



IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

Friday, February 2, 2024

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

Instagram: [@irwin_park_elementary](https://www.instagram.com/irwin_park_elementary)

Click [here](#) for past E Bulletin Issues

Important Dates:

Feb 6 th	Gr 7 Basketball Bye Week – NO GAME THIS WEEK
Fri Feb 9 th	Lunar New Year Celebration – Irwin Park Style!
Fri Feb 14 th	WVSS Vice Principal Visit to IP for Gr 7 Orientation
Feb 16 th	READING BREAK DISTRICT HOLIDAY
FEB 19 th	BC FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY
Feb 28 th	PINK SHIRT DAY – Anti-Bullying Day

Principal's Message

This week was an exciting one as we were able to open the doors to our newest playground addition the [Irwin Park GaGa Ball Court!](#) Students have waited with bated breath. The game is a simple one and is fun for all ages, whether it is Kindergarten or our Gr 6 & 7s leaders! We encourage you to bring the family on the weekend so your children can teach you [how to play](#). Students have worked hard in preparation these past weeks learning the rules but also learning how important our Panther P.R.I.D.E. values of Staying POSITIVE, being RESPECTFUL, working hard to be INCLUSIVE and practicing EMPATHY when we win a lose. A big thank you to our IPPG and Irwin Park Parent Community who helped fundraise last year through our **IPPG HOT LUNCH**

PROGRAM and our **SPRING GALA EVENING** to assist with this purchase and installation of the Gaga Ball Court.

This week also brought the [West Vancouver Field Hockey Club](#) to Irwin Park as students worked through the paces with a coach from the Club who introduced them to Field Hockey rules and skills. Did you know that you are only allowed to make contact with the ball with one side of a field hockey stick? Some of Canada's top male and female players come from B.C. and West Vancouver specifically! Click on the link above to learn more as to how you can get involved.

As we prepare for **PINK SHIRT DAY** on Feb 28th, to stand up for KINDNESS and stare down BULLYING, we are inviting families to consider **sharing in the spirit by purchasing an Irwin Park Pink T Shirt!** Click [here](#) to check them out and order yours now! More information on this special day and it's meaning in the bulletin below. Order your T Shirt soon to avoid disappointment!

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

1. **Parent and Visitor Sign In Protocol** at IRWIN PARK
2. Lunar New Year Celebration Plans
3. Panther **P.R.I.D.E.** Values Shared
4. **PINK SHIRT DAY** T-SHIRT Opportunity
5. Community News and Ops

Irwin Park PARENT & VISITOR Sign In Protocol – REVIEW and REMINDER

If you are visiting the school building , volunteering, simply dropping something off, picking up your child for an appointment, etc. **please be reminded of the following general protocols:**

Visitors & Volunteers

- Please enter the school via the **front doors only** and make your way immediately to the office to sign-in. **If you are entering via another entrance, pls be aware visitors are still required to sign in at our front office.**
- Please be sure to have made prior arrangements before entering learning spaces during the school day (i.e., do NOT enter your child's classroom, even if it's just to drop off a lunch or project, these items should always be left at the office, so as not to disrupt the learning environment). This includes outdoor learning spaces such as the playground (recess), the garden, the outdoor classroom, etc.
- **Please do not "drop-in" on your child's teacher or other school staff.** Email in advance or call the school to set up an appointment time. Staff are

always happy to meet, but advance notice allows for us to give you our full attention at an appropriate time.

With over 450 staff and students in our building, our priority is keeping all of our community members safe and preserving the learning environment.

Following these guidelines will help keep all of the children safe and protect the learning environment

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION @ Irwin Park – Fri Feb 9th 9 am – 2:30 pm

We are so grateful for the planning and leadership of our Korean, Chinese and Taiwanese cultural leads who have gathered volunteers to collaborate and join together in celebrating this special time of year. This coming week we invite you into our hallways to enjoy the many beautiful decorations, lanterns, kites and flags ushering in good luck and health into our school for the Year of the Dragon. Next Friday we will be hosting a celebration in our gym featuring cultural experiences from Korea, Taiwan and China as we celebrate the Lunar New Year together. Parents are welcome to drop in during the day to learn and enjoy. Students will be enjoying the displays and interactive activities during the course of the day and we are so grateful to the many parent volunteers that have helped make this happen! Join us!

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

P – POSITIVE R – RESPECTFUL I – INCLUSIVE D – DETERMINED E – EMPATHETIC

PINK SHIRT DAY – ANTI BULLYING INITIATIVE PLANS

Each year in February, schools across Canada recognize the importance of stamping out [bullying](#). The term bullying is a term that can sometimes be misused and misrepresented. While life as a child and teen can be full of mean moments in our day-to-day experiences both in the community and at school, BULLYING is defined as a repeated series of PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL or even SOCIAL threats, intimidation, or put-downs that are a result of a power imbalance that target an individual or group unfairly. Bullying can be traumatic, hurtful, and is unacceptable in our community. While we work hard as a school staff, and community to eliminate bullying, it takes constant vigilance and attention to ensure that all members of our community are being treated with **respect** and **dignity**, regardless of who they are. Our PINK SHIRT Initiative is a reminder for all of us that we have a responsibility to stand up to bullying in all of its forms by being an active UPSTANDER rather than a spectator or BYSTANDER to bullying. We as parents can set an example for our children on how to deal with conflict

or situations like this in a calm but assertive and respectful manner.

As part of this effort we will be hosting our traditional and always popular [PINK SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST](#) as well as hosting an assembly targeted on the tools and strategies we can take to deal with bullying and stop it in it's tracks.

This year we are also inviting all families to join us in the celebration and showing their **IRWIN PARK PANTHER P.R.I.D.E.** in pink with an Irwin Park Panther Pink T-Shirt available to families and staff! Samples will be available for viewing next week as we start to prepare for this celebration of safety, community, and care! Learn more here: <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>

Stay tuned as to how you can order your very own IP PANTHER PINK SHIRT!

COMMUNITY NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Attached are documents for Community News:

The 2024-2025 Premier Academies are open for registration! Please visit <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/> for further information.

Premier Academies: Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Fencing, Field Hockey, Rugby, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball

[Early Years Fair 2024 WVCC.pdf](#)

[Spring Break PCC camp flyer Jan Feb.pdf](#) - Our Friends at Private Coaching Co. are hosting a Spring Break Multi Sport Camp!

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 \(saferschoolstogether.com\)](https://saferschoolstogether.com)