



# **IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY** = E-BULLETIN

# A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians at Irwin Park Elementary

## Friday January 12th, 2024

**CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING ON @ OUR SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA** 

Instagram: @irwin\_park\_elementary

Click here for past E Bulletin Issues

# **Important Dates:**

Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	Black Excellence Day in BC
Jan 18 & 19	Gr 4/5 Div 5/6/7/8 Vancouver Museum Field Trip
Jan 23rd	1 <sup>st</sup> Gr 7 Basketball Game: League
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	District Pro D – School Not In Session

# **Principal's Message**

Hard to believe we are here launching into 2024 already but it has arrived, and with a bit of a chill as temperatures plummeted this week. However the clear skies and sunshine are welcome and keep spirits bright; however, seeing Mr. Boyd in long pants this week was a shock! We were happy to welcome a new staff member to our Irwin Park team with **Ms. Maryam Zaminigohar**, joining our team of Educational Assistants. Her talents and experience are appreciated. In addition, we welcomed two brand new students in Gr 5 and 7 this week! Our Gr 7 Boys and Girls Basketball Teams began practicing this week and will have their first game on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January with their final Jamborees slated for the last week of February. The next four weeks will prove to be exciting active weeks at Irwin Park with Basketball starting and our 7 different afterschool and lunchtime extra-curricular programs starting up for the Winter

Term. If you have yet to register for your child's program of choice pls refer to the past E Bulletins for registration links and details. Due to popular demand, we plan to offer not only one but two lunchtime Chess Club opportunities with Chess Master Luc starting in the last week of January; be sure to check out the registration information for Lunch Time Chess Club below.

Finally some exciting news on the new equipment front. Due to the generous support of our IPPG and utilizing funds from the IPPG Spring Gala Fundraiser held last spring, Ms. King is finalizing her request to purchase new Orff instruments from Long & McQuade which will be financed by those parent donations made last spring. In addition, families may have noticed the landscaping that was completed over the holiday break in preparation for the installation of our GaGa Ball Court. This great game was introduced briefly by Mr. Campbell at our last Spirit Day in June of last year and will be situated above our sports court adjacent to our outdoor class meeting space. Materials are being purchased and plans for installation finalized in the coming weeks with the hope of installation within the coming 4-6 weeks. Thank you again to our incredibly supportive community for their investment in our Irwin Park learners.

#### Information in this E-Bulletin includes several updates for families:

- 1. Panther P.R.I.D.E. Values Shared
- 2. Lunch Time Chess Club
- 3. Lunar New Year Planning Update
- 4. FSA Gr 4 & 7 Results
- 5. Library Corner Book Review
- 6. Community News and Ops

#### Irwin Park PANTHER P.R.I.D.E. Values Launch

Next week our school community will be introduced to our Panther P.R.I.D.E. values.

These values were selected collaboratively with the input of our Gr 6 & 7 students and will hope to provide the foundation for a common language at Irwin Park Elementary moving forth. Gr 6 and 7 students were asked to brainstorm and come up with possible values that will be represented by each of the letters in the **Panther P.R.I.D.E.** acronym. Moving forth we will focus on each of these values and unpack how making choices in our everyday decisions that reflect these values will help increase our **sense of belonging, understanding and mutual respect and safety**. We look forward to sharing what our Gr 6 and 7 leaders produced next week as a value will be announced each day next week, starting with **P** on Monday, **R** on Tues and **I** on Wednesday, etc.

Will our 1<sup>st</sup> foundational value at Irwin Park be based upon being **PERSONABLE**, **PATIENT or PEACEFUL**??...or will it be **POWERFUL**, **PLEASANT or POLITE**?? Based on the votes of our leaders we will share more with our school on next week's morning announcements. Stay tuned!

#### Chess Club at Lunch – Confirmed! Details Below

A chess club led by an accredited chess instructor has been confirmed for the Winter Term. Sessions will start the week of Jan 30<sup>th</sup> for Gr 2/3 (TUES) and Gr 4-7 (WED) at lunch in the library. Students will be asked to head to the library with their lunch and learn and practice under the guidance of **Chess Master Luc Poitras**. See the Registration Package and payment information at the links below. Register soon to avoid disappointment as space is limited.

More information can be found by emailing Chess Master Luc Poitras at <a href="mailto:chessinschool@yahoo.com">chessinschool@yahoo.com</a>

Grade	Date and Time and Location	Registration Link
Grade 2 & 3	<b>Tuesdays</b> at 12:30 – 1:15	Gr 2-3 Chess Club at IP
	pm in the IP Library	
	(starting Jan 30)	
Grade 4/5/6/7	Wednesdays at 12:30 –	Gr 4-7 Chess Club at IP
	1:15 pm in the IP Library	
	(starting Jan 31)	

# **LUNAR NEW YEAR Planning Update!**

Our IPPG Exec members are starting to plan for the upcoming 2024 Lunar New Year and our celebrations at Irwin Park to recognize this special time. We know that many Asian cultures recognize this important time of year with different traditions, pastimes and legends passed from generation to generation. We are hoping that our students and families can learn from each other with such a diverse array of students at our amazing school.

Amy Jungmi Hwang and I hosted a meeting of volunteers on just before the holiday break to put some planning in place. Our event will be inclusive, and community-driven with **Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanes**e cultures represented. If there are other parents keen to volunteer pls contact **Amy Jungmi Hwang** and she will put you in touch with your Cultural Lead. In addition, we are eager to add cultures that celebrate Lunar New Year and if you have suggestions pls don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Campbell.

Thank you again to the 8 volunteers who made it to our meeting. It was great to get our plans directed and on the path towards our February celebration date. More details will be shared in the coming E-Bulletins.

# **Gr 4 and 7 FSA Results Coming Home Next Week**

Students in Grades Four and Seven across British Columbia completed assessments in Literacy and Numeracy in November 2023. These annual assessments of academic skills provide parents, teachers, school, school district, and the ministry with important information on student progress. Irwin Park parents and guardians of Grade Four and Seven learners, please check your children's backpacks as their marked assessments will be sent home Friday. The assessments are a snapshot of your child's progress. Please note that this is the ONLY copy of your child's booklet. Any questions can be directed to your child's teacher directly or the principal.

# **Irwin Park Library Corner**

Each week Ms. Gratton, our Irwin Park Elementary Teacher Librarian, will be sharing suggested book reviews to for parents to pursue at the library or to read together online. If you have questions, please reach out to Ms. Gratton directly at <a href="mailto:dgratton@wvschools.ca">dgratton@wvschools.ca</a> Click <a href="mailto:here">here</a> to see this week's book review.

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Neurodiversity and Dance Classes**

My name is Miss Tammy and I teach neuro-affirmative dance classes on Tuesdays from 7:00-7:45 pm at the **Vanleena Dance Academy**, 1457 Marine Drive, our West Vancouver location. All interested families are invited to contact me directly at <a href="mailto:dance@vanleena.com">dance@vanleena.com</a> to learn more about the program (we also offer a free trial class!).

#### **West Vancouver Little League registration is open!**

- Spring baseball for ages 5-16
- We have girls only programs this year!
- https://wvll.ca/registration/

# <u>Cybersafe from Exploitation</u> – Parent Presentation January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 @ 7pm at the Kay Meek Arts Centre

Foundry North Shore and West Vancouver Schools are hosting Tiana Sharifi to present to parents/caregivers about cybersafety and exploitation. The presentation will address the root causes that would lead to exploitation, as well as provide tangible strategies to break down vulnerabilities that would lead children and youth into online sexual exploitation.

Registration for this event can be found here.

Cybersafe from Exploitation Flyer

#### Family Sessions - Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities

Safer Schools Together are pleased to announce that in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Childcare, they have opened four more dates for their "Social Media Awareness" Family Sessions. These sessions were designed to support families and caregivers navigate the digital world.

Dates, times, and information on how to register can be found in the link below. We kindly ask that you share this link with your families.

erase Family Sessions (saferschoolstogether.com)

#### **Hollyburn Family Services**

Hollyburn Family Services is offering "The Incredible Years" for parents of children aged 2-7. The program will focus on strengthening parenting competencies and fostering parent involvement with their children.

**When**: Wednesday evenings, January 10 to April 17, 2024 (Note: the program will run during Spring Break, March 18, 2024 to April 1, 2024)

**Time**: 6:15-8:15pm

Where: Online through Zoom

Cost: Free

Eligibility: Residents of the North Shore with children aged 2-7 years old.

Registration: for more info or to be added to the waitlist, please contact Marlae

Vermeer (Family Counsellor, Hollyburn Family Services): mvermeer@hollyburn.ca

#### **Rec Centre Happenings:**

# Browse your recreation activities and programs here:

https://westvancouver.ca/parks-recreation/recreation-programs-services/recreation-activities

# Are you new in West Vancouver? Come, discover and join us:

https://westvancouver.ca/newcomers

**Pauline Johnson's PAC** is again offering <u>First Aid Hero's</u> <u>Babysitting Course and Stay Safe (home alone) Courses</u>. The courses will take place on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> (Professional Day) at PJ. Payment and registration can be made through our <u>online</u>

shop until January 19<sup>th</sup>. The courses are open to all intermediate students, including those from outside PJ so invite your friends to join you.

Please contact us at <a href="mailto:register@ecolepipac.com">register@ecolepipac.com</a> with any questions.

### **BABYSITTING COURSE** ages 11 – 13

Time: 8:30am - 3:30pm

Students learn how to care for younger children and how to prevent and respond to emergencies.

Each student will receive a babysitter manual, and a certificate.

\$65/student

**STAY SAFE!** (home alone) ages 9 - 13

Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Helps prepare students to be on their own at home or in the community.

Each Student will receive a Stay Safe! workbook and certificate.

\$65/student