



IRWIN PARK ELEMENTARY  E-BULLETIN

Update of School Information For Irwin Park Parents and Guardians

Thursday, Oct 24th, 2024

CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING ON @ OUR SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: [@irwin_park_elementary](https://www.instagram.com/irwin_park_elementary)

Important Dates:

Oct 25 th	Provincial Pro D Day – School Not in Session
Oct 25 th	The Card Project Opens Online Orders
Oct 31 st	Halloween Celebration Assembly @ 11:45 Am
Nov 4 th	School Photo Re-Takes
Nov 8 th	IP Remembrance Day Ceremony

E Bulletin Highlights – see below

The Card Project Goes Live Friday Oct 25th

Pro D Day – Friday Oct 25 th – School Not in Session
Halloween Guidelines – Costumes at School
3 Treat Maximum Following Halloween!
Traffic Safety Reminders and Expectations at Irwin Park
We Scare Hunger Charity Food Drive – Give Generously
Garden Update – Prepping for Winter
Republic Day of Turkey & Diwali

The Card Project Comes to Irwin Park!

As announced in last week's E-Bulletin, [The Card Project](#) goes live tomorrow...Friday Oct 25th. In the past 2 years school leadership has worked hard to integrate the visual arts into beautifying and updating our special school. With several murals being commissioned involving Irwin Park students, we are keen to do more in the future. The Card Project helps raise the funds for the materials and expertise required to take on such initiatives.

"The Card Project" is an art-based fundraiser that is being run by the school with funds raised going towards school programming and our Irwin Park Community Garden. Students have been working on an art project that will be made into professionally printed greeting cards and other products available online.

You can see your child's art online on **Friday, October 25** at www.TheCardProject.ca

Our Irwin Park school access code is **RK52**

This is a wonderful, creative fundraising initiative for our school. We receive 20% of each sale to re-invest in school programming for our students. All orders are placed online.

A number of beautiful products are made with your child's art including : *Greeting cards, mugs, canvas tote bags, mouse pads, tea towels, notebooks, sketchbooks, canvas prints, and more.* These unique items make wonderful gifts and keepsakes. YOU can check out samples on our Front Foyer Bulletin Board this week and next.

Please visit www.TheCardProject.ca for more information or contact Marcelle at Marcelle@TheCardProject.ca.

The Priority Order deadline is Sunday, November 3 with delivery November 25-29....Just in time for the holiday season!

HALLOWEEN : Costume Expectations at Irwin Park this Oct 31st

With Halloween fun around the corner we wanted to take some time to establish **some common costume expectations** for families should they be preparing to dress up for school on Thursday Oct 31st. We will be hosting a brief Halloween Assembly and Parade in the gym on Tues Oct 31st at approximately 11:45 am. Classes will gather in the gym to take part in a quick dance party and then each class will be invited to celebrate their costumes by participating in a parade around the gym. Parents are welcome to join should space allow in the gym and in the hallways as our Primary grades make their way back to class after our assembly! Our gym space is limited so please be patient and ready for some Halloween Energy!

A number of students have approached me to ask about Halloween costumes for the big day.

Students, who choose to, will be permitted to wear a costume of their choice as long as it fits within the following boundaries....

- Feel welcome to dress in a costume or not.
- It is appropriate for Elementary School KG-7 and not deemed offensive to others
- Avoid costumes that promote cultural stereotypes. (information on Cultural Appropriation vs Cultural Appreciation can be found [here](#))
- Costumes need to be non-violent in nature.
- It does not include any props that could be mistaken to be a weapon of some sort...so that means...**no guns, no axes, no swords;** save those for Thurs evening when you go Trick or Treating.
- Masks unfortunately will **not** be allowed during the school day in class due to safety concerns and learning needs
- Should students choose to wear a costume, **students must be able to learn in that costume** and if students struggle in this area that student will be simply asked to remove their costume.

There is no pressure or expectation for students to wear a Halloween costume. Should students or staff choose not to wear a costume...that is totally acceptable. We must respect and understand that many people in our community may have different connections to this annual celebration. Thank you for your understanding and support.

3 TREAT MAXIMUM IN EFFECT @ IP Post Halloween

In order to curb the sugar highs and lows that come with this time of year, as per tradition, Irwin Park will only permit students to bring a maximum of 3 Halloween Treats to school each school day. Therefore sugar intake and enjoyment of those Halloween treats is moderated and in check. (Unless of course, this includes **Kit Kat's** that must be turned in to the Principal on-site immediately ????) **But in all seriousness, we would ask parents to support our efforts for moderation and ensure that students follow this expectation by bringing a maximum of 3 treats if any... to be enjoyed over the course of the school day.** Thank you for your support.

Fri Nov 1st – PJ Day

A note to parents that Friday Nov 1st, the day following Halloween will be a school wide PJ Day at Irwin Park. Grab a couple of extra winks after a late night of ghouling and stay in those comfy PJs; Just pls remember to brush your teeth!

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety Reminder

Following last week's Safety Blitz, we'd like to remind families to **not** stop in the middle of crosswalks to drop off your children for the safety of all students and families. It is essential to follow all road and parking signage around the school. A reminder to please treat all families with respect when communicating during pick-up and drop-off interactions. The **West Vancouver Police Department** and bylaw officers will be returning to follow up and ensure compliance. Let's work together to keep everyone safe!

"We Scare Hunger" Food Drive – Hosted by the Grade 6/7 Leadership Club

The grade 6/7 Leadership Club is kicking off a food drive next week to help the Harvest Project "Scare Hunger" on the North Shore. This past week all four Grade 6/7 classes were joined by the Harvest Project staff and volunteers to learn more about the role of a food bank and how food banks support communities.

Please consider donating non-perishable food items from October 23-October 31. Some of the most needed items are **canned vegetables & fruit, granola bars, coffee, flour, sugar, salt, oils, vinegar, ketchup, mustard, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and conditioner, diapers, rice, grocery gift cards, canned soups, new socks, and new underwear.** Please DO NOT donate expired items

Garden Update

Have you had a chance to check out the garden? Our students are incredibly proud of the newly sprouted produce! **This week we had our second garden workshops with Victory Gardens**, and the progress has been amazing. We harvested and tasted some **arugula, planted some native species plants and prepared the garden for the winter**. We look forward to continuing our garden journey in the spring. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Republic of Turkey Day

Happy Republic of Turkey Day! On October 29th, we invite you to check out the wonderful display in the lobby created by some of our Turkish families. Ms. Gratton, our librarian, will also be sharing more about this special day with all classes during library time. A big thank you to the families who wanted to share this special day with our Irwin Park Community! You can check out more at our Instagram channel.

Happy Diwali

Happy early Diwali to those who celebrate! Diwali is one of the major religious festivals in Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism and is celebrated around the world, especially in South Asian cultures. We have books in the library and info on the TV screens to acknowledge this special time of year that celebrates the "... victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

HOT LUNCH – OPEN AND TAKING ORDERS – SUNDAY is the Deadline for Next Week’s Lunches –

The IPPG is pleased to announce that the [MunchALunch website w](#) is OPEN for hot lunch orders for the 2024 Fall Term.

Lunch orders are delivered to students at the school on **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**.

We are offering added **flexibility** to the hot lunch program in two main ways. First, the website will remain open so parents can place orders up to 5 days prior to lunch day (e.g. Friday lunch orders close **Sunday evening**). Secondly, orders can also be customized for each delivery day (for example: cheese pizza on Oct 4 and pepperoni on Oct 12).

Orders are made directly through the [MunchALunch website](#). Be sure to order individually for each day you would like your child(ren) to receive a delivered lunch. New users must first register for an account with the Register Here button. Please email ippac@wvschools.ca with any questions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE SEND CUTLERY AND CHOPSTICKS TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD AS NEEDED. The office cannot hand out cutlery.

Aron Campbell

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary