



IRWIN PARK
ELEMENTARY

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

Thursday April 25th, 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:

May 1 st and 2 nd	VCH Vape Awareness Sessions – Gr 6/7
Thurs May 2 nd	Gr 7 Ultimate Frisbee – District Tournament
Fri May 3 rd	Irwin Park Bingo Night 5:30 – 8 pm
May 7-10	Stream of Dreams – School-Wide Art/Science Study
May 8 th	Student Led Conferences 1:30 Early Dismissal
May 14 th	Jump Rope for Heart Event & Fundraiser
May 17 th	Pro D Day – School not in session
May 26 th	IPPG Garage Sale

Principal’s Message & Important Announcements

Once again a huge shout out to all of those families who joined us on our **Irwin Park Family Math Festival** in the gym on Thurs April 18th. We had a great turn out with families from all of our grades coming out to explore and challenge one another with some real number crunchers! If you missed it you can catch up on some of the memories [here](#)! Turn up the volume!

Thank you to all of our parents and guardians who were able to support our **Emergency Student Release Drill** last Friday, April 19th. Our drill went smoothly, and we were grateful for the cooperation and patience of those parents and family-authorized guardians who came to school to pick up their child(ren). While no drill will ever prepare us fully for a true natural disaster, the steps taken and the protocol practiced are essential for our school team to spot-check various tensions that may require addressing in our effort to ensure a safe and efficient response in case of such an event. Parents are reminded that the parent reception and ID verification process, including the exchange of identification stickers for both parents and students, is always a measured and organized approach to account for the whereabouts of all students. While it may take time and seem lengthy, by keeping track of those students released from our building, and their planned path upon release from school, while also accounting for those students remaining with us on school property, we are able to confirm the safety of all. Once again thank you for your cooperation and effort to take part.

A Term 3 presence on our school playground at Irwin Park this past month has included our newly formed **Irwin Park Peer Mediators**. This group of 12 student leaders underwent 8 weeks of conflict resolution training with a facilitator from the North Shore Restorative Justice Society, beginning their work in late October 2023. Building off of the [*Circles In Schools*](#) project that was run at Irwin Park last school year at the Gr 6 level, students applied and were vetted and trained to provide mediation skills to fellow students on the playground at each lunch recess. Whether they are monitoring our Gaga Ball Court and reminding players of the need for fair play or providing support to students struggling over the rules at the 4 Square Court or who's next on the swing set, these leaders embody our Panther P.R.I.D.E. values and set an example for those around them. A big shout-out goes to Ms. Roughley and Ms. Paquin for their mentorship and supervision of the group and we look forward to providing future opportunities for these young leaders.

This coming week our Gr 6/7 cohort will be involved in presentations on **Vaping Awareness**. Two representatives from Vancouver Coastal Health and Foundry North Shore will be speaking to students about the risks and consequences involved in vaping and other similar tobacco products. We look forward to their presentation and are hoping to be able to put together a parent education event on the same topic to help parents become better acquainted with the risks and how to be that much more prepared to support their children in the coming years.

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

1. **Gr 4 & 7 Parents – Ministry Learning Survey Open Now!**
2. **Save the Date – BINGO NIGHT @ Irwin Park – May 3rd**
3. **Student Led Conferences – May 8th Online Sign Ups**
4. **Feeding Futures – Help Available to any Family**
5. **Elementary Band Registration Info – IMPORTANT for Gr 5 and 6**
6. **Kettle Corn Fundraiser _ Gr 7 Legacy Fund Due April 29th -munchalunch.com**
7. **Classroom Configuration Announcement for Sept 2024**
8. **Community News and Ops**

Calling all Grade 4 and 7 Parents – Complete the Ministry Learning Survey Now!

Live Now! Grade 4 and 7 parents /guardians are asked to complete the Student Learning Survey 2024 at the following link: [Parent Learning Survey - Province of British Columbia \(awinfosys.com\)](https://awinfosys.com) The Learning Survey gathers information on topics related to the school **environment, safety, and achievement**. This school year we have added some customized questions that survey parents and families on the sense of belonging and connection at school. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. **Make your opinion count!**

Please click on the web address above or this [link](#) to access the Parent Log on screen.

1) Scroll down to the "**parent section**" and use the "Direct Access – No Logon number" on the right side.

2) Feel free to call the school at 604-981-1240 if you need assistance! THANK YOU, Irwin Park Families!

- Please complete one survey for each child.
- Irwin Park parents are asked to access the survey using the Direct (logon-free) Access option by selecting "**45 - West Vancouver**"
- Survey closes May 3rd

Save the date for IPPG's Bingo Night! - Fri May 3rd – Bingo cards and pizza are now available for purchase online!

Get your ears open to hear if your lucky number and letter are called! Enjoy a fun Friday Night of Bingo, Prizes, Pizza, and Treats!

- Bingo Night is Friday, May 3rd, doors open at 5:30 pm
- Purchase your bingo cards online at munchalunch.com ; \$5 for 1 card, \$10 for 3 cards
- Order your pizza ahead of time online at munchalunch.com
- Gr 3s and under – **REQUIRE AN ADULT CHAPERONE**
- Bring your loonies and toonies for Gr 6/7 Leadership Concession Stand
- All ages are welcome.
- See what prizes you can win in the foyer windows at Irwin Park – BINGO PRIZE PREVIEW!!

Currently looking for donations of brand new items as prizes such as **toys, electronics, gift cards, decorations, wine** etc. Anything that you think would be good prizes for both adults and kids!

Drop off at the front lobby of the school starting on April 8th.

Thank you to our IPPG and to our parent community for their continued support in creating a sense of belonging and connection at Irwin Park Elementary.

Student-Led Conferences: Online Booking Coming Soon!

Our upcoming **Student Led Conferences** are scheduled for **Wednesday 8th** between 1:30 and 3:30. An online sign-up will be shared in the coming days with all families by email.

Students will be dismissed early on **May 8th at 1:30 pm** to accommodate classroom spaces for families to visit their child's learning environment. A Student Led Conference is an opportunity for the parent/guardian to be led by their child on a tour of their

learning experience both within the classroom, but also inside our school community. Thank you for your continued support of Irwin Park Elementary. We look forward to seeing families together once again inside the building.

Feeding Futures – Help is available now! Financial support for those suffering hardship to provide access to healthy food!

As part of the Ministry of Education and Childcare [Feeding Futures initiative](#), the West Vancouver School District has established a food security structure to confidentially assist students and families. The **West Vancouver School District Food Security Plan** will help students and families by providing confidential financial support for families facing food insecurity. Families are encouraged to reach out directly to their school principal if they need support with food-related costs. Please be assured that all requests will be addressed with sensitivity, respect, and confidentiality.

Gr 5 & 6 Elementary Band Registration Open Now

In Grade 6 students can join the **Irwin Park Band Program** and learn to play a symphonic band instrument. Learning to play a symphonic instrument is both challenging and rewarding. For information about all the brain benefits of learning to play a musical instrument, check out this [TedEd Video](#).

No music experience is necessary to join the band. **Elementary Band is an optional enrichment music program and there is an annual fee of \$390.** Financial support is available and requests to the principal will be handled in confidence. Registration is now open to join the IP Band Program by **CLICKING HERE**. To register your son or daughter for the Grade 6 Band starting in September 2024 **CLICK HERE**. Be sure to register for **Irwin Park**. Fees may be paid online or by cheque to the school office (cheques made out to **West Vancouver Schools**). Payment by cheque should be indicated during in the online registration form. Dividing the cost into a payment plan is an option – please email [Ms Verdicchio](#) if you prefer this – a minimum initial payment of \$50 is required to confirm registration). Contact Mr Campbell to arrange a payment schedule. Refunds for withdrawal are available by withdrawal deadlines in Sept 2024.

Parents are asked to pls note - **Playing a musical instrument has many benefits but takes time and commitment. Please discuss this with your child while considering this opportunity.**

Support the Grade 7 Legacy Gift Fundraiser: Cravings Kettle Corn: Order By Monday, April 29

Back by popular demand! The Grade 7's are holding a sale of **Cravings Kettle Corn** to support their **Legacy Gift Fund** – it is a tradition that the Grade 7 students leave a gift behind as a thank you to the community for their time spent at Irwin Park before leaving for high school.

Previous **Gr 7 Legacy Gifts** include *new water fountains, sports jerseys, the logo carpet in the front entryway and the Panther Den mural* in the undercover area. This sale was very popular last year, and all the products got rave reviews. Popcorn is on sale through [MunchALunch website](#). **Sales end on Monday, April 29.** The popcorn will be **delivered on Friday, May 3** and available for pick up in the undercover area at the front of the school from 2:45-3:15. Please bring your Munch-A-Lunch confirmation number with you to pick up your popcorn. New this year, Cravings Kettle Corn will also be on site for the **Family Bingo Night on Friday May 3** and will have fresh sweet and salty kettle corn available for purchase, along with some other refreshments. All other flavours must be purchased through pre-orders. Thank you for your support!

Classroom Configuration & Multiage Classrooms at IP For Sept 2024

As we head into the heart of our Spring Term, our minds start to turn to our classroom configuration for the coming school year. While Irwin Park's student registration numbers remain very strong with few remaining spaces, the pressure on classrooms district-wide in West Vancouver schools is also high. Students from around the Lower Mainland see WVSD as a leader in educational practice and student achievement. Therefore, to balance these demands we will once again be thinking creatively as we begin to configure our classrooms for the 24/25 school year.

The majority of classes at Irwin Park this school year are arranged in combined grades; this is largely in line with the large majority of classrooms in our school district. School administrative teams also must consider the potential changes to school enrolment that often occur over the summer with former students and their families moving and new families arriving. This often will delay final decisions around classroom placements until well after the first week of school in September.

We want to take this time, early in the game to remind our parent stakeholders that combined classroom arrangements are a very acceptable and sustainable arrangement for learning and is widely practiced throughout the Lower Mainland, our province, and in our country. Last spring Superintendent Kennedy has reassured parents at DPAC meetings of the rationale behind combined or multi-aged classes and the inherent benefits. More information can be found on our [District Website](#) on a page devoted to this subject. Irwin Park parents are encouraged to learn more about the background of [Combined Classes](#) as we prepare for the new school year in 24/25 as it is certain that our grade arrangements from KG through Gr 7 will

include combined classes. The following pamphlet published by Vancouver School Board provides a [helpful Q & A](#) around Combined Classes.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES @ IP	
Chess Club – Term 3 – GR 1 only Lunch Hour Classes Wednesdays	<p>Join the Irwin Park Chess club this Spring from Wednesday, May 01 for 6 lunch-hour sessions.</p> <p>The Chess Club is run by a Chess Master once a week at the library (12:30 to 1:15pm)</p> <p>All levels of players are welcome for grade 1 only. Students bring their lunch to the chess class, play chess, learn all the important rules and basic strategies.</p> <p>The cost per student is \$55 payable to Luc Poitras E-transfer accepted at chessinschool@yahoo.com Cash/Cheque also accepted.</p> <p>To register, email or text me (Luc) info at 778.846.0496</p>

Community News and Information

Parent Workshop Series Available Now - Solutions and strategies for those ongoing battles with your children over chores, respect and responsibility. Check out this opportunity now! [Parent Workshop Series 2 May 2024 \(1\).pdf](#) [Parent Workshop Series 1 May 2024 \(2\).pdf](#)

2024 Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools

Are you interested in learning during the summer? West Vancouver Schools will be offering a robust Summer Learning Program for both elementary and secondary students during July 2024.

Online registration for both the elementary and secondary Summer Learning programs is **now open**.

Elementary registration closes on May 10. Secondary registration closes on June 14.

More information about courses, locations, attendance etc. can be found on the Summer Learning information flyers ([elementary](#) or [secondary](#)) or on the [Summer Learning Website](#).

West Vancouver Basketball Club Summer Camps

The WVBC is proud to be offering its 16th year of summer camps this July and August. This year, the WVBC will be offering 4 weeks of camps beginning July 8 for players in Grades 2-10. All camps will be held at West Van Secondary School and will be led by former Canadian Men's National Team player and WVS Teacher/ Basketball Academy Head Coach Greg Meldrum. To view the full schedule of camps and to register, please go to <http://www.wvbc.ca>

ACTIVITIES AT YOUR WEST VANCOUVER COMMUNITY CENTRE / GLENEAGLES COMMUNITY CENTRE

Spring Term General Recreation Programs have begun:

Adult American Sign Language (NEW!), Beginner French, Indigenous Arts & Culture, Science, Chess, etc:

www.westvancouver.ca/learning

Music for Various Ages: www.westvancouver.ca/music

Pro-D Day Camps (May 17): [Visit here](#).

Important Dates:

Summer Camp Registrations Open on Wednesday, May 1st.

www.westvancouver.ca/camps

Other Summer program Registrations open on Wednesday, June 19th.

Browse all 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:

www.westvancouver.ca/newcomers

B.C. Training and Education Savings Program Grant

Please share this [letter](#) with families/guardians of students in kindergarten to Grade 4 to let them know their child may be eligible for a \$1,200 B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant for their post-secondary education.