



IRWIN PARK
ELEMENTARY

IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

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Mon April 15, 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:

Tues April 16	2 nd League Ultimate Frisbee Game – Gr 7
Thurs April 18 th	JRMF Math Festival – Including Parent Evening! See Below
Fri April 19 th	Emergency Student Release Drill – Early Dismissal 1:30 pm
Fri May 3 rd	Irwin Park Bingo Night 5:30 – 8 pm
May 7-10	Stream of Dreams – School Wide Art/Science Study

May 8th

Student Led Conferences 1:30 Early Dismissal

Principal's Message & Important Announcements

Apologies for the late distribution of this week's edition of the Irwin Park E Bulletin. We had an unexpected arrival this past week with our Vice Principal and Gr 4/5 teacher, Ms. Kirsten Dixon, welcoming her 2nd child, a healthy baby boy to the Irwin Park family. While Ms. Dixon's maternity leave was not to start until April 22nd, someone had different ideas. 😊 While we want to assure families that both Ms. Dixon, and new baby are resting comfortably at home, we have just recently announced that **Ms. Alex Bleim, current Gr 4/5 teacher in Division 6, will be assuming the role of Head Teacher** in the absence of Vice Principal Dixon. We are grateful that Ms. Bleim's experience at Irwin Park and her leadership potential and commitment make her an excellent candidate for the Head Teacher position at this time. We hope to be able to announce a permanent replacement in September 2024 for the Irwin Park Vice Principal role.

This week we want to ensure that all parents are aware of the [JRMF Math Festival](#) that will take place this Thursday in the Irwin Park gym. Students will rotate through the gym in their classes and be treated to an assortment of math games, puzzles and brain teasers that celebrate the curiosity and magic of numbers and all things numeracy. Gr 6 & 7 students will be facilitating the activities after a brief training session Thursday morning before classes begin to visit. A bonus at our Festival this year will be the offering of a **Family Math Festival Evening on Thursday evening between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm**. Watch your kids play puzzles and games (and learn some math while they're at it!) at the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival. Families from grades K-7 will explore math in a collaborative atmosphere by choosing a table with a puzzle or game and solving it before moving to the next table. Stay a while, stay a little; families are welcome to drop in and check out the learning and discover the magic together with their children. We are encouraging all students to bring their family to visit the IP Gym on Thursday evening to check out the Math Festival and celebrate learning together! You can check out what it all looks like [here](#).

Finally, we are planning to hold our **Emergency Student Release Drill this Friday April 19th beginning at 1:30**. This is an important practice opportunity for our school staff and parent community to become familiar with the Emergency Protocol that we will follow in order to ensure that the school building is as safe and secure as possible in the aftermath of a natural disaster. This will mean that students will be ready to be picked up by parents or approved guardians this Friday starting at 1:30 pm. We would ask that parents confirm their approved Emergency Contacts that were shared with the Irwin Park office when these Emergency Forms were returned in September of this past year. It must be understood, that students will **NOT** be released to family contacts that are not on the submitted approved contact list. For more information, please refer to the email sent home earlier this past week from Ms. Verdicchio and Ms. Dixon that listed the process in detail. Should families still have questions we encourage you to contact the Irwin Park office directly.

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

1. **Save the Date – BINGO NIGHT @ Irwin Park – May 3rd**
2. **Irwin Park Math Festival is Coming! April 18th**

3. **Elementary Band Registration Info – IMPORTANT for Gr 5 and 6**
4. **Classroom Configuration Announcement for Sept 2024**
5. **Growing Smiles Plant IPPG Spring Fundraiser**
6. **Emergency Release Details: Fri April 19th**
7. **Community News and Ops**

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

Get your ears open to hear if your lucky number and letter are called! Enjoy a fund 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 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.

IRWIN PARK MATH FESTIVAL – Thurs April 18th – Family Night – 6:00 – 7:30 pm

The Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival (jrmf.org) is a math education nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower schools and communities to create magical math moments for children. They have created a variety of engaging math activities that help children of all ages develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Whether it's a whole-school festival or a Family Math Night, their ultimate goal is to have children leave feeling joyful and confident about math. Irwin Park will be hosting a **Math festival with the JRMF on Thursday, April 18th**. Students will be rotating through the festival which will take place in our school gym throughout the school day. In the evening we are hosting a Family Math Night 6 pm to 7:30 pm in the gym. Parents and their children are invited to join us at their leisure to celebrate the world of numbers and the importance of numeracy. Watch your kids play puzzles and games (and learn some math while they're at it!) Families from grades K-7 will explore math in a collaborative atmosphere by choosing a table with a puzzle or game and solving it before moving to the next table. Gr 6/7 leadership students will be on hand to support and facilitate families in learning the different games. Creating and revising some of the traditional attitudes towards mathematics is a crucial step in our effort to create a growth mindset within our children and students. Your effort to celebrate and have fun with your child at our math festival will

be a terrific learning opportunity for all. You can check out the video shared from another math festival here. Mark Thurs April 18th down in your calendar now!

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(s). 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.**

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 addressed this idea at a [DPAC meeting](#) and reassured parents at the meeting 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.

GROWING SMILES SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER!

Back by popular demand! The Grade 7's are fundraising with the sale of beautiful spring plants, to raise money to support their graduation ceremony. Beautiful spring plants, perfect for Mother's Day, gifts, and home, including: hanging baskets, patio planters, veggies, petunias and more! Ordering is now open, through until April 22nd. **Pick-up will be the front of Irwin Park (undercover area) on May 8th from 2pm to 4pm.** Please see the following link for more information and to place your order:

irwinparkelementary.growingsmilesfundraising.com

Emergency Student Release Information

A student release drill has been planned for **Friday, April 19 from 1:30-2:50 pm.** The purpose of this drill is to give students, staff, and parents/guardians a trial run of the school's release plan for students in the event of an emergency that could result in pick up delays and the school needing to shelter the students beyond the usual school day. Following this type of emergency, students need to be organized and signed out in an orderly manner to ensure they are released to an authorized parent or guardian. **Although this is a drill parents are asked to participate by ensuring they are able to pick up their child(ren) early at the assigned time on the afternoon of April 19th.** This will allow caretakers to become familiar with our streamlined student sign out procedure in the event of an emergency release. If you are unable to pick up your child, only those alternative caretakers that families have specified on their Student Information Document will be permitted to sign out a student. We are expecting parents to arrange early pick up so we can practice our Emergency Release protocol and parents will be that much more familiar with this process. . Any students not picked up, will be dismissed at their regular dismissal time (2:50 pm or 3:00 pm). More information about the drill will be shared next week and in the days leading up to the drill. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Verdicchio at lverdicchio@wvschools.ca

Irwin Park After School and Lunch Time Extra Curricular Ops

<p>Art Mania – Lunch Hour Classes</p> <p>Fridays</p>	<p>Space still available in Friday at Lunch in T3</p> <p>Ages 6-13 – Gr 1-7</p> <p>Click here to register for Irwin Park lunch time class.</p>
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<p>Chess Club – Term 3 Opportunities</p> <p>Lunch Hour Classes Wednesdays</p>	<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. To register, email or text me (Luc) info at 778.846.0496</p>
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Community News and Information

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](#).

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.

Aron Campbell

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary