



IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN



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

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Thursday, May 2, 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:

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

Congrats to our amazing **Gr 7 Ultimate Frisbee** team that shone at the District Tournament Thursday afternoon. At press time, results have just been shared that the team took home 3rd place overall after an amazing showing over the course of the afternoon winning the majority of their matches but losing a few very close games. With only 3 weeks of competitions to prepare for today's district jamboree against 9 other teams their efforts resulted in a top-three finish. We couldn't be prouder of our Panthers and our devoted Ultimate coaches, Ms. Paquin, Ms. Pierce, and our number one Spirit Coach, Educational Ass't Mrs. G! These athletes will continue to roll as many of them have already started to join our Track and Field team with practices starting this week and continuing over the coming weeks as we prepare for the District Track Meet at Terry Fox Field at SFU on Thurs June 6th! Hear our Panthers roar!!

We are looking forward to our **[Stream of Dreams Fish on Fences](#)** environmental and fine arts experience that each student at Irwin Park will participate in next week starting on Tuesday and running through to Friday. Each class will participate in an environmental science and ecology presentation about salmon habitat the importance of our choices each day and their impact on our environment. After taking place in the education portion, students and staff will all have the chance to design their very own personal salmon which will be collected and arranged in a school-wide display on our fences, not only beautifying our school grounds but providing a legacy piece to reflect upon for years to come. You can learn more about this project with the media provided [here](#). Thank you to the many volunteers who have put forth their names to join us next Friday, May 10th to help us arrange the fish on the fence with our facilitators and our IPPG for financial support. We are now at our limit for volunteers and appreciate the enthusiasm of our parent group at Irwin Park when we appealed last week!

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 have tentatively put together a parent education evening event at Irwin Park 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. If you are interested in attending this event pls RSVP at the [link](#) here.

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

1. **Gr 4 & 7 Parents – Ministry Learning Survey Open Now!**
2. **BINGO NIGHT @ Irwin Park – May 3rd**
3. **Kettle Corn Pick Up – 2:50 pm Fri at IP**
4. **Student Led Conferences – May 8th Online Sign-Ups**
5. **Feeding Futures – Help Available to any Family with food affordability**
6. **Elementary Band Registration Info – IMPORTANT for Gr 5 and 6**
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
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Grade 7 Legacy Fund and Cravings Kettle Corn – PICK UP FRI May 3rd at 2:50 pm

Thank you to everyone who purchased Cravings Kettle Corn. Altogether, **almost \$2000 was raised to support the Grade 7 Legacy Fund!** Stay tuned to find out what gift the Grade 7's will choose to leave to the school with this money. Popcorn needs to be picked up tomorrow, Friday, May 3, after school in the undercover area. Please have access to your Munch-a-Lunch confirmation order as all orders need to be made in advance.

Don't worry if you missed out on the opportunity to order, however. Cravings Kettle Corn will be here for Bingo night tomorrow as well. They will be selling fresh popped sweet and salty popcorn and mini donuts. They can accept debit cards. Find them outside by the portable on the 4-square court. The Grade 7's will also be selling candy bags for \$1 and Bubby for \$2. They will also be set up in the gym.

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.
- Cravings Kettle Corn will be on site with Mini Donuts and Kettle Corn snacks
- Flavours include: kettle corn, butter popcorn, cinnamon kettle corn – Prices: Small \$5, medium \$8, large \$9
- Mini donuts - half dozen \$5, dozen \$9

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. All families will be asked to enter via our back doors and check in with IPPG Volunteers at our Library Doors!

Student-Led Conferences: Online Booking Open Now! Click [here](#) to book!

Our upcoming **Student Led Conferences** are scheduled for **Wednesday 8th** between 1:30 and 3:30. An online sign-up was shared with all families earlier this week and our sign-ups are strong. If you have not signed up for your session to be led through your child's learning by your child this coming Wednesday sign up [here](#)!

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.

Pls Note *** 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. While teachers will be available to answer questions and facilitate in some presentations, we ask parents to allow their child to take the lead and for parents to be curious, supportive, and enthusiastic of your child's accomplishments. 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.**

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.

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](#).

[Valerie Jerome event May 2024.pdf](#)

Please join us for a discussion with author, educator, Olympian and advocate **Valerie Jerome**. Wednesday, May 22nd at 730 pm Kay Meek Theatre. Your complimentary tickets can be reserved here <https://kaymeek.com/events/valerie-0522>

BC Youth Week is a celebration of youth held annually during the first week of May. It is a week of fun, interaction, and celebration intended to build a strong connection between young people and their communities and to profile the accomplishments and diversity of youth. Please go www.westvancouver.ca/youthweek to see all the different events that we have planned!

The Spring Food Bank Challenge

The Spring Food Bank Challenge offers an opportunity for the communities served by the Greater Vancouver Food Bank to unite in support of our neighbors in need. Summertime poses significant challenges for the Food Bank due to it being an overlooked season for giving, compounded by heightened demand for our services. During the summer months, the need for our food support increases as families with school-aged children lose access to in-school food support programs and face increased childcare expenses.

Formerly known as the Mayor's Food Bank Challenge, we have transitioned to a more inclusive and less politically focused spring challenge aimed at uniting communities through friendly competition. Each of the GVFB's distribution areas will host its own fundraising page, encouraging community members to donate to their preferred area (or to the general page to support all GVFB clients equally). The area that collects the most funds per capita will emerge as the winner of the challenge, earning a fun prize: 50 pairs of tickets to Foodstock, the GVFB's fundraiser festival scheduled for June 23, 2024, at Swangard Stadium.

Make your donation to the North Shore fundraising page through the QR code below or this link:

<https://events.foodbank.bc.ca/team/northshore>

If you feel your family is in need of food support, please contact the GVFB at 604-876-3601 or reception@foodbank.bc.ca to book a registration appointment. Please allow 3 business days for a reply to your message. More information at foodbank.bc.ca.

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.

[Ferry Building Grad Art Show - Invitation PDF](#)

Aron Campbell

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary

