



## IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

Friday, June 21st, 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:**

June 21 <sup>st</sup>	National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 24-25 <sup>th</sup>	Squamish Weaving Artist In Residence Student Experience
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Gr 7 Leaving Ceremony – 10:45 am
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Irwin Park Farewell Assembly KG – 6 - 9:30 am
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Classes – Early Dismissal at 12:00 pm
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Summary of Learning Reports Published Online via My ED

### **Important Announcements**

Today is a special day across our nation and at Irwin Park as we recognize National Indigenous History Month, and today, June 21st is National Indigenous People's Day. To celebrate Indigenous culture, we are excited to invite Squamish Knowledge Keeper, [Spelexilh, Anjeanette Dawson](#) – a traditional wool weaver, knowledge keeper, storyteller, and Indigenous Educator from the Squamish Nation in to speak with all students. Students will have the opportunity to make their own wool weaving on a cardboard loom, learning about the history and revival of wool weaving in the Squamish community and learning about the history of wool weaving, the revival of weaving in our community, and the teachings that go with weaving. Workshops will take place on June 24th and 25th for all classes KG-7. We are extremely pleased and proud to have this opportunity. Pls read more below about how else we have recognized and celebrated this special time.

## Departing Staff

It is with heavy hearts at this time of year that we bid farewell to some of our staff members. For various reasons, a few of our staff will not be returning to Irwin Park but each have left behind indelible imprints upon the students and staff members that they have worked with over the course of the time they have been here. Please join me in recognizing the following members of the Irwin Park family for their contributions here at our school.

**Ms. April Hopp** – Ms. Hopp joined us immediately after Spring Break in our Uptown KG class and made a seamless transition, meeting families and students exactly where they were at and easing the absence of Ms. Fee from the kindergarten classroom. Ms. Hopp's skill as an educator but grace as an individual made her an immediate favourite and terrific fit on our Irwin Park Primary Team. While she will leaving our school as a regular staff member, we do hope to see Ms. Hopp in another potential role whether it be in a different grade or teaching in our school as a TTOC.

**Ms. Paige Kimmince** – Ms Kimmince joined us this year after spending the majority of her teaching career in Australia. She was the perfect fit for Div 11 when Ms. Pierce was absent in the month prior to the winter break and then into Term 2. Her poise, positive energy and connection with kids made her a favourite in Division 11 very quickly. When we were in need again for a replacement teacher, Ms. Kimmince was a perfect solution. Again, we hope to see Ms. Kimmince in our Irwin Park Hallways again soon, whether it be in a permanent contract or as a TTOC once more.

**Ms. Erica Shopland** – Ms. Shopland's time at Irwin Park spans the past decade. She has become a dedicated friend and strong curriculum leader on our staff and within our school. It will be hard to imagine our English Language Learning Team without her presence and support. Ms. Shopland's dedication to her primary students both in and outside of the class has been invaluable to the academic and social development of so many of our students at Irwin Park. So many of them carry very fond memories of interactions and time spent in her corner office over the years. We want to wish Ms. Shopland the best as she steps into her next adventure and continues to share her talents in an educational and mentorship role.

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

1. **Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Month @ Irwin Park**
2. **Gr 7 Leaving Ceremony** – Wed June 26<sup>th</sup> 10:45 am
3. **Revised SD 45 Procedures re. Personal Digital Devices**
4. **Student Placement for Sept 2024**
5. **Summary of Learning – Term 3 Learning Update Details**
6. **Community News and Ops**

## Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day @ Irwin Park

All of this week, in addition to the planned weaving we have had tea sampling for students, staff and visitors of tea from [Raven and Hummingbird Tea Co](#), a Squamish Nation-owned tea company by **Cease Wyss and Senaqwila Wyss**, members of our Irwin Park community. Samples of their tea are still available in the lobby for students and families to enjoy. We are grateful for their sharing so our community can learn more about the ingredients that make up not only a delicious cup of tea but also hold the power of inter-generational knowledge transfer and indigenous plant medicines. You can learn more about the Raven and Hummingbird Tea Co. and how you can support Indigenous businesses in our community at <https://rhtea.co/> Please make sure you stop by the front foyer of our school next week to try some!

## Gr 7 Leaving Ceremony – Wed June 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45 am – @ the Irwin Park Gym

We invite all of our Irwin Park Grade 7 families to our gym to celebrate this very special accomplishment and the end of their child's Elementary School journey. Our gym will be receiving guests at 10:30 am for seating and we hope to begin our event at 10:45 am.

Gr 7 students are not required to attend Wed morning at their usual 8:50 am admission. We would ask that Gr 7 students be dropped off at Irwin Park no later than 10:15 am on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> and gather in their classes. At this moment we are currently able to allow each student to have 3 guests attending in their honour. Should your family require seating for more than 3 guests, you must reach out to [Ms.Verdicchio](#) in the Irwin Park office to have your name added to the list of requests. While we feel we should be able to accommodate such requests, it is important that we are aware of ahead of time of any extra needs.

Guest parking will be available on the gravel field at approximately 10:15 am on Wednesday. Please be aware and cautious to avoid accidents and to be wary of students who will be enjoying recess outside the boundaries of the gravel field both in the morning and following the event on Wednesday.

Following our ceremony, a reception of snacks and refreshments will be made available to Gr 7 families and students in the gym to allow them to connect and catch up before leaving for the summer. We are very grateful for the efforts made by our Gr 7 Leaving Ceremony Parent Organization Committee who have worked hard this year to prepare for this big day. We look forward to celebrating together on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Please note that Grade 7s are not expected back at school on Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup> after the reception ends. Congratulations to this terrific group of Gr 7 students who are moving on in their journey.

## Revised District Policy re. Personal Digital Devices in Schools

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Province announced three significant actions to enhance the safety and well-being of students in relation to digital technology, including the introduction of restrictions on the use of personal digital devices in schools (*this would apply to cell phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, etc.*). These updated policies will be in place for the 24-25 school year.

Most West Vancouver Schools already have technology guidelines in place. We recognize that the unregulated use of personal devices can be a significant distraction from learning. These devices can interrupt class time, interfere with student focus and disrupt the educational environment. However, we also understand that when used thoughtfully and with supervision, digital technology can offer valuable opportunities for our students. These tools can enhance the learning by enabling students to create content, communicate, collaborate and share.

Starting in September we will be refocussing our approach with personal digital device use in both elementary and secondary schools. In compliance with our technology guidelines, personal digital

devices will only be used with the direct permission of the teacher and/or administrator, who will provide clear guidelines to ensure their use is intentional and purposeful in supporting student learning. Additionally, considerations will be made to accommodate students' medical and health needs, accessibility, and accommodation requirements.

**Applicable times:**

**Secondary Schools:** Personal digital device expectations will be in effect during instructional time.

**Elementary Schools:** Personal digital device expectations will be in effect throughout the full school day, including before school, after school, and during break times.

More detailed information about these new expectations will be shared at the start of the 2024-25 school year. In September, we will ask parents and guardians to support these guidelines by minimizing calls and texts to their children during school hours. It is important for students to remain focused and engaged in their learning without the expectation of responding immediately to messages. We also encourage families to start thinking about how they can support these new expectations to ensure a smooth transition for everyone.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation as we work together to create a safe and productive learning environment for our students.

## **IP Classroom Configurations & Student Placement Explained: Sept 2024**

With current enrollment trends and pressures, at both the District level and at Irwin Park, it is clear that combined classes will continue to be a reality in September.

While this shift has already occurred in several classes in our primary grades successfully and smoothly this school year, the impending reality of organizing both our primary and intermediate grades into combined arrangements is likely. This is largely due to meeting an increasingly wide range of learning profiles of the students we serve; as well as meeting the demand of the new families who choose Irwin Park Elementary and our teaching and support staff as their first choice to entrust their children to. Finally, over time combined grade classrooms simply and clearly reflect the reality of our diverse and interconnected world. By learning and interacting with peers of different ages, students develop important social and communication skills that prepare them for future academic and professional endeavors.

Parents are encouraged to practice perspective in considering the length of a child's elementary secondary school careers (13 years) and consider the many various learning arrangements that remain in their child's future before reacting unexpectedly to something that may seem at first unfamiliar. Please note that West Vancouver Schools has created the following [resource](#) to help parents understand the rationale of these arrangements to help parents who may be unfamiliar with this arrangement.

**PLEASE NOTE: Please refrain from emailing administration with input regarding classroom placement for the 24/25 school year. The window for offering parent input has now past. The forms received after June 5 at 2:50 pm will not be considered for student placement for the 24/25 school year.**

Thank you for your understanding, flexibility, and trust. Based on our team's collective experience and the professional context we possess; we stand by our decisions come September.

## Summary of Learning – Term 3 Student Reports: Published June 27<sup>th</sup>

**The Summary of Learning is a written report that describes and summarizes student learning and growth across the year (not just learning that occurred in the Term Three).** The Summary of Learning contains the same elements as the Learning Updates your child received at the end of Term One and Term Two (scale indicator, descriptive feedback, as well as self-reflection/goal setting). The descriptive feedback is reflective of the year and communicates strengths and areas for growth to prepare students for the next grade or course.

**The final Summary of Learning will be published June 27th in the afternoon on MyEd Portal.** Parents and students will be alerted by email when the Summary of Learning reports are ready to be viewed. To learn more about grade KG – 7 reporting please visit this website . For quick reference – here is a one pager from the Ministry of Education.

Please login in here to view the report - <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do> Forgot your password? - If you have forgotten your password click the 'I forgot my password' function self-help to reset your password or Click on the School District's Family Portal Page Reports will appear as a PDF under the 'Published Reports' section and remain on the Parent Portal until July 31, 2024. We recommend you save a copy for your records.

## Community News and Information

**Otters Swim Club Information** – Click [otters-swim-camp2024-web-min\(1\) \(1\).pdf](#)

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

The end of the school year is here which means the WVBC summer camps are just a few weeks away. 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. Space is limited so best not to delay in signing up. To view the full schedule of camps and to register, please go to <http://www.wvbc.ca>

## **SUMMER READING CLUB** **WV Memorial Library**

Summer Reading Club at **West Vancouver Memorial Library** is back!

And this year, we think Irwin Park can win. Let's do it!

 **Step 1: Register your kids**

Visit [this page](#) to sign up and then swing by the WV Memorial Library to pick up your registration kit at the Youth Desk.

## **Step 2: Read all summer long**

The challenge is to read—anything in any language—15 minutes a day for 50 days or more. It should be easy and fun!

## **Step 3: Win Reading Medals**

Everyone who reaches the goal of reading for 50 days this summer will be awarded their very own reading medal in September.

## **Step 4: Win a Trophy for the School**

Irwin Park will be competing in the Large School category and aiming to be the school with the highest % of students who register and complete the challenge.

**Last year we finished second.** This year we think we can win with your help.

[Register now](#)

## **Parent Education Opportunities**

### **Elevate Your Summer with Ultimate Camps!**

Are your kids looking for the "Ultimate" way to stay active this summer? Elevate Ultimate is the leader in youth Ultimate Frisbee and Disc Golf. We pride ourselves on teaching students a variety of life skills such as conflict resolution and teamwork through this self-refereed sport.

There is a Summer Camp near you, and we have a variety of programs available for all skill levels. For more information and to register to hold a spot for your child, [check out their programs here](#), and to get \$40.00 off, please use discount code: **Welcome40**

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

**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

