

First Week Update of School Information For IP Parents and Guardians

Friday , September 5th, 2025 - See Translations Attached

2025-26 Bell and Recess Schedule @ Irwin Park Elementary

Arrival	8:50 AM
Morning Recess K-7	10:50 AM-11:10 AM
Lunch Eating Time	12:30 PM-12:50 PM
Lunch Recess K-7	12:50 PM-1:10 PM
Dismissal	2:50 PM

Important Dates In September:

Sept 8-12th	Half Day for KG & KG Intake Interviews in the Afternoon
Mon Sept 15th	Full Day KG begins!
Tues Sept 16th	1 st District XC Running Meet @ Ambleside Gr 3-7
Wed Sept 17 th	Student Photo Day
Thurs Sept 26th	Inside Irwin Park – Meet the Teacher & IPPG Welcome Event

Sept 25 th	Terry Fox Run for the Cure School Wide Run
Sept 26 th	Professional Development Day : School Not in Session
Mon Sept 29 th	Orange Shirt Day
Tues Sept 30 th	National Truth and Reconciliation Day (Stat Holiday) -No School

Important Links for Parents :

- [Irwin Park School Calendar 25-26](#)
- [Online Policy & Procedures Permission Form – 25/26](#) – MUST BE COMPLETED ASAP
- [Munchalunch](#)

A Message from the Principal...

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our Irwin Park students and families as we open the 2025–2026 school year. Over 40 new students have joined our school community, in addition to more than 30 Kindergarten students starting their Irwin Park journey this September.

During this first week, teachers have worked with students in mixed-grade cohort groups to observe dynamics and support a smooth transition into routines. Thank you to our entire Irwin Park parent and guardian community for your flexibility and patience as our staff has taken the necessary time to reflect and finalize classroom placements. Regardless of your child's final placement, please know that our teachers deeply value your trust and support as students adjust to their new learning environments.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge that my mobility and engagement have been somewhat limited in these opening weeks due to my injury. (fracture in my ankle doing what I love...Mountain Biking in Squamish). I sincerely apologize if this has made me less visible or available than usual. I am grateful to our incredible Irwin Park team, who have stepped up to ensure a strong and welcoming start for all students. I look

forward to being back to full strength in the weeks ahead and continuing to connect with you all in person.

Thank you again for your patience, trust, and support as we work to meet the needs of every child—academically, socially, and emotionally—regardless of their grade level.

A Note to Parents on Classroom Placements at Irwin Park Elementary

Irwin Park final classroom placements have been completed and decisions are final. Please note that Kindergarten placements will take place at the end of Week 2. Today, students in Grade 1-7 had the first opportunity to meet their homeroom teacher and familiarize themselves with their new and former classmates. Over the next month, our teaching team will be heavily focused **on building a strong, safe, and respectful classroom culture based on our Panther P.R.I.D.E. values.**

In the coming weeks, you can expect to receive a message or letter from your child's teacher introducing themselves and sharing their hopes for the upcoming school year. Regardless of your child's final placement, our teachers appreciate your patience during these next several weeks as your child becomes accustomed to his/her new learning environment.

Please keep in mind that the classroom placement process considers a wide variety of factors, including ***overall enrollment numbers at each grade, gender balance, diversity of learning needs, student resiliency and adaptability, current and past relationship dynamics, parent input provided in the spring, and of course, Ministry of Education class size and composition requirements.***

The Irwin Park team invests an enormous amount of **thought, consideration, and reflection** in this process. There are always benefits and challenges when placing so many individuals into groups, regardless of the grade, and we appreciate families helping their children focus on the benefits of their new placement.

We also understand that we are not able to satisfy every family. However, as I have shared with disappointed parents for years now, I encourage those parents to retain perspective and **play 'the long game'**. After dropping my youngest son off at university this past Labour Day weekend, following 13 years of education at both Irwin Park (K-7) and West Van Secondary (8-12); over that span, there have been, and will continue to be a series of 'hits and misses' for him. **If your child feels disappointed by being separated from friends, an unexpected class arrangement, or an unfamiliar teacher, encourage them to work through it.** Like every school year, this one will have its highs and lows. **As parents, our role is not to shield them from disappointment, but to support them so they don't face it alone.**

We depend on parents to model resiliency and perspective, should their children require support and reassurance. These life experiences are vital teaching opportunities and can be translated into many other challenges that will undoubtedly arise, thus furthering your child's **resilience, self-confidence, and character.** Thank you for your understanding.

Victory Garden Workshops : September 9th & 10th

We are excited to continue our partnership with **Victory Gardens**, who mentor students and teachers in using our school garden as an outdoor classroom to support literacy, math, and inquiry learning. Each class will receive **three workshops** this year, with teachers encouraged to use the garden space throughout the year. Thanks to a **\$5,000 contribution from the Irwin Park Parent Group**, families are asked to contribute **\$25 per student** for the program on [School Cash Online](#); please reach out to Mr. Campbell if cost is a concern. A big thank you to the families who cared for the garden over the summer, and if you'd like to join our **Garden Committee**, please contact Ms. Bleim.

School Sports are On! Cross Country Team Starting Soon (Grade 3 to 7) Cross Country Season is Starting Soon!

We're excited to kick off another year of school sports, starting with Cross Country Running for all Grade 3–7 students.

- **Practices begin:** Thursday, Sept. 12 at 8:15 am
- **Meets:** Tuesdays at Ambleside Park for 3 consecutive weeks, starting Sept. 16
- **Permission forms:** Coming home early next week with full details

Cross Country is open to all abilities in Gr 3-7 —the focus is on fun, fitness, and making friends!

WVECA Athletic Fees:

- \$10 per student per sport (School Board approved)
- Covers costs like referees, marshalling, and teacher release for meets
- Payment via School Cash Online (link live next week!)
- **Please wait until your child confirms participation this Friday before paying**

Policies and Procedures form for 2025-26 – REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS

The mandatory **Policies and Procedures form for 2025-26** is now live, and the link is accessible through your school websites under Parents -> Forms or on the district website under Resources -> Parents. Please make sure you complete one for each child registered at Irwin Park as soon as possible. The direct link is unchanged from last year - <https://eforms.sd45.bc.ca/Form/PandP> and, like last year, requires a parent login. This completion will allow your child to take part in many activities.

If a parent previously created an account to complete the 2024/25 form or to register for elementary band, the account is the same. If you have forgotten their password, you can reset it by following the instructions on screen. If a parent does not have an account, they can create one by following the link provided. Please call Ms. Verdicchio if you have questions.

NOTE: ***International fee-paying students are not required to complete the P+P form, as the items included are covered by the legal agreement signed when they are accepted by the International Programs Office.

HOT LUNCH – Stay tuned for more information.

The IPPG is pleased to announce that once again the [MunchALunch website](#) will be opening in the coming weeks. Pls stay tuned to the weekly E Bulletin for more information on this fabulous fundraising opportunity for our school but also the provision of delicious and nutritious lunch menu items for students.

Similar to last year, lunch orders will be expected to be delivered to students at the school on **Monday thru Friday**. More details will be forthcoming next week and all orders are made directly through the [MunchALunch website](#).

After-School Activities – Online Sign Ups Coming Soon

Starting next week we will be releasing the various registration options for our Fall Term of After School Extra Curriculars.

With activities like Private Coaching Clinic, Athletics, Animation and Cartooning Club, Lights Up Theatre, and After School Yoga and Zen Maker Lab ...there is sure to be something to interest all. Activities are offered after school to students, usually between 3 pm and 4:30. Again more info coming next week.

Optional Accident Insurance for Families-

Each year the school district reminds families that they have the option to purchase insurance coverage against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. There are many different voluntary plans that provide coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. Families are encouraged to do their due diligence when choosing a provider.

Personal Digital Device Expectations – Continued!

At West Vancouver Schools, we understand that personal digital devices offer students valuable opportunities to collaborate, create, and

communicate, enhancing their learning experiences. We also recognize the importance of maintaining focused and safe learning environments for all students. Recently, provincial guidelines and legislation have further highlighted the need to minimize distractions, as digital devices can interrupt class time, interfere with student concentration, and disrupt the educational setting.

To support focused and safe learning environments, West Vancouver Schools is refining our approach to digital device use and will be uniformly applying personal digital device expectations across all schools. Starting this school year, personal digital devices will only be allowed with the explicit permission of a teacher or administrator, who will provide clear guidelines to ensure their use is intentional and directly supports student learning. Additionally, considerations will be made to accommodate students' medical and health needs, accessibility, and accommodation requirements.

Here's what this means for different school levels:

- **Secondary Schools:** Personal digital device expectations will be in place during instructional time. Instructional time is during classes, assemblies and all school related learning activities.
- **Elementary Schools:** Personal digital device expectations will apply throughout the entire school day, including before school, after school, and during break times. Cell phones will not be used at all during school hours.

How PARENTS Can Help:

To support these updated expectations, we ask parents and guardians to:

1. **Familiarize Yourself:** Please take the time to read through the [Parent PDD Infographic \(US Letter\).pdf](#) to fully understand the new district-wide expectations. Additionally, review any specific guidelines or expectations provided by your child's teacher(s). Understanding both the general and specific expectations will help you support your child in following the new expectations effectively.
2. **Model Appropriate Use:** Demonstrate and discuss the importance of limiting device use at home, especially during family time or other important activities. Your behavior sets a powerful example for your child.
3. **Encourage Balance:** Help your child find a healthy balance between screen time and other activities, such as reading, outdoor play, or family interactions. This will reinforce the focus on learning during school hours.
4. **Mindful Communication:** Please avoid calling or texting your child during school time unless it's an emergency. Remind your child that school time is for learning, and that

messages can wait until after school. If urgent communication is needed, please contact the school office.

By working together, we can create a safer, more focused learning environment for all students. These small steps at home can make a big difference in reinforcing the positive changes we're implementing at school. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Unleashing Summer Awesome Fitness Challenge

Every completed sheet (stamped or not) earns a small prize, and the school with the highest participation wins a trophy! Completed forms, with your child's **name and grade** clearly written, are due in the office by **September 14th**.

Aron Campbell

Principal

Irwin Park Elementary