



IRWIN PARK
ELEMENTARY

IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

Thurs, February 29th, 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:

- March 4th Dreamriders Emergency Preparedness Assembly - Gr 1-5
- March 6th Rescheduled Skating Trip Div 7 & 8 (Due to Snow Day)
- March 8th NOWRUZ Celebration (TBC)
- March 15th Last Day of Term 2 – Learning Updates Released Online

Principal's Message

Thank you to the many families and students who supported our Gr 6/7 Leadership Team's charity bake sale last Friday. With over 700 dollars raised for the SPCA, we know that a lot of orphaned dogs, cats and other small animals will be provided for.

This week was an exciting one with our Gr 7 teams competing hard in the District Gr 7 Basketball Jamboree. Our Gr 7 Girls came up big finishing with a record of 2-2 and found themselves in a playoff for 3rd place. One point separated them from that bronze medal finish, but these Panthers can be extremely proud of their efforts all season and throughout Wednesday's tournament. A huge thanks goes out to **Ms. Fee** and **Ms. Daniels** our two great Gr 7 Girls BBall coaches. We also want to congratulate Mrs. Fee on the anticipated arrival of a new addition to her family as Mrs. Fee will be leaving Irwin Park on a maternity leave commencing immediately after the Spring Break. Her leadership at the school and skills in the classroom will be dearly missed. Our replacement for Ms. Fee will be confirmed shortly. As of bulletin press time, the fate of our Gr 7

Boys Basketball team was unknown as they traveled to WVSS for their tournament on Thursday afternoon. Stay tuned.

The week's high point was a school celebration of KINDNESS as many of our students and staff joined in on Feb 28th to celebrate **PINK SHIRT DAY**. Students in Gr 1-5 participated in school assemblies which culminated in a school-wide dance routine that involved a number of our primary classes being mentored by their Big Buddies. Check out our [Instagram](#) for highlights.

Most importantly, Wednesday's assemblies gave an opportunity to our newest student leadership initiative at Irwin Park, our **Irwin Park Peer Mediator Program**. This group of 12 senior students has dedicated themselves to acting as Peer Mediators during our lunchtime recess periods, circulating amongst the student body on our playground, and supporting students who find themselves in conflict. This is the product of 7 weeks of workshop instruction with Ms. Kelly Chessman, of the [North Shore Restorative Justice Society](#). During these workshops, students volunteered their own time to learn the different aspects of conflict, steps towards supporting others in finding a resolution, and building confidence in crucial core competencies connected to social-emotional awareness, empathy, and compassion. Our hope is that our Panther Peer Mediators will provide one more facet of student support at Irwin Park to create a culture of care, concern, and belonging.

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

1. **Returning to IP in Sept 2024 ?**
2. **Opt In** to *Just In Time* Text Messages from IP
3. **Term 3 Extra Curricular Activities – Registration now open**
4. Gaga Ball Before & After School
5. DPAC Parent Ed Event: Virtual Assembly - March 7th
6. Panther **P.R.I.D.E.** Values Shared & How Parents Can Help
7. Community News and Ops

Returning to Irwin Park in Sept 2024?

We will be asking all families to complete an online survey that will be sent home in the coming week to help us collect student information that will allow us to have a smooth transition into the new school year in Sept 2024.

We will be asking families to state their intention of whether to return or if they will be moving schools. We want to ensure that all current Irwin Park students have their space saved here at our school for the coming school year. Your attention to this survey is appreciated. Stay tuned!

Opt In to SMS/Text Messages from Irwin Park Office

We are exploring alternative quick communication methods to remind and inform parents of important events, last-minute early pick-ups, emergencies, etc. This is an OPT in only means to be contacted; meaning you will have to indicate that you want to receive these text messages. Messages will be brief and simple and not sent regularly.

We are hoping that parents will consider choosing this as an additional method of communication received from the school. This message option will not be in an open chat group or allow for replies. However, you must opt in from your selected communication device (cell phone). See the instructions below.

Text Messaging – For parents/guardians who would like to be notified of a school emergency such as power outages, severe weather or safety alerts via SMS

Please text a "Y" or "Yes" to 978338 to ensure you are on the list. You can anticipate our first message going out just prior to Spring Break.

Term 3 Extra Curricular Opportunities at Irwin Park

Term 3 is shaping up to be an exciting one with several of our providers returning to service students. Please see the bottom portion of this e-bulletin for your chance to sign your child up for several different options. This coming term will include Multi-Sport, Comic Design as well a new after-school YOGA for Kids program, among many more.

DPAC PARENT EDUCATION EVENING – Diana Divecha, Ph.D. – March 7th – 7 pm -8:30 pm - VIRTUAL EVENT & FREE

Children's relationships with their peers are crucial anchors of their well-being in every phase of development. What does the science show about how families and schools can foster supportive relationships at different ages? What's normal, and when should we help? How can we prevent or help kids recover from harmful relationship experiences? We will hear from an expert who can offer practical advice and explain the science behind how families and schools can foster supportive relationships at different ages. [DPAC Parent event Diana Divecha March 2024 \(2\).pdf](#)

To RECEIVE YOUR LINK TO THE EVENT PLEASE REGISTER AT dpac@wvschools.ca

Gaga Ball Before & After School Play - Expectations

Our Gaga Ball court continues to be a popular draw amongst students at recess time. **However, parents should be aware that there is no formal adult supervision before or 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.

Gaga Balls will not be made available to students before school and are available after school only on a sign-out basis. Thank you for your support. We hope that before & after-school gaga ball can continue to allow more fun for all.

Irwin Park PANTHER P.R.I.D.E. Values Launch – What parents can do at home?

Parents are asked how you can discuss and reinforce the PANTHER P.R.I.D.E. values in your own home and when in the community within your family. These are values that are not only important within a school community but translate into life.

Whether it is looking at things in a POSITIVE way, as "glass half full" instead of "half empty" or being able to express EMPATHY when you encounter a situation in the news or in the community that deals with loss or hardship; all of these are lessons that parents can impart on their children.

At school, teachers are constantly using a strategy called "Name/Notice/Nurture"; essentially meaning that when you as your child's most important teacher can positively reinforce behaviours, or actions and words that are in line with your expectations... it can make a big difference.

Here's how it works: by naming the act or words explicitly; noticing what may seem simple, with delight instead; and nurturing those feel-good results and consequences when those words or actions are taken by your child.... you can help reinforce the importance of these behaviours.

Thank you for your ongoing support to create a community of safety, belonging and connectedness at Irwin Park.

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

Irwin Park Library Corner:

Book Lovers Club: Thursday, March 8th 3-4 PM

If your child loves to read and would enjoy connecting with other students who also love books, the IP Book Lovers Club is for them! We will be assembling in the school Library on Thursday, March 8th from 3-4PM. All students from K-7 are welcome (gr 3 and below should attend with a parent). The only requirement is to bring along a good book to read.

We'll share book recommendations with each other, we'll lend out books (bring some along if comfortable), we'll read aloud for the group and just enjoy some quiet time reading together. Oh, and there will be snacks :) Book lovers, unite!

Irwin Park Elementary After School & Lunch Time Activity Opportunities

Yoga for the Body (Spine) and Mind

**Classes are fun using art, anatomy,
stories, games and songs to reinforce yoga
Equip your children for life's hullabaloo.**

Gift them with yoga: gratitude, stillness, self regulation, and physical resilience.

Prevent injuries, understand our anatomy and embrace mobility.

Breathe, chant affirmations, meditate, and thrive.

NEW!!

MONDAYs

**Kids Yoga classes with
Menka at Irwin Park**

To register, sign up on the link:

<https://forms.gle/zotCufFmxwVph3Hm9>

or contact menkapurswaney@gmail.com 604 861 3309

www.worldofyogaschool.com insta-kidsyogadancemenka

What to expect:

- *-Learn to meditate, say affirmations and practice stillness*
- *-Learn a brief history of yoga*
- *-Learn yoga poses and their names (some in sanskrit too)*
- *-Learn how the yoga poses affect our systems and anatomy*
- *-Hear yoga stories and songs while we do poses that reinforce mindfulness*

- *-Some arts and crafts sessions with the yoga to reinforce the understanding of anatomy in yoga.*

Time and Location: Mondays 2:45-3:45 pm at Irwin Park Elementary Library

8 Sessions: April 8, 15, 29, (No class on April 24) May 6, 13, 27, June 3, 10

Payment: \$120 +GST (\$15 + tax/ class) Please transfer the amount to menkapurswaney@gmail.com

Please download and fill the waiver from this link <https://www.worldofyogaschool.com/services-4-1> by clicking on the blue tab KIDS WAIVER. Kindly send it to menkapurswaney@gmail.com

Please note there is a maximum capacity of 12 students per session on a first come first serve basis.

ARTMANIA IS RETURNING FOR

LUNCHTIME CLASSES

TO IRWIN PARK on Fridays (Gr 3-7)

Fridays, 12:30 - 1:10 pm,

Comics and Game Desig

We have a booming game development industry here in Greater Vancouver, some say the digital media capital of Canada! There are a lot of roles involved in making a game but before the programming even starts, there's an original story to be written and an entire world to visually capture.

ART MANIA

Lunchtime on FRIDAYS

@ IRWIN PARK

We'll learn from the work of famous concept artists, illustrators, and designers about techniques for creating memorable characters and stories. Before we ever had video games, board games reigned supreme for immersing us in fantasy worlds. Create your own board game complete with resin game pieces!

The sky is really the limit when it comes to games, so it's the perfect outlet for creative kids!

Fridays, April 19th - June 21st, 12:30 - 1:10pm, 1 - 7.

COST \$154 NO CLASS MAY 17 & JUNE 7,14.

<https://www.artmaniabc.ca/class/irwin-park-comics-and-game-design-lunch-time-class/>

Irwin Park Elementary Grade 1-3

Multi-Sport After School Program

Dates: Mondays, April 8th - June 17th (No session May 20th)

Times: 3:00 - 4:30pm

Grades: 1-3

Cost: \$300 + GST

Private Coaching Co

Multi Sport Program

Gr 1-3 on MON

Gr 4-7 on WED

This excitement filled program focuses on FUN, physical literacy and sport skill improvement through fun games and activities. Participants will move through a variety of sports such as basketball, soccer, tennis, football, hockey, volleyball, handball, and more. Participants will be fully submerged in the world of sports and are bound to leave the day with a smile on their face, eager for the next day!

Registration: [Sign up here](#)

NOTE: This is a non-competitive program and is suitable for athletes of any experience or level!

Irwin Park Elementary Grade 4-7

Multi-Sport After School Program

Irwin Park Grade 4-7 Multi-Sport After School Program

Dates: Wednesdays, April 3th - June 19th (No session May 1st)

Times: 3:00 - 4:30pm

Grades: 4-7

Cost: \$330 + GST

This excitement-filled program focuses on FUN, physical literacy, and sport skill improvement through fun games and activities. Participants will move through a variety of sports such as basketball, soccer, tennis, football, hockey, volleyball, handball, and more. Participants will be fully submerged in the world of sports and are bound to leave the day with a smile on their faces, eager for the next day!

NOTE: This is a non-competitive program and is suitable for athletes of any experience or level!

Registration: [Sign up here](#)

**Lights Up Musical
Theatre**

KG – 7

**LIGHTS UP MUSICAL THEATRE AFTERSCHOOL AT IRWIN PARK
ELEMENTARY**

FRIDAYS

2:50 – 5:00 PM

Sing Dance Act Shine! At Lights Up Afterschool, your child can experience the joys and benefits of musical theatre by taking part in our afterschool programs led by our talented and experienced Lights Up Musical Theatre Schools staff. These classes are a unique introduction to our weekend musical theatre programs and provide students with an enriching, rewarding, and most of all, fun afterschool activity right at the bell!

SPRING SHOW! THE LORAX

This Spring, we will be putting on a musical version of “The Lorax,” inspired by the popular movie (and of course, book) created for our afterschool students!

Students are supervised from the bell. No need to pick up your child until 5pm!
Performance for parents on the last day of classes!

After School Fridays

APR. 5 - JUNE 7 (9 SESSIONS)

2.50-5PM

GRADES: K to 7

Fee: \$345* (*plus GST)

lightsuptheatre.ca/afterschool/irwin-park/

Ms. Cruz’s

Arts & Crafts Club

Tues / Wed / Thurs

STAY TUNED:

SPRING TERM 3 PROGRAMMING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

ZEN MAKER LAB

Design & Tech

Gr 2-3 WED

Gr 4-7 MON

STAY TUNED:

SPRING TERM 3 PROGRAMMING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Register & learn more about the programs at zenmakerlab.com/irwin-park

COMMUNITY NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Irwin Park Treehouse Spring Break Camp

Children from K - Gr 6

- Open 7:30am - 6:00pm - Field Trips, Science, Slime and more...
- *Week #1* March 18-22 (5 days), *Week #2* March 25-28 (4 days)
- Registration packages for new families can be found online at www.irwinparktreehouse.com - please email Spring Break in the subject line. Or contact Diana @ 604-926-4080

Private Coaching Co. Multi-Sport Spring Break Camp

- To learn more click [here](#)

WVYB NOWRUZ CELEBRATION CONCERT

- Invite your friends, family and acquaintances!
- Please join us **on Mar 13th at 7:30pm** for an evening filled with beautiful music as we celebrate NOWRUZ - featuring the premiering of an arrangement by Reza Kalantar of "Bahar-e Delneshin" (Sweet Spring) composed by Rouhollah Khaleghi with guest Classical Guitarist Golnar Riahi and the Symphonic strings. And performances by the WVYB Symphonic Band.
- **NOWRUZ CELEBRATION CONCERT:** tickets are available through the Centennial Theatre box office.
- Adult/Senior \$25.00 & 12 yrs and under \$10.00.
- <https://tickets.centennialtheatre.com/TheatreManager/1/online?performance=3087>

[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>

SPORTS and ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

The 2024-2025 WVSD Premier Sports Academies

- 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

North Shore Basketball Academy

- **Spring Break Camps**

Spring Break Camps are filling up fast! We are offering 2 weeks of camps running March 18-22 and March 25-28. We will offer camps for grade K-12. We will run skill camps for grades K-7 along with performance camps for grades 6-12.

[Visit our camps page for more info and to register.](#)

Spring/Summer Club Teams

Try-outs for Spring/Summer Club Teams for boys U9-U18 (Gr. 3-12) and girls U12-U15 (Gr. 6-9) are coming up. Try-outs will be held between March 4-11. Teams will compete in local tournaments with our U13-U18 teams also traveling to Victoria and Seattle for tournaments. [Visit our teams page for more info and to register.](#)

Thank you and hope to see you on the court soon!

North Shore Basketball Academy

www.northshorebasketballacademy.com

778-322-3529

ACTIVITIES AT YOUR WEST VANCOUVER COMMUNITY CENTRE / GLENEAGLES COMMUNITY CENTRE

Spring Break Break camps – Music, Spanish or Korean Immersion, LEGO, Arts, Science/STEAM, Sports, Gymnastics, etc:

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

Spring Break Intensive Group Classes Also Available for All Ages: Beginner French Intensive & Music Theory Intensive

https://anc.ca.apm.activecommunities.com/westvanrec/activity/search?activity_select_param=2&activity_keyw ord=intensive%20spring%20break&viewMode=list

Important Dates: Spring Program Registrations (April – June)

General registration for Spring opens on Wednesday, March 6

Skating, Gymnastics, and Swimming registrations open on Wednesday, March 13

Spring Learning Programs

Interested in indigenous beading or cedar weaving, learning Languages, STEAM, Chess, Lego?

Adult Beginner French classes available: After-School Kids' Farsi, Korean, Mandarin classes are also available.

Explore the Learning Program: www.westvancouver.ca/learning

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>

Aron Campbell

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary