



**IRWIN PARK**  
ELEMENTARY

## IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

**Thursday, May 9th, 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:**

May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jump Rope for Heart Event & Fundraiser
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	WVSS Band Fest for Gr 7 Band
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome To Kindergarten – Meet and Greet
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pro D Day – School not in session
<del>May 26<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>IPPG Garage Sale-CANCELLED</del>
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Artist in Residence w/ Gr 7 Legacy Gift

## Principal's Message & Important Announcements

It's been a great week working with the team from the [Stream of Dreams Fish on Fences](#) environmental and fine arts team that has been here since Tuesday working with our students.

Each student and staff member has been able to create a salmon of their own that will adorn our perimeter fence and be a visual reminder of the responsibility we all hold to protecting our streams, spillways and storm drains from contamination. We want to express a big thank you to the roughly 12 parents that will be joining us on Friday as volunteers to affix the fish to the fence and can't wait to see the finished product on Friday afternoon.

Thank you to the many families who joined us for a very successful **Irwin Park Bingo Night** last Friday evening. Fun was had by all and we had a host of students who were able to visit the prize table. With pizza, Bubby and candy bags as well as Kettle Corn being sold on sight, the evening was filled with a lot of options. Thank you to the many IPPG Parent Volunteers especially Mimi Lin, who led the organization but also to our Gr 7 volunteers, Hailey, Salar, Ben and Lin who were running across the gym verifying Bingo card wins!

And finally, a note to express our thanks to the many, many parents and families who joined us for our [Student Led Conferences](#). This popular event drew close to 4/5s of parents to the school to visit with their child and celebrate their learning. This shows the amazing commitment that our Irwin Park families make to learning, development and community and we are so grateful. If you missed the opportunity to have your child take you on a tour of their learning on Wed of this past week, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher to set up an alternate time. While teachers may be present, this is largely a student directed event. Enjoy!

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

1. **Vice Principal Announcement** – 2024-2025 School Year
2. **Jump Rope For Heart** – Pls support us! Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> is Jump Day!
3. **IPPG Spring Meeting Date Set:** May 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Online Meeting
4. **Picture Day is Coming!** May 21st
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**

## Irwin Park Vice Principal Announcement: Sept 2024

This past week, Superintendent Kennedy released information regarding administrative/school leadership appointments and changes. As many of our community are aware, our previous Irwin Park Vice Principal this past school year, Ms. Kirsten Dixon, just recently began a maternity leave with her second child. In her place, Ms. **Alex Bleim**, currently a Gr 4/5 teacher in Division 6, has been appointed **Head Teacher**. It is a pleasure to announce that Ms. Bleim will assume the role of **Acting Vice Principal** in Sept 2024 at Irwin Park for the coming school year. Ms. Bleim's poise, understanding of curriculum, strong relationships with staff and students, as well as her own current Masters level pursuits in Indigenous Education and expertise on AI in education, will make her an asset on our staff and in our community. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Bleim on this appointment.

## Jump Rope for Heart Fundraising Event: Tues May 14th

Jump Rope for Heart is the school FUNdraising event that nobody wants to skip. Students discover fun ways to get active, practice healthy habits and learn about helping others while raising money to beat heart disease and stroke. This past week classes "kicked off" the event with in-class activities and practicing their skipping skills in PE Class.

From now until our Jump Event, on **Tuesday, May 14th**, students will learn fun ways to get active for heart health while raising awareness and support for Heart & Stroke. Please join us in fundraising at <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/44600> We are encouraging parents to reach out to neighbours and extended family to sponsor our students so they can skip to raise funds for this worthy cause. On Tuesday May 14th, make sure to wear red or your Panther P.R.I.D.E. spirit wear to show your support for **Jump Rope for Heart! Our goal is to raise \$1000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation!** Thank you. Learn more by clicking [here](#)

## Next IPPG Meeting - May 28: Virtual Online to increase accessibility!

Please join us in our next IPPG meeting to **discuss the budget** for the next school year and **IPPG Executive Roles for 2024/2025**. The meeting will take place virtually on **Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30 pm**.

Use the following link to participate: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:meeting\\_NzQzNTQxNzltNmI4Mi00ODAwLTg2NjYtNzkyYjQ2NTNhZWl3@thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%22d8013362-a39e-458b-9457-674cf091a797%22,%22Oid%22:%2213a658ed-43ec-44bc-ac41-d98aa861abcf%22%7D](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:meeting_NzQzNTQxNzltNmI4Mi00ODAwLTg2NjYtNzkyYjQ2NTNhZWl3@thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%22d8013362-a39e-458b-9457-674cf091a797%22,%22Oid%22:%2213a658ed-43ec-44bc-ac41-d98aa861abcf%22%7D) or click [here](#)

## Help Lead the IPPG – Volunteer to be a part of our school's future!

We need volunteers for the 2024-25 IPPG Exec!

The **IPPG Exec** is made up of **parent volunteers who lead**. We need new leaders to keep the IPPG going and continue to provide extra support to the school. In order to do that, we need your help! None of this would happen without passionate IPPG Exec volunteers leading the charge. We're looking to fill all roles for the year ahead: **Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Communications Chair, Volunteer Coordinator and 2 DPAC reps**.

Serving on the Executive is fun and fulfilling. You'll bring things to life for the school. Your kids will be proud of you. You will be proud of you!

### How to get involved?

If you'd like to put your hand up for an open role, get in touch with our volunteer coordinator Mimi Lin ([mimslin@gmail.com](mailto:mimslin@gmail.com)).

**Help make 2024-25 the most fun & productive year yet!**

## Picture Day is Coming!

It's coming! Start picking out your outfit! Class pictures and our school panorama will be taking place on Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark this in your family calendars.

## 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

### National Forums on Physical, Spiritual and Mental Health

PDF and links attached

[Walk with your Doc](#)

[Active Youth](#)

**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](#).

### 2nd Annual BC Inter-School Chess Championship

Good day! As we are inching closer to the **2nd Annual BC Inter-School Chess Championship** we want to remind school teams to complete their registration process soon to avoid a last minute rush - if you have already done so, please disregard this message. **Students across G1-12 can register via school sponsorship or parents can register directly (players get to represent their school in either case).** For bulk entries, schools can contact us via email and request for a bulk entry form. We also request school staff to cascade the newsletter to PAC/ Parents/ School Chess Club Coordinators to help expedite the registrations and encourage maximum participation.

**Link to register/ full details:** <https://fraservalleychess.com/events/2nd-annual-bc-inter-school-championship/>.

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

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

### 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](mailto: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](http://foodbank.bc.ca).

### **West Vancouver Basketball Club Summer Camps**

The WVBC is proud to be offering its 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.westvancouver.ca/learning)

Music for Various Ages: [www.westvancouver.ca/music](http://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](http://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](http://www.westvancouver.ca/newcomers)

**Aron Campbell**

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary