



Ecole Irvine Elementary

Mr. D. Shannon, Principal

Telephone: 604-941-3408

Website: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/irvine>

**Our Mission Statement at Irvine Elementary is,
 “Working together to create a safe and nurturing
 environment that challenges and motivates our students
 and promotes a lifelong joy of learning.”**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

September	20	Federal Election
	20	First day for kindergarten students to be attending full days (8:45-2:39)
	21	Individual School Photos
	24	Professional Development Day - school not in session
	29	Orange Shirt Day (at Irvine)
	29	Fruit and Vegetable Program - Coronation Grapes
	30	Truth and Reconciliation Day - statutory holiday; Orange Shirt Day

The Wonderful École Irvine Staff

Over the summer, we had some changes to our staff. This was in part because we decreased in size by two divisions (one in English and one in French). There were also opportunities at other schools for other staff members who opted to make a change. I am happy to say that I believe we have a great educational family for the 2021-2022 school year. They are as follows:

Mme Arnold - Gr. 4/5 - FI
 Ms. Berner - Gr. 2/3 - Eng
 Mme Comartin - Gr. 3/4 - FI
 M. Escueta - Gr. 1/2 - FI
 Mme Gladue - Gr. 1/2 - FI
 Mrs. Gunadasa - Gr. 4/5 - Eng
 Ms. Kastoris - Gr. 4/5 - Eng
 Mme Lalande - K - FI
 Ms. Legge - NHS
 Ms. McKee - NHS
 Ms. Reddy - EA
 Ms. Steinson - Gr. K/1 - Eng
 Ms. Tan - Gr. 1; 1/2 - FI; SS
 Ms. Underwood - Gr. 4/5 - FI
 Mrs. Yule - Secretary

Mme Arviais - K - FI
 Ms. Bryson - SS
 Mr. D'Angelo - EA
 Ms. Faulks - Library; SS
 Ms. Gossen - Secretary
 Ms. Hwang - Music; SS
 Ms. Kiss - IYW
 Ms. Learn - NHS
 Mr. MacIntyre - AM custodian
 Mrs. McLellan - EA
 Mr. Shannon - Principal
 Mrs. Strachan - Gr. 1 - FI
 Mrs. Thacker - K - Eng
 Ms. Wells - SS
 Mme Zimmermann - Gr. 2/3 - FI

Mr. Bancud - EA
 Ms. Coatta - EA
 Mrs. Eichendorf - Gr. 1/2 - Eng
 Mrs. Flood - Counselor; SS
 Ms. Grewal - SS
 Ms. Jansen - Gr. 4/5 - FI
 Ms. Kuzmanoska - EA
 Mr. Lee - PM custodian
 Ms. Mackenzie - Gr. 3;4/5 Eng; SS
 Mrs. Neufeld - Gr. 4/5 Eng
 Mrs. Sharma - NHS
 Ms. Strong - SLP
 Ms. Trumpour - Gr. 3 - Eng
 Mrs. Westfal - Gr. 1/2 - Eng

FI - French Immersion

SS - Student Services

SLP - Speech Language Pathologist

EA - Educational Assistant

IYW - Indigenous Youth Worker

Eng - English

NHS - Noon Hour Supervisor

Principal's Message

We have completed our first full week of school and I have to say that I already cannot believe how quickly the time has flown by since the start of the year!! Students have now had some time to adjust to the routines and expectations in their classrooms and the protocols and guidelines that have been set up in the school. This year, because of the "loosening" of the protocols (compared to last year - e.g. no learning groups) different schools are able to implement the protocols in different ways depending on the context of their school. Some schools are large while others are smaller. Some are one level while others may be two or three. Some have outside doors for each classroom and some do not. As a result, protocols that have been implemented in all schools are based on that school's context. This may mean that some schools are doing things differently than others. I bring this up because when there is talk about what different schools are doing, I just want to remind everyone that schools are not the same and just because some schools are doing some things while others aren't, it is difficult to compare schools when the context of those schools is not known.

For us, we are going to revisit a philosophy that we began to use and implement two years ago before the pandemic. I'm talking about the Circle of Courage. At its core, the Circle of Courage is about teaching resiliency and the most important way to do this for students is by giving them certain experiences that will teach them and prepare them for not only school, but life.

The Circle of Courage is holistic. It is not a plan or a strategy. It is intended to be a philosophy that can be used to guide how things are done in school, and for that matter, at home too. The four components to the Circle of Courage are: Belonging, Independence, Mastery, and Generosity. I am including a link that briefly describes the Circle of Courage and its components (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPgrfCVct_A). Presented by Dr. Martin Brokenleg, a fabulous speaker and storyteller in his own right, I have watched this video multiple times and each time I do, I get more information from it. Please take some time (about nine minutes) to listen and reflect on what is being said in this video. Reflection is something that is important and I think it is also something that all of us can and should be better at. With the hectic world we live in where we are constantly on the go, having some time each day to reflect is extremely important. Whether it is something that happened that went well or something that was challenging, reflecting on what you did and how you handled it is important because it will often allow you to think about what you could do differently the next time something similar happens. It can also help prepare you for something that is upcoming and allow you to think about all the possibilities that could happen so that you are more prepared.

The video also touches on the First Peoples Principles of Learning - something that we as a school will be using more frequently (please see attachment included with this newsletter for more specific information on the First Peoples Principles of Learning).

If you have any questions about the Circle of Courage, please feel free to ask me about it. While I am certainly not an expert, I will do my best to answer your queries from a school perspective.

Enjoy your weekend!

Dennis

COVID updates

Some parents have asked about the Daily Health Check for Students. I have attached this information with the newsletter.

The main things to remember about our policies and protocols for students are the following:

- **Daily Health Check** - please do this daily with your child. The page outlines the expectations of what to do if your child shows any of the various symptoms of COVID-19. Staff members do a Daily Health Check each day as well.
- **Hand Hygiene** - this continues to be what we practice at school. We have posters in each classroom about proper hand washing technique and students wash / sanitize their hands regularly throughout the day.
- **Masks** - staff and students in grades 4-12 are to wear a mask while indoors. Students in K-gr. 3 are encouraged to wear a mask
- **Social Distancing** - while we no longer need to do our best to have students 2m apart, we still need to be diligent about how we space students out. This is also important when outside in the mornings and afternoons during drop off and pick up. Please be cognizant of spacing yourselves out while outside

Regular cleaning and disinfecting happen throughout the school each day. High touch points are disinfected a minimum of once every 24 hours and desks are wiped down each day. Students also wash/sanitize their hands as they move from one room to the next or when leaving and returning during break times.

There are a number of things that the district continues to look at and consider for school plans moving forward. I will update these as they apply to students as we continue to move forward.

Traffic News

We are still having challenges with traffic around the school - especially along Renton Ave. If everyone is doing what is expected, things will flow much better. I know that the vast majority of people are doing the right thing. There are still some who are not following the plan that we have in that area. Please note the following (these have been sent out in a previous email, but need to be repeated):

- Renton Ave., just north of the school, is for **drop off and pick up only**. There is to be no parking on this street. For a very small number of families, there is an exception to this rule, but those families are well aware of this (if I have not talked to you specifically about this, it means you cannot leave your vehicle while on Renton Ave.).
- We ask that after you drop off your child that you please make your way down the street (to the bottom) and then turn around - **there are to be no U-turns on the street**. There were several people making U-turns on the street this morning. The street is already narrow, especially when other cars are lined up to drop off students. Making a U-turn can create a potential hazard.
- **Under no circumstances are parents allowed to double park and let their children out or ask them to walk between other cars to get into a vehicle**. Doing so creates a potentially dangerous situation
- **Pick up and drop off happens only along the south side of the street**. Vehicles cannot be stopping in front of the houses on the north side of the street for any reason. Doing so affects traffic flow as there is only one lane available for cars to try and move down or move up the street.

- As vehicles pull away from the curb, please move your vehicles forward. This will prevent crowding of vehicles at the top of the street (and on to Wellington St.)
- Finally, the section of parking at the bottom of the hill are for buses and vehicles (vans) that are transporting students to and from daycare. This is not an area to stop in for parents.
- Parents are not to park in the staff parking lot for any reason unless they have a parking pass that allows them to use either of the two spaces that are designated. In fact, parents should not even be entering the staff parking lot if they do not have a parking pass. Parents are still using these spaces to park when picking up / dropping off their children. That is not what these parking spots are designed for, even for "just a few minutes."

If you need to leave your vehicle to drop off your child, you need to find another area to park (such as the lower parking lot or one of the other side streets). When people leave their vehicles on Renton Ave., traffic gets backed up, especially when the weather is bad (like this morning).

When we all work together things proceed most smoothly. All it takes is a few instances of people not following these plans and the results are traffic becoming more problematic and challenging, an increase in the number of risks to safety, and people becoming more frustrated (which can also result in a greater chance of an accident).

Please be sure to keep these things in mind when you are on Renton and when around the school so that things can proceed as safely as possible.

Thank you!

New School Construction - continued progress!

End of June...



First week back in September...



Picture Day on Tuesday

Please note that we will be having individual photos happening on Tuesday, Sept. 21st. Classrooms will be called down one at a time so that students can get their pictures taken. Protocols will be in place for the photographers that come to our school.

West Coast (Wet Coast) Recess and Lunch

A reminder to parents to please ensure that your child/ren are dressed appropriately for the weather. We go outside every day at recess and lunch (unless it is unsafe to do so) so it is crucial that all our students are prepared. This may also mean reminding your child/ren to wear his/her jacket when outside. We will also remind them to do so, but there are still some who choose to not wear the clothes outside and as a result get wet

Fruit and Vegetable Program

Like last year, our school will be participating in the Fruit and Vegetable Program for the 2021-22 school year. This program originally started in 10 schools and now is in over 1400!! This program was originally seen as an opportunity to get fruits and vegetables into the hands of children and allow them to try different fruits and vegetables that they might not have otherwise tried. The program grew from an idea that was formed in 2004. What does this mean for our school? Every few weeks, our school will be receiving a delivery of fruits or vegetables along with milk. Students will be able to try these different foods while they are in their classrooms. The first order will arrive in the last week of September and will be Coronation Grapes. If students do not wish to try them, they do not have to. Also, if students have any allergies, they are also not to try the food (if your child has allergies, please be sure to let our office staff know).

Electronic Devices

A reminder that when students come on to the school grounds in the morning, they are to put their electronic devices away. Sharing information with other students in terms of YouTube videos, TikTok videos, or other social media platforms is not permitted. Students who use their devices when they are not supposed to may get warning or have the devices taken away for the day (and picked up at the office after school). If we have repeat offenders, it may need to be their parent(s) who pick up the device at the end of the day.

If students need to contact their parents, we allow them to use the phone in the office if the request is an important one. Setting up playdates after school is not something that we let the students use the phone for. These should be made in advance. If a child normally walks home and is off the school grounds, they may use these devices in a manner that has been agreed upon with their family.

Bike / Scooter Etiquette

Once students come on to school property, they are to dismount from their bikes/scooters and walk them to the rack where they can be locked up. When picking up their bikes or scooters, they are to walk them until they are off the school grounds, at which point they can ride them to where they are going.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Information

Our PAC Executive for the 2021-22 school year is as follows:

Chair: Atash Askarian

Treasurer: Shawna Vincenzi

Secretaries: Meaghan Burton, Maggie Harder

DPAC reps: Michaela Ross, Marc Fernandez

Members at Large: Kathy Simmonds, Farbod Mirhashemy, Marie-Eve Tetrault

Our PAC is always looking for volunteers to help and assist with activities throughout the year. The more people that we can have involved the less work it is for each person and the more things we get done together.

The PAC is our largest club in our school. All you need to be a part of this club is to have a child attending our school! The PAC meets most months, on the second Wednesday of the month. Our first PAC meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00pm. More information will be forthcoming about how to take part in this meeting.

Currently, there is a Back-to-School Fundraiser that is happening. With this current weather, it's a great time to cut the grime, get clean, and support our École Irvine PAC all at once!! Please check out the following link: <https://fundraising.tru.earth/IrvinePoCo> and save an extra 15% on orders (until Sept. 19th). Use **MILESTONE15** at checkout (the fundraiser is ongoing but the extra 15% is only until Sept. 19th - sorry for the late notice on this).

If you'd like to learn more about upcoming events and fundraising opportunities please email our PAC at: Irvine.PAC43@gmail.com or you can join our Facebook group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/163012600461352/?ref=share>.

School District / Community Information

Interested in becoming a noon hour supervisor?

School District #43 Coquitlam is looking for Casual Noon Hour Supervisors. This position requires individuals to be available on an On-Call basis to supervise students indoors and outdoors during lunch break (one hour per day) at various schools throughout the District in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Anmore.

Previous experience working with groups of children is an asset. Successful candidates will be available over the lunch hour Monday - Friday, 5 days per week while the school is in session and be willing to accept callouts to all schools in our District. We offer \$21.86 per hour plus 16% in lieu of benefits.

To apply, please click on the following link and create a user account/profile. <https://ejp.sd43.bc.ca/postings/Account/Login>. Once you have completed your profile you will have access to the job postings.