

Irwin Park Elementary Family Newsletter E-Bulletin Update

Date: Thurs Feb 6th

PARENT REMINDERS:

PARENT USE OF PDDs: We are asking parents to please not use PDD (Personal Digital Devices) when inside our school or outside before or after school waiting for your child.

Please be mindful of this expectation and show respect to our efforts to curb screen time and eliminate PDD use while at school in front of our students. Let's set the example of being mindful and present when we are around our kids! Thank you for your support in this effort.

"Disconnect to reconnect."

PLS PACK CUTLERY FOR YOUR CHILD ON HOT LUNCH DAYS!!

Suggestion: Pack an old set in a ziplock and have your child leave it in their locker!

Important Announcements

Stay Connected with Us!

Check out what's happening at our school on social media:

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/irwin_park_elementary/

Important Dates:

- **Feb 7th:** Whistler Ski/Snowboard Trip – Gr 6/7
- **Feb 7th :** Feel Good Friday – See details below
- **Feb 6th:** IP Math Club Practice – After School
- **Feb 11:** 3rd Gr 7 Basketball League Game – Boys @ Home vs BICS; Girls Away
- **Feb 14th :** Reading Break Holiday
- **Feb 17th:** Family Day – Provincial Holiday

Principal's Message

This week we will kick off our first **Feel Good Friday** encouraging all of our students to wear their **Panther P.R.I.D.E. colours** and spread the good vibes. We will be taking time to read out some of the gratitude leaves growing on our Gratitude Tree on our morning announcements. We are even running a classroom contest to really get kids involved. You can learn more below. As part of this we are reaching out to parents and Irwin Park families to ask you to consider sending a note of gratitude to a special someone who is a member of our Support Staff Team here at Irwin Park. A detailed message went out on Wednesday of this week and more information is below.

Our Gr 6/7 students will travel to Whistler, BC on Friday to enjoy an exclusive day of Skiing and Snowboarding at one of the premier winter sports resorts in the world. This is yet another physical literacy opportunity for our students to take advantage of in order to build confidence not only physically but also mentally by trying a new skill for some. This week our primary aged classes were treated to an in-service with the West Van Field Hockey Club and had an amazing

experience learning the basic skills involved and the rules of the game. We encourage all of our families to consider enrolling their child in a community sport. The learning and experiences of working and learning as part of a team is invaluable for life.

E-Bulletin Highlights

- Irwin Park Support Staff Gratitude Opportunity
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Feel Good Fridays
- Bingo Night is Coming!
- Pink Shirt Day is Coming!
- Hot Lunch Ordering – New Persian Menu Items on Mondays check it out at <https://www.munchalunch.com/schools/irwinpark/>

West Vancouver Support Staff Appreciation Day: Tuesday Feb 11th, 2025

Each year, West Vancouver Schools designates a special day in February to **celebrate and appreciate our incredible Support Staff**—the dedicated individuals who work behind the scenes to keep our school running smoothly. This year our District **WVMEA Support Staff Appreciation Day** will be this on Tues Feb 11th. At **Irwin Park**, our **Office Staff, Educational Assistants, Playground and Lunch Supervisors, and Custodians** are essential in supporting students, teachers, and families. Their kindness, dedication, and hard work make a real difference every day.

This year, we invite parents to **share a message of thanks or appreciation**—whether personal or anonymous—to recognize a special Support Staff member who has made a meaningful impact on your child or family.

✿ Who might you want to recognize?

- ✓ An **Educational Assistant** who has supported your child's learning and growth in a previous year or this year
- ✓ A **Custodian** who goes above and beyond to keep our school safe and clean.
- ✓ A **Playground or Lunch Supervisor** who ensures a positive and caring environment for students.
- ✓ A **Front Office Team member** who is always there to help, answer questions, and keep things running smoothly.

How to Share Your Thanks: Click [here](#)

Click on the link [here](#) to write a short note or message of appreciation. These notes will be collected and directed to the Support Staff group or individual that you specify in your message.

Parents can write one message or many messages. Messages can be signed or anonymous—every word of thanks will go a long way in making our Support Staff feel valued and celebrated. Thank you for helping us show gratitude to these incredible individuals who make Irwin Park a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Jump Rope for Heart is Coming! The IP Gr 6/7 Leadership Team Needs Your Support!

We're excited to announce that our school is hosting Jump Rope for Heart on February 18, 2025! This event supports the Heart and Stroke Foundation, helping fund life-saving research and education on heart health. Our goal is to raise \$2,000, and we need your help! Donations can be made online, making it easy for family and friends to contribute. Every dollar makes a difference!

Jump Rope for Heart is not just about fundraising—it's also about having fun, getting active, and learning how to keep our hearts healthy. Let's jump together for a great cause! How to Donate: <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/89258>

Thank you for your support!

Feel Good Fridays

In the month of February, as part of our focus on Healthy Minds (IP FESL 2022-2025) Irwin Park students and teachers are focusing on the [value of gratitude](#) in our lives. Gratitude has long been recognized for its profound impact on overall wellness and mental health. It is a mindset of abundance—shifting our focus to the comforts and blessings we have, rather than what we lack. What better gift for our children than to teach them the [scientifically proven value](#) of this incredible wellness tool.

To really show our positive vibes and attitude we are inviting all students to wear as much School Spirit Wear as possible each Friday in February! We are even having a contest between classes as teachers will be tallying how many students in each class take part by wearing either their Panther P.R.I.D.E. spirit wear or school colours prominently of **Blue and White!**

In addition, as part of this initiative, a **Gratitude Tree** has blossomed on one of our hallway bulletin boards, adorned with colorful leaves of various shapes. Each leaf, created by our students, reflects something they are grateful for in their lives, serving as a vibrant reminder of the power of gratitude in our school community. Check it out [here!](#) In addition, every Friday in February will be **Feel Good Friday**, where we will share messages of gratitude during our Morning Announcements (with student permission, of course). We hope that these small moments of appreciation will inspire kindness and spread the power of gratitude throughout our school community. We encourage parents to consider raising the importance of gratitude at the dinner table or the next family time moment and how it can play a role in your household.

Save the date for IPPG's Bingo Night! - Fri Feb 28th – Bingo cards and pizza will soon be available for purchase online!

Get your ears open to hear if your lucky number and letter are called! Enjoy a fun Friday Night of Bingo, Prizes, Pizza, and Treats!

- Bingo Night is Friday, Feb 28th, doors open at 5:30 pm
- Purchase your bingo cards online at munchalunch.com ; \$6 for 1 card, \$15 for 3 cards (will be available soon!)
- Order your pizza ahead of time online at munchalunch.com (will be available soon)
- Gr 3s and under – **REQUIRE AN ADULT CHAPERONE**
- Bring your loonies and toonies for Gr 6/7 Leadership Concession Stand (TBC)
- All ages are welcome.
- See what prizes you can win in the foyer windows at Irwin Park – BINGO PRIZE PREVIEW!!

Currently looking for donations of brand new items as prizes such as **toys, electronics, gift cards, decorations, wine** etc. Anything that you think would be good prizes for both adults and kids!

Drop off at the front lobby of the school starting this week!

Thank you to our IPPG and to our parent community for their continued support in creating a sense of belonging and connection at Irwin Park Elementary.

Pink Shirt Day is Coming!

Each year, Canadians across the country come together on [Pink Shirt Day](#) to reflect on the power of kindness in our schools, workplaces, and communities. While it began as an anti-bullying initiative, this day has grown into a celebration of inclusion, respect, and empathy—values that align perfectly with our Panther P.R.I.D.E.! As part of this effort we will be hosting our traditional and always popular [PINK SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST](#) . As we prepare for our Pink Shirt Day celebration on **February 26th**, we invite Irwin Park families to join us by wearing an **IP Panther Pink T-Shirt** to show their support. Let's stand together in creating a culture of kindness and belonging. **Click [here](#) to order your T shirt now!**

TREEHOUSE DAY CARE – SPRING BREAK CAMP

See attached document!

Warm regards,

Aron Campbell
Principal
Irwin Park Elementary