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**. More details will be forthcoming next week and all orders are made directly through the MunchALunch website.

### Important Dates:

Sept 11-15th	Half Day for KG & KG Intake Interviews in the Afternoon
Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Full Day KG begins!
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> District XC Running Meet @ Ambleside Gr 3-7
Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	Terry Fox Run for the Cure School Wide Run
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Professional Development Day : School Not in Session
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Inside Irwin Park – Orientation Evening (TBC)
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	Orange Shirt Day
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	National Truth and Reconciliation Day (Stat Holiday)

 <p><b>WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION</b> PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED</p> <p><b>RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS</b> Prière de les faire traduire.</p> <p><b>重要資料</b> 請找人為你翻譯</p>	<p>これはたいせつなお知らせです。 どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。</p> <p><b>알려드립니다</b> 여것을 번역해 주십시오</p> <p><b>CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG</b> Xin nhờ người dịch hộ</p> <p><b>ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ</b> ਬਿਹਾਨ ਬਰਫੇ ਵਿਸੇ ਫੋਲੋ ਫਿਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੇਖਾ ਬਰਬਾਦ ।</p> <p><b>INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE</b> Busque alguien que le traduzca.</p>	<p><b>اطلاعات مهم و سودمند</b> لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند</p> <p><b>ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON</b> Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan</p> <p><b>يرجى ترجمة هذا</b> <b>معلومات هامة</b></p> <p><b>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ</b> Переведите это, пожалуйста.</p>
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