



**IRWIN PARK**  
ELEMENTARY

## IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

**Thursday, February 8, 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

Our most recent FESL - [Framework for Enhancing Student Learning: YEAR 2](#) is now available.

### Important Dates:

Fri Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lunar New Year Celebration – Irwin Park Style!
Fri Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr 7 Basketball vs BICS (Bowen) – Boys Away
Fri Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	WVSS Vice Principal Visit to IP for Gr 7 Orientation
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	READING BREAK DISTRICT HOLIDAY
FEB 19 <sup>th</sup>	BC FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	PINK SHIRT DAY – Anti-Bullying Day – <a href="#">Get Your IP Pink T-Shirt</a>

### Principal's Message

A ton of excitement has been brewing all week as we have learned more and more about the Lunar New Year and the varying Asian cultural traditions at this time of year. As we welcome the [Year of the Dragon](#) on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, our Irwin Park gym will be transformed into an interactive festival of sights, sounds, and play as classes will tour through the gym at scheduled times learning about the different cultures, their pastimes and history. With several Arts and Crafts activities, including fine Chinese decorative paper cutting and calligraphy, mastering the Korean games of Jegichagi, Dakji, and Tuho, and offerings from Taiwan including Bubble Tea and ring toss for good luck!

We are so grateful to the hard-working Lunar New Year committee and their leaders, **Amy Jungmi Hwang, Sunny Wu, and Angel Li**. Each of these Irwin Park parents has collaborated and led a huge group of volunteers to make our Lunar New Year Celebration a reality in 2024. Thank you to all of those who donated time and resources to make this a terrific experience for all. Check out some of the action that took place on Thursday as Gr 6/7s took a shot at putting together their [paper cutout activities in celebration of the Year of the Dragon](#).

Our Gaga Ball court continues to be a popular draw amongst students at recess time. **However, parents should be aware that there is no adult supervision after school.** Therefore, while senior students have been in the practice of signing a Gaga Ball out from the office, these games are run independently of the school and school supervision. We would encourage all parents to ask their children to be sure to play with sportsmanship in mind and to follow the rules that have been established. Several students have reported to the office that certain students are taking liberties during these after-school games, bending the rules, and playing unfairly to their advantage. Sadly, if this continues those students playing unfairly repeatedly will be asked to take a break from Gaga Ball after school and find alternate activities. Thank you for your support. We hope that after-school gaga ball can continue to allow more fun for all.

As we prepare for **PINK SHIRT DAY** on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 its meaning is 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 a number of volunteers to support a cultural exhibition in our gym on Friday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **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.

We invite all community members to join us in solidarity and consider purchasing their very own Irwin Park Pink Shirt to wear in support of kindness, inclusion and empathy, something the world needs a bit more of lately.

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 its 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! Click [here](#) for more info.

## Irwin Park Library Corner: Author Visit

We are excited to welcome Emmy-nominated animation director and highly acclaimed author and illustrator Jeff Chiba Stearns to Irwin Park Elementary next **Thursday, February 15!** Jeff will be presenting his best-selling graphic novel **ON BEING YUKIKO** to our Intermediate students and inspire imagination through an engaging drawing workshop! After the author talks, students will even have the opportunity to order personalized signed books with an original drawing by Jeff! Feel free to learn more about Jeff and his work by visiting his website at [www.meditatingbunny.com](http://www.meditatingbunny.com)

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Attached are documents for Community News:**

### **Student Cellphone Use**

Premier David Eby's announcement asking the Ministry of Education and Child Care to work with school districts to address the use of cell phones in schools can be accessed [here](#).

### **SOGI Non-Truths and Truths**

The ministry has created a new resource to help parents understand the non-truths and truths when it comes to SOGI in B.C. schools. Visit the *Resources* section of the [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity \(SOGI\) web page](#) for a copy of this document, which is available in multiple languages.

## **Cyber Safety from Exploitation Presentation Follow-up**

The Cyber Safety Presentation is facilitated by Tiana Sharifi and was recently shared on the North Shore. The presentation shared some great tips on what to look for and notice in children and youths' online behaviour to support their safety from exploitation. The website, **Exploitation Education**, has some great resources that can be shared with families. You can find the resources at the link below:

<https://www.exploitationeducation.org/free-resources>

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!

[Pop UP Play Story Walk 2024.png](#) - A Learning Opportunity for our youngest learners.