



IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY E-BULLETIN

Final Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians at Irwin Park Elementary – 23/24

Friday, June 28th, 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 27 th	Summary of Learning Reports Published Online via My ED
Aug 27 th	School Office Open
Sept 3 rd	First Day of School – Gr 1-7 (8:50 am – 10:00 am)
Sept 4 th	First Day of Gradual Entry for KG
Sept 20 th	District Pro D – Classes Not in Session
Sept 26 th	Inside Irwin Park – Welcome Celebration (TBC)

Important Announcements

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

1. **Principal's Message: Farewells and New Faces**
2. **Gr 7 Farewell Celebration Success**
3. **Revised SD 45 Procedures re. Personal Digital Devices**
4. **Student Placement & Class Configuration for Sept 2024**
5. **Vancouver PRIDE Parade Invitation – Aug 4th, 2024**
6. **Summary of Learning – Term 3 Learning Update released Fri June 27**
7. **Community News and Ops**

Principal's Message:

Before I sign off for the summer, I wanted to extend my sincerest thanks to the Irwin Park Community. We have a wonderful group of kids here at Irwin Park and this is largely due to the investment and care that their parents and the village around them provide in the form of guidance, support and boundaries.

*This was a terrific year of community building and connection. With our strong parent support of events, like **Movie Night, Bingo Night, our Math Festival, Stream of Dreams and our Spring Carnival**, families came together to celebrate the importance of connection and mutual support. Additionally, our IPPG, proved itself to be resilient and effective in a unique year, and is showing terrific potential with an enthusiastic and capable IPPG Executive group in the works for 24/25.*

We want to say farewell and good luck to those Gr 7 graduates, as well as the many students and families going in different directions at this time. However, I am also hoping that those of us that remain can ensure that we welcome the over 60 new families that we will welcome into the Irwin Park family this coming September. Our Panther P.R.I.D.E. values will be in full effect as we kick off the new school year and continue to build a common language that we hope will have ripple effects in our community. We have a lot in store to make Irwin Park Elementary even better as we continue to build a strong sense of belonging and increase student achievement across the board. Pls join in us in this effort.

*I will be off email for a large part of the summer to recharge, re-create, and prepare for a very busy September but will be back in the office in prior to September involved in both school and district initiatives. Thank you for your **trust, your patience and your flexibility** as we have navigated the journey that was 23/24 school year.*

Stay safe and soak up that time outside, with family and friends. Keep moving and keep reading to your kids! Cut the screen time...it makes a difference.

Cheers

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Gr 7 Leaving Ceremony Complete – Gratitude & Appreciation

On Wednesday of this week, we celebrated our graduating Gr 7s in style. With over 60 Gr 7s, we were able to recognize our students for their accomplishments over the course of the past school year. Service Awards, Athletic Recognition, Legacy Gift Presentations, and a Valedictorian Address were some of the highlights of the time spent together. We want to congratulate all of the students and their families for their accomplishments.

Following the event, due to the hard work of our Gr 7 Parent Grad Committee and the logistics help of a crew of Volunteer Gr 6 parents who stepped up to allow all of our Gr 7 parents to enjoy their experience, all of our guests enjoyed a wide selection of refreshments in our gymnasium while mingling with family, friends, and staff and capturing those unique memories of the special day. A note of gratitude to our entire Gr 6/7 Teaching Team, Mr. Burke, Ms Kozak, Ms Roughley, Ms Harrington and Ms. Paquin who helped me organize our ceremony. Thank you again to all those parent members that contributed to this event, especially Robyn Evans, Jillian Smith, Anya Smith, Cynthia Hiah, and Maryam Nayernama and those family members that supported our committee.

Farewells & Welcomes: Irwin Park Elementary

On Thursday, on our last morning of school before the end of the year, we bid farewell to some students who will no longer be part of the Irwin Park Family as they venture into different parts of the North Shore, or even the world at large. In addition, our assembly formally bid farewell to 3 of our current staff members who will be heading in different directions.

April Hopp	Kindergarten Teacher
Paige Kimmence	Grade 2/3 Teacher
Erica Shopland	English Language Learning Teacher

We wish all 3 of our departing staff members the best and will miss each of them.

We will be welcoming several new team members to Irwin Park in September as well.

Parisa Meregón	Primary Teaching Team
Andrea Yu	English Language Learning Team
Juliana De Paula Pinto	Learning Support Teaching Team
Isabella Rezende	Educational Assistant

Kristina Slivarich	Educational Assistant
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IP Classroom Configurations & Student Placement Explained: Sept 2024

With current enrollment trends and pressures, at both the district level and at Irwin Park, 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. 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.

Revised District Policy re. Personal Digital Devices in Schools

On January 26th, 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.

Summary of Learning – Term 3 Student Reports: Published June 27th

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/aspden/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

Aron Campbell

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary