



IRWIN PARK  
ELEMENTARY

## IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

Thurs March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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:

Tues April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	First Day Back to School! <b>Be on Time!!</b>
Fri April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Gr 6/7 Band Info Coming Home This Week
Tues April 9 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> League Ultimate Frisbee Game – Gr 7
Thurs April 11	Gr 4/5 Britannia Mine Field Trip
Thurs April 11 <sup>th</sup>	SING 4.0 Choir Event at WVSS
Thurs April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Math Festival – Including Parent Evening! Stay tuned!
Fri April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Emergency Student Release Drill – Early Dismissal 1:30 pm (TBC)

### Principal’s Message & Important Announcements

I hope that this message finds you and your family well rested and enjoying the sunshine as we prepare to return to school from holiday. We want to ensure that we express our gratitude to a number of individuals for their efforts in organizing several of our recent fabulous and exciting school events prior to our Spring Break this past March.

A huge thanks goes out to our contingent of parents who so ably supported our **Irwin Park Nowruz Celebration** that took place in the Irwin Park gym on Fri March 8<sup>th</sup>. Our entire school was treated to a host of exciting and educational activities that allowed students, staff and families to ring in the Spring season. Whether it was the integration of a Persian dance instructor, our famous and ever popular Photobooth, or the age-old tradition of “fire jumping”; everyone left with a glow and a smile on their face. Even more interesting this year was the integration of Nowruz traditions from Kazakhstan. We are so grateful for the energy and

effort behind the organization of this event and extend our thanks to the many parents who made this event a reality. Check out the highlights on our [Instagram](#) page.

Our last week of school before Spring Break ended with our **Dance in Schools** in-service, sponsored by our IPPG and led by in house teacher and Dance Instructor, **Ms. Alex Bleim**. We are so grateful for this annual tradition of being able to utilize the expertise of one of our own Irwin Park educators, whose skill and rapport with our students makes the instructional experience for our students that much more effective and enjoyable. Our students shone on the final Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>, as they showcased their talents and what they had put together during the week of instruction. Huge shout out to Ms. Bleim for her leadership here! Another standout event from our last week was our 2024 **Gr 7 Student vs Staff Basketball Game** which took place on our outdoor court at Irwin Park on Wed March 12<sup>th</sup>. These games build a positive culture of connection, belonging, and fun with all of our students and staff. With many students in K-7 spectating, our teams waged battle under sunny skies in a fun game that allowed our students to put their seasoned skill and youthful agility against the aging, yet timeless wisdom and veteran savvy of our IP Staff Members. It was a great game full of fun and memories and best of all, staff members remained undefeated **and** uninjured!! Check out the [highlights on Instagram!](#)

Finally, some big announcements to make regarding our current teaching staff. Irwin Park teachers and support staff sent **Ms. Fee**, one of our beloved Kindergarten teachers, off with positive vibes and smiles as she begins her maternity leave during our first week of Term 3. In Ms. Fee's place, **Ms. April Hopp**, has been hired to teach in Division 17. Ms. Hopp is an experienced educator with 3 children of her own, all enrolled in WVSD schools at the secondary level. We want to take the time to welcome Ms. Hopp warmly to our staff and the Irwin Park Family. Please feel free to introduce yourself and make Ms. Hopp feel at home as she greets our Kindergartens in the Panther Cub den each morning and afternoon. In other staff news, we want to announce that **Ms. Dixon**, our current Vice Principal and Gr 4/5 teacher in Div 7, will be starting her planned maternity leave on April 21<sup>st</sup>. While her stay with us in her first year at Irwin Park was brief, we are so grateful to have had Ms. Dixon with us and we anticipate her return in 2026. We will be announcing her teaching replacement in the coming weeks, as well as a Head Teacher role at Irwin Park that will assume a portion of the Vice Principal responsibilities in Ms. Dixon's absence for the remainder of Term 3. Please join me in congratulating both Ms. Fee and Ms. Dixon on their impending family additions!

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

1. **Returning to IP in Sept 2024? – Click [here](#) to complete [Online Survey](#) by ~~March 15<sup>th</sup>~~ – **April 5<sup>th</sup>****
2. **Opt In** to *Just In Time* Text Messages from IP
3. **Term 3 Extra Curricular Activities – Registration now open – **Arts & Crafts and Zen Maker Lab now open!****
4. Gaga Ball Schedule – Now in Place
5. Community News and Ops

#### **Returning to Irwin Park in Sept 2024? LET US KNOW!**

We will be asking all families to complete an [online survey](#) to help us collect student information that will allow us to have a smooth transition into the new school year in Sept 2024. Once again due to heavy demand for student spaces at Irwin Park our school will be arranging many of our classes in combined grades configurations. This school year we have had 9 of our 17 classes in combined grade arrangements and students continue to flourish. Teachers have actually seen significant benefits in both learning and community building within the classroom. Regardless, we are proud of the learning taking place here at Irwin Park.

We are now 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. Please complete the survey by clicking [here](#).

## 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 before 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.**

### Irwin Park Elementary After School & Lunch Time Activity Opportunities

***ARTMANIA IS RETURNING FOR***

***LUNCHTIME CLASSES***

***TO IRWIN PARK on Fridays (Gr 3-7) (SPACE AVAILABLE)***

**Fridays, 12:30 - 1:10 pm,**

**Comics and Game Design**

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.

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

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!

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### **Irwin Park Elementary Grade 4-7 (revised dates – see below)**

#### **Multi-Sport After School Program**

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

Dates: Wednesdays, **April 3<sup>rd</sup> - June 26th (No session April 10<sup>th</sup> or 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 AFTERSCHOOL AT IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY**

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/](https://lightsuptheatre.ca/afterschool/irwin-park/)

## **Yoga for the Body (Spine) and Mind - NOW FULL**

**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.**

To register, sign up on the link:

<https://forms.gle/zotCufFmxwVph3Hm9>

or contact [menkapurswaney@gmail.com](mailto:menkapurswaney@gmail.com) 604 861 3309

[www.worldofyogaschool.com](http://www.worldofyogaschool.com) insta-kidsyogadancemenka

## NEW APPLICANTS WILL BE WAITLISTED - APOLOGIES

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](mailto: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](mailto:menkapurswaney@gmail.com)

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

### Zen Maker Club Gr 2-3

@The IP Library - Every **Wednesday** after school

| Simple machines, building a playground and planting a garden – 5 weeks

[ May 15th to June 19th ]

**Price:** \$275

*Pls NOTE: No clubs on: May 22nd*

*This program is all about simple machines, building a playground and planting a garden. It consists of 5 weekly sessions, each focusing on a different topic and activity. The program aims to teach students about the concepts, types, and applications of simple machines, as well as the benefits, steps, and factors of gardening*

**No requirements**

Register & learn more about the programs at [zenmakerlab.com/irwin-park](http://zenmakerlab.com/irwin-park)

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### Zen Maker Club - Grades 4-7

@The Library - Every **Monday** after school

**Build Solar Power Projects – 6 weeks**

[May 6th to June 17th ]

Price: \$330

*No clubs on: May 20th*

*Do you want to inspire your kids to learn about green technology and solar power? Then this program is for you! In this 6-week program, your kids will build a new kind of solar-powered project every week and come up with solar solutions for various challenges. They will learn the basics of green technology, such as how solar energy works, how it can be used to purify, heat, light, and power different things, and how it can create art and music.*

**No requirements**

**Register & learn more about the programs at [zenmakerlab.com/irwin-park](http://zenmakerlab.com/irwin-park)**

### QUESTIONS?

For any questions do not hesitate to contact Jonas Lopez at [jonas.lopez@zenmakerlab.com](mailto:jonas.lopez@zenmakerlab.com) or call at +1 (855) ZEN-MAKE (936-6253).

**Register & learn more about the programs at [zenmakerlab.com/irwin-park](http://zenmakerlab.com/irwin-park)**

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## Arts & Crafts Club,

**with Ms. Cruz, our very own Irwin Park Educational Ass't.**

Irwin Park, let's get messy!

**For students in Grades 2-4**

**Tuesdays -**

***Arts and Crafts:*** For this term, we will be focusing on Paper constructions. Kids will learn origami, 3d sculpting, and paper mâché techniques.

Cost: \$225

**For students in Grades 3-5**

**Wednesdays-**

***Design Thinking!*** During this class, kids will work with a variety of open-ended challenges, allowing kids to express themselves creatively and take full ownership of their solutions. Challenges

are designed to teach the creative process—a system of learning where there is no right or wrong, and failure is a crucial part of the process.

Cost: \$200

**For students in Grades 2-5**

**Thursdays-**

**Art Studio:** Created by popular demand for kids who love free projects the Art STUDIO option is here to stay and has become a very popular class. The studio option is perfect for those students who love to work on their own projects, creating freely using a huge variety of materials.

Cost: \$250

***For registration please send an email to Elisa Cruz at [ecruz@wvschools.ca](mailto:ecruz@wvschools.ca). All classes will run from April 9<sup>th</sup> to Jun 20<sup>th</sup>.***

## **COMMUNITY NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **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

## **ACTIVITIES AT YOUR WEST VANCOUVER COMMUNITY CENTRE / GLENEAGLES COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### **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](http://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