



IRWIN PARK
ELEMENTARY

IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

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

Thursday, May 16th, 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 17 th	Pro D Day – School not in session
May 20 th	Victoria Day Holiday – School Not in Session
May 21 st	Classroom Pictures – Dress for Success!
May 23 rd	Welcome to Kindergarten – Event #2 – Healthy Kids Focus
May 26th	IPPG Garage Sale CANCELLED
May 27 th	Artist in Residence w/ Gr 7 Legacy Gift

Principal's Message & Important Announcements

Thank you to the many families who so supported the Jump Rope for Heart event on Tuesday of this past week to support the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada. Our Grade 6/7 Leadership Team set a goal of raising \$1000 and exceeded that value due to the generosity of the Irwin Park Community. **Our Panther**

Community raised over \$2700 for this great cause and our kids had a ton of fun skipping towards greater fitness supporting our Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Healthy Relationships initiative. You can check out some [highlights on our IG account](#).

We also welcomed over 30 new [Kindergarten families to Irwin Park](#) on Thursday at our first Welcome to Kindergarten Meet and Greet event. This gathering provided a number of brand new families to become acquainted with our amazing KG team and to connect with other families as well. We are hoping to have the same strong turn out for our two other events taking place Thurs May 23rd and Thurs June 13th. Events like these make the transition into Kindergarten that much easier for our youngest learners as they become accustomed to the routines, our team and the learning environment.

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

1. **Irwin Park Carinval – Save the Date – Thurs June 13th**
2. **Travelling this Summer? Your child must be back in school by Thurs Sept 5th**
3. **IPPG Spring Meeting Date Set:** May 28th Virtual Online Meeting – Executive Members Wanted!
4. **Picture Day is Coming!** May 21st
5. **Parent Input Opportunity for Classroom Placement for 24/25 – Coming May 27th**
6. **Community News and Ops**

Irwin Park Spring Carnival is Coming! Thurs June 13th - Save the Date!

Plans are being made by our IPPG organizing committee to host a Spring Carnival at Irwin Park to celebrate our school year together with fun rides, amusement activities, food and families. Please keep an eye out for further information in future E bulletins and social media communications from our school promoting this event and how you can get involved. We are looking for our parent community to step up to volunteer for various shifts in supporting roles. Please consider what time you may be able to provide to our community!

Food pre-ordering online via Munch-A-Lunch will be available as Mr. Tube Steak will be on site once again to provide delicious hot dogs as well some other delicious treats. Tickets for various rides that are being planned will also be available on Munch-A-Lunch on a future date. Save the date so you and your family can join us to celebrate our school community and Panther P.R.I.D.E.

Summer Holiday Plans? Please plan to return to school by Thurs Sept 5th at the latest!

With the ever-increasing enrollment pressures that our school continues to face, space in classrooms continues to be tight. We ask that all families who are travelling over the summer to ensure that their children are able to return and be present in classrooms by the latest Thurs Sept 5th. Saving student spots can be very challenging and we want to avoid family disappointment but in order to satisfy student enrollment needs district wide we require parents to communicate and confirm their plans clearly with schools. Questions? Contact your school office!

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**.

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. 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).

Use the following link to participate: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:meeting_NzQzNTQxNzltNml4Mi00ODAwLTg2NjYtNzkxYjQ2NTNhZWl3@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](#)

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 21st. Mark this in your family calendars.

IP Classroom Placement Input Opportunity: Available May 27 – June 7

As announced in last week's E Bulletin, starting on **Tuesday, May 27 until Monday, June 7, an IP Placement Input Form** will be made available to families in the Irwin Park office should they wish to provide additional information that is specific to their child.

This form is in hard copy and is not shared out electronically. It must also be handed in to the office in hard copy format so that it can be collated appropriately by the administration team. Please collect your form from Ms Teale or Ms Verdicchio at our school office starting **Monday May 27th**. **PLEASE NOTE: Please refrain from emailing administration with input around classroom placement.** Information sheets received after June 7 at 2:50 pm will not be considered for student placement for the 2024-25 school year.

THIS PROCESS IS OPTIONAL. Please note that it is not necessary to complete this form and is only provided to parents should they feel compelled to inform our team of any outside circumstances or student needs that we may be unaware of. Regardless of a submitted input form or not, the IP staff invest many hours and great care in the placement of every child in order to honour their individual learning style and create the best learning environment for all children regardless of parent input.

As stated in previous bulletins, each school year our Irwin Park staff of educators, specialist teachers, and administrators, work collaboratively to create classes that are balanced and will provide an inclusive culture for learners to thrive in. Please know that teachers begin this tentative process in the late Spring and invest a great deal of thought and effort into making the best educational decisions for organizing and placing students into classes. While our placements are not finalized until September, we take into consideration a wide range of criteria including:

- *Student social-emotional well-being and coping*
- *Diversity of learning needs and balancing classes*
- *Workable instructional groups*
- *Positive social groupings*

- *Possibilities for new and fresh friendships and leadership opportunities*
- *School Base Team recommendations*
- *Ministry class size and composition requirements*
- *District enrollment pressures*

Multi-grade learning configurations are now a reality at Irwin Park and are largely due to District wide enrollment pressures. This is a topic that has been written about and shared in our E Bulletins for the past several weeks.

To help parents understand the rationale of these arrangements the WVSD has devoted a [webpage](#) to help parents who may be unfamiliar with this arrangement. Combined classes have proven to be effective learning arrangements with a host of advantages to both the classroom learning community as well as the academic achievement. What is important for parents to remember is that in today's classroom, all teachers strive to meet each child where they are with their learning regardless of their grade level and provide them with learning opportunities accordingly.

If you are compelled to submit a form, we ask that you consider the placement criteria referenced above when describing your child's needs. If you are requesting placements that involve other students (one or two at most) please think carefully before making your request; make it respectful and provide an explanation for that request. Please focus on the needs of your child.

Out of respect to our staff and the professional code of ethics we strive to uphold, any submitted forms containing staff names in the form of requests will not be used in the class configuration process. We also remind parents that teacher assignments are also tentative and subject to change – **please do not request a specific teacher.** Any such requests made on input forms will render the input ineligible.

Submitting a Placement Input Form does **not** mean that your request will be granted as it is not possible to honour all requests as classes are determined. Any information that you provide on your IP Placement Input Form will be just one of many factors considered by our team in the placement of your child.

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.**

Community News and Information

National Forums on Physical, Spiritual and Mental Health

PDF and links attached

[Walk with your Doc](#)

[Active Youth](#)

West Vancouver Basketball Club Summer Camps

May is here which means the WVBC summer camps are right around the corner. 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. Many camps sold out last summer so don't wait too long to sign up. To view the full schedule of camps and to register, please go to <http://www.wvbc.ca>

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.

An Evening with Valerie Jerome - Please join us for a discussion with author, educator, Olympian and advocate Valerie Jerome hosted by broadcaster Kevin Evans.

Ms. Jerome grew up running on the track at West Vancouver Secondary and has been instrumental in securing the necessary funds for the construction of the new track, now dedicated to her brother, Harry Jerome.

Her new book "*Races: The Trials and Triumphs of Canada's Fastest Family*" provides a candid account of her family's history, and the racism they fought along the way.

- Wednesday, May 22
- 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- Kay Meek Theatre, West Vancouver

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.

ACTIVITIES AT YOUR WEST VANCOUVER COMMUNITY CENTRE / GLENEAGLES COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Aron Campbell

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary